

MASTERS ROUND 1 v INGLEBURN RSL AT GLENFIELD PARK OVAL, GLENFIELD ON SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2022: REPORT BY MIKE WEAVER

A scrambled single run has secured a dramatic first round win for the CCNSW Masters team. A firm shot hit straight to short midwicket by Daniel Turner, from the last ball of the match, fortunately resulted in a fumble by the fielder. Surviving the pressure of this moment, 'The Blues' were seemingly home by the narrowest of margins, one wicket remaining.

A major part of the drama though, occurred after the play had ceased.

The last scorebook recording partnership for CCNSW had seemed to be working very well during the closing overs. And the final tally of batters' scores, plus sundries, had added up to the required 162 runs for victory.

Yet the dreaded bowling figures tally (plus byes and leg byes), so often the nemesis in the confirmation of a result, had added up to just 161!

A tie?

Part time Senior Scorer and playing all rounder Brett James, had at first given up on a win, after the umpire rightly declared that "*bowling figures total must rule*".

To his internal credit, Brett kept up the fight, in what will hereafter come to be known as 'The Missing Run' case.

Using all his forensic skills, Brett diligently kept searching for a further twenty minutes or so, to find the final piece of the puzzle! Surely there was an answer somewhere.

Tension was mounting and the pressure was really starting to tell in the scorers hut, until Dave Craig arrived on the scene for his input. Red faced and indignant, Dave demanded to know if an extra run had been accredited to him after he had been run out, going for a suicidal second run.

And indeed, it was found that the single had not been recorded in the bowling stats! A great play from Mr Craig. Mr James, immediately and without fuss, duly amended the sheet and the umpire accepted the fair correction.

A CCNSW win! Never in too much doubt.

Perhaps somewhat lucky, although the most luck stemmed from the fact that the game was able to be staged at all, after initially being called off at Memorial Oval, Ingleburn.

Many thanks to the Ingleburn RSL team for rearranging the fixture late on the Saturday afternoon, to the 'superturf' track at Glenfield. Regardless of who won the game, it was great to be back out on the field finally, after a long winter. And in what was a very keen contest.

CCNSW three, two, one points, awarded by the opposing captain and the umpire, were:

Daniel Turner. 45*. Hit winning run as well as 4 sixes and 2 fours in a man of the match performance. 3 points

David Abreu, on playing debut for CCNSW. Took four wickets, the first, a nick to the 'keeper, off his initial delivery! 2 points

Brett James. Two deserved wickets at the death after accurate opening bowling and compiled a handy 22 runs. One point.

Other notable mentions:

Rob Lawther: Another debutant for CCNSW, competent wicket keeping display

Ed Cross: Three very handy wickets in the middle overs, not conceding many runs

Jose Poothokaren: Two good catches and some accurate bowling

David Craig. No wickets but could have had several; accurate leg spin; took great catch at mid wicket.

Jason Kenn. Powerful opening batting; good start but didn't go on this time; promising.

Andrew Dadswell: Very good captaincy debut. One of 'Tex's' fielding changes resulted in a catch taken to the moved fielder, the very next ball. Lost the toss, but made up for it with a quick fire 11 runs off six balls, to help CCNSW snatch a win from the jaws of defeat.

Notes on conditions: Beautiful clear skies on the day. The outfield was very slow, making runs hard to come by for batters, for shots along the ground. Synthetic pitch.

The Team was: -

Michael Weaver 15, Jason Kenn 18, Daniel Turner (vc) 45*, Paul Nash 4, Rob Lawther (w) 7, Brett James 22, Ed Cross 3, Jose Poothokaren 13, David Craig 10, David Abreu 0*, Andrew Dadswell (c) 11

The Result was: -

Ingleburn RSL: - 9 - 161 (40 Overs) (D. Abreu 4-27)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 9 - 162 (40 Overs) (D. Turner 45*)

By one wicket

FoW: - 1-39 Jason Kenn, 2-43 Michael Weaver, 3-62 Paul Nash, 4-81 Rob Lawther, 5-120 Brett James, 6-123 Ed Cross, 7-144 Jose Poothokaren, 8-145 David Craig, 9-157 Andrew Dadswell

The Bowling was: -

Brett James 9-0-39-2, David Abreu 8-1-27-4, Andrew Dadswell 4-0-13-0, Jose Poothokaren 6-0-28-0, David Craig 8-0-30-0, Ed Cross 5-0-21-3

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - Rob Lawther (w) 1, David Craig 2, Jose Poothokaren 2

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by umpire): - 3 points to Daniel Turner; 2 points to David Abreu; one point to Brett James

Scorecard:

<https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/masters-summer-202223/masters/game-centre/d982f9c8>

MASTERS ROUND 2 v BALMAIN/SOUTH SYDNEY RANGERS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER 2022

WASHED OUT

MASTERS ROUND 3 v LANE COVE CC AT KINGSFORD SMITH OVAL, LONGUEVILLE ON SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2022: REPORT BY ANDREW DADSWELL

What a great day for cricket! Sunshine and a cool breeze. The over 40s made their way to Kingsford Smith Oval looking to replicate the form of the Classics the week before.

