CLASSICS ROUND 1 v ST CLAIR UTD CC AT McQUADE OVAL, WINDSOR ON SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER 2022

Cancelled because of rain

CLASSICS ROUND 2 v SRI LANKA LIONS AT BERT SAUNDERS RESERVE, DOONSIDE ON SUNDAY 16 OCTOBER 2022: REPORT BY SCOTT WELLS

With 20 odd players available for selection this year, choosing a side against last year's reigning champions was going to be a good headache to have. Unfortunately, with a 60's tournament in the ensuing week and a few N/As it made the job slightly easier.

Initially the game was down for Camperdown but with the Camperdown square resembling a boggy top dressed lawn, an early call out for an alternate ground commenced. It appears this season in particular, turf wickets will be a premium on Sundays with the mix of a wet winter and junior rep and girls cricket expanding to turf wickets on a weekend.

After discussions with the president Greg Brooks, several councils, Gordon CC and the Lions, the Lions ended up finding a ground at Doonside albeit a synthetic wicket which at least guaranteed a game with a grim weather forecast earlier in the week.

Back to selections, we had 12 chosen with spares available. By Friday night, we had 10 available with both Mikes pulling out. By then some spares had also made other plans but we ended up with still a very strong 11 showing the great depth in the club at present. SLL also had some injury concerns with two of their top players not playing which gave us a great chance of knocking them off.

With afternoon showers expected and wanting to control the game should it be shortened, Wells won the toss and sent the Lions in. Paul Devaney took the new cherry with 4 LBW shouts in the first over all very close and all turned down against their left hander. Mick Tarrant took the ball from the other end and both started with some great line and length and swing beating the bat and finding edges with flew into gaps regularly. Mick in particular was very unlucky with their lefty not scoring a run in front of the wicket. By the 10th over they had gotten off to a bit of a flier with the other opener batting solid and quickly. A change in the bowling was made with both Ed Cross and Brett James coming on. Brett sporting a side strain off his shorter run.

A retirement and wicket finally came in the 13th over with both bowlers keeping it tight building pressure. Ed picking up an LBW and Brett picking up wickets either side of drinks. By drinks SLL were 2 for 88 so that was a pretty good result. The next 5 overs were critical

David Craig entered the attack with his leg spinners but unfortunately an earlier (superb) fielding effort left his right shoulder (good one) worse for wear. So with both Brett and Dave unable to bowl Paul Nash and Craig Kitson continued the attack with great line and length frustrating the Lions batters. A mixture of some very good shots and some loose ones saw runs and wickets continue - 4 for 125 with 10 to go andCraig Kitson picking up 4 wickets in 7 overs. With two batters in the bank they were keen to get them back in for the final overs.

Wickets were shared with all bowlers bowling well - Cross 1, James 2 and Kitson 4 but that’s not a reflection on how well Tarrant, Devaney and Nash bowled. The opening bowlers returned to close out the innings with SLL finishing off their innings at 182. A gettable target with the batting depth we had.

Lions opening bowler Wark, known for his guile and metronomic wicket taking ability was always going to be a threat early. Little was known about the rest of their attack as we haven't played them for at least three seasons due to washouts.

Ian Allmey and Gerard O'Shea like Oscar and Felix opened the batting. Felix there to blunt their opening attack. Unfortunately Wark found the shoulder of Allmey's bat second ball which bought an early entry for Paul Nash. Both batters feeling their way through the guile of Wark and spin of sorts from the other end. Nash final got going but no sooner hit one straight to mid wicket departing on 10 (16).

O'Shea at the other end was looking very solid and stylish but still not off the mark after almost 30 balls. Andrew Davis joined Gerry at the crease with both batsmen very cautious unable to penetrate the infield. We were 2 for 29 after 15 overs when a misunderstanding lead to a runout 12 (45). With the need to get cracking, Brett James was sent in to get the innings started. Unfortunately, Brett got a very good ball cutting back in first deliver for an LBW.

This bought Scott Wells to the crease and with Andrew Davis, started to penetrate the infield and coupled with some hard running between the wickets the scoreboard stated to tick over. 4 for 45 at drinks. Not impossible with the batting still to come - 7 an over but still a shift in momentum required. Their opening bowler Wark finishing with 2 for 12 off 9 overs.

Post drinks, Wells started to take to the bowlers which saw more outfielders being dispatched making it difficult to get boundaries. Davis attempted to start hitting but came unstuck with 17 (50). Kitson started very confidently with a 6 over long off from his second delivery and the runs continued to flow with Wells retiring on 30* bringing Ed Cross to the crease. Both batters kept very busy running with a deep field set before Kitson holed out at long on for a well made 12 (12). In the 30th over we were 6 down for 94 leaving 9 an over off the last 10. The last 3 batters Tarrant, Devaney and Craig couldn't find the boundary with 5 men out but still kept it ticking over. 13 (11), 11(13) and 1(4) respectively. Wells returned with 2 overs to go and finished with 43*(43) and Ed 16*(30)

Upon reflection, we bowled well, batted solidly, ground fielding was great, put down a few half chances but we needed to pace ourselves a bit better earlier but with the loss of 3 of our top 5 cheaply and runs hard to come by made the task all that more difficult. We certainly didn't disgrace ourselves and gave it a good shot but unfortunately things didn't come our way in the field and we found it difficult to penetrate the good Lions fielding which left us short of the total.

The Team was: –

Ian Allmey 0, Gerard O'Shea 12, Paul Nash 10, Andrew Davis 17, Brett James 0, Scott Wells (c) and (w) 43*, Craig Kitson 12, Ed Cross 16*, Michael Tarrant 13, Paul Devaney 11, David Craig 1

The Result was: -

Sri Lankan Lions: – 7-179 (40 overs) (C. Kitson 4-33)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 9-146 (40 overs) (S. Wells 43*)

By 33 runs

FoW: – 1-0 (I. Allmey); 2- 11(P. Nash); 3-32 (G O'Shea); 4-32 (B. James). 5-71 (A. Davis); 6-78 (C. Kitson); 7-109 (M. Tarrant); 8-126 (P. Devaney); 9-129 (D. Craig)

The Bowling was: – Paul Devaney 9-0-49-0, Michael Tarrant 7-0-30-0, Ed Cross 7-1-32-1, David Craig 1-0-3-0, Brett James 4-2-7-2, Paul Nash 5-0-26-0, Craig Kitson 7-0-33-4

The Fielding was: –

Stumpings: -None

Catches:-: One to each of D. Craig, E. Cross, C. Kitson and S. Wells

Run outs: - None

Player points (awarded by umpire): – 3 points to S. Wells; 2 points to C. Kitson; 1 point to A. Davis

See: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/classics-summer-202223/classics/game-centre/5259b780

CLASSICS ROUND 3 v LANE COVE CC AT KINGSFORD SMITH OVAL, LONGUEVILLE ON SUNDAY 30 OCTOBER 2022: REPORT BY ED CROSS

With some fine weather finally upon us, we were pleased to arrive at Kingsford Smith Oval on a bright day. The only issue being that the U14's match was still underway after they had a delayed start. However, the toss occurred on time and Skipper Scott Wells had no hesitation in batting first.

