CCNSW C&S MATCH REPORTS 2022-2023 SEASON

GAME 1: CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 1 v YARALLA CC AT GODDARD OVAL, RUSHCUTTERS BAY ON SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER 2022

Washed out

GAME 2: C&S JACK PACE ROUND 1 v COLLEAGUES CC AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 16 OCTOBER 2022: REPORT BY JIM HADLEY

CCNSW won the toss and Bowled. Avinash Bhandari and new ball partner Nimesh Desai ("Fifty"), making his debut for CCNSW, formed a great contrasting style of new ball bowling. 'Fifty' held consistent pace and line for his 7 overs and Avi held a nagging length of outswingers and off cutters, backed up by good catches by Scott Williams and James Murtha. Colleagues were 5-40 after 14 overs. Colleagues decided slogging was the best response and with the help of some dropped catches moved into the 90s until spin got rid of their 'cowboy', Ed White for 45. Nick Leong and 'Big Sooz' (Soren Hughes) bowled a consistent line and length and finished off Colleagues, all out for 138. A shaky start in the run chase had Tom Robertson out chasing a wide one and Scott Williams bowled by a good one through the gate. Harry Bridge and Jamie Murtha pushed the game along till Harry was judged lbw. Colleagues opening left arm seamer was proving a handful so Nick Leong "night watched" his spell skillfully through to enable Jamie Murtha (40) and eventually Avi Bhandari (26*) to get CCNSW home with a few overs to spare. Good but patchy win highlighted by a top spell by both opening bowlers.

The Team was: - Tom Robertson 1, Scott Williams 5, Wayne Stewart 3, Harry Bridge 17, James Murtha 40, Nick Leong 22, Karthick Subramanian (w) 14, Avinash Bnandari 26*, Soren Hughes 2, Nimesh Desai 2* and Jim Hadley (c) dnb

The Result was: -

Colleagues: - 10-138 (30 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 8-139 (32.4 overs) (J. Murtha 40)

By 2 wickets

FoW: - 1-3 (T. Robertson); 2-11 (S. Williams); 3-13 (W. Stewart); 4-29 (H. Bridge). 5-87 (J. Murtha); 6-96 (N. Leong); 7-115 (K. Subramanian); 8-128 (S. Hughes).

The Bowling was: - A. Bhandari 7-1 21-2; N. Desai 7-0-16-3; S Hughes 4-0-19-1, W. Stewart 3-0-15-0, J. Hadley 4-0-23-1, N. Leong 5-0-38-3

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - 2 to S. Hughes and one each to J. Hadley, J. Murtha and S. Williams;

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to A. Bhandari; 2 points to N. Desai; 1 point to J. Murtha

GAME 3: CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 2 v REG BARTLEY XI AT REG BARTLEY OVAL, RUSHCUTTERS BAY ON SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER 2022

Washed out

GAME 4: C&S JACK PACE ROUND 2 v OLD ALOYSIANS CC AT ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE OVAL, KIRRIBILLI ON SUNDAY 30 OCTOBER 2022: REPORT BY BRETT JAMES

It was orange, it was bright and it was beautiful but what was this strange phenomenon..after much googling and conversations with the smart people on the team (no I am not looking at you Tom Robertson) we came to the conclusion the sun was shining on us today! Cricket and hopefully the Cricketers' Club would be the winner on the day. Unfortunately someone forgot to tell Old Aloysians and their grade level line up how things should play out.

The Old Aloysians ground was in top nick. It is a beautiful place to play cricket, fast outfield, good facilities and a decent pitch. I was internally thanking the gods for the outrageous school fees imposed on our struggling banking, financial and legal fraternity members who that just want a decent education for their little ones…..good on you all!

Soren Hughes won the toss and in we went. Tom Robertson and Gerry O'Shea started very well with an excellent opening partnership of 43 before Gerry was plum LBW….oh hang on he was actually not out that ball…but the next ball he was comprehensively bowled after day dreaming about the life that our umpire had given him the ball prior. Tom went on to score a dominant 52 before getting clean bowled and Harry Bridge put on 20 good runs during which time he discovered there seems to be common denominator in his near run outs each time he bats (I'll leave that one hanging out there).