The skipper lost the toss and Lane Cove elected to bat first.

The bowling effort was spearheaded by Ben Stanic who made the first breakthrough by trapping the dangerous Howard LBW in the 3rd over. Michael Tarrant and Stanic both challenged the top order with tight bowling and Ben snagged his second wicket to leave Lane Cove in an awkward position at 2 for 19 in the 7th over.

Dave Craig came on early and found some good bounce which helped with the dismissal of Glover, stumped by keeper Rob Lawther.

The danger man for Lane Cove was always going to be the classy Neil McLeod who has dined out on the CCNSW Masters bowlers the last two seasons, but when Dave Abreu had the audacity to bowl a slower ball yorker to remove him for 24 it felt like a big moment in the match.

Lane Cove showed good batting depth as their middle order all contributed steadily. Andrew Dadswell picked up a couple of wickets with some flighted deliveries and Jose Poothokaren bowled expertly in denying the batters the short boundary and picked up 2 wickets of his own. Jose's second wicket was caught behind by Robbie Lawther who was having a great day with the gloves, taking two low, fast chances.

In the end Lane Cove made 9 for 160 off their 40 overs.

In between innings, former Masters great Ian Allmey made his presence known and imparted some of his substantial wisdom on the young lads. Or was he really there to check out the Longueville real estate?

In pursuit of 161 Jason Kenn set the tone early by smacking some beautiful boundaries straight down the ground. Ed Cross also looked good, and the 'mountain men' took the total to 1 for 63 off the first 10 overs. A great start to a run chase with Jason undone by one that angled across him.

Ed and Scott Well went in the space of 2 overs to leave us 3 for 68 but the local knowledge of Paul Nash was on display in a dominant innings of 30, punctuated by cracking pull shots and some thumping drives over mid-on. Nash ended up hauling out to deep mid-on which brought Lawther and Andrew Dadswell together. They worked the ball around in a 46-run partnership before Lawther nicked off with 30 to get.

Jose looked composed in his innings until he was dismissed by a sensational catch at short mid-on. Michael Tarrant came in and with Tex saw us pass the total with 6 and a half overs to spare.

In the end, with the wicket playing a little up and down from one end being cancelled out by the small boundary, 160 was probably 30 short of par. The consistency of the CCNSW bowlers set up the win. Notably we didn't bowl any wides – that must be a rare occurrence.

Both teams shared beers after play and we thank Lane Cove for their great hospitality.

The Team was: - Ed Cross 11, Jason Kenn 26, Paul Nash 30, Scott Wells 4, Rob Lawther (w) 25, Andrew Dadswell (c) 34*, Jose Poothokaren 6, Mick Tarrant 12*, Ben Stanic (dnb), David Craig (dnb), David Abreu (dnb)

The Result was: -

Lane Cove: - 9-160 (40 overs)

Lost to:

CCNSW: - 6-163 (33.2 overs) (A. Dadswell 34*; P. Nash 30)

FOW: 1-39 (J. Kenn), 2-63 (E. Cross), 3-68 (S. Wells), 4-83 (P. Nash), 5-129 (R. Lawther), 6-142 (J. Poothokaren)

The Bowling was: - Ben Stanic 9-0-28-2, Mick Tarrant 8-2-22-0, Dave Craig 6-0-37-1, Dave Abreu 7-1-26-2, Andrew Dadswell 4-0-23-2, Jose Poothokaren 4-0-19-2, Paul Nash 2-1-1-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: 1 Rob Lawther

Catches: -2 Rob Lawther (w), 2 to Scott Wells and one to Mick Tarrant,

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by umpire): - 3 points to A. Dadswell; 2 points to P. Nash; 1 point to R. Lawther

MASTERS ROUND 4 v AUBURN CC AT GEORGE PARRY OVAL, MONA PARK, AUBURN ON SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2022: REPORT BY ANDREW DADSWELL

After two wins to start the season the Masters were keen to take on Auburn at George Parry Oval. With a number of our top order batters representing NSW in the over 50s Nationals, Peter Constantinou and Kunal Patel made their Masters debuts. Welcome aboard.

Auburn won the toss and batted first, wasting no time as they went after the bowling early. Ben Stanic bowled very well with the new ball and got the first breakthrough. However the runs continued to flow as we dropped 3 tough chances in the first 10 overs that would ultimately prove costly. Auburn proceeded to 3 for 113 off their first 20 overs with Dave Abreu using the conditions nicely in a spell that saw him hit the stumps and draw false shots with clever changes of pace.

After drinks the runs didn't flow as easily for Auburn as Dave Abreu continued to bowl well and was supported by Paul Nash, Jose Poothokaren and Soren Hughes. 'Sooz's' first ball grabbed an lbw decision despite what the umpire considered the worst appeal he had ever seen. Jose bowled a great line and length and removed the dangerous Ebert.

Auburn made 8 for 218 which was always going to be a challenge on their home track.