Mike Weaver and Ed Cross started it off for us. Unfortunately, after looking for a positive start on a hard, dry wicket, Mike went cheaply in the second over to a ball that moved considerably off the seam. That brought Paul Nash to the crease. Both Ed and Paul played strongly and well within themselves to see us off to a reasonably good start. Ed capitalised on some short bowling to retire on 30* when the score was 1 for 39 in the 9th over. Scott Wells came to the crease and continued with Paul showcasing some fine batting. Both Paul and Scott retired after hitting their 30-run limit in style. The total was starting to look like it could be something big when we took drinks at 1-111 after 20 overs.

Andrew Davis and Dave Benson were next to the crease. However, Benson wasn't at the crease for long, looking to be aggressive he was stumped for 8. David Byrnes came to the crease after a long absence from the Cricketers' Club and again looked to be positive and keep the score moving. Unfortunately, his stay was also short as he was bowled for 1. The score had reached 3-124 in the 24th over. Mick Tarrant was next in and continued with some purposeful batting. At the other end, an ever-watchful Andrew was batting confidently and playing some nice shots. Soon he retired on 31* with the score 3-156 in the 27th over.

David Craig joined Mick Tarrant in the middle and successfully, although predictably, reverse swept the first delivery for 4. He and Mick continue to bat aggressively as the final overs approached with Tarrant retiring after a well-made 32* before Craig was bowled for 18. Stuart Ridge and Paul Devaney came out looking to be positive right from the start. Paul started aggressively with a 6 whilst Stuart continued hitting singles to rotate the strike. When Paul was dismissed caught on the boundary for a quick fire 17 the score was 5 to 224 after 35 overs.

Ed Cross returned to the crease after retiring earlier and he and Stuart did their best to lift the score above 250. Stuart continued to rotate the strike which allowed Ed some batting time to accumulate enough runs to finish on 50*. Stuart finished on 18* with the score at 5 for 257.

We knew we had a good score on the board, but we were also aware we had to bowl well with the short boundary on one side always in play. Our openers were Stuart Ridge and Mick Tarrant, who both bowled well early on, hitting the right length and moving the ball in the air. The first wicket came in the 6th over with the score at 15 when

Tarrant had their opener caught behind by Jed Wesley-Smith. Lane Cove continued scoring runs slowly due to some tight bowling. A few dropped chances saw their other opener reach 31* before retiring.

The two Paul's (Devaney and Nash) took over the bowling and continued the tight lines. However, Lane Cove were batting well. By this time, they had reached 58 runs off 15 overs. The turning point came when they lost their second wicket to a fantastic one-handed catch to Dave Benson off Nash at mid-on that seemed to come from nowhere. This may well have broken Lane Cove's spirit as the remaining batsmen didn't seem intent on trying to chase down the imposing total. Both Pauls continued the fine bowling with Nash picking up 2 and Devaney 1 wicket caught behind by Jed.

David Craig took over from Devaney and immediately found his length. He continued to bowl tightly and was rewarded with 2 wickets off his 9 overs (caught by Scott Wells and Paul Devaney). David Byrne took over from Nash and also bowled tightly, further restricting Lane Cove's scoring. He was successful in his 3rd over with an LBW. The score had reached 7-101 off 34 overs.

Lane Cove continued to bat stubbornly in the remaining overs. Stuart Ridge came back on and was rewarded with a wicket. The final over was left to Michael Weaver to try and wrap up the last 2 wickets. Lane Cove looked to have survived until a last ball full toss was hit firmly straight to Paul Nash for the 9th wicket. The final score was 9-129 after 40 overs.

A big thank you to Jed Wesley-Smith for umpiring our innings in full. He was then able to back up in the field to neatly keep wickets and encourage the bowlers.

Our first win for the season after the disappointment of our first game. Let's hope we can turn up each week with the same positive attitude to scoring runs and taking wickets.

The Team was (playing 12): - Michael Weaver 1, Ed Cross 50*, Paul Nash 32*, Scott Wells (c) 33*, Andrew Davis 31*, David Benson 8, David Byrnes 1, Michael Tarrant 32*, David Craig 18, Stuart Ridge 18*, Paul Devaney 17 and Jed Wesley-Smith (w) dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: 5 - 257 (40 overs) (E. Cross 50*; S. Wells 33*; M. Tarrant 32*; A. Davis 31*)

Defeated

Lane Cove:- 9-129 (40 overs)

By 128 runs

FoW: - 1-1 (M. Weaver); 2-121 (D. Benson); 3-124 (D. Byrnes); 4-203 (D. Craig); 5-224 (P. Devaney)

The Bowling was: - Stuart Ridge 7-1-26-1, Michael Tarrant 6-0-15-1, Paul Devaney 4-1-19-1, Paul Nash 8-1-17-2, David Craig 9-1-28-2, David Byrnes 5-0-15-1, Michael Weaver 1-0-6-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - Two to J. Wesley-Smith (w) and one to each of D. Benson, P. Devaney, P. Nash and S. Wells

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by umpire): - 3 points to E. Cross; 2 points to P. Nash; 1 point to S. Wells

https://www.playhq.com/account/my-teams/cricket-australia/ccnsw-over-50-men-classics/05ea025f/game/807c085d

CLASSICS ROUND 4 v MOSMAN CC AT CAMPERDOWN PARK, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2022: REPORT BY DAVID CRAIG

How good is cricket?! At the appointed starting time of 12.15pm there were 20-odd blokes standing around watching a light drizzle fall on the covered wicket, all wondering when the game would be called off and the pub beckoned. Half an hour later the crucial North-West passage above the grandstand started to lighten, and then turn blue, the sun came out and a game was deemed possible, albeit with a slight reduction to 38 overs per side. (Some of us had bothered to read the competition rules and had an inkling that this meant maximum 8 overs per bowler instead of the usual 9. The opposing captain M. Hall was not amongst this rare group of cognoscenti, (a fact which would prove important later).

CCNSW skipper Scott Wells won the toss and batted on a mostly dry deck – fortunately the wet patch was right in the middle of the pitch and had no real effect on the players. Ed Cross (2) was the unlucky recipient of one that "did a bit early" and disturbed the castle. Paul Nash joined Mike Pinter and they consolidated as the Mosman opening bowlers (Greenwood and Turner) bowled an extended spell in mostly good areas, although the odd short one was whacked away contemptuously by the in-form Nash. After 12 overs (1-36), Mosman made the double change with Varasdi and Hall coming on. Although we were under a bit of run-rate pressure, their best bowlers had only 2 overs each for the death, a factor which would prove costly later. Pinter and Nash continued to build a steady partnership with Nash's selective aggression netting a couple of boundaries before Punter (22) nicked off to Varasdi, leaving us 2-59 off 18 overs, and an early drinks break was taken.

With a decent platform, acceleration in the back half was the name of the game, and new batter Scott Wells immediately greeted new bowler Frost with a couple of hard hit boundaries. After Nash cruised to retirement (31*), Mick Weaver joined the skipper, taking on a new role as a bustling and busy middle order bat with relish and aplomb. Unfortunately, when Hall switched ends the first delivery of his second spell was a loopy in-dipper that deceived Wells, LBW for 10. In the next over, 'Weaves 'was caught off Frost trying to force the pace: at 4-95 in the 25th and two new batters at the crease, it was advantage Mosman.