Brett James decided that one duck wasn't enough and hit a simple catch back to the bowler for his second duck in a row and the rest of the batting was ho hum until Captain Soren strolled out to the wicket and smashed the best 39* off 19 balls we have seen this season - it was a fantastic captains knock and got us to a defendable 156.

Things started well with Avinash Bhandari collecting a wicket on the first ball of the innings. The team was up, we were on a roll and things were looking good for CCNSW. Unfortunately no one told us that number 3 had played Second Grade the day before, was in form and loved medium pace, pitched up bowling. 85 runs were taken off our first 10 overs with the number 3 smoking a very fine 65 off less balls than Soren faced. Stupidly he mentioned that he hated spin bowling so we bought debutant Adam Khamis on and he had him bamboozled for 2 fine overs and then quickly stumped. A great decision. Adam bagged another wicket before our old adversary Tim Goh came in a struck a very quick 55* - game over!

Isn't it great to play cricket! We didn't come back with the win but it was fantastic to be out there with mates, running around and trying to compete against a very, very good team. Let's look forward to next week and the fact we may get two weeks of cricket in row!

The Team: - Gerry O'Shea 17, Tom Robertson 52, Harry Bridge 20, Brett James 0, Jamie Murtha 0, Avinash Bhandari 7, Soren Hughes (c) 39, Nimesh "Fifty" Desai 3, Matt Leong 5, Declan Thomas (w) 9*, Adam Khamis (dnb)

The Result was:-

C.C.N.S.W.: - 8- 156 (35 overs) (T. Robertson 52; S. Hughes 39*)

Lost to

Old Aloysians: – 3- 165 (21.4 overs)

FoW: - 1-43 (Gerry O'Shea); 2-76 (Tom Robertson); 3-77 (Brett James); 4-78 (Jamie Murtha); 5-99 (Harry Bridge); 6-118 (Avinash Bhandari); 7-133 (Nimesh Desai); 8-144 (Matt Leong)

The Bowling was: - Avi Bhandari 6-0-41-1; Nimesh Desai 4-0-49-0; Adam Khamis 7-0-56-2; Brett James 5-1-19-0;

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - One to Declan Thomas

Catches: - One to Adam Khamis

Run outs: - nil

Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to T. Robertson; 2 points to S. Hughes; 1 point to A. Khamis

GAME 5: CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 3 v CRANBROOK OLD BOYS AT DANGAR OVAL, ROSE BAY ON SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2022:

CCNSW win by forfeit by Old Cranbrookians

GAME 6: C&S JACK PACE ROUND 3 v YARALLA AT GODDARD OVAL CONCORD ON SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2022: REPORT BY SOREN HUGHES

CCNSW won the toss and we decided to bat on a green top which looked pretty hard. It turned out to be a pretty good batting deck but a bit slow to come on to the bat. Gerry O'Shea and Harry Bridge opened for us, both making a good start before wanting to get on with it and both getting bowled! Paul Nash and Scott Wells developed our total with some lusty blows and a fine partnership from some reasonable bowling. Then Paul missed a straight one lbw, Richard Clark didn't want to hit a straight one and Mike Weaver started collecting runs before getting himself bowled too. Scott Wells and Soren Hughes batted for a few runs at the end with Soren farming the strike with a few balls to go and leaving Scott stranded on 49*. We had scored 5-180 which was defensible on a slow outfield on a windy day.

Unfortunately Yaralla's batting stocks seem to have improved this year with their long term captain Craig Hilton not even getting a spot in the team that week. Darwin tourist Tom Reaney got us a wicket first ball and soon another with Matt Price taking a wicket, both on debut for the Club's C&S team. From here things fell apart. We dropped the same batter about 5 times on his way to 96*. Admittedly a few of the chances would have been pretty sharp catches but the old saying falls true. The other batsman was removed by his lack of footwork, caught at point by Harry, but before we knew it they had passed our score with 3 overs spare. Perhaps we lacked some bowling options or perhaps we didn't make use of the opportunities given. Either way Yaralla are now sitting atop the Jack Pace table and we have some work to do to get back into the top eight for the quarter finals. We need to rally a bit from here but today it was however like pulling a rabbit out of a hat to get a full side on the park for a crucial JPS game. Go figure!