The CCNSW innings started steadily. Ed Cross looked set as he flicked a leg side six only to get out the next over. Paul "elbow guard" Anumodu worked the ball around in partnership with Paul Nash until the dreaded run out ended their partnership.

Our middle order of Soren Hughes, Peter Constantinou and Kunal Patel all came and went just as they started to get going. Auburn's consistency proved a challenge throughout the innings.

Nash was the one CCNSW batter who found his groove and he retired just after drinks, giving us a chance to play some shots and try to get close to the total. Nash's bat might need inspection by the rules committee because it literally made no sound whenever he middled the ball, causing much speculation.

A late partnership between Ben Stanic and Andrew Dadswell got us past the 100 mark but it was never enough

A solid defeat at the hands of quality opposition. Still, a good day was had by all.

Kunal Patel's great diving catch on club debut was a highlight and he would be a handy inclusion in any side for his keeping alone. Peter Constantinou proved good value around the sheds and we hope to see him get amongst it soon.

The Team was: - Ed Cross 10 (off 23, Paul Anumodu 10 (off 37), Paul Nash 40 (off 62) , Soren Hughes 3 (off 5, Pete Constantinou 8 (off 19), Kunal Patel (w) 7 (off 10), Jose Poothokaren 5 (off 10), Mick Tarrant 0 (off 5, Andrew Dadswell (c) 24 (off 21) , Ben Stanic 3 (off 9), Dave Abreu 5* (off 7)

The Result was: -

Auburn CC: 8-218 (40 overs) (D. Abreu 3-42)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-127 - (36.3 overs) (P. Nash 40)

By 91 runs

FoW: - 1-14 (E. Cross); 2-43 (P. Anumodu); 3-50 (S. Hughes); 4-76 (P. Constantinou); 5-86 (K. Patel); 6-86 (M. Tarrant) ; 7-93 (J. Poothokaren); 8-117 (B. Stanic); 9-122 (A. Dadswell); 10-122 (P. Nash)

The Bowling was: - B. Stanic 7-0-35-2, M. Tarrant 7-0-45-0, D. Abreu 9-0-42-3, A. Dadswell 6-0-32-0, P. Nash 4-0-23-0, J. Poothokaren 4-0-20-1, S. Hughes 3-0-15-2

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - None

Catches: - two to E. Cross, one to K Patel (w)

Run outs: - None

Player points (awarded by umpire): - 3 points to P. Nash; 2 points to D. Abreu; 1 point to B. Stanic

<https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/masters-summer-202223/masters/game-centre/11423a8f>

MASTERS ROUND 5 v NORTHBRIDGE AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER 2022: REPORT BY DAVID CRAIG



Top row L-R: Jason Kenn, David Craig (w), Ed Cross, Ben Stanic, Mike Pinter, Tony Campey, Jose Poothokaren

Bottom row L-R: Dan Turner (v/c), Andrew Dadswell (c), Dave Abreu, Mike Weaver

Well, it's that time of the year and every team I know of seems to be scrambling for eleven players. (Personally I can't understand this, but then "*I don't like cricket, no, no, I love it!*") and Tex had to put a late Saturday evening call out for a batter. When NSW Emus rep Michael Pinter answered the call (11.03pm), skip gladly confirmed his spot in the team (11.05pm) – good call! Another good call was winning the toss and batting on the same old Camperdown strip (nearest the fig trees), which looked terrific but had already been used about six times this season and was either mutton dressed as lamb or a wolf in sheep's clothing, depending on your personal platitude and cliché proclivities. It started to break up from ball one, and while a lot of balls from the Australia Street end kept disconcertingly low, it was true enough to allow a decent contest between bat and ball.

Ed Cross and Mile Pinter (“Punter”) took to the crease against a Northbridge team new to the competition, and perhaps more suited to Classics than Masters. Twelve off the first over was a bright start and CCNSW were never really under pressure from this point on. (Game over, six points and a song, where’s the beers!). Nevertheless, it was a beautiful warm summer’s day and another 79 overs of cricket scheduled, so we played on regardless. In the fourth over Zatz got one to move in and got the lbw decision to send Ed on his way for 9. From there Pinter and Dan Turner compiled an excellent partnership, with Punter turning the strike over nearly every ball, while Dan dealt primarily in boundaries to quickly reach 40 retired not out at 1-79 in the twelfth over

Northbridge may have been relieved to see the back of the (first) mountain man, but there was to be no respite as Jason Kenn strode to the crease. There are strong Matthew Hayden vibes about the Springwood lefty, with his muscular build and belligerent hitting down the ground, but whereas ‘Haydos’ preferred catching in the gully, ‘JDo’s prowls around point or midwicket saving bulk runs and creating run out opportunities. The runs continued to flow with both Pinter and Kenn regularly finding the boundary and keeping the singles ticking over before retiring either side of the drinks break (1-136 after 20).

