

50 SEASONS OF CCNSW C&S CRICKET: PLAYER REMINISCENCES

Garry Birchall played in the 1980s as a right hand medium pace first or second change bowler and useful late middle order batsman. He went on the first club overseas tour to Fiji in 1989.

My recollections of playing with the CCNSW C&S sides are not reflective of any specific statistic or team performances but rather a general overview of the culture and how it became a unique experience and opportunity for me.

I played for 5 years covering 2 years either side of the 1988/89 competition winning season and our percentage of wins was very high over that period.

I was introduced to the CCNSW team via a mid-week social event at the Barrack Street clubhouse where Ron Holmes, forever the persuasive gentleman, convinced me that it would become an enjoyable experience and never a truer word was spoken. Up until that time I had only played on artificial wickets in district competitions and the thought of potentially playing on turf each week really excited me.

I believe my best club achievements were facilitating Rob Carter & Steve Humphries joining the club for the 88/89 season plus convincing my wife Belinda to manage the afternoon teas throughout that year. I worked with Rob and Steve at that time and I was very fortunate to twist their arms into playing because there was no doubt that they would have walked into any Sydney grade club; they were basically young county cricketers on a holiday of a lifetime. They had an amazing impact on games straight away and their general charm and charisma was a bonus for anyone who attended those matches. Many opposition players were left scratching their heads after clever opening bowling commentary and it was generally only a matter of time before they became victims of outstanding swing bowling. As Belinda was the one that initially invited me to the mid-week function to meet Ron, it was only fair that I reciprocated and asked her if she would like to get involved. Belinda had many years of prior experience watching Manly CC and helping on the social side of that club. She made her presence felt with glorious selections and all players benefitted from her efforts, many players from both sides said it was the best afternoon tea they had seen in years.

For me, the great memories I take forward are all the nice people involved within the club at that time and the exposure to some excellent turf pitches, Saturdays could not come around quickly enough.

It is a shame that we are not able to step back in time and play another year on those mainly inner-city grounds ending up in the closest pub and more often than not venturing into the City for the nightlife.

Ron Holmes was 100% correct when he first told me that I would not regret joining the CCNSW C&S side and after all these years I still feel very grateful to him for those great words of wisdom.

To all the players that were involved thank you for making those cricket seasons a special memory and I offer you all a toast for some amazing times together. Thank You

Brian Breakspear was an aggressive though orthodox left hand bat and fast medium left arm swing bowler who captained the representative Australian police side and played almost all of his C&S cricket for Yaralla where he accumulated a formidable record. He played frequently v CCNSW. Here he reminisces batting v Steve Humphries in the season (though not in the match) when Steve took 10 wickets in an innings. Brian Breakspear played for over 20 seasons with Yaralla before he started to play over 40s and then over 50s cricket with CCNSW. He is currently the Secretary of the C&SCA

C & S Cricket Fixture Yaralla v. CCNSW at Goddard Park 1988-89.

Ron Holmes was the wicketkeeper. CCNSW was fielding two visiting young fast English bowlers out for the summer, Steve Humphries and Rob Carter, Middlesex League 1st XI with Enfield and /Middlesex Ground Staff XI. I was batting with Bob Marshall and the contest was on. I remember these bowlers were quite sharp and a cut above the regular C & S club player standard. My son, daughter and my wife were at the ground at the time. I was enjoying the challenge and holding my own against this bowling attack.

At a point during my innings my wife called out to me that my son had badly cut his head on the scrum machine located off the ground. Disappointingly, I had to retire to rescue my son, but will never know how far my batting partnership would have played out with Bob Marshall that day, given the strength of the bowling attack.

Being a Police Sergeant, one of my duties was to visit the CCNSW Barrack Street premises on Friday nights. The club was a hub of CCNSW cricketers, among who was the then club President Ron Holmes. Ron attempted to persuade me to play for CCNSW as I was a club member.

So during past discussions at various times Ron would mention CCNSW playing Yaralla and that it would be a tough match. He did not always let on who was playing.

There was no warning about these two young English bowlers. We played them on the day as any batsman of caliber could have. Ron had organised these two. Ron was tied up with Manly DCC and could draw on grade players from time to time.

Greg Brooks was a high class very accurate fast medium swing bowler originally from First Grade Canberra cricket and a very aggressive hard hitting left handed middle order batsman.

Playing cricket for the CCNSW C&S team has been a big part of my life over the past 27 years. From being asked to play for the club by Joff Johnson after a Kookaburras game at Victoria Barracks to playing, managing and organising teams every weekend in summer, it's been fantastic to make so many lifelong friends.

I have played with some great cricketers over these years and enjoyed many highlights and plenty of tough days too. Winning the Jack Pace Trophy on four occasions with the astute captaincy of Steve Taylor and a bunch of mates, hitting the winning runs in one Grand Final with David Byrnes at the other end will long be remembered. At 6-30 chasing 72 we copped plenty from the Knox Old Boys but we saw it through! Playing in Stuart Ridges' unbeaten team in the 1990s one season was another highlight alongside many fine players and friends including Ron Holmes, Gary Holmes, Dennis Cameron, Craig Kitson and others.

A personal highlight was scoring my one and only century against Colleagues at Camperdown, again with a great mate Scott McCallum at the other end. To then take 5 wickets in the same match completed a rare double!

Camperdown continues to be a great home ground for the club. Many a Thursday or Friday afternoon would see my great friend Ed Smith and I laying the covers to ensure we had a good chance to play that weekend.

No thoughts on my C&S days would be complete without mention of John Russell, our great manager and scorer. Many of the details and reports in this history of the C&S would be lost if not for his wonderful and insightful weekly newsletter, a great club man sorely missed.

To all my club mates and friends in this club I hope we can continue the rich history of our club in the C&S for many years to come!

David Byrnes was a powerful right hand top order batsman and an economical off spin bowler.

I began playing cricket for the Cricketers' Club in 1997 a few weeks out from the Club's first England tour. Fortunately for me somebody had pulled out and a spot had opened up. I was playing park cricket in North Richmond with Steve Cross, Frank Crowe and Paul Allen who were all CCNSW members and from there my association with the Club began.