The Team was (playing 12): - Gerard O'Shea 33, Harry Bridge 15, Paul Nash 38, Scott Wells 49*, Richard Clark 0. Mike Weaver 13, Soren Hughes (c) 20*, Matt Price dnb, Greg Brooks dnb, Adam Khamis dnb, Tom Reaney dnb and Craig McKenzie (w) dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 5-181 (35 overs) (S. Wells 49*)

Lost to

Yaralla CC: - 5-182 (33.5 overs)

By 5 wickets

FoW: - 1- 27 (H. Bridge); 2-79 (G. O'Shea); 3-99 (P. Nash); 4- 99 (R. Clark). 5-135 (M. Weaver)

The Bowling was: - T. Reaney 7-0-39-2; M. Price 5-0-25-1; P. Nash 7-1-23-1; A. Khanis 3-0-21-0; S. Hughes 4-0-26-1; M. Weaver 3.5-0-26-0; H. Bridge 2-0-13.0; G. Brooks 1-0-7-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to Craig Mackenzie (w) and one to each of H. Bridge and T. Reaney;

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to S. Wells 2 points to P. Nash; one point to T. Reaney

GAME 7: CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 4 v COLLEAGUES AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2022

CCNSW win by forfeit

GAME 8: JACK PACE ROUND 4 v OLD CRANBROOKIANS AT DANGAR OVAL, ROSE BAY ON SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2022: REPORT BY JIM HADLEY

We lost the toss and were asked to bowl. Ian Robertson and Soren Hughes ("Big Sooz') opened up. Ian bowled with good pace and beat the bat regularly and was rewarded with the wicket of one of Cranbrookian's better batters. Hughes kept a good line and length for 4 overs when Mick McGrath playing his first game for our City and Suburban team and Matt Leong took over. Mick McGrath bowled a terrific 7 over spell while picking up 1 wicket for 36 runs, a very hot catch to Ash Perrot at cover. Matt Leong after a patchy first over bowled 3 on the money. Ed Robertson bowled unchanged for 7 overs from the Rose Bay end and hit a terrific line and length to finish with 2 for 20. Old Cranbrookians ended up 8-199 after 35 overs.

Jamie Murtha and Tom Robertson opened the batting and went along well to 18 when Jamie was late on a pull shot and caught at mid-off for 4 in the fifth over. Mick McGrath joined Tom and our score progressed to 1-73 in the 17th over when Mick unfortunately didn't quite get hold of an on drive and was caught at mid-on for 26. Harry Bridge unluckily played on first ball when he may have just had time to kick it away. After the drinks break and in the next over Tom followed given out stumped. for 34 and two balls later with a thunderstorm looming and the match likely to be decided on run rate, Soren Hughes decided to try to lift the rate but top edged to mid-on to be out for a duck. In the space of two overs we had descended from 1-73 to 5-75. Karthick Subramanian and Ash Perrot, playing his first game for CCNSW were looking comfortable at the crease when a thunderstorm and lightning hit.

We were facing a heavy task needing 110 runs off the final 14.5 overs with only 5 wickets in hand when the storm broke. With the thunder and lightning getting closer, Old Cranbrookians hesitated to get the covers out and after a few minutes heavy rain it became academic and Old Cranbrookians had won on run rate

(Editor's note: a similar situation occurred simultaneously at Camperdown in the Classics where playing conditions prohibited any entry on the field even for laying covers within 30 minutes of a nearby lightning strike. That game was also lost on run rate with the covers unable to be relaid)