As often happens, the double retirement put the brakes on the scoring for a little while, and when Tony Campey making his CCNSW Masters debut (*Ed note: Tony became a financial member in January 2020 c 3 years ago*), and veteran Mike Weaver perished in consecutive overs we were 3-156 in the twenty fifth over and with a slight feeling of the old revolving dressing room door, new batters Andrew Dadswell (c) and Dave Craig set out to consolidate for a few overs. Eventually the shackles were broken as Tex drove extravagantly and yours truly fulfilled his contractual obligations by reverse sweeping the spinner to the third man boundary. The partnership yielded 56 before Craig mowed across the line once too often and the skied top edge presented little challenge for the Northbridge ‘keeper. Skipper Dadswell continued on his merry way to a quick 40*, whereupon David Abreu demonstrated why he is a highly regarded new ball bowler by swinging lustily: the willow moving plenty of air but not a lot of leather! Some late hitting by Jose Poothokaren in a nice partnership with a scampering Ben Stanic lifted the tally to 5-259 off our allotted 40 overs.

After a sumptuous afternoon tea with all the major food groups represented (Twisties, lamingtons, muffins, cakes, cookies, snakes) we took to the field. I had the privilege of witnessing a clinical new ball spell from behind the sticks. Ben Stanic charging in from the Australia Street end with the wind at his back was getting good inswing, and with the ball regularly keeping alarmingly low, was a constant threat. From the Rotunda end, left armer Dave Abreu bowled with control and variety, mostly pushing it across the right handed openers, swinging the odd one back in, and occasionally rolling his fingers over a nasty leg-cutter that beat the bat consistently. It was only a matter of time really, as the dots began to fill the scorebook, and sure enough in the tenth over Collins skied Abreu into the safe hands of Ed Cross at mid-off (1-18). His mate Boulton followed next over with a textbook “top of off” from Stanic sending him back to the sheds. A problem for Northbridge quickly became a crisis two overs later when Ben induced a nick and Mike Weaver snared a one-handed screamer at second slip to dismiss Greenlees for a 🍌. Next over DA produced a peach that flicked Smith’s off stump, 4-30 after 14.

The game was still well and truly in the balance though, with Northbridge skipper Monty Noble at the crease. This bloke is good enough to have a stand named after him at the SCG, so commands RESPECT with a capital everything. Fortunately, Stanic got a thin edge and debutant ‘keeper Craig stooped low to scoop up the chance in defiance of the trademark Camperdown mullygrubber-style bounce.

Tony Campey relieved Abreu from the Rotunda end, and his first delivery was a little off line, crashing into the middle stump instead of the off stump. Very disappointing, but the wicket first ball did help to ease the pain, and at 6-31 in the 16th over this was becoming something of a rout. Stanic bowled out his ninth over at the other end, finishing with the remarkable figures of 9-4-8-3 before handing bowling duties to Jose Poothokaren. For Northbridge Danny Zatz joined Parker at the crease and they built a nice partnership of 41 with some classical straight drives and not-so-classical mows to leg. The drinks break came and went and both batters reached 22 before the pressure eventually proved too much. First Zatz skied a lifter from

Campey to a fast moving Mike Pinter running to his right from cover. Soon after Parker chanced his arm against Tony Campey (TC - Top Cat, anyone?) once too often, the lofted slog settling into the hands of "Tex" Dadswell at long-on. Jose Poothokaren toils were rewarded next over when Maw screwed one to backward point where 'JDos' Kenn wrapped his mitts around it (9-87).

Jason Kenn kept his mitts on the ball to relieve Campey from the Rotunda end, commencing his first bowling spell for CCNSW Masters. It did not last long. Steaming in to a badly wounded Cope (early in their fielding stint he went down as if a sniper had felled him, hamstring gaaawn), Kenn's pace was just too much, and Cope could only spoon the very first ball to Stanic at mid-wicket.

There were a number of "firsts" for the Club in this one. Tony Campey, in his first official outing for CCNSW Masters snared a wicket with his first ball, a feat later replicated by Jason Kenn (well into his second season but hitherto not entrusted with bowling duties). Considering Dave Abreu also snared a pole with his first ball for the Club in Round 1, perhaps we could change our recruitment spie to: "*Join CCNSW Masters and you are practically guaranteed a wicket first ball!*" And after pestering numerous CCNSW captains unsuccessfully over the years, I finally got the nod to 'keep and if I had to say (reluctantly, of course) the feedback was pretty bloody positive in fact (thanks for the opportunity Tex).

A great day out against some top blokes (shout out to Northbridge for bringing beers), I'll be back for more for sure ☺.

The Team was: - Ed Cross 9, Mike Pinter 40* (ret not out), Dan Turner 40* (ret not out), Jason Kenn 42* (ret not out), Anthony Campey 5, Mike Weaver 6, Andrew Dadswell (c) 40* (ret not out), David Craig (w) 16, Jose Poothokaren 23*, David Abreu 0, Ben Stanic 5* (and Sundries 33)

The Result was:

C.C.N.S.W.: - 5-259 (40 overs) (J Kenn 42*, M. Pinter 40*; D. Turner 40*; A Dadswell 40*)

Defeated

Northbridge CC: - 10-87 (27.1 overs) ((B. Stanic 3-8; A. Campey 3-28)

By 172 runs

FoW: - 1-21 (E. Cross), 2-156 (A. Campey), 3-156 (M. Weaver), 4-207 (D. Craig), 5-238 (D. Abreu)

The Bowling was: - B. Stanic 9-4-8-3; D. Abreu 7-2-21-2, A. Campey 6-0-28-3; J. Poothokaren 5-0-26-1; J. Kenn 0.1-0-0-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to D. Craig (w) and to each of E. Cross, A. Dadswell, J. Kenn, M. Pinter, B. Stanic and M. Weaver.