I have many fond memories of the fourteen or so tours I have done with the Club, both with my family and also as a single traveler. These include playing at venues such as the SCG, MCG, Oppenheimers (South Africa), Queens Park (Trinidad), Lords (Nursery Ground), Allan Border field and the test ground in Nairobi, Kenya amongst some. The tours have allowed me to visit castles in England, do safaris in both Kenya and South Africa, cruises in the Caribbean and play golf in Port Elizabeth. I've been able to travel to parts of the world I probably would never have gone if it were not for CCNSW, but most of all its allowed me to form lifelong friendships with some magnificent people. I could talk about cricket all day long but its meeting families like the Blairs, the Birchalls, the Fallons, the Taylors and the Brooks that have given me the most joy being a CCNSW member. A few Jack Pace Memorial Shields along the way with the C & S team have helped too.

Dennis Cameron was a right arm slow bowler and a left-hand top order batsman.

As a result of a change in work arrangements, which required me to work on some Saturdays, I was no longer able to play grade or any cricket involving 2 day games. The late John Russell (known as JR) suggested that I play for CCNSW where the City & Suburban games and the occasional Sunday game were all played as one day matches, usually on nice grounds. He put me in touch with Keith Elloy and I played my first game in the 1986/87 season and I continued playing for CCNSW for another 20 years.

It was a privilege to play with so many good people and talented players who all contributed to making the C & S team such a strong one which enjoyed much success over the years.

My shared legacy with CCNSW is that along with Keith Elloy, Joff Johnson and Frank Crowe, we planned the initial overseas tours for CCNSW starting with Fiji in 1989 followed by SE Asia in 1991. I was fortunate to tour many times with CCNSW and have many fond memories of these tours.

I am pleased that the touring tradition at CCNSW is still strong, although overseas tours are temporarily on hold due to the COVID pandemic. I hope that in future, tours, both overseas and domestic, can resume.

Frank Crowe was an aggressive left hand opening batsman and a superb cover fielder who could frequently hit the stumps direct.

My first memory of the Cricketers' Club was a baptism of fire facing former Waverley grade fast bowlers, Peter McKenzie and Phil Scarlett on synthetic nets somewhere pre season 1983-1984. It was at the request of Mark Watson, who cajoled me into making a comeback over a few beers at the SCG. McKenzie and Scarlett had retired from Grade Cricket but were still intent on seeing what batsman were

made of and knocking blokes heads off ! Somehow my experience in country cricket in Armidale and Taree enabled me to survive that net session and my career with CCNSW began.

The players who stood out during my time in City and Suburban were of course Ron Holmes, Club President and 'the prince of wicketkeepers' from Manly Grade. Major Joff Johnson was the most consistently good bat in the Club, who often gave me a "military talking to" mid wicket during a partnership about not giving my wicket away and Dennis Cameron , who used to 'confuse' batsman with his subtle range of deliveries, and me later on when I took up keeping! The most elegant bat I played with was undoubtedly Keith Elloy, a consummate player of the cover and off drive, who represented Singapore at a young age before moving to Australia.

I moved to the Blue Mountains in 1990 to start a travel business, and was convinced by Dennis Cameron to handle arrangements for the Club Tours for 17 years until my last tour to South Africa in 2007. During this time I also played for the North Richmond Club and introduced many players from that Club to play for CCNSW.

I retired in 2015 after playing the game for 50 years (age 12 to age 62) and have no regrets aligning myself with such a great Club and bunch of players.

Keith Elloy was a schoolboy prodigy who first played for the Singapore national team when aged 16 and migrated to Australia in his early 20s. An extremely elegant right hand bat and in his youth a useful away swing bowler, he still plays for the Club some 50 years later, giving him an unparalleled perspective on CCNSW cricket.

I had toured Perth and NSW with the Singapore national team prior to migrating to Sydney in my early 20s so had a reasonable idea of the quality of NSW Club cricket. My initial intention was to play Grade but I quickly found I could not cope with the demands of settling down in Sydney and a new job with the demands of playing one game over 2 weekends and compulsory mid-week practice.

In 1971, I was introduced to the Cricketers' Club in George St Sydney where in those days you had to front the Committee comprising I.B. Robertson, Alan Davidson et al for a formal interview and approval.

I found the combination of playing for fun and relaxation on grass wickets only on Saturday afternoons with no compulsory practice and no formal league point structure ideally suited my temperament and the other demands on my time as I made my way in a new country.

Part of the privilege of being a member of CCNSW, was the annual fixture of President's vs Vice President's X1 which we played at the SCG and had a great free of costs day including lunch and seeing your name up on the 'old' Hill scoreboard. I distinctly recall sweeping Richie Benaud for 2 fours and also facing Alan Davidson who naturally was a lot slower but still moved the ball.

That is not to say the standard was poor in C&S. A number of players, had they had the time and inclination, could clearly have made their way in Grade cricket. At that time in the 1970s it was common for wives and girlfriends to attend games. Being pre 'breathalyser', it was quite common for post game celebrations to continue late into the evenings and we used to arrange BBQs at the immaculately appointed former W.D. and H.O. Wills ground in Raleigh Park and arrange fixtures v appropriate opposition teams who could be ferociously competitive on the field and sociable off the field. In those early days oppositions often stayed well after the game.

As CCNSW had great contacts and affiliation with NSW cricket, we had the privilege for a few seasons of having the SCG No.2 as our home ground. Many opposition teams enjoyed the opportunity to play us on a beautiful pitch and fast outfield. All this ceased when the Football Stadium plans were drawn up.

Besides our Saturday fixtures, we played many friendly annual games on Sundays against The Army (at Victoria Barracks); the Air Force (at Richmond), the Journalists Club (which Ian Mann organized); the Canberra weekends; the Queensland Cricketers' Club (who had Lew Cooper of fame) besides the odd overseas touring teams from England and other countries.

From those early days in the 1970s and early 1980s, besides those members already penning articles I recollect in particular (in alphabetical order):-