Time for a Classic(s) CCNSW Fight back! Andrew Davis and Michael Tarrant got busy, running a rare 3 off the first ball of the partnership. Davis clubbed Frost to the boundary, and Tarrant answered by lofting Bulluss out of the ground next ball. After adding 26 in 3 overs, Micky T (18 off 13) coughed up a catch off Frost. Paul Devaney, in his last opportunity for Classics this season, was promoted to number 8 and set about clubbing Frost out of the attack with a succession of boundaries. At the other end Davis was turning over the strike and stroking the odd boundary of his own as the partnership climbed to 42 off 30 balls (CCNSW 6-165 with 5 overs remaining). Mosman brought back the opening bowlers in a mostly unsuccessful attempt to stem the flow of runs. Turner's eighth over brought Devaney (26 off 19) undone a slog short of retirement, bringing the newly re-hipped 'El Presidente' Greg Brooks to the crease for his first dig in the Classics this season. After a few sighters the Prez unloaded, taking Greenwood downtown for successive boundaries.

At this point a heated discussion was observed between the Mosman skipper and the umpire, as Mr Hall received the unwelcome news that neither opening bowler was in fact entitled to a ninth set, and the last 3 overs had to be cobbled together from the remaining Mosman bowlers. Brooks greeted new bowler Hall with back to back boundaries (4 fours in 5 balls to the Prez at that point). Frost returned (grumpily?) to the other end, and Davis (33* off 30) clubbed a boundary to retire. This initiated another first-time 2022/23 Classics appearance, bringing to the crease Andrew "Bash" Bachelard (having shed an impressive 25 kgs in the offseason, I might add! Bang, bang,

bang, bang went the not-so-big fella, hitting his first 4 balls to the fence! At the other end Brooks was hitting the boundary and running twos like a youngster as the final partnership yielded 24 off 9 rocks (Brooks 30* off 19, Bachelard 17* off 5, strike rate 340 if you don't mind).

A shell-shocked Mosman outfit retired to the shed with the task of chasing 220 for the win off 38 overs with only ten men. Against an eleven man CCNSW with 10 genuine bowling options (sorry, Punter!), this looked a big ask, even on the fast scoring Camperdown outfield.

Varasdi and Bulluss started well, playing a bit of block, block, block, bash stuff against opening bowlers Stuart Ridge and Mick Tarrant. Both looked set to retire imminently, but Tarrant had other ideas, encouraging Bulluss (24) to guide one into the safe hands of Nash at slip, and a few overs later having Varasdi nicking off to keeper Davis for 29. Devaney relieved Ridge at the Mallett Street end and he had no hesitation in letting Aitcheson know that he was getting rather bogged down. This did seem to get into the batters mind a little, though as far as Classics sledging goes, I would have thought this was merely approaching the line and gently tapping foreheads like a mature and mellowing Nathan Lyon.

In any event, Andrew Bachelard replaced Devaney and induced a top edge from Aitcheson, caught by Nash (I want to say at backward point?). When Mike Tarrant finished a fine spell at the Australia Street end (2-35 off 8), Mosman needed 151 to win off 132 balls, with 6 wickets in hand. Turner and McLean set about rebuilding the innings, getting Mosman to drinks at 3-88 off 19. After the interval they began to score freely against the seamers Bachelard and Nash, precipitating the introduction of spin (David Craig) and the return of the economical Ridge. This turned out to be a tactical masterstroke, as the leg-spinner put the brakes on the innings by allowing both batters to hit a boundary and retire!

Paul Devaney relieved David Craig and immediately castled Mosman skipper Hall through the gate (4-133 after 27). Job done, and Devaney was preserved for later, replaced by Brooks. Some useful hitting from Kingsman and Frost kept Mosman in the hunt, and with six overs left they needed just 44 with 5 wickets in hand, two set batters in and two in the shed. Things were looking – shall we say "tight" – with WinViz putting Mosman slightly ahead at this point.

Ed Cross and Paul Devaney were entrusted with death bowling duties, and straight away Devaney castled Frost (21) with a beauty. When Cross bowled Greenwood in the next over, the momentum was shifting back our way, and sure enough Kingsman (28) skied one into the safe hands of Mike Pinter off Devaney. Turner returned to the crease to join last man Paine, but after scoring just a few more he perished, bowled by another accurate Ed Cross inswinger. Three balls later Cross trapped last man Paine in front, and the game was ours, Mosman losing 5-18 in their last 4 overs to fall 20 runs short with 13 balls remaining.

This was a highly satisfying victory against a perennially tough opponent, a great day played in a fine spirit, highly competitive and at the same time social. Post-match beers tasted especially good, despite the fact I personally contributed little apart from stopping the odd ball with my face and jogging from long-on to long-on for most of the afternoon (Scotty, what did I do? I've done the covers, sorted out gear for the new blokes, brought the soft drinks, scored all day, and collected the money, what else do you want from me?!).

The Team was (playing 12): - Ed Cross 2 (12), Mike Pinter 22 (60), Paul Nash 31* (44) , Scott Wells (c) 10 (12), Mike Weaver 17 (13), Andrew Davis (w) 33* (30) , Mike Tarrant 18 (13), Paul Devaney 26 (19), Greg Brooks 30* (19), Andrew Bachelard 17* (5), David Craig dnb, Stuart Ridge dnb, Sundries 13

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 6-219 (38 overs) (A. Davis 33*, P. Nash 31*, G. Brooks 30*)

Defeated

Mosman C.C.: - 10-199 (all out- only 10 players) (35.5 overs)

By 20 runs

FoW: 1-6 (E. Cross); 2-59 (M. Pinter); 3-89 (S. Wells); 4-95 (M. Weaver); 5-121 (M. Tarrant); 6-163 (P. Devaney)

The Bowling was: - S. Ridge 6-0-27-0; M. Tarrant 8-2-35-2; P. Devaney 7-0-28-3; A. Bachelard 4-0-21-1; P. Nash 3-0-27-0; D. Craig 2-0-13-0; G. Brooks 2-0-23-0; E. Cross 3.5-0-15-3

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - P. Nash (2) and one to each of A. Davis and M. Pinter

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by umpire): - 3 points to P. Devaney; 2 points to G. Brooks; one point to A. Davis

See **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/classics-summer-202223/classics/game-centre/d743362c**

CLASSICS ROUND 5 v GEORGES RIVER AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2022: REPORT BY MIKE PINTER

Back Row: Paul Nash, David Benson, Ed Cross, Ian Allmey, Greg Brooks, David Craig, Gerry O'Shea.

Front row: Scott Wells (c) & (w), Mike Pinter (v/c), Andrew Davis.

Absent: - Mick Weaver.

There were several players backing up in both sides (five for CCNSW - Mike Pinter, Mike Weaver, Scott Wells, A.ndrew Davis and David Craig and two from Georges River) from four games of cricket in four days at the National Over 50s Championship (which had only just wrapped up two days prior). Special congratulations must be given to M.J. Weaver for being part of the Veterans Cricket Australia Division 5 Over 50s - National Championship winning side.

Unbelievably two players were actually voluntarily lining up for their sixth game of cricket in seven days. Well done to you both Andrew "Dee" Davis and Trevor Whittall (the Captain of the Georges River side, who is also a member of CCNSW).

Showers were forecast for the late afternoon, so it was an interesting toss to win or lose. Fortunately for Scott Wells the decision was made for CCNSW as we lost the toss and were sent into bat.