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by umpire): - 3 points to B. Stanic; 2 points to D. Turner; one point to A. Campey

See: <https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/masters-summer-202223/masters/game-centre/b29ca527>

MASTERS ROUND 6 v GALUNGARA AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER 2022

Cancelled because of rain leaking through hole in the covers

MASTERS ROUND 7 v SCHOFIELDS CC AT OAKVILLE RESERVE, OAKVILLE ON SUNDAY 8 JANUARY 2023

Cancelled by rain

MASTERS ROUND 8 v STRATHFIELD CC AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL ON SUNDAY 29 JANUARY 2023: REPORT BY ANDREW DADSWELL

A tough day in the office against some genuine quality cricketers

It was hot. It was humid. The opposition was high quality.

After two washouts the CCNSW Masters were keen to get on the field and have a crack at the defending premiers and undefeated Strathfield on our home soil. We presented a strong line-up by CCNSW standards, but so did Strathfield, in fact they seemed to have all their gun players on show and boy did they come ready to play.

Strathfield skipper Pasupati won the toss and happily batted first, taking advantage of the hot conditions. The pitch was an unknown factor and gave us some hope of early damage. Brett James didn't disappoint with a fine display of left arm medium new ball bowling. But the Strathfield openers played the right shots at the right times until Ben Stanic got a wicket first ball of his spell to remove the dangerous Patel. Strathfield went about seeing off the good balls and punishing anything remotely loose. Four of their top seven batters reached 40*+ retirement scores as we struggled to make inroads in the middle overs. It wasn't so much a case of bad bowling - it's just that the batting was very, very good.

Ben Stanic continued to create chances and Mick Tarrant's second spell was high quality. Their efforts created our best period in the field as we took wickets after drinks. But when Strathfield's Paul Maraziotis came back to the crease he played his shots and ended up on 92* - just 98 short of his highest score of 190 for the NSW 2nd XI against the likes of Mitch Johnson back in the 2000s!

Against this kind of quality batting if we were to restrict them we needed to hold every half chance. We had our moments in the field with a brilliant one handed diving catch by Brett James, Jason Kenn's great pair of hands and a beauty of a direct-hit run-out by Ed Cross. However we let a few chances slip too which proved costly, as they always do.

Strathfield's 8-320 was going to be tough to chase down and it didn't start well as both openers, Ed Cross and Jason Kenn, departed for ducks. Dan Turner looked very good against the pace of Kish '*I don't bulk bill*' Nadesan and Scott Wells saw off the good bowling early before cashing in with some lusty blows and retiring at number 4. They were ably supported by Rob Lawther who continues to show his quality against good bowling.

But as each quality Strathfield bowler's spell ended, another quality one would begin There was no let up and we ended up being all out for 134.

Beers were enjoyed after the game and the Strathfield guys are a good bunch.

It is easy to see why they keep winning the over 40s Masters competition each year. With Paul Maraziotis, the 8th highest run scorer ever in Grade Cricket, followed by two current representatives in the Australian over 40s side

and a bunch of other quality players, they are the yardstick and they showed us the level to which we need to get if we are to threaten the top sides.

The pitch played excellently and provided good consistent bounce throughout the day.

The Team was: - Ed Cross 0, Jason Kenn 0, Dan Turner 26, Scott Wells (w) 43, Rob Lawther 19, Brett James 2, Andrew Dadswell (c) 7, Jose Poothokaren 0, Michael Tarrant 11, David Abreu 11*, Ben Stanic 0

The Result was: -

Strathfield CC: - 8-320 (40 overs) (B. Stanic 4-77)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: -10-134 (35 overs) (S. Wells 43)

By 86 runs

FoW: - 1-0 (E. Cross); 2-0 (J. Kenn); 3-39 (D. Turner); 4-83 (B. James); 5-91 (A. Dadswell); 6-98 (J. Poothokaren); 7-100 (R. Lawther); 8-118 (M. Tarrant); 9-118 (B. Stanic); 10-134 (S. Wells)

The Bowling was: - B. James 9-0-36-1; M. Tarrant 8-0-69-1; B. Stanic 9-0-77-4; D. Abreu 6-0-51-0, A. Dadswell 6-0-57-1; J. Poothokaren 2-0-28-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - 2 to J. Kenn; one to each of S. Wells (w), B. James and R. Lawther

Run outs: - One to E. Cross

Player points (awarded by umpire): - 3 points to S. Wells; 2 points to B. Stanic; one point to D. Turner

See: <https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/masters-summer-202223/masters/game-centre/b54ac9dd>

MASTERS ROUND 9 v BURWOOD BRIARS AT RON ROUTLEY OVAL, ROTHWELL PARK, CONCORD ON SUNDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2023: REPORT BY JASON KENN

A glorious albeit a little warm day greeted both teams as Burwood hosted CCNSW at Ron Routley Oval.