- John Chegwyn: (son of Jack another CCNSW committee and NSW player). John batted early order well and kept wickets when required.
- Denis Crawford: occasional player who enjoyed the CCNSW attitude.
- Nick Falloon: ex Channel 9 fame (many a tale was told about his time working with K. Packer) Good right hand bat and left arm spinner. His long hours at Channel 9 saw him fade away from cricket.
- Peter Mackenzie: ex Waverley who opened the bowling with Scarlett with tight seamers.
- Ian Mann - bowled off a short rhythmical run very late away swingers which deceived all but the very best batsmen. I believe he still holds the record for most wickets in a CCNSW C&S season with 52.
- Keith Musgrave; an aggressive fast bowler off a short run who could become visibly affected if his LBW shouts were turned down and try to bowl the next ball twice as fast.
- Wes Preston: loved his AFL and with persuasion played few seasons batting No. 3 with great left-handed pulls and hooks.
- Gordon Salier: wonderful dry sense of humour – Gordon recalls former Test batsman, Brian Booth being dropped a sitter by Brian Gorman at first slip when Gordon opened the bowling.
- Chandra Sandrasegara: a barrister of note and left arm spinner who on his day had wonderful deceptive flight.
- Phil Scarlett: played and captained with a premiership. Opened bowling and was quick on his day. His off days saw some wide wides!
- Graham Sheidow: (son of Basil – another stalwart of CCNSW) – Graham wished he had a chance to play more games – another one to stay back after games.
- Stuart Smith: father was a stalwart of CCNSW. Stuart loved the chance to bowl his leggies besides being an aggressive middle order batsman. Always stayed back for a drink.
- Clive Smoker: - an opening bat in the Charlie Macartney 'Governor General 'mould; held the bat at the top of the handle and the first ball of the match could go for 4 or 6!
- Keith Stubbs: gentleman on/off the field. Wonderful first change seamer.
- "Mani" Subramanya, former Indian Test all-rounder, besides being an exceptional slip fielder (and odd time leg slip as well) a slim right hand quick footed batsman; very strong in the cut and pull and hook, who could bowl equally well right medium pace and slow left arm.. Sometimes he would change style from over to over.
- Peter Tyson: – early order batsman who bowled seamers and swing. Drove to our days at Raleigh Park with his family in his VW Campervan.
- Lloyd Wilson: classic opening batsman with a smile for everything.

Our general attitude was to bat first, try to score as many runs as quickly as possible, often c 200+, but also try to ensure all players, even the less gifted, got a game. It is very difficult in a 35 over game to give

everyone a fair go in every game but over a series of weeks it can be managed even if slightly increasing the odds of losing.

I have great memories and friendships over many years, not only at the Club but through cricket opponents we played. Playing teams like Old Cranbrookians was a great challenge with their Theiderman and Bavin brothers etc. where we always tried to select our best team. Other good opponents were St George Veterans; Barker Old Boys who had one of the best grounds in C&S; Sydney University Veterans (who had Kerry O'Keefe playing in latter years) and the list goes on.

As we approached the late 1980s and I approached my forties, I became involved with Stirling Hamman in setting up an over 40s competition and began playing less C&S cricket as under Ron Holmes guidance and selection the Club raise some very strong teams even going through one season winning every game under Stuart Ridge's captaincy.

The C&S team is not quite so dominant at present though still winning more games than it loses and I am hopeful I might persuade next season's captain to give me one game on merit to commemorate 50 seasons

Dick French was a Test umpire and is the current patron of the C&SCA. He used to play C&S cricket for ALP in the 1950s, 60s and early 70s

I had just commenced umpiring when CCNSW joined the C&S, and thus was not privileged to play against them. However I caught up with many of the names mentioned in this publication after work at the Cricketers' Club each week in Barrack Street in the City.

I recall our Saturday afternoon C&S cricket games, which were of a very high standard; indeed were the forerunner of 'one day cricket', and many exciting finishes resulted. Playing for AMPCC in the 1950s, 1960's and early 1970's I was honoured to bat and bowl against various Test and ex-Test cricketers. Names that come to mind include Martin Donnelly (NZ), Ron Archer, Ian Craig and Ted White, plus many first Grade and representative cricketers who were quite outstanding.

Matt Gale was the C&S team regular keeper for a decade, efficient but never showy, who in a crisis could also be a useful late order batsman

I drank at the Club's former Barrack Street premises with Dave Moore, et al. for several years from the age of 16 or so...oops maybe 18, so knew of the club. I wasn't however introduced to the Club from a playing perspective some 10 or so years later in 2001, by Bruce Grigg who was then the opening or first change medium pace away swing bowler in our C&S side, where I became the regular Saturday keeper.

I started playing Saturdays under the astute leadership of Steven Taylor, the main man and the best skipper I've played under. Steve was a top order bat who had come from Grade cricket and who also occasionally bowled medium pace Other notables around then were Greg Brooks our regular fast medium opening bowler and hard hitting middle order batsman, Joff Johnson then in his later years before he progressed to Masters but still a very sound left hand batsman, Stuart Ridge and Scott McCallum both very accurate swing bowlers with Grade backgrounds, Derek Taylor an aggressive left hand opening bat and right hand slow medium leg spinner who had occasional devastating spells, Scott Perry, an outstanding orthodox opening batsman and of course Bruce Griggs. Great days.

My first tour was Kenya in 2002 and it remains the best of several I've undertaken with the Club, including two to the UK in 2009 and 2013, and one to South Africa in 2007 and domestically. I adored the touring culture of the Club and the camaraderie we experience on tour and after tours. It's not just the players but

the partners and even the kids with whom you become treasured friends. That is what CCNSW is to me, a little community from which I've drifted this year but hope to rejoin and I don't think that will be difficult.

On the playing front, no personal achievements but many team memories, Jack Pace KO cup wins and wins on tour against the odds come to mind. Also coming to mind are many great nights after games with the likes of Tom Robertson, Craig Johnson, Peter Crooks, David Byrnes, a superb outfielder, aggressive no 3 bat and a deceptive off spinner, Greg Brooks, Steve and Derek Taylor, Ian Allmey a devastatingly aggressive opening bat and in his younger days a very useful fast left hand bowler, Mick McCormick and Ed Smith, our regular fast opening bowler for a decade.

Thanks to all, I love this Club and all who are part of it. Thanks. Thanks to all those behind the scenes that keep the club alive and ticking too, I never put in much and appreciate what they do.

Jim Hadley was a former first Grade player and the captain of our CCNSW C&S side in its 50th season and can reflect back on over 40 years cricket experience-though only lately in C&S. A fast scoring middle order batsman and a medium pace leg break bowler

C&S reminiscences: I've only played the last two seasons of C&S cricket and have been lucky to have captained our side in the 2020-21 season. The C&S format with its 1.30 starts provides a civilised balance for home and family responsibilities and consistent week to week cricket. Almost exclusively, C&S also provides the opportunity for family and friends to play together that the restrictions of grade and age competitions make difficult to achieve. The only chance I got to play with my father was for CCNSW back in the late 70s at Rushcutters bay and it's a day I'll never forget. After having a number of enjoyable seasons of Master's over 40s cricket it was interesting and refreshing to play back at open level where young vitality was blended with experience to find a competitive balance. Socially for an old guy like me to banter with teenagers and 20 'somethings' is a rare event and C&S gives me that to look forward to during the season. So, I can only hope that the C&S competition can continue to be played as it bridges a unique set of opportunities for participants who could only experience something similar in the bush.