The Team was: - James Murtha 4 , Tom Robertson 34, Mick McGrath 26, Harry Bridge 0, Soren Hughes 0, Ash Perrot 2*, Karthick Subramanian (w) 3* Jim Hadley (c) dnb, Edward Robertson dnb , Matt Leong and Ian Robertson dnb

The Result was: -

Old Cranbrookians: - 8-199 (35 overs; run rate 5.69 p over)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 5-88-rain (20.1 overs; 4.38 run rate p over)

On run rate

FoW: - 1-18 (J. Murtha); 2-73 (M. McGrath); 3-73 (T. Robertson); 4-75 (H. Bridge); 5-75 (S. Hughes)

The Bowling was: - M. Leong 4-0-25-0; S. Hughes 7-0-46-1; J. Hadley 6-1-37-2**;** M. McGrath 7-1-36-1; I. Robertson 5-0-35-2; E. Robertson 6-0-20-2;

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to K. Subramanian (w); one to Ash Perrot;

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to Mick McGrath; 2 points to Ed Robertson; one point to Ian Robertson

GAME 9: C&S ROUND 5 v KNOX OLD BOYS AT GILLESPIE FIELD, WAHROONGA ON SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER 2022: REPORT BY JIM HADLEY

CCNSW lost the toss and was asked to bowl. Soren Hughes and Harry Bridge opened the bowling on an under prepared but consistent surface. Both Harry and 'Sooz' were a bit unlucky with anything miscued finding space which seemed to give the Knox openers further licence to try their hand. Bridge eventually got his man but Knox OBs were by then 1-113. Jamie Murtha and Adam Khamis were brought on and troubled the Knox batters but just couldn't sustain a consistent length, Khamis 8 overs 2-58 and Murtha 6 overs 2-42. Peter Constantinou held a good length for 3 overs 1-15 and Ash Perrot and his son Tom Perrot bowled the final overs reasonably cheaply Ash 3 overs 0-27 and Tom 2 overs 1-17. Our keeper Declan Thomas threw himself everywhere to hardly concede a sundry all innings. Knox 7-245 after 35 overs.

Tom Robertson and Karthick Subramanian opened the batting with Tom hitting 16 off the first over. Tom soon skied an off drive to be out for 21. Karthick hit some big pull shots before departing for 31 when trying to up the run rate. Constantinou played round an off spinner to be bowled for 14 and Bridge after an encouraging start departed for 23. Ash Perrot got the only low bounce of the day, bowled for 0 and Murtha played on for 2. Hughes skied one hitting out for 0 as did Thomas 0. Lenny Volkov looked solid till being given out lbw and the final overs were played out by Khamis 19* and Hadley 10*. CCNSW finished 110 runs behind at 9-135 after 35 overs.

The Team was (playing 12): - Karthick Subramanian 31, Tom Robertson 21, Peter Constantinou 14, Harry Bridge 23, Ash Perrot 0, James Murtha 2, Soren Hughes 0, Declan Thomas (w) 0, Adam Khamis 19*, Len Volkov 2, Jim Hadley (c) 10* and Tim Perrot dnb

The Result was: -

Knox Old Boys: - 7- 245 (35 overs)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 9-135 (35 overs) (K. Subramanian 31)

By 110 runs

FoW: - 1- 33 (T Robertson); 2- 59 (Peter Constantinou; 3-76 (K. Subramanian); 4-76 (A. Perrot).5-86 (J. Murtha); 6-86 (S. Hughes); 7- 95 (D. Thomas); 8-122 (H. Bridge).; 9-119 (L. Volkov)

The Bowling was: - S Hughes 7-0-55-0; H. Bridge 6-1-34-0; Adam Khamis 8-0-58-2; J Murtha 6-0-42-2; Peter Constantinou 3-0-15-1; A Perrot 3-0-27-0; T. Perrot 2-0-17-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to D Thomas (w); one to S. Hughes and one to A. Perrot

Run outs: - One to Tom Robertson

Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to K. Subramanian; 2 points to D. Thomas; one point to H. Bridge

GAME 10: JACK PACE ROUND 5 v SYDNEY UNIVERSITY LIONS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER 2022: REPORT BY HARRY BRIDGE