Ian Allmey and Mike "Punter" Pinter strode to the crease. In his usual fashion Ian (6) looked to get us off to a good start, however soon after crunching one to the boundary, and attempting a second over the covers Ian was clean bowled by a ball that stuck in the wicket. Paul Nash then joined Pinter, however he too fell victim to the slowness of the pitch and was also clean bowled in nearly the identical fashion to their opening bowler from the other end. We were then 2-15 in the fifth over.

Michael J. Weaver "Weaves" then joined Pinter in the middle and both of which were determined to consolidate in the middle for CCNSW. Weaves tweaked his hamstring when running the first of five threes in the partnership with Pinter. Then just as Pinter was starting to hit the boundaries he was deceived by a crafty first ball delivery from O'Rourke and was adjudged lbw for 18. CCNSW was now 3-44 at the start of the 13th over.

Enter the third member of our team returning from Adelaide in Scott Wells, and as usual he only took a couple of balls to get his first boundary of the day. Again, just as Weaver was starting to get used to the wicket he too fell to the tackiness in the pitch and was caught in front of square leg for a very respectable 22. Ed Cross strode to the middle with purpose, pushed at his first delivery to get an unfortunate edge and be out caught behind for 0. The score had gone from 4-59 to 5-59 in the 15th over with the crafty O'Rourke picking up his third CCNSW scalp of the innings. At this stage we still had another 25 overs to bat out.

Andrew Davis (our fourth representative) then joined Scott Wells in the middle, and Scotty just did his thing by regularly crunching the ball into the metal picket fence all around the ground. At this point I would like to point out that Scotty also injured his right quad at the Nationals and he was heavily bandaged, however this Mummy wasn't going to spit the dummy! Davis was the support act in helping Scott to his retirement when the score had raced to 95 just after the drinks break. Good work boys, however there was still a lot more work to be done.

There were another two brief cameos from Gerry O'Shea (6) and David Benson (5) with Davis on 25 with the score at 7-124 in the 29th over when Greg Brooks walked to the middle. We then only had 11 overs to get a respectable score on the board, and our goal was to get to somewhere around 180+. This is where the magic started to happen; it was an absolute pleasure to watch Brooks majestically smashing a number of straight drives to bamboozle the fielders - just as the fielders were moved from one spot, that's exactly where he hit them. Davis retired soon after on a very well constructed 30* in his best Academy Award winning "Best Supporting Batter Role" for our innings.

David "Dutchy" Craig, our fifth and final representative then decided that he would join in the fun and help entertain the crowd gathering on the hill* by also regularly helping the ball cross the rope. [Note*: Crowd gathering on the hill primarily comprised of three people with two dogs] Brooks only took 20 balls to reach his second consecutive retirement for the Classics with 32* – top job Prez! Craig was then joined by Wells and both continued to hit the balls around the ground – none hit more infuriatingly for the bowlers than Craig's paddles and reverse sweeps off middle stump to the boundary – let's just say the bowler let Dutchy know that he wasn't at all impressed. These

few partnerships helped take us from 7-124 in the 29th over to 7-212 by the end of the 40th over with Dutchy finishing on 27* and Wells bringing up 50* just before the close of our innings. Super stuff lads; we all agreed that we had been able to compile a defendable score.

We were carrying a couple of injuries into the game (Wells (quad strain), Craig (calf strain)) and unfortunately a couple more injuries in our innings - Weaver (hamstring strain) and our scheduled opening bowler David "Beno" Benson (groin strain) - we knew we were going to be restricted in the field. Especially by losing Beno's all round speed, catching and throwing ability in the field.

Paul Nash and Andrew Davis opened the bowling for CCNSW, and Georges River were somewhat cautious in their approach to the chase. Some good tight bowling from both helped ensure they were 0-16 off 6 overs before the first changes were made. Brooks and Gerry O'Shea tried to keep things contained, however the Georges River batsmen managed to take full toll of the rare loose ball to get to 0-45 after 12 overs, with their first retiring batsman in the shed.

The changes were being brought in regularly by Wells in order to keep the Georges River lads on their toes, and Ed Cross was successful in his second over taking the ex-Australian Over 50s World Cup winning batter out caught behind for only 7 runs. The bowling remained tight, and Gerry O'Shea helped ensure that Georges River did not get in front of the run rate required. At the 20 over mark Georges River were sitting comfortably with two in the sheds at 1-84.

Whilst they still had nearly 130 runs to get, in the final 20 overs we were confident that we would be able to contain them if we fielded well. Unfortunately for us a couple of chances went down but then we took a few quick ones to see them go from 1-103 after 23 overs for Georges River to be at 5-145 after 30 overs. 'Dutchy' Craig taking one off Davis at mid-on; Gerard O'Shea taking a well struck lofted off drive on the chest at a straightish cover to take their skipper for a golden duck; then Mike Pinter took a very well judged catch which was never in doubt at cow corner – as Richie Benaud would have said "*That's brilliant - what a beauty!"* - and Scott Wells taking his second caught behind off Davis]

We strived hard in the field but as often happens the ball was attracted to our restricted fielders in Benson and Weaver, then also seemed to be hit towards Craig and Pinter who regularly chased the leather all around the park, with some great chases and returns to restrict the runs where possible.

Things were definitely getting interesting as with 10 overs to go, we required another 5 wickets and Georges River required 68 runs – game on lads. We needed to restrict the runs, as we all know that No Runs = Pressure, and Pressure = Wickets!

The Georges River lads were batting well in partnerships and they kept the scoreboard ticking along at around 6 runs per over. Then there were a couple of quick wickets with Nash drawing an outside edge then Ed Cross also doing the same, both to Wells to take his third and fourth catches behind the stumps for the innings. There were a couple of lusty blows by the Georges River lads in the thirty sixth over, that saw them sneak ahead of CCNSW for the first time in their entire innings. Then with one ball to go in the 36th over there were a couple of close lightning strikes, followed by claps of thunder and we were immediately ordered off the field by the Umpire. Due to the lightning strikes we were not allowed to put the covers down, then the heavens absolutely opened up and it bucketed down for about 10 minutes. At that stage Georges River were 7-196 still requiring 17 runs for the victory off the remaining 4.1 overs.

After a 30 minute delay there was a pitch inspection by the Umpire and both Captains and unfortunately for both teams the pitch was deemed unplayable due to the residual water on and around the pitch. It was a cruel blow for CCNSW as the run rates were so close (5.30 vs 5.49). I understand that had the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method been used we apparently would have lost by only 4 runs.

Well done to the Georges River lads for a great afternoon of cricket that was played with the spirit of cricket by both teams. It was fantastic for most of the Georges River lads to stick around well after the game for the mandatory "debrief with refreshments". We were absolutely smoked by Georges River last year, and it was great for us to restore pride in the Cricketers' Club emblem by getting so close to toppling them this year.

End result was CCNSW at 7-212 being defeated by Georges River 7-196 (on run rate and DLS). It was a toss-up between Davis and Wells for the CCNSW man of the match as both made significant contributions with the bat (30* and 50* respectively) and then with the ball and gloves with Davis's bowling figures finishing at (8-2-40-3) and Scotty taking 4 catches behind the wicket.