Adrian Hawkes was an English right arm medium pace swing and seam bowler who migrated to Sydney aged 40; he reminisces on his first game for CCNSW in 1989-90

My major experience of Australians in English club cricket in the 1970s and 80s was the then occasional Australian who came to England for a summer of Club cricket in which they might expect to play more than 50 games. Most were called 'first graders', a term which meant nothing particular to me then. They were by southern England club standards good players so I assumed most players I would encounter in Australia would be similar. The other general prejudice at the time was that most Australian cricketers were aggressive sledgers, something which at least at Sydney C&S level was to be profoundly untrue, not that I yet knew.

So when I first migrated to Sydney at age 40, I was concerned I would be severely outclassed by my team mates and worried by the prospect of continual sledging at a 'Pom'. Knowing both Dennis Cameron and Ronnie Holmes from earlier years, I sought to play for CCNSW and my first game was v St George Veterans- a club I had admired from childhood with players like Bradman, Lindwall, O'Reilly and Morris. (I had overlooked the "veterans" in the title of the Club we were playing)

Would I fit in or be too poor a player disparaged and ostracised by my new team mates and never to play again? What remains in my memory over 30 years later is the overwhelming feeling of welcome and hospitality, immediately being made to feel part of the team and being talked to, not ignored by my new team mates so important when first playing with strangers.

And on the field- a flaxen haired athletic Frank Crowe running out 3 batsmen from square leg with direct hits at the batsman's end and a characteristic rasping square cut by Keith Elloy, a shot I was to see and admire many times over the years to come- and above all the laughter and good nature of the players and the willingness to find a pub for a few hours after the game.

35 over cricket may be short but can still be enjoyable and prior to the advent of over 40s Masters, CCNSW C&S cricket enabled me to extend my cricket a little and my pleasure a lot!

Mark Henwood, tail end batsman and off-spin bowler, Joined CCNSW in 2018-19 Season

I landed from China in Newtown in 2018, a few minutes' walk from Camperdown Park. After many years not playing any cricket at all, I'd played seven years in Shanghai. I had been bowling off-spin as playing conditions were high 30s and 90% humidity. I had ended my last season in Shanghai with a decent wicket haul so naturally I was keen to play in Sydney on turf. My first match was out at Dangar Field vs the Old Cranbrookians, where I snared a couple of wickets to finish off the match. That gave the confidence to keep on in the C&S side. There have been a few special games over the past few seasons, including a win against a quality Knox Old Boys side, a tie against the Beavers at Waterloo Oval where we picked up the last couple of wickets after the scores were level, and this season personally getting on the honours board. The team has always been a great mixture of characters and lots of fun. I've also toured Canberra and Perth, and made selection at the last minute for the SCG match in 2019. Overall, I think I was fortunate to join CCNSW, and hopefully, I can play many more seasons.

Dennis Hill reminiscing on took 9-28 wickets v Old Sydneians and followed it up with a 50* in 1976-7

Due to a serious knee injury (football, of course), I played only as a batsman at Sydney University, first grade from 1969 to 1975. I took up bowling again when I started to play regularly with the Cricketers' Club, though I had played social games with CCNSW since 1967 (Ian Mann had been my captain in 4th Grade in 1965, and I started playing with CCNSW due to his involvement).but enough of my ramblings and to the game in point.

I was fairly regularly trundling medium-pacers at this time. We were playing at Raleigh Park, there was a nice breeze and the ball was swinging nicely; the obliging Old Sydneians kept missing straight balls or edging gentle outswingers, and suddenly I had the first 9 wickets. My obliging captain (Gordon Salier) brought on Chandra Sandrasegara to bowl his gentle left arm orthodox, directing him to bowl wide of the stumps; however the impatient batsman decided to strike out, jumping down the pitch swinging and missing, and our excellent keeper (I think it was Ron Holmes) reacted as good keepers do, whipping off the bails with the batsman well stranded. Then, as realisation set in, mortified, he charged down the pitch, apologising, beseeching the square leg umpire to repeal his decision, but the batsman was, dejected, already well on his way to the pavilion. It was one of those moments, frozen in time, which still makes me chuckle.

And yes, I did score 50* before rain came; it was indeed a day of which to dream.

In ending, I will mention that I was fired up to try Grade cricket again in 77/8; took up bowling off-spin; won a third grade premiership in 79/80 and was awarded club player of the year, was selected to play firsts the following year, wasn't happy (they wanted me to practice twice a week) and went back to playing on a fairly regular basis with CCNSW, and greatly enjoyed several more seasons of great fun and friendship. My knee finally succumbed; also I managed to wreck my other knee, took up golf and retained many great friendships, particularly from my CCNSW days.

Gary Holmes (son of Ron) was a right hand top order batsman who played grade but also played a number of seasons in the 1990s with CCNSW

It was always a privilege to pull on the blue cap of CCNSW in the mid 1990s. The significance of playing with the Club was never lost on me especially with Holmes Snr. playing such a strong part in the Club's history .

Playing so many games with my father was one of the great joys of my cricketing memories as well as having played for CCNSW during the "Barrack Street" era was fantastic . There was always a special buzz when walking into the Club knowing you represented the history that it stood for.

Becoming Captain was truly special to me, despite playing many years of Grade cricket I will always say some of the most gifted cricketers I played with was during my time at CCNSW.

And then there were the tours! USA / Canada / New Zealand / SE Asia. I was fortunate enough to be skipper of the Club's first West Indies Tour. Some truly memorable moments playing against names such as Garner, Gomes, Dillion. Sir Garfield joining us for drinks after the Barbados Game and Brian Lara joining us for everything else at local night spots in Trinidad.

And of course if it were not for CCNSW I would never have lived with one Luke Latimer. ! I'll leave those stories for next time we all catch up for a beer.

Ron Holmes was a wicket keeper and tail end bat who retired from Manly grade cricket in the 1980s to play another twenty seasons with CCNSW in the C&S

Who would have thought when moving jobs from IBM to Qantas in Aug 1973 that my life would take a turn for the best? Having discovered the Cricketers' Club of NSW at 'Cricket House' (as it was then called) at 254 George Street, a 'Joff Johnson boundary' hit from the Qantas office, was quite startling. Most lunch breaks I would stroll past the Kippax sports shop, up the slow lift to the 4th floor, somewhat star struck checking the photos and memorabilia of famous cricketers, plus ties and caps from cricket clubs worldwide.