CCNSW welcomed 3 debutants Kieren Purnell, Sandeep Bhandari and Matthew ('Matty J') Johnston into the team to bolster an already strong CCNSW squad. Welcome to the Club, gentlemen.

The day started on a winning note, with Andrew Dadswell winning the all important toss and having no hesitation in batting first on a deck that would come to resemble Nagpur by the end of the day's play. A new opening combination of Rob Lawther and Kieran Purnell strode to the crease, and started positively with a partnership of 21, until Kieran was trapped in front for 4 by a new ball that didn't bounce more than a few inches. Enter an in-form v/c Dan Turner who continued the momentum with Rob scoring freely as both took control on a tricky pitch.

Rob worked his way to 40* retired prior to drinks and never gave the opposition a chance with his stylish shots all around the ground, and even ducking a weaving a few head high full tosses. This brought last season's leading run

scorer to the crease Jason Kenn. Dan and Jason survived some tight stump to stump bowling to go to drinks at 1-79. On resumption, Jason put one over the fence (because it would be rude not to), before I tried to replicate the same shot, but the pitch demons got the better of me and I was bowled for 9.

Enter another debutant Sandeep Bhandari who joined Dan who continued to look like another retirement looming, before he played and missed for a well earned 31. Quick wickets fell in succession and we were in trouble before our third debutant Matt Johnston came to the crease for the first time in 18 months after shattering his finger in a club game. Showing no rust, he joined Sandeep who was also victim to the bounce and trapped lbw for 10. Mick Tarrant came in at 6-119 in the 29th over and he and 'Matty J' regained control of the innings, constantly finding the gaps and the boundary, before Mick hit one straight back to the bowler to be dismissed for 19. Dave (reverse sweep specialist) Craig joined Matty J (who was running out of puff), and showcased his skills to keep pushing the score past 160 before Matty J was stumped for a well deserved 28. Ben Stanic pushed the scoreboard to 170 before being run out on the last ball of the innings. CCNSW headed to the sheds for a well earned drink 9/170 after 40 overs.

As we sat around and contemplated how to go about defending this total on a pitch on which it was becoming more difficult to score runs, our philosophy was to bowl full and straight, and that's what our opening pair of Ben Stanic and Mick Tarrant did. The plan worked in Mick's first over trapping their opener on the pads. Burwood found scoring tough early on and Ben Stanic struck next helped out by a reflex catch by Dave Craig (who still probably hasn't seen the ball).

Runs then flowed at a steady pace for Burwood before a 60 run partnership was broken in the 25th over by a glorious delivery from Jose Poothokaren to remove their opener for 39 (ouch).

Burwood looked to be gaining the upper hand in the middle stages, but enter our captain, Andy Dadswell who worked his magic to remove their dangerous middle order batter, bowling him around his legs. A few field changes to try and dry up the singles paid off with a sharp catch at short mid wicket by Jason Kenn to remove their hitter for 27. The game was in the balance with Burwood needing 24 of 18 balls, as Mick Tarrant came back for his second spell, and changed the game in CCNSW favour, only going for 3 runs in the 38th over. Tight bowling from Ben Stanic in the 39th over. 15 now needed off 6 balls but Mick Tarrant continued his line and length with 2 wickets in the final over sealing the game for CCNSW. Mick Tarrant finished with 4-21, Andy Dadswell 3-30 and wickets each to Ben Stanic and Jose Poothokaren.

This was a great game to be part of,- tight to the very end, and played in the true spirit of the game.

The Team was: - Rod Lawther (w) 40* ret not out; Kieren Purnell 4, Dan Turner 31, Jason Kenn 9, Sanjeet Bhandari 11, Andrew Dadswell (c) 5, Jose Poothokaren 0, Matthew Johnston 28, Michael Tarrant 19, David Craig 7*, Ben Stanic 3

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 9-170 (40 overs) (R. Lawther 40* ret not out)

Defeated

Burwood Briars CC: - 9-161 (40 overs) (M. Tarrant 4-21)

By 9 runs

FoW: - 1-21 (K. Purnell); 2-83 (J. Kenn); 3-95 (D. Turner); 4-100 (A. Dadswell); 5-108 (J. Poothokaren); 6-119 (S. Bhandari); 7-153 (M. Tarrant); 8-163 (M. Johnston); 9-170 (B. Stanic).