Spirits were high as our C&S team was finally at Camperdown for the first time this season. The weather was perfect and the square was finally playable, but its surprisingly dry, cracked and crumbly condition would prove more suited to Sydney University Lions. We made a convincing start with Tom Robertson's 36 a continuance of his consistent form in the first half of the season, and Jamie Murtha coming off some big scores and looking comfortable for 15, their partnership taking us swiftly to 59 before both quickly fell. Murtha was the first victim to the Lions' new off-spinner, who found the conditions ideal and went on to dismiss four of our top six batters in his 4-16, decimating our middle order as we lost our final 5 wickets for 20 runs. The only other resistance was Karthick Subramanian's punchy 28, as we reached a below par 10-142.

Toby Forbes and Soren Hughes struggled to find their lengths early on; however Forbes found a crack and cut a ball in to bowl the Lions' best batter, giving us a brief sniff of being in the game. Adam Khamis caused some difficulties with his spinners, and both Adam Durant and Craig Kitson did well taking a couple of wickets each. At six wickets down and looking brittle, there was a feeling the Lions may have struggled if we'd posted another 20 runs and were able to apply some pressure, but in the end their top scorer's slowly compiled 50 guided them to a solid win by four wickets.

We look forward to the return fixture at St Paul's college in Sydney University on 8 January next which (unlike this game) will be played for the Brooks-Manning-Moorhouse Shield. Hopefully conditions will not be quite so spin-friendly.

The Team was: - Tom Robertson 36, Jamie Murtha 15, Karthick Subramanian (w) 28, Dan Turner 9, Harry Bridge 11, Toby Forbes 0, Adam Durant 9, Adam Khamis 5, Craig Kitson 6*, Peter Constantinou 1, Soren Hughes (c) 4

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-142 (34 overs) (T. Robertson 36)

Lost to

Sydney University Lions: - 6-145 (33.4 overs)

By 4 wickets

FoW: - 1- 59 (T. Robertson); 2-60 (J. Murtha); 3-91 (D. Turner); 4-105 (H. Bridge).5-107 (T. Forbes); 6-122 (A. Durant); 7-129 (K. Subramanian); 8- 134 (A. Khamis); 9-135 (P. Constantinou); 10-142 (S. Hughes).

The Bowling was: - T. Forbes 6-1-19-1; S. Hughes 4-0-26-0 ; P. Constantinou 7-0-30-0; A. Khamis 7-1-27-1; A. Durant 5-2-15-2; C. Kitson 4.4-1-11-2

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to A. Durant

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to T. Robertson; 2 points to K. Subramanian; one point to A Durant

GAME 11: CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 6 v ST GEORGE VETERANS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER 2022: REPORT BY JIM HADLEY

CCNSW lost the toss and were sent in. Tom Robertson and Mike Pinter opened and gave us a steady start against accurate bowling till Tom got a good delivery clipping his off stump and was out for 17. Peter Constantinou and Pinter looked to be settling in till a mix up had Constantinou run out for 5. Craig Kitson hit some quick boundaries to up the run rate till he tripped over a ball he had covered and was judged lbw for 15. Pinter was then bowled by a good off cutter for 23. Harry Bridge and Soren Hughes then took over and put on a 100 stand, Bridge 61 and Hughes 54. Tom Litherland 10 and Adam Khamis 14 * finished off our innings. CCNSW 6-227 off 35 overs.

'Jonno' Shaw and Soren Hughes (*'Big Sooz*') opened the bowling, Jonno brushing off the rust with a steady 6 overs 0-24, Sooz a tidy 4 overs 0-8. Tim Litherland's off-spin hit a length from the first ball and with attacking fields he finished with 6 overs 1-25. Tom Robertson was then introduced and bowled a barnstorming 5 overs 2-17 and St George were in a hole. Adam Khamis mesmerised their lower order with his leggies and googlies finishing with 4 overs 3-9 and Craig Kitson chipped in with an accurate 4 overs of off-spin 3-9. St George Veterans finished all out for 119 in the 33rd over.