Some months later I was tapped on the shoulder by Bob Radford the Secretary of NSW Cricket who invited me to his corner of the bar where over time I got to meet several NSW and Aussie cricketers, especially the great Keith Miller who was so friendly and unassuming.

I took several work colleagues to the Club; it might have helped the Club's takings because I was invited to join the Board of Directors in 1976. Being in the boardroom with former chairmen of the ACB, Tim Caldwell and Fred Bennett, the great Alan Davidson, Chairman of Cricket NSW, and other leading administrators like Jack Chegwyn and Roy Turner was quite overwhelming.

It was then that I learnt about the Club's standing in the City and Suburban ("C&S) competition which it had recently joined. I had the pleasure of getting to know the Club's cricketing gentlemen who were representing us in the C&S. The team was ably led by Gordon Salier supported by Keith Elloy and Ian Mann, while players such as Chris Moser, Peter Tyson, former Indian Test all-rounder 'Mani' Subramanya, Dennis Hill, Chandra Seger, Mark Watson, Ian Mann, Keith Musgrave and Roger Williams were the mainstays of the side that flew the Club's colours with distinction through the 1970s. (Being heavily involved with Grade cricket on Saturdays, I was delighted to be invited to play on the occasional Sundays and participate in Gordon Salier's thoroughly enjoyable end-of-season parties with partners, when he handed over little gifts to every player. I always scored a white kerchief!)

The highlights of the 70s were the fixtures on the hallowed turf of the SCG between the President's and Vice President's XIs and the opportunity to rub shoulders with some of the greats like Alan Davidson and Arthur Morris.

The Club lost its premises to developers in late 1978. Board Directors Roy Turner, Warwick Murray and myself with loyal Secretary Geoff Weir were tasked with securing fresh premises. We eventually found the previous Combined Services Club premises at 11 Barrack Street. With a loan from Cricket NSW we managed to sign a long term rental agreement with the Commonwealth Bank, owners of the building.

I was asked or should I say told, by Alan Davidson and Bob Radford to become the first President of the CCNSW Club in its new premises. It was a wonderful honour that I did not seek but felt privileged to accept. After a lot of cleaning and preparation we opened 11 Barrack Street in Feb 1980 with about 20 paying members and reached close to 1,000 members by 1990.

I decided to stop playing grade cricket with Manly after some 20 years to concentrate on rebuilding the Club and take charge of the C&S team. We deliberately played only the strongest clubs twice and attempted to play 40 overs p side rather than the traditional 35 overs. Teams like St George Veterans, Cranbrook Old Boys, I Zingari (Australia), Knox Old Boys and Westpac all come to mind. We rarely lost a fixture.

We built a strong contingent of players many of whom could have played Grade cricket if they had the time. Try picking a best XI from the names below!

* **Batsmen:** James Brownlie, Frank Crowe, Gary Holmes, Joff Johnson, Luke Latimer, Peter Matthews, Scott Perry, Roger Robertson and Rod Young.

* **All-rounders:** Greg Brooks, Nick Falloon, Dean Herbert, Peter Johnstone, Wayne Walters and Garry Winney.

* **Bowlers:** Gary Birchall, Dennis Cameron, Stuart Ridge, Phil Scarlett and Ed Smith,

and several others whose names I would have missed.

Our home fixtures were at Erskineville Oval in the 1980s before moving to Marrickville Oval and eventually Camperdown in about 1991.

During this period we made several trips abroad playing on some of the most exclusive grounds. They include the Singapore Cricket Club, the Royal Selangor Club, Kuala Lumpur, the Royal Bangkok Sports Club and the Polo Club in Bangkok, the Hong Kong Cricket Club, the Kowloon Cricket Club, Brockton Point in Vancouver, Vancouver University, Victoria Island Cricket Club, and the Hollywood Club in Los Angeles.

In Australia we played the Melbourne CC on the MCG, the Queensland CC on the Gabba and several trips to play Molongolo CC at Manuka Oval, Canberra.

I'm glad I coaxed son Gary to come across from Grade cricket with Manly to join us. He eventually led the Club on an ambitious tour to the West Indies in 96 and got to meet Sobers and Hall after whom he is named.

As a wicket keeper I'm biased towards spinners and I have to mention Dennis Cameron who coming off two paces, flummoxed most batsmen. He was always the first one picked. When in trouble you throw the ball to DC. Stuart Ridge was a pleasure to keep to, consistently bowling his tidy English style seamers. Greg Brooks and Ed Smith (recruited from Molongolo) enjoyed bowling at pace.

There are so many good batsmen in that squad above. While Rod Young, Scott Perry and Joff Johnson were in a class of their own, the others weren't far behind.

In the field the two Garrys (Gary Holmes and Garry Winney) led the charge together with Luke Latimer and James Brownlie.

The Cricketers' Club of New South Wales has been very much a part of my life and it was sad to see the old registered club collapse in Y2K. However it's good to see the new incorporated CCNSW flourishing and the C&S team still competing as also are the "senior" age limited groups at over 40s, over 50s and over 60s. All credit goes to the current President and Secretary, Greg Brooks and Adrian Hawkes.

Soren Hughes is a tall medium paced bowler and an orthodox aggressive batsman often tempted to try to hit good balls for 4 or 6, often with success.

I joined CCNSW initially on a part time basis after hearing about it from my dentist who had played C&S for CCNSW in the days of the old registered Club and also after watching Tom Robertson destroy the park cricket clubs playing on artificial wickets around the St George area. Sold to me as a turf competition for retired grade players and a social touring side, I recall opening the bowling on Sunday with Greg Brooks and David Byrnes at first and second slip (aka Easter Island) with Ed Smith coaching my bowling from mid off. Within an over I had four slips and one leg side fielder, reminiscent of an Australian Test side's most attacking field but possibly better looking. It was here that I took my first wicket for the Club and have not really played elsewhere since.

Despite the team not having risen to the heights of previous seasons, including the famed CCNSW hat-trick, we secured a Jack Pace quarter final berth each season and finished in first place after the ordinary rounds two seasons ago. Each of the non JP C&S rounds were also fiercely contested, with Greg Brooks making some extremely memorable moments along the way - no-one beats Greg Brooks, especially not Beavers at Waterloo.

Some highlights: the new pavilion at Camperdown, hitting sixes onto it, hitting I Zingari (Australia) for six over the sight screen and hitting sixes into the cafes, being on a hat-trick at Camperdown and five wicket hauls against Knox Old Boys and against Nondescripts in the Jack Pace KO QF, watching David Byrnes bowl 7 overs 3 for less than 10 runs every week and the company of a good batting partnership here and there. I must admit, Tommy Robertson squealing at the bodyline ball is pretty amusing and the camaraderie and reputation of CCNSW in C&S is something to behold.