The Team was: - Ian Allmey 6, Mike Pinter 18, Paul Nash 0, Mike Weaver 22, Scott Wells (c) 50*, Ed Cross 0, Andrew Davis 30*, Gerry O'Shea 6, David Benson 5, Greg Brooks 30*, David Craig 27*

The Result was:

C.C.N.S.W.: - 7-212 (40 overs/run rate 5.3 runs p over) (S. Wells 50*; G. Brooks 30*; A. Davis 30*)

Lost to

Georges River: - 7-195 (35.5 overs/run rate 5.49 p over) (A. Davis 3-40)

On run rate

FoW: - 1-9 (I. Allmey), 2-15 (P. Nash), 3-44 (M. Pinter), 4-59 (M. Weaver), 5-59 (E. Cross), 6-108 (G. O'Shea), 7-124 (D. Benson)

The Bowling was: - P. Nash 5.5-0-30-1; A. Davis 8-2-40-3; G. Brooks 8-1-39-1; G. O'Shea 3-0-15-0; E. Cross 7-0-40-2; D. Craig 4-0-23-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - 4 to S. Wells (w) and one to each of D. Craig, G. O'Shea and M. Pinter

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by umpire): - 3 points to A. Davis; 2 points to S. Wells; one point to G. Brooks

See: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/classics-summer-202223/classics/game-centre/fd7764a6**

CLASSICS ROUND 6 v OLD IGNATIANS AT RYDE OVAL, RYDE ON SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER 2022: JOINT REPORT BY ANDREW DAVIS AND MIKE PINTER

La Niña must be a thing of the past as we arrived at the ground on a very hot Sunday, winning the toss was now very important for us two reasons 1) errr …. it was very hot, and 2) one of our eleven "Mick" Tarrant was still 90 minutes away due to being called into work. With our regular Captain Scott Wells out due to injury Mike "Punter" Pinter stepped into the role of Captain and fortunately he called correctly with *"Tails never fails in New South Wales"*; hence we won the toss and elected to bat.

On the ladder before the game. Old Ignatians ("Old Iggies") were sitting in fifth spot with three wins and one washout and CCNSW down in ninth with two wins and two losses - so this was a very important game for both

teams to win before the Christmas break. We didn't have a number of regulars due to injuries and seasonal engagements; thanks must be given to "Gerry" O'Shea, Jed Wesley-Smith and Sam Skoulis for stepping in and we also welcomed back Brett James (who had just been selected to represent the Australian Over 50s Cricket Team in the upcoming Over 50s World Cup in Cape Town next March).

There was a cautious start to our innings by Gerry O'Shea Ed Cross as the pitch visibly had a few gremlins with the odd ball staying low at one end and sharply kicking up at the other. Gerry was the first wicket to fall being caught for 10. This brought in our stand-in Captain Mike Pinter to join Ed who was doing a great job of punishing all loose balls, smacking six boundaries on his way to retiring at 30*. A nice partnership was developing with Pinter and Brett James with both turning over the strike and both running quickly between the wickets, converting the ones to twos and the twos to threes. However Pinter tried to take on the field once too often for a quick single that wasn't there and was found well short of his ground to be run out for 20. The score was now 2-77 in the 18th over. Andrew Davis then joined Brett James and again a nice partnership was developing between the two with both batters hitting the pickets before another call for a quick single saw Davis also short of his ground again- run out for 22 in the 25th over with the score now 3-125.

Around about this time, a call came in from Tom Robertson from Camperdown Oval (some 40 minutes away from our ground) apparently some knucklehead (of course … apologies to said knucklehead) had accidentally locked the Camperdown sheds with the kits and keys inside. To paraphrase the infamous words of the Robot from Lost in Space "*Danger Tommy Robertson".*

With 15 overs left we were looking to up the rate and close in on 200 runs. Brett James was joined by Greg Brooks and unusually Brooks started cautiously, to watch Brett retire on 30*. Now with two in the bank Brooks was joined by David 'Dutchy' Craig, who once again played a reverse sweep off his first ball for three runs much to the surprise of the bowler. The pair pushed the score along to 3-163 before we lost three wickets for 12 runs (Brooks c and b 23, Dutchy c and b 13 & Jed Wesley-Smith bowled 1). All were selflessly trying to accelerate our innings to get us over a 200 total. The score was now 6-177 with five overs remaining. Enter Andrew Bachelard.

Quick runs were needed and Bachelard had been given the licence to thrill - and thrill he did! In the 37th over he launched his assault hammering 18 runs with two massive sixes with two brilliant cricket shots, one over the cover fence and the other over deep long on. Mick Tarrant was Bachelard's wingman for the onslaught, and Mick was our 7th and final wicket to fall at 7-202. Sam Skoulis then joined Bachelard in the 38th over. Bachelard continued to plunder the bowling and retired soon after on 30* with four balls remaining in our innings. What a knock – one of the best by anyone in the team this season! Sam skoulis was joined by Ed Cross who managed to get seven more runs off the remaining four balls to finish on 39* (well done Ed on another great innings this season). Our innings closed at a very defendable 7-220 with eight bowlers to choose from.

After the tea break it was our turn to take the field in slightly cooler conditions with Brett James and Mick Tarrant opening the bowling. This was one of the first opportunities Brett has had with leather in hand since being selected for the Australian Over 50s Team. The opposition knew about Brett's selection and they knuckled down and relished the challenge. Brett and Mick bowled well and regularly troubled the openers however without success. There was a very fast outfield and most balls that passed the infield made it to the fence. Brett and Mick did exactly what was required to restrict Old Iggies to 0-40 after 10 overs, this partnership helped add pressure as the run rate required increased from 5.5 RPO to 6.0 RPO.

Pinter then decided to make a double change and toss the ball to Bachelard and Davis – this is where we turned up the Bunsen burner. Bach started with a maiden and it just got better from there for CCNSW with some brilliant fielding by Gerry O'Shea in and around gully and point and Sam Skoulis proving to be very valuable in close at square leg and cutting off singles. Adrian Schwager (one of their opening batters) retired soon after for a very well

made 30*. Lttle did we all know however that was as good as it was going to get for any of the Old Iggies batters today.

Over the next 10 over spell between ‘Bachelard and Davis we managed to rip the heart out of the Old Iggies batters to take 4-36 by drinks. I hear you ask “*How did that happen?”* Well funny you should ask … this is what transpired. In each of their second overs Bachelard firstly disrupted the timber 1-46 in the 13th over and Davis then changed his pace nicely to see their No. 2 loft one to Mid-On. Score 2-50 in the 14th over.

This saw the very dangerous Neil McLeod stride to the crease. Then Pinter (channeling Hannibal from the “A-Team”) developed a plan with Bachelard to drop a single man back deep at long-on and tempt McLeod. Back you go Mick. The temptation was too great for McLeod and within a couple of balls he struck one high and deep close to Mick Tarrant who had to cover a bit of ground to get to it and take the first of two magnificent catches. McLeod out for 4. Score 3-53. This brought another slogger to the crease in Nick ‘Garlo’ Garling. As usual ‘Garlo’ plundered everything within his hitting zone and raced to 15 runs - before a second plan was struck between James and Bachelard for Bach to slow one down and roll his fingers over a delivery. ‘Garlo’ was early on the shot and it was again lofted towards Mick Tarrant in the deep; obligingly Mick gobbled his second catch. Score 4-70. Don’t we all love it when a plan (or two) comes together!