The Team was: - Tom Robertson 17; Mike Pinter 23, Peter Constantinou 5, Craig Kitson 15, Harry Bridge 61, Soren Hughes 54, Tim Litherland 10, Adam Khamis 14*, Declan Thomas (w) 2*, Jim Hadley (c) dnb, Jonathon Shaw dnb

The Result was:

C.C.N.S.W.: - 7-227 (35 overs) (H. Bridge 61; S. Hughes 54)

Defeated

Saint George Veterans: - 10-119 (32.2 overs) (A. Khamis 4-14; C. Kitson 3-9)

By 108 runs

FoW: - 1-25 (T. Robertson); 2-35 (P. Constantinou); 3-68 (M. Pinter); 4-70 (C. Kitson). 5-172 (S. Hughes); 6-195 (T. Litherland); 7- 207 (H. Bridge);

The Bowling was: - J. Shaw 6-1-29-0; S. Hughes 4-1-8-0; T. Litherland 6-1-25-1; J. Hadley 1-0-2-0; T. Robertson 5-2-7-2; A. Khamis 6.2-2-14-4; C. Kitson 4-1-9-3

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to D. Thomas (w) and one to each of H. Bridge, C. Kitson and M. Pinter

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to H. Bridge; 2 points to S. Hughes; one point to A. Khamis

GAME 12: CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 7 v SYDNEY UNIVERSITY VETERANS AT ST PAUL'S OVAL, SYDNEY UNIVERSITY ON SUNDAY 8 JANUARY 2023 FOR THE BROOKS-MANNING-MOORHOUSE SHIELD: REPORT BY HARRY BRIDGE

CCNSW retain the Shield

Most players were excited to be playing on the picturesque St Paul's Oval at Sydney University for the first time to defend the Brooks-Manning-Moorhouse Shield. Conditions were perfect but parking restrictions in the University grounds caused early chaos. Jim Hadley dropped a regulation catch at first slip first ball off Avinash Bhandari, who had another dropped behind in his five overs to leave him wicket less in an impressive spell. The wicket proved more conducive to spin and the catches began to stick, seven in all. The University Lions crumbled, with our spinners picking up a couple of wickets each with some nice variety. The Lions were all out in 31 overs for 145.

The University Lions started their bowling strongly and rattled Tom Robertson and Rhys Longbottom with some chin music. Longbottom was caught behind for 6 off a short ball and then Robertson was yorked for 11 soon after. Karthick Subramanian was out for a duck, lured into driving a full ball early which cut in through the gate, leaving us looking precarious at 3-18. Longbottom then came on to umpire and perhaps swept up by the Lions' momentum, gave Harry Bridge (scribe) out for a fifth ball duck, to a ball with so much bat on it (feet and pads well clear behind the ball) that the University skipper at first slip didn't appeal.

This left us in trouble at 4-18 in the sixth over. Fortunately we knew we had a solid batting line-up. Both Jamie Murtha (44) and Brett James (65*) soaked up the pressure and carried on their good form to turn the game and take us to 105 before Murtha was out for 44, with some lovely clips to the short boundary into St Paul's college. In the end we came home comfortably in the thirtieth over with 7 down, retaining the shield and enjoying a few celebratory drinks with the opposition.

The Team was (playing 12): - Tom Robertson 11, Rhys Longbottom (w) 6, Karthick Subramanian 0, Harry Bridge 0, James Murtha 44, Brett James 65*, Peter Constantinou 6, Matthew Edge 2; Tim Litherland 4*, Adam Khamis dnb, Jim Hadley (c) dnb and Avinash Bhandari dnb

The Result was:

Sydney University Lions: - 10-145 (31 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 7-146 (29.2 overs) (B. James 65*; J. Murtha 44)

By 3 wickets

FoW: - 1-15 (R. Longbottom); 2-18 (T. Robertson); 3-18 (K. Subramanian); 4-18 (H. Bridge).5-105 (J. Murtha); 6-135 (P. Constantinou); 7- 139 (M. Edge)