Steve Humphries was a young English Middlesex fast left arm bowler who took the opportunity to spend the 1988-89 season in Sydney with his (Australian) best mate and took 10-28 v Northern Districts, still the best bowling figures for CCNSW

My reason for coming to Australia was that my friend Rob Carter (an Australian) had to go home to renew his visa. He described paradise to me so I decided to sell my flat and come with him.

We both had been playing for Enfield in England in the Middlesex Premier League which was a very good standard as the Middlesex pros. could play if they didn't have a Middlesex game.

On our arrival in Sydney Rob took me to the Cricketers' Club and introduced me to a few players. He was selected to play for CCNSW and I joined him.

From my first game I was made very welcome and met some great lads, especially Gary Birchall who was extremely helpful and bloody funny; he was one of the reasons we stayed at the club and didn't move into a higher grade.

Also playing all day cricket didn't appeal to me and Rob. Afternoons only was appealing. The way we were looked after and the laughs we had playing for CCNSW was enough for us to play the season there.

Sydney was a fantastic place to live and I was lucky to live in Manly- my dream place.

While I took many wickets in a few games, I never expected to take all 10 in a game. All I tried to do was take more than Rob so he wouldn't have the bragging rights that night in the pub.

Against Northern Districts, the ball was swinging from early on and the wicket was quick and bouncy. I started with a few short ones but once I noticed it was swinging, I switched, pitching it up and it worked.

After the first 6 wickets, Rob said you can get 10 here so I went for it. I got 2 in the next over, then one in the next so one more needed. Their left handed batsman had been in for a while so I decided to bowl a slower ball. It worked! All 10! I was so happy. What an achievement, especially Rob not getting any although he scored a great 50 that's never mentioned.

Our time at CCNSW was fantastic. We were so lucky to play there and I would love to play one more game one day although the pace and legs have gone.

Thanks to everyone who made mine and Rob's time playing for the club an amazing experience that will never leave us and thanks to Rob for looking after me.

His captain on the day, Joff Johnson reminisces:

I was skipper that day in Centennial Park - I had one man in front of the wicket. We dropped a catch in his penultimate over but did not get the wicket at the other end so he had one more over. We then celebrated at the Clock Pub owned by John Thorne of rugby fame - Steve told every woman in the pub about his famous 10 for. But did not score!

And Dennis Cameron playing that day (and who dropped the catch!):

I can remember Rob Carter and Steve. Steve definitely took 10 wickets in a match played on the turf wicket in Centennial Park. I remember missing a (I remember it as tough) chance at slip when he had 9 for and his reaction was memorable (if understandable)!

Joff Johnson was an extremely capable opening left hand batsman who played Minor Counties when posted to England by the Australian Army; he was also a more than useful right arm medium pace bowler till his knees started to cause him problems

My first experience of CCNSW was a game in 1981. I had been recently posted back to Sydney from Townsville and hooked up with the Northern Districts C&S team with whom I had been a regular player from 1972 to 74 after graduating from the Royal Military College. In the 70s the ND team was very strong and played an aggressive winning game but the team in 1980 had lost a number of the senior players and was now a team of very social players. I recall the game being played at Raleigh Park and NDs batted first. Not having a strong batting line up, we were all out in the 33rd over for a low score. The CCNSW players were aware that I was not a bad bat and took great delight when Peter McKenzie bowled the perfect leg cutter and I was caught behind for 1. Late in the CCNSW innings, with the game getting tight, one of my ND's players enquired how many overs to go. We thought we had just completed the 33rd over and as such CCNSW needed some 10 runs or so off the last 2 overs. Well, it was shock when the skipper of CCNSW responded *"4 overs to go, our 2 overs to 35 and we get the 2 overs you guys did not use"*. I remember thinking CCNSW is a team that really has the killer instinct, unlike my current ND

team. At the end of the game, during drinks, I chatted to Mani Subramanya and Keith Elloy and enquired how I could get a game with CCNSW. Next season I was a fully fledged CCNSW player, playing until 2016 when knee packed it in. Apparently the "overs rule" was valid but never invoked and I am sure the rule was changed the following year.

Besides playing with great mates over many years and forming life long friendships with the likes of Ronnie Holmes, Keith Elloy, Frank Crowe, Peter Matthews, Greg Brooks, Steve Taylor and many others, the highlights of playing with CCNSW were the great tours. What social cricketer would get the unbelievable opportunity in a single season to play at the MCG, the SCG, the Gabba, Manuka Oval, Kensington Oval, Barbados and 2 games at Queens Park Port of Spain Trinidad. (where I scored a first ball duck). In addition attending a Cocktail party at the Hilton Hotel in Port of Spain where the 4 teams were the West Indies ODI team, the West Indies Masters side, the recently Sri Lankan ODI World Cup winners and CCNSW - what an unforgettable night.

Then there was the unbelievable day during the South African tour in 1999 when we played at the billionaire Nicky Oppenheimer's ground in Randjesfontein outside of Johannesburg against a team of just retired state players and winning with 9 wickets down and one over remaining - Nicky, the skipper dropping a sitter standing at mid-off, late in the game - he was not a happy man. And then adjoining to the salubrious bar in the magnificent pavilion to celebrate whilst the SA players watched the Springboks play Scotland which was an early game in the 1999 Rugby World Cup (we won that one as well). Marshall Baxter of the Goulburn Boot fame said to me at the end of the night "Joffie - it will never get better than this". My sentiments exactly.

Craig Kitson was a very talented top order batsmen and demanding slow off spinner from the Lancashire Leagues who migrated to Australia in his early twenties

As a new resident in the early nineties I settled into Bondi life and passed Waverley Oval twice a day on the bus to work in the City. On one occasion I got off the bus and randomly went over to bowl for a couple of hours in the nets, after a while I struck up a conversation with a very "funky" off spinner, ex Australian cricketer, who introduced me to Dennis Cameron.

4 days later I debuted with the CCNSW at Marrickville Oval as a young 'Pom' as the late John Russell called me. In the team were the likes of our current President, Greg Brooks (in his second season with the club) and many more whom became good friends.

Some 26 seasons later, some years playing a lot, some only a few, in the middle somewhere a couple of years without due to family and work commitments, and now with adult children I still turn out in the C&S team when I can. As much as cricket is what it's about, the real memories are the people I've met, the spirit in which this club approaches the game and various tours I was privileged to be invited on.