So, at the drinks break Old Iggies were 4-76, now requiring 7.25 RPO off the remaining 20 overs for the win, with one in the shed and their two of their most dangerous batters out and not returning again today. At drinks Bachelard had the very impressive figures of 5-1-8-3 so he deserved the opportunity to bowl his allotted nine overs today. All fielders did their jobs extremely well and continued to apply the pressure right around the park in particular Mick Tarrant and Brett James were our boundary riders on opposite sides of the pitch and each played a pivotal role in cutting off boundaries. ‘Dutchy ‘Craig and Ed Cross were at mid off and mid on for most of the game saving many runs with some sharp fielding, and our Keeper Jed Wesley-Smith conceded no byes (compared to 14 byes conceded by their keeper) on a very up and down pitch. Bachelard finished up his spell with the extremely impressive figures of 9-4-16-4 what an outstanding effort! Score 5-96 after 27 overs, with Old Iggies now requiring 9.62 RPO for the unlikely win.

Without downplaying their contributions Greg Brooks (6-1-30-1), David Craig (7-0-23-1) and Ed Cross (3-0-10-1) also rolled their arms over and all continued to bowl tight lines with each bowling to their fields and the fielders stopping just about everything. It was a comprehensive display of bowling, ground fielding and catching – full stop. So after their 40 overs Old Iggies were restricted to 8-148.

A special mention to some outstanding efforts. After bowling his nine overs Bachelard found his position at one end at short fine leg still chasing the odd ball and cutting off boundaries and saving many runs. Lastly Pinter, was everywhere in the field, out in the deep, in close, changing sides and chasing that little red ball around the park. In the huddle after each wicket he gave us a few uplifting words to help encourage us all that every wicket and great effort in the field was bringing us one wicket closer to victory.

After the game both teams enjoyed a well-deserved beer or two after a long day in hot conditions. What a fantastic team result where everyone contributed, and what a way to finish off 2022 by beating one of the top teams in the competition. With five games remaining before the Finals we will need to continue this form and win most of these games to have a chance of making the top four.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone. Let’s continue our winning ways in 2023.

The Team was: - Ed Cross 39*, Gerard O’Shea 10, Mike Pinter (c) 20, Andrew Davis 22, Brett James 30*, Greg Brooks 23, David Craig 13, Andrew Bachelard 30*, Jed Wesley-Smith 1 , Mike Tarrant 5, Sam Skoulis 1*

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 7-220 (40 overs) (E. Cross 39*; B. James 30*; A. Bachelard 30*)

Defeated

Old Ignatians 8-148 CC: - (40 overs) (A. Bachelard 4-16)

By 72 runs

FoW: - 1-23 (G. O'Shea); 2-77 (M. Pinter); 3-125 (A. Davis); 4-163 (G. Brooks); 5-174; (D. Craig); 6-177 (J. Wesley-Smith); 7-202 (M. Tarrant)

The Bowling was: - B. James 5-2-22-0; M. Tarrant 5-1-18-0; A. Davis 5-0-26-1, A. Bachelard 9-4-16-4; G. Brooks 6-1-30-1; D. Craig 8-0-23-1; E. Cross 3-0-10-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - 2 to M. Tarrant, one to E. Cross and one to J. Wesley-Smith (w)

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by umpire): - 3 points to A. Bachelard; 2 points to E. Cross; one point to B. James

https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/classics-summer-202223/classics/game-centre/f9655704

CLASSICS ROUND 7 v BURWOOD BRIARS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 15 JANUARY 2023: REPORT BY GREG BROOKS.

Stuart Ridge being cheered off the field by the CCNSW team after taking 8-13

"Hacksaw Ridge tears apart Burwood"

I must admit feeling some trepidation in writing this match report as I don't think I can do justice to what occurred at Camperdown yesterday. It was a classic example of *"you had to be there to believe it".* What started out as a regular Classics team cricket match turned into a one man show of swing and seam bowling as Stuart Ridge

returned the third best bowling figures in the Club's history. **6.5 overs 3 maidens 8 wickets for 13**. Yes you read that correctly!

On a new wicket on the far side of the square Burwood won the toss, chose to bat and will long regret the decision. While not at all dangerous the wicket certainly had plenty of grass and combined with the high humidity, presented ideal conditions for high class swing bowling. Stu delivered just that and was backed up by some quality catching behind the wicket from Scott Wells and his slips cordon and in front of the wicket by Gerry O'Shea and a fine return catch of his own. The fielding around the ground was terrific highlighted by a superb pick up and direct hit at the bowler's end by first gamer Andrew Dawson. At 7-23 with Stu having 6 of these (one run out) we were contemplating a swim at Coogee by 2pm; however a stubborn eighth wicket partnership slowed down the speed of the carnage. Steady bowling by David Benson, Paul Nash and Greg Brooks kept things tight during this period. The introduction of David Craig brought the breakthrough with the dismissal of Burwood's top scorer Steve Rouse (22). In a ruthless move our skipper brought Stu back on and he claimed the remaining two wickets with consecutive deliveries to close out the innings at 57. We discussed the potential for a hat trick next game which for Stu will be against England on 30 January in the West Indies Over 60s Cup in Barbados! We await the feedback from that one!

Our chase began slowly and Ed Cross was unfortunate to be out lbw in the second over. That was to be the only loss of a wicket as slowly at first and then with acceleration Mick Pinter and debutant Andrew Dawson got on top of the bowling to see us home in the 15th over. Pinter was 27* and Dawson reached 30* retired with both in complete control.

The Burwood team was gracious in defeat acknowledging the wonderful performance of Stu and the overall dominance of their opponents. It was a short day and we were socialising with beers and cold drinks by 3pm.

Congratulations to everyone who played their part in the day. I am sure will we all remember the day for a long time to come.

The Team was (in batting order): - Mike Pinter 27*, Ed Cross 1, Andrew Dawson 30* ret not out, Gerard O'Shea 0*, Craig Kitson dnb, Paul Nash dnb, David Benson dnb, Scott Wells (c) and (w) dnb,, Greg Brooks dnb, David Craig dnb, Stuart Ridge dnb

The Result was: -

Burwood: - 10-57 (22.5 overs) (S. Ridge 8-13)

Lost to

CCNSW: - 1-60 (14.4 overs) (A. Dawson 30*; M. Pinter 27*)

By 9 wickets.

Burwood FoWs: - 1-3, 2-9, 3-10, 4-10, 5-17, 6-23, 7-23, 8-55, 9-56, 10-57

CCNSW FoW: - 1-4 (E. Cross)

The Bowling was: S. Ridge 6.5-3-13-8; D. Benson 3-1-8-0; G. Brooks 4-1-6-0; P. Nash 4-0-13-0; D. Craig 4-1-7-1; C. Kitson 1-0-4-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - 2 to S. Wells (w/); One to each of G. Brooks; A. Dawson, 1 G. O'Shea and S. Ridge (c & b)

Run outs: - A. Dawson (direct hit)

Player Points (awarded by umpire): - 3 points to S. Ridge; 2 points to A. Dawson; 1 point to M .Pinter

See: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/classics-summer-202223/classics/game-centre/6e8d8344

CLASSICS ROUND 8 v ST CLAIR WARRIORS AT MERRYLANDS OVAL, MERRYLANDS ON SUNDAY 22 JANUARY 2023

Cancelled because of rain

CLASSICS ROUND 9 v STRATHFIELD AT AIREY PARK, HOMEBUSH ON SUNDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2023: REPORT BY SCOTT WELLS

On a lovely Summers day – mid to high 20s slight breeze, the team was eager to play on the magnificent Airey Park vs Strathfield being the Shires first grade ground with a well prepared pitch and a rarely seen carpet like couch outfield. So much so that the skipper had left his whites behind (blaming his mum for not packing them the night before).