The Bowling was: - A. Bhandari 5-0-15-0; B. James 5-1-34-1; J. Hadley 7-1-30-2; T. Litherland 7-0-22-2; A Khamis 3-0-24-1 , J. Murtha 3-0-15-2; M. Edge 1-0-3-2

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - Two to H. Bridge and one to each of A. Bhandari, M. Edge, B. James, R. Longbottom (w), and J. Murtha

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to B. James; 2 points to J. Murtha; one point to T. Litherland

BROOKS - MANNING - MOORHOUSE SHIELD
Sydney University Lions vs CCNSW

GAME 13: CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 8 v I ZINGARI (AUSTRALIA) AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 14 JANUARY 2023: REPORT BY PETER CONSTANTINOU

Back: Adam Khamis, Mike Weaver, Andrew Dadswell, Matthew Edge, Harry Bridge, Peter Constantinou

Front: Brett James (c), Ash Perrott (w), Jonathan Shaw, James Murtha, Avinash Bhandari, Mike Pinter

I Zingari (Australia) won the toss and batted. An outstanding left arm opening spell by Australian over 50s player Brett James captaining the C&S team for the first time and right arm away swing by Avinash Bhandari returning from a lengthy spell abroad, had the visitors 4 - 18 after the first 7 overs.. They were well supported by the keeping of Ash Perrot who caught the first three IZA batters, The pressure continued to be piled on the visitors with tight bowling from 'Jonno' Shaw, Jamie Murtha and Adam Khamis supported by off-spin from Andrew Dadswell. They were supported by great fielding especially by Matt Edge, nursing a broken finger, who took a screamer. '*Captain Cool'* Brett James effected a run out and took a difficult catch. We had the victors all out for 94 in the 28th over.

The CCNSW openers Mike Pinter and Peter Constantinou got us off to a slow but steady start seeing off the two opening bowlers on a deck which wasn't too consistent before Peter was out for 9, lbw in the ninth over with the

total on 13. At the fall of his wicket Harry Bridge came in and lifted the run rate with three boundaries. Mike Pinter played solid for his 20 before being run out but Ash Perrot then fell without scoring leaving us at 3-49 in the 19th over and Harry was bowled for 14 soon thereafter In the 21st over. With the score at 4-58, and another 36 runs needed from the final 14 overs, IZA appeared on paper to have a chance but Jamie Murtha (19*) and Brett James (18*) steadied the ship and battered nicely and aggressively scoring the final 43 runs off only 3.2 overs with Brett James hitting a 6 and a 4 off successive balls from IZA veteran Craig Hambleton to secure the win for the Blues. All round great cricket by the Blues and a rare win v IZA

The Team was (playing 12): - Mike Pinter 20, Peter Constantinou 9, Harry Bridge 14, Ash Perrot (w) 0, Jamie Murtha 19*, Brett James (c) 18*, Adam Khamis dnb, Avinash Bhandari dnb, Jonathan Shaw dnb, Andrew Dadswell dnb, Matthew Edge dnb and 12th man Mike Weaver dnb

The Result was: -

I Zingari (Australia): - 10-93 (27.3 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 4-94 (24.2 overs)

By 6 wickets

FoW: - 1-13 (P. Constantinou); 2-49 (M. Pinter); 3-49 (A. Perrot); 4-58 (H. Bridge).

The Bowling was: - B. James 4-1-7-2; A. Bhandari 5-2-7-2; J. Shaw 5-2-15-0; A. Dadswell 5-0-34-0 ; J. Murtha 5-2-18-2; A. Khamis 3-0-7-2; M. Edge 0.3-0-4-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - 3 to A. Perrot (w) and one each to M. Edge, A. Dadswell, B. James and A. Khamis

Run outs: - One to B. James

Player points (awarded by opposition captain): - 3 points to B. James; 2 points to M. Pinter; one point to A. Bhandari

GAME 14: CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 9 v NONDESCRIPTS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 22 JANUARY 2023

Cancelled because of rain

GAME 15: CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 10 v HUNTERS HILL AT BORONIA PARK, HUNTERS HILL ON SUNDAY 29 JANUARY 2023: REPORT BY TOM ROBERTSON

Always interesting playing at Boronia Park. Wicket is full of spice. To help bowlers even more, the humidity at Hunters Hill may have exceeded 100%.