From the biggest cheer I ever heard when an approximately 60 year old Ronnie Holmes swept a fast bowler into the bandstand at Camperdown Oval to getting there early to help 'JR' unpack his beloved Subaru (I swear that thing was like Dr Who's Tardis) the sheer amount of paraphernalia he brought to make our days so enjoyable. It would take a novel to mention all the other memories and wonderful people along the way.

Here's to many more years ahead hopefully.....

Peter Tyson was a middle order batsman/medium pace swing bowler

I played for the Club from the mid seventies on and off until the late nineties and had the honour of being captain in 1980 - 1981. Perhaps my fondest memories are from the early years when our home ground was at Raleigh Park in the grounds of WD & HO Wills. The ground had a village green atmosphere with excellent facilities and the family barbecues after the games were particularly enjoyable. After an afternoon of cricket in the summer sun nothing could beat a few ales and a barbecued meal in the evening.

Many fine people (who were invariably great characters to go with it) were in those teams. To mention just a few we had 'Mani' Subramanya, the evergreen Keith Elloy, Ian Mann, Gordon Salier, Dennis Hill and Keith Musgrave (the first bowler in cricket history to use the 9 - 2 field as a default setting).

They were great days and are, unforgettable memories.

Stuart Ridge was a medium fast in swing bowler who had played a little First Class and Minor Counties cricket in England before coming to Australia

I came to Australia in the late 1980s to work for Qantas where I met the legendary Ron Holmes who introduced me to touring with both the Qantas and CCNSW teams.

I had played a couple of seasons of lower Grade cricket at Randwick and Waverley and my first game for the Cricketers' Club was filling in one day on an artificial deck with short boundaries out at Parramatta. After being slashed to all parts by some fairly agricultural batting, I retired to sulk on the square leg boundary where I was followed shortly after by a skied shot. As I tried to position myself under the catch, I nearly collided with a set of soccer goalposts conveniently situated inside the boundary and spilled the chance. My lasting memory of that game was the sympathetic observation from new teammate Phil Scarlett as I trudged back into the circle – "you're having a c%&@ of a game Ridgey".

I am not sure how long it was before Ron could tempt me into another appearance but enticed by the prospect of the 1991 tour to Asia, I signed up for that C&S season and was a regular for the next 12 years. It was pleasure to play with consistently good sides with great mates. The highlight was skippering the 1994-1995 "Invincibles", as far as known records show, the only CCNSW side to complete a C&S season unbeaten. The details of that year are now a bit hazy and I don't have any records to fall back on but a standout memory was probably the closest we came to losing. Defending a low total with the opposition needing less than 20 with 5 wickets in hand against one of our bitter rivals of the time, I remember Dennis Cameron tapping me on the shoulder to bring Greg Brooks back on for a final push. A fired up Brooksie went through them with DC bamboozling from the other end for a famous win - and a normally mild mannered skipper jumped up on a bench to deliver a rousing victory speech in the sheds afterwards.

After a 12 year parental leave break, while yet to make a return to C&S, it has been great to be reacquainted with old C&S teammates in Classics and Vintage in recent seasons with hopefully many more to come.

Ed Smith was a fast bowler with a superb rhythmic action and a much better batsman than his limited tail end innings permitted

I played my first game of C&S cricket in 1996 after being plucked from obscurity (a.k.a. the Molonglo Cricket Club in Canberra) by Ronnie Homes for the now legendary CCNSW West Indies Tour.

I drove up from Canberra for the game only to bat at number 9 and field all day while Greg Brooks bowled 18 overs from one end and Stuey Ridge bowled 17 overs from the other. Needless to say, we won. It was a long drive home pondering the captaincy moves of our black-leather-panted Gary Holmes, but at least I had greatly enjoyed the camaraderie.

Fast forward to 2020 and I'm still being occasionally wheeled out for a trundle for the C&S side and, while the captaincy style has changed somewhat, the camaraderie is still good as ever.

On the field, winning the hat-trick of Jack Pace Shield competitions from 2010 to 2012 was a great highlight but, best of all moments, was captaining the team to a miraculous come-from-behind grand final win against Knox Old Boys in 2014.

On a very sticky wicket, we won the toss and sent Knox Old Boys in, bowling them out for just 72 runs in 23 overs. But then we had collapsed against the fiery pace of the Bangs brothers, losing Peter Buruma for his second duck of the week caught in close off a steeping bouncer, to find ourselves 6 for 31 off just 8 overs.

Cometh the moment, cometh the man - enter the Club President. If ever someone questions "why is this 'Lurch look-a-like' our Club President?", this innings by Greg Brooks was the definitive answer. With fieldsman camped all around the bat, he and David Byrnes batted brilliantly showing the rest of us how to bat in sticky conditions. With 100 years of experience and 220 kilos between them, this odd couple took countless balls on the body, left countless more pop innocently through to the keeper and then pounced on anything short or full to keep the board ticking over. Our 43 run deficit became 40, then 30 then 20 in the next 5 overs. Brooks (16* off 33 balls) didn't score off his first 15 balls and then took 16 runs off his next 18 deliveries. Byrnes (31* off 42 balls), meanwhile, was playing the best innings of the game as he dispatched anything short for a boundary and took countless twos as he punched the pitched-up balls through the closely set field.

While the rest of us nervously counted down the required runs one by one in the pavilion, Brooks and Byrnes compiled an undefeated 43 run partnership to win us the game in just 19.1 overs. Brooks had the reward of hitting the winning runs through covers and the nerves turned to relief and then turned to joy as both teams shook hands and B1 and B2 had the 'back-slapping' of a lifetime. Although not large in total, this 43 run grand final winning partnership was one of the best I have witnessed for the Club.

Off the field, the fines committee at the old Camperdown Bowlo ruled supreme. Moments from the game were rehashed and reinvented; fines flew thick and fast, often landing on any redhead that stood in their way. Tommy Robertson would inevitably 'win' the season tally – one year by more than 250% over the runner-up and these fines (if and when collected) would pay for a great end-of-season 'fishin'n'poker' night at Steve Taylor's Mooney Mooney lake house where Tommy would once again find himself the focus of attention (and the target in a high-risk game of darts).