Two late withdrawals from our 12 man team (Ed Cross and Brett James both with injury) meant we headed into the game with 11 but still with very strong depth in the bowling and batting. With the skipper not there for the toss, Mike Pinter was anointed in that capacity. Mike lost the toss and Strathfield had no hesitation in sending us into the field on what appeared to be a belter.

Mick Tarrant opened the bowling and was on the spot from ball one getting some good movement in the air and with the pitch seaming, some coming through with lots of bounce and others "Camperdown like". Perhaps the good coverage on the wicket was hiding what lurks below. From the other end, Andy Bachelard returning from his great spell against Old Ignations a month ago, was bang on with his line and length as well. This is where our team really does stand out from other teams with the seemingly abundance of good quality line and length bowling. We were without Stuart Ridge (currently in Barbados representing Australia in the over 60s) and Brett James for this game.

With one opener throwing the bat at anything short or wide and the other watching patiently, Mick Tarrant was the first to bring on a mistimed slog skying between mid-wicket and mid-on but it was unfortunately spilled. Another edge behind was also spilled to the frustration of all. Andy Bachelard also had a skied chance dropped from their opener. Mick bowled his best spell this season continually beating the bat and eventually send middle stump cartwheeling. 1 for 24 off 7 – off to a flier but you could feel the momentum shifting now with continued pressure from the good bowling.

Their first drop was run out by some swift fielding from Mike Pinter back to the keeper and we were on our way. Andy picked up a clean bowled and Mick also picked up their opener with a classic outswinger nicked to the throat of Brooksie standing at first slip. The very next ball was followed by a beautiful inswing to the left hander knocking back to the top of middle – fair nut to get first ball. Their spine was broken.

Change bowlers Paul Nash, "The Prez" Greg Brooks and David Craig continued the pressure with great line and length 4 for 86 at drinks – we were now well in control. Brooks was rewarded with an lbw and Craig the same with the quicker 'zooter' trapping the batter back and in front much to his delight. Their number 4 batted well to make

30* and be back in the bank but others offered little in attack. Brooksie picking up another lbw and Dave Kent (debut CCNSW Classics) picking up another clean bowled as his first scalp. Andy B came back and made short work with of their returning batter, clean bowling him as well. Strathfield all out 148 with 5 bowled, 3 lbws, and no wides: a tribute to our great bowling on the day setting up a very chasing target. A couple of injuries from fielding with Andrew Davis copping one on the ankle (very swollen), David Benson pulling something that resembled a muscle in the thigh to groin area and Mike Pinter also hampered by a niggling gluteus muscle.

With the ball swinging all innings, it was also going to be a tricky target. But a solid start from Pinter and Gerard O'Shea picking off runs in a very good opening stand of 38 off ten overs keeping up with the necessary run rate (with not a boundary hit) until Mike on 16 copped a questionable lbw from a right arm around the wicket slinger. Mike called for the DRS but he must have not got the signal in time. Paul Nash and Gerry continued to knock it around with Gerry playing a classy, flawless innings to retire on 30* and Nash putting the loose ones away with the score on 74 when he retired, having set us up well.

At drinks we were 1 for 86 - well on target for the chase set up by our top 4 batters. With wickets in hand, the skipper set the goal of achieving the total within 32 overs which would gain 2 bonus points in a chase. Achievable at just over 5 an over. Post drinks Scott Wells and Nash went about their business knocking them around with the odd rush of blood from Wells (much to the ire of 'the Prez' – his displeasure heard well beyond the boundary causing flocks of birds to scurry from every tree within 2km). Knuckling down Nashy bought up his 30* with a typical Nash like pull well over the boundary at mid wicket.

With a few guys injured, this bought debutant David Kent to the crease still needing 42 for victory – showing his class with a watchful eye, picking off runs, good running between the wickets and a smoked cover drive until a misunderstanding bought about a run out on a misfield (what was that saying?) when he was looking at getting going on 9. This bought ' the Closer' to the crease (G Brooks) with 30 runs to get. Brooksie did what Brooksie does, putting loose and some good ones away and running hard on the twos and threes.

Wells retired on 32* with the scores level bringing in our pinch runner Andy Bachelard at the non striker's end. Brooksie then hit the winning runs and we had achieved the goal of getting the runs within 32 overs with 2 bonus points in a comprehensive win.

Post-match hospitality was at its finest with lots of stories, Asahi beers, spiced chicken and noodles a plenty.

The Team was: - Mike Pinter 16, Gerard O'Shea 31*, Paul Nash 34*, Scott Wells (c) and (w) 32*, David Kent 9, Greg Brooks 14*, Andrew Bachelard 0*, Mike Tarrant dnb, David Benson dnb, David Craig dnb, Andrew Davis dnb

The Result was: -

Strathfield CC: -10-148 (37.5 overs) (M. Tarrant 3-28)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 2-149 (31 overs) (P. Nash 34*; S. Wells 32*; G. O'Shea 31*)

By 8 wickets

FoW: - 1-38 (M. Pinter); 2-123 (D. Kent)

The Bowling was: - M. Tarrant 8-1-28-3; A. Bachelard 7.5-0-34-2; P. Nash 3-0-14-0; D. Craig 8-1-26-1; G. Brooks 7-0-29-2; D. Kent 4-1-13-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to G. Brooks

Run outs: - One to M. Pinter

Player points (awarded by umpire): - 3 points to P. Nash; 2 points to S. Wells; one point to G. O'Shea

See: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/classics-summer-202223/classics/game-centre/fe97c851

CLASSICS ROUND 10 v ROSEVILLE AT CAMPERDOWN PARK, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2023: REPORT BY DAVID CRAIG

Despite the covers going down (thanks to help from a random local hippy named Tom, and Stuart Ridge arising from his deathbed), the cyclonic winds ensured some Saturday rain got on the pitch. Whilst it was certainly playable, the extra moisture promised to provide plenty of assistance to the bowlers. With our bowling line-up stacked full of Australian and State representatives, Scott Wells took pity on Roseville and elected to bat first.

A steady start from Andrew Dawson and Ed Cross saw us to 31 without loss before the pitch demons struck in the sixth over. Cross got bowled by one that jagged back and kept low, and the very next ball spat up from a length to take Paul Nash on the glove (unplayable!); Dan Zatz at gully diving forward to take a superb one-hander: 2-31.

New batter Wells was finding it hard to get some tight bowling away, while Dawson cruised smoothly to retire not out at 31* inside 10 overs (including a rare 5 all run with a couple of overthrows – very nearly a 7!).Craig Kitson replaced Dawson and got into the groove with a couple of boundaries, and the score ticked up to 65 before Wells was caught off surprise ring-in 'Joffra Archer' lookalike (surely he's not over 50?). Brett James joined Kitson in a fine partnership, with Kitson (31* ret not out) joining Dawson in the sheds before drinks were taken at 3-88.