The Bowling was: - B. Stanic 9-0-38-1; M. Tarrant 9-0-21-4; D. Craig 4-0-17-0; M. Johnston 5-0-24-0; J. Poothokaren 7-0-27-1; A. Dadswell 6-0-30-3

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to R. Lawther (w); and one to each of D. Craig, J. Kenn and B. Stanic

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by umpire): - 3 points to R. Lawther; 2 points to M. Tarrant; one point to M. Johnston

See: <https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/masters-summer-202223/masters/game-centre/7794ae53>

MASTERS ROUND 10 v LINDFIELD AT CAMPERDOWN PARK, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2023: REPORT BY ROB LAWThER

Another hot humid day at Camperdown Park. No one was looking forward to running around in the heat so Andy Dadswell winning the toss and electing to bat was well received by all. Lindfield only had 9 players (including one child filling in) so we agreed to lend them a fielder. A late withdrawal due to illness from CCNSW meant it was 10 v 10 in the field – game on.

The opening partnership of Rob Lawther (16) and Ed Cross (14) was steady if relatively uneventful. The pitch was a bit slow with the odd ball keeping low, with batsmen wary of going on the back foot. Eventually both openers were removed lbw (both adamant it was sliding down leg, obviously), bringing Dan Turner and Paul Nash to the crease. Some solid batting brought us to 2-80 at drinks – a “solid platform” as described by the skipper.

From there Nash and Turner continued their great partnership, accelerating the scoring and each retiring at 40* in style. Dadswell had a swashbuckling innings, featuring some lovely drives over cover, finally undone being bowled for 39 going for one big shot too many. Some big hitting by Michael Johnston in the final overs saw him to a quick-fire 21* not out, and brought the team to a very respectable 5-215 off our 40 overs.

After a few too many ‘twisties’ and ‘choccy bikkies’ it was time to take the field. Ben Stanic and David Abreu opened the bowling knowing we needed a good start to apply some pressure to the Lindfield openers. They did just that, keeping the runs down and watching the required run rate slowly creep up. Abreu got one of the openers to play across the line and pinned him lbw (smashing middle, obviously). Stanic then had the perfect set up the next over – first a long hop which was smashed for four through midwicket. Then a length ball just outside off which was back-foot cover driven with ferocity to the pickets. Finally one just short of a length that didn’t get up and cannoned into the base of middle stump. Classic.

With the Lindfield openers gone and the run rate going up, some great tight bowling from Jose Poothokaren and Johnston meant Lindfield were never in the hunt. Pick of the bowlers was Poothokaren with 3-11 off 6 including a one-handed ‘speccy’ by the keeper, Rob Lawther diving to take an under-edge that wouldn’t have carried to first slip. Special mention also for Johnston’s miserly spell of 1-4 off 6, including some of the best long (and lone!) lbw appeals you’ve ever hear. Eventually Lindfield limped to be all out for 74 after 32 overs.

Thanks to Lindfield for a good day of cricket played in the right spirit and good work by the CCNSW boys for a good win.

The Team was (playing 10): - Rob Lawther (w) 16, Ed Cross 14, Dan Turner 40* ret not out, Paul Nash 41* ret not out, Sanjeet Bhandari 1, Andrew Dadswell 39, Michael Johnston 21*, Jose Poothokaren 4, David Abreu 6*, Ben Stanic dnb, Peter Constantinou (absent ill)

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 5-215 (40 overs) (P. Nash 41* ret not out; D Turner 40* ret not out; A. Dadswell 39)

Defeated

Lindfield CC: - All out 74 (10 players) (32 overs) (J. Poothokaren 3-11)

By 141 runs

FoW: - 1-26 (E. Cross); 2-37 (R. Lawther) 3-111 (S. Bhandari); 4-191 (A. Dadswell); 5-195 (J. Poothokaren).

The Bowling was: - B. Stanic 6-1-22-1; D. Abreu 6-1-21-1; M. Johnston 6-2-4-1; J. Poothokaren 6-0-11-3, E. Cross 4-0-8-0, A. Dadswell 4-1-4-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - One to R. Lawther

Catches: - One to R. Lawther (w)

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by umpire): - 3 points to A. Dadswell; 2 points to P. Nash; one point to D. Turner

See: www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/masters-summer-202223/masters/game-centre/02d9be0e

MASTERS ROUND 11 v RYDE/HUNTERS HILL 'PIRATES' AT BORONIA PARK, RYDE ON SUNDAY 12 MARCH 2023: REPORT BY ANDREW DADSWELL

Round 11 saw CCNSW and Ryde Pirates play off for sixth spot on the ladder. The word on the street suggested Boronia Park would be a tricky wicket and with that in mind the captain won the toss and batted first because, well, why not...Match highlight here on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEdh9X18K9E>

Showing boundless versatility, David Craig was promoted to open the batting and took to the task with zest. In perhaps his last game of Masters – surely not, but it seems the Vintage crew have him on their recruitment list for 2023-24 – David looked solid in defence before his bat grew a few inches and he went big to a ball that popped off a length to be caught behind. This foreshadowed how the pitch would play for the next few hours.

With David Craig dismissed, the other opener Rob Lawther went about his work with some nicely timed cut shots and some trademark pulls to the boundary. In one over he advanced to the spinner and lofted him for a thumping boundary over mid-off, but in the next he tried the same tactic only to be smartly stumped for a well-made 24 runs.