Mark Watson was an allrounder: middle and top order right hand bat and occasional bowler and keeper

Now 70, the memories are fading but it was great to read the yearly summaries which brought back many memories. In my earlier adult cricket life I had a few failed years with Waverly lower grades, but excelled in the social activities hanging out with Dave and Dennis Hourn and Peter McKenzie etc. I then had a couple of years in the Moore Park competition under the captaincy of Gordon Salier. One year in the Final (we were undefeated) I had the opportunity to get one wicket to win the Club all-rounder award but wasn't given a bowl by Capt Bligh. His retort was "we wanted to win"! A few years later Gordon invited me to join

CCNSW, probably around 1978 - 79 along with Peter Blackman and Pat Fitzgerald. From memory I was there until the early 90s and captained the team one season in the mid 80's.

What a host of personalities I encountered. The teams we played were determined each year by those we most liked to socialize with, during and after the game, both home and away. Being the era pre-breathalyzer, fun and risks were aplenty. This lifestyle extended to several CCNSW lunches with excellent guest speakers. Then there was the not to be missed end-of-season lunch/dinner (sometimes both joined) where Salier (unaccustomed to public speaking) took great delight in handing out presents, none worth more than \$2....but all with a hilarious story.

Some memorable event and people over the years:-

Keith Musgrave umpiring – never gave anyone out (even bowled). Once there was a clear run out at the bowler's end when 'Muzza' jumped around about one foot to the side of the stumps so he couldn't see the batsman running behind him well out of his ground. NOT OUT !

Batting at 8 or 9 he would often walk out of the dressing shed padded up when we were 2 down with 5 overs to go, stand next to the captain and walk out in front of the next batsman due in. I'm sure Malinga fashioned his sling action on 'Muzza'.

In one of our usually enjoyable annual Primary Club games at their former country ground at Dooralong, one of the CCNSW players, who was also a member of the Primary Club, would often captain the PC team against us and select their players. One year Gordon Salier was given the job and he rounded up a slew of "up & coming" 2nd graders". I think the score after the first over was 3 down for zip. Fortunately, it rained soon thereafter which resulted in Captain Bligh Salier being profoundly booed off the ground. All in good fun.

Another lasting memory. My good friend (and fast bowler) Peter McKenzie after retiring from grade cricket was going through a binge period over a lost girlfriend. I enticed him to get his mind off her and join CCNSW on the coming Saturday. As was our custom, we were having our Friday night drinks in the City and in the bar he spotted his former GF with her new BF. So the binge continued. Next day we arrived at the ground and it turned out the BF was Captain of the team we were playing against. McKenzie summonsed up his fast bowling skills to bowl many dangerous bouncers that day. McKenzie v BF continued for a few more summers.

Scott Wells was a top order right hand bat, leg spin bowler and competent wicket keeper

I was introduced to CCNSW by a local playing mate David Byrnes and started playing C&S cricket circa 2009. In that side, were the Taylor brothers Steve (a great captain - hard yet fair) and Derek plus Ian Allmey whom I had played against over a decade before. I got to know these guys as mates and consider myself lucky to have met and known them. In this side were some very talented players Ed Smith, Greg Brooks, Matt Gale (w), Curtis Murray (w), Craig Johnson and Tom Robertson to name a few. Great days always highlighted with (Greg Brooks' wife) Bronwyn Virtue's home-made afternoon tea. Over the following seasons we were lucky and good enough to win three Jack Pace shields in a row, a highlight of my playing days. Since this introduction to the Club I have been on many a tour with the Club and have now started playing o40 and o50 cricket.

Roger Williams was a tall left arm fast bowler who started playing for the Cricketers' Club at age 43 and reminiscences on his first game in 1982

After 15 years on matting wickets in the local district league, Roger recalls: By 1982 my old team mates had mostly retired. I had been a member of the Cricketers' Club for about 10 years and thought I would like to play some games on turf wickets, Perhaps the one fragment of memory that remains vivid with me, although the details are subject to correction, is from the very first match I played with the Club at the start of the 1982/83 season. We played on the old SCG No.2 wicket, a batting paradise, and batted first against St George Veterans. Their opening bowler was a well known Sydney solicitor Richard Glover.

In the first over of the match, and of the season, our opener Clive Smoker hooked Richard straight over the brick wall on to Driver Avenue, and into the park land on the other side of the road - may have also gone into the pond there, I'm not sure about that - and I immediately thought this is the team I want to play for. I then recall a very comfortable interlude watching us amass a considerable score, during which time the inimitable Chandra was telling a succession of very dirty jokes in that erudite style of his. Altogether a memorable introduction to the Club. At my then age of 43, I had seriously thought of retiring, but this experience inspired me to carry on for a few more enjoyable seasons.

Garry Winney was a useful right hand bat, occasional off spin bowler and an excellent fielder who captained the C&S team in the 1990s

A fond memory

CCNSW C&S team was playing at Erskineville Oval, a large AFL ground with long straight boundaries. We were sent in on a wet wicket and were soon in dire trouble, wickets falling regularly.

Only Joff Johnson, our left-handed opening bat was making it look easy to bat on the wet wicket and was able to stay in and get runs. He was joined by a young, fit tear-away bat in Army captain Dean Herbert. Dean was a capable bat who loved to give the ball a thump. This day was no exception; he smashed the bowling at a fast rate. Anything short or pitched up disappeared for four. Joff played the sheet anchor role perfectly. Dean brought up his fifty but soon after on one particular delivery, Dean launched it back over the bowler's head seemingly to go for four. The mid-off fielder jogged after it, thinking it would go for four. Only problem was it stopped inches short of the boundary. Dean and Joff had completed three by now. They dared go for a fourth. Joff was running out of steam but made the fourth. The ball was still being relayed back as Dean decided to go for the fifth run – unheard of!

Dean sprinted down to the danger end, Joff set off as well. All the C&S team was jumping up and down cheering him on with a chance to see history being made, an all run five. Dean made it easily but Joff was trying his hardest to run the fifth run but couldn't beat the throw to the keeper – run out from exhaustion.

Thankfully Dean continued on his batting to help win the game but it was one of the most exciting piece of cricket I can remember in my days playing for CCNSW C&S.

(Joff Johnson comments: What a coincidence - recently I was talking about this incident with Dean Herbert. my Army mate who played a number of games for us. Yes I was run out trying a 5th run at the wicket keeper's end. Can't remember whether I was not amused but I am sure I did not want to run the 5th run. Dean had actually caught me up when he was running the 5th run as I completed my fourth so I had no choice but to turn at the bowler's end and try to make it. Dean did tell me on the phone call recently he was not impressed by my tardiness between the wickets until he was advised I was actually 21 years older than him. He thought I was much younger.)