David Kent joined James as the fourth wicket continued to elude Roseville, and James kicked it up a gear, depositing Jom onto the hill and retiring to the sheds for a well-earned rest (32*ret not out). Mike Tarrant joined Kent and immediately began hitting out, but was somewhat frustrated when his drives kept plugging in the fairway bunkers, forcing him to *"run 'em out"* on a warm, sticky day. With wickets in hand and three batters in the shed, everyone was swinging for the fences, and Tarrant (9) and Greg Brooks (1) fell in quick succession; 5-130 after 27. Andrew Bachelard contributed an entertaining 20 with a big 6 and a couple of 4s, and Kent made a well compiled 21. David Craig made 8 before driving one straight to mid-on and inexplicably yelling out a suicidal "*yes!"* A flurry of hitting and running by the returning Dawson, Kitson and James lifted Roseville's target to an even 200. With the sandy outfield making boundaries harder than usual, and the deck still offering some assistance, it was a big ask.

Mick Tarrant (6-3-10-3) started proceedings from the Australia Street end, with Stuart Ridge (5-1-14-1) steaming in with the Rotunda behind him. Both were miserly as Roseville stuttered along to just 24 off the opening 11 overs, along the way losing Jom to a superb diving catch (Andy Dawson at midwicket), Zatz and Ewing (lbw) and Harry (caught by Andy Dawson at short cover). Mick Tarrant was on a hat-trick at one point, and could have had even better figures had Scott Wells not spilled a dolly ("*I couldn't see it, my gloves got in the way"* was a new one to me!). Brett James relieved the 'flu-struck Ridge and promptly blew away Duncan's middle peg and Berry's front pad, leaving Roseville in all sorts of trouble at 6-36 when drinks were taken.

While they came out with more intent in the second half, and managed to get Woods and Mulvaney to a brace of 30s* ret not out, they were never in the hunt. Unfortunately wickets were hard to come by in the second half, with only Ed Craig (swinging one through the gate) and Brett James (played on off the last ball) having success. Craig

Kitson bowled well without luck, while David Craig served up an assortment of pies before being dragged off. ("*They were turning big, though!"*).

Another solid win for CCNSW against a good bunch of blokes, job done, 37.95 points and a song!

The Team was (playing 12): - Ed Cross 10, Andrew Dawson 47*, Paul Nash 0, Scott Wells (c) and (w) 4, Craig Kitson 36, Brett James 35*, David Kent 21, Mike Tarrant 9, Greg Brooks 1, Andrew Bachelard 20, David Craig 8, Stuart Ridge dnb

The Result was:

C.C.N.S.W.: - 9-199 (40 overs) (A. Dawson 47*; B. James 35*)

Defeated

Roseville CC: - 8-126 (40 overs) (M. Tarrant 3-10; B. James 3-18)

By 63 runs

FoW: - 1- 31 (E. Cross); 2- 31 (P. Nash); 3- 65 (S. Wells); 4-128 (M. Tarrant). 5-130 (G. Brooks); 6-160 (A. Bachelard); 7- 163 (D. Kent); 8-178 (D. Craig).; 9-191 (C. Kitson).

The Bowling was: - M. Tarrant 6-2-10-3; S. Ridge 5-1-14-1; B. James 9-2-18-3; A. Bachelard 3-1-7-0; D. Craig 5-1-30-0; E. Cross 6-1-30-1; C. Kitson 6-1-16-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - Two to A. Dawson

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by umpire): - 3 points to B. James; 2 points to A. Dawson; one point to M. Tarrant

See: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/classics-summer-202223/classics/game-centre/f869856b**

CLASSICS ROUND 11 v WARRINGAH AT FRANK GRAY OVAL, DEE WHY ON SUNDAY 5 MARCH 2023: REPORT BY SCOTT WELLS

A lovely sunny day greeted us at Weldon Oval home of Warringah CC. The pitch was well grassed with previous ball marks evident from another game so it could have proved quite difficult to bat on.

The match itself was 4th vs 5th on the table with the winner to secure a semi spot in the last game of the regular season. The toss was won by Warringah who elected to bat. From the opening spell with Mike Tarrant and Stuart Ridge, every ball was asking questions of the batters. In the blink of an eye after 10 overs Warringah was on the ropes with Tarrant picking up three plumb lbws with some great outswing and off cutter bowling and Ridge from the other end hitting the right length to secure three very sharp catches to Andrew Dawson (one hander), Paul Nash at Gully and a caught and bowled one hander. Warringah was 6 for 28 after 10 overs.

After that over, Warringah batted and batted and batted defending anything of danger and putting away the loose one plus popping some into gaps where three fielders seemed to converge plus a couple of sharp and one simple catch were put down. This went on for another 20 overs until another wicket fell – 7 for 92. The remaining overs for the openers, Greg Brooks, Andrew Bachelard, Ed Cross and David Craig could not penetrate the Warringah defence. It was only Nash who could find the way through with two clean bowled to leave Warringah on 8 for 152 after their allocated 40 overs. A great comeback by them.

CCNSW went to lunch thinking what just happened – talk about a game of two (uneven) halves. 6 for 28 in the first 10 overs and 2 for 124 in 30 overs.

Perhaps the pitch had demons when the ball was new so it was important to see of the first 10 overs. But with a very solid batting line up and power to burn at the end 150 should be well achievable.

The innings started well with Mike Pinter off to a flier picking off cover drives at will and Dawson at the other end watchful. However in the 4th over Pinter fell to an '*Akram like'* inswinging yorker and Dawson adjudged lbw almost straight after bringing Nash and Scott Wells to the crease. Both batted watchfully until the 11th over when Wells went for a widish ball catching an outside edge to cover. Nash and Andrew Davis consolidated until the 16th over with Nash caught. Ed Cross then soon followed lbw leaving us in an unfamiliar position with the top order failing for the first time this year. But still plenty of talent with the bat to come.

Unfortunately we just lost constant wickets giving us no momentum throughout the innings seemingly every 10 runs one wicket or 20 runs two wickets. Our power trio of Tarrant, Brooks and Bachelard then forced to play unfamiliar roles anchoring the innings. A handy partnership at the end between Ridge and Craig got us to 120. This score at the start was unthinkable but in the end we seemingly overachieved getting to 120.

It was our day then not our day – It was the best of times, it was the worst of times…

In all we had a very good side and had a very good season with most importantly a great bunch of blokes.

Thanks to all for making it enjoyable.

The Team was: - Andrew Dawson 2, Mike Pinter 10, Paul Nash 22, Scott Wells (c) and (w) 9, Andrew Davis 29. Ed Cross 0, Greg Brooks 5, Mike Tarrant 10, Andrew Bachelard 2, David Craig 9, Stuart Ridge 8*

The Result was: -

Warringah CC: - 8-152 (40 overs) (S. Ridge 3-25; M. Tarrant 3-26)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-120 (34.3 overs)

By 32 runs

FoW: - 1-15 (M. Pinter); 2- 22 (A. Dawson); 3-44 (S. Wells); 4-55 (P Nash). 5-64 (E. Cross); 6-80 (G. Brooks); 7-93 (M. Tarrant); 8-97 (A. Davis); 9-99 (A. Bachelard); 10-120 (D. Craig).

The Bowling was: - S. Ridge 9-0-25-3; M. Tarrant 9-3-26-3; G. Brooks 5-1-13-0; A. Bachelard 6-0-30-0; E. Cross 1-0-11-0; D. Craig 5-1-26-0; P. Nash 5-2-17-2

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to each of A. Dawson, P. Nash and S. Ridge

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by umpire): - 3 points to S. Ridge; 2 points to M. Tarrant; one point to A. Davis

See: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/classics-summer-202223/classics/game-centre/7a3968ff**