The Masters are known for their top order runs this season and much faith was placed in the likes of Dan Turner, Jason Kenn and Paul Nash who have all had excellent seasons. However, Dan Turner was adjudged lbw, Jason Kenn's defence was broken by a slider and Paul Nash was caught out on the pull. 5 for 50 in the 11th over and it looked a little dodgy.

Enter Scott Wells.

Whilst most other batters throughout the day struggled to find their timing by virtue of the challenging conditions, Wells latched on to anything remotely full and hit a series of lofted drives for 4s and 6s to retire at 40* in no time at all.

After Dadswell came and went the momentum was maintained by gun recruit Matt Johnston. He continued his good start for the Club by amassing 38 well-made runs and extracted a heavy toll against the spinners. Matt was out to a sharp caught and bowled.

Mick Tarrant was another strong contributor and made an important 24 with support from Ben Stanic and Dave Abreu to get the total past 160. Passers-by could be forgiven for mistaking Mick for a janitor with all the sweeping he was doing.

Wells returned from retirement in the dying overs only to be run out in what might be controversial circumstances as the bowler first knocked off the bails before removing the stump with ball in hand to effect the run out, or did he?

CCNSW made 10-169 which we thought was 20 over par given the conditions. Still, we left some runs out there by being bowled out in the 37th over.

The Pirates put on sandwiches and chocolate crowns for afternoon tea which proved a hit.

In defence of our total, the early overs were dominated by accurate bowling from Ben Stanic and Tarrant, as usual. Ben has been consistently good all season and was unlucky not to get an early wicket. However, in the sixth over he got the first breakthrough, albeit via a direct hit run out from backward square. Great intent shown there.

Three balls later and Mick Tarrant found Bailey's edge to get him out for a duck – a huge moment because the dude can bat. This wouldn't be Mick's last big moment in this game.

Dave Abreu came on first change and as usual bowled a mix of swingers and cutters and troubled the batters without reward whilst Matt Johnston started shakily before hitting his groove and getting three middle order wickets. Matt is tough to play and gets extra bounce which combined with some outswing is a great asset. His spell, combined with his 38 runs would earn him 3 player of the season points. But like Mick, Matt would also have a say towards the end of the match.

Dadswell and Nash bowled to their plans and kept things tight in the latter overs. Nash grabbing a wicket caught behind. With four overs to go the Pirates needed 41 runs to win. Stanic came back and bowled tight lines, getting an lbw along the way. But it was all set up for a dramatic final over.

With 23 needed off 6 balls it was surely in the bag. Mick Tarrant wasn't too bothered at the start of the over until Grace decided to go 4,4,2 off the first three balls. Now with 13 still needed off 3 balls we were still looking solid and when Mick bowled a nice yorker that was squeezed to the leg side everyone drew a sigh of relief, that's everyone except Matt Johnston who saw a chance for a run out and went for it. Let's just say they scored 5 off that delivery and now needed 8 off 2 to win.

Next ball was another attempted yorker but this time Sheddan got under it and scooped it to the leg side boundary for 6! Game on. 2 to win. 1 to tie.

To have a bet each way, the skipper kept the field unchanged. The infielders were ready to pounce. The outfielders were focused. But none of them were needed. Tarrant bowled wide of the off stump and got the swing-and-miss he was after, allowing keeper Lawther to run in and take out the stumps to get the run out and the win.

So, for the Masters the season ended the way it started, with a last ball victory. We seem to know how to win the close ones, just.

The Pirates put on some beers and were great hosts. Post-match we headed to the HHH (Hunters Hill Hotel) and celebrated a successful season, winning 6 of 8 matches played. Jason Kenn gets the prize for best story at the pub.

The Team was: - Rob Lawther (w) 24, David Craig 5, Dan Turner 6, Jason Kenn 4, Paul Nash 1, Scott Wells 40, Andrew Dadswell (c) 7, Matthew Johnston 38, Michael Tarrant 24, Benjamin Stanic 8, David Abreu 7*

The Result was: -

CCNSW 10-169: - (37 overs) (S. Wells 40; M. Johnston 38)

Defeated

Ryde/Hunters Hill Pirates: - 9-168 (40 overs)

By one run

FoW: - 1-30 (D. Craig); 2-36 (R. Lawther); 3-36 (D. Turner); 4-40 (J. Kenn); 5-50 (P. Nash); 6-98 (A. Dadswell); 7-143 (M. Johnston); 8-158 (M. Tarrant); 9-162 (B. Stanic); 10-169 (S. Wells).

The Bowling was: - B. Stanic 9-0-31-1; M. Tarrant 9-2-37-1; M. Johnston 7-0-35-3; D. Abreu 5-1-21-0; A. Dadswell 6-0-21-0; P. Nash 4-1-20-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - 4 to R. Lawther (w)

Run outs: - Three: -One to D. Turner; one to B. Stanic and one to R. Lawther (w)

Player points (awarded by umpire): - 3 points to M. Johnston; 2 points to S. Wells; one point to M. Tarrant

See: <https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/masters-summer-202223/masters/game-centre/cfaef661>