Craig Kitson took the reins and went and lost the toss. Hunters Hill decided to have a bat.

Avi Bhandari and Toby Forbes opened the bowling and the scoring rate was dour. Hunters Hill amassed 1-29 from their first 18 overs. After drinks wickets steadily fell. We knew their best batter hated spin so Adam Khamis came on and bamboozled him and got his wicket not long after. One of their middle order batters so struggled with his pads that he eventually just batted without them. Something you don't see every day. Hunters Hill ended at 9-109 after 35 overs

Our turn to bat to chase a small total. The modern vogue in cricket is to attack the bowling but Hunters Hill's strength is bowling so we needed to be careful about our chase. Tom Robertson and Jamie Murtha opened the CCNSW batting and went at over a run a ball. The ground is probably the biggest in C&S and that made it ripe for threes. We certainly earned our runs the hard way.

A 50 opening partnership all but ensured victory. Tom proved his inability to finish again by choking within sight of the line. Harry Bridge and Paul Nash took us home with more threes. One real point of difference in the sides was our catching; we caught everything (Oh except Declan when his Dad arrived to watch).

The Team was: - Tom Robertson 56, James Murtha 15, Paul Nash 18*, Harry Bridge 11*, Peter Constantinou dnb, Soren Hughes dnb, Toby Forbes dnb, Declan Thomas (w) dnb, Craig Kitson (c) dnb, Adam Khamis dnb, Avinash Bhandari dnb

The Result was:

Hunters Hill: - 9-109 (35 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 2-111 (16 overs) (T. Robertson 56)

By 8 wickets

FoW: - 1- 54 (J. Murtha); 2- 93 (T. Robertson)

The Bowling was: - A. Bhandari 9-4-17-2; T. Forbes 6-2-10-0; S. Hughes 5-0-21-2; P. Nash 3-0-4-0; C. Kitson 3-0-13-1; A Khamis 7-0-35-2; P. Constantinou 2-1-5-2

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - 3 to T. Forbes; one each to A. Bhandari S. Hughes, A Khamis, C. Kitson and T. Robertson

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to T. Robertson; 2 points to A. Bhandari; one point to T. Forbes

GAME 16: CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 11 v NONDESCRIPTS AT CAMPERDOWN PARK, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2023: REPORT BY TOM ROBERTSON

(Editor's Note: this match appears to have given rise to some tension arising from player-umpire decisions)

Glorious conditions met us at Camperdown beach for our game against Nondescripts. Jamie Murtha was captain for the day. 'Nondos' won the toss and batted. Tight bowling from Avi Bhandari and Soren Hughes had them going at only just over 2 runs per over for the first 10 overs. Wickets were not falling quickly but runs were like hens' teeth.

The young opener to the eyes of the CCNSW fielders appeared to snick one off Avi but the (Nondo player) umpire did not apparently see or hear it. More controversy soon after, when their captain appeared to nick one off Matt Edge's slow bowling which deflected into Declan Thomas's leg, standing up as keeper, then spooned up to slip. Again the edge appeared clear to us but was given not out.

Their captain did not walk and a few words were exchanged. Their innings never really got going and they were restricted to 7-124 off 35 overs. All our bowlers bowled well with Jamie Murtha lifting and bowing some nice seam up to end up with 3-19.

Our turn to bat and we soon discovered they were very much a bowling side. Their opener bowled full and straight but as it often turns out, the other less threatening opener went and got wickets. Tom Robertson faced his first ball that went sailing over cover for 6. '*This is easy'*, thought Tom. Next ball, bowled! Matt Leon (0) and Harry Bridge (0) came and went. Avi Bhandari (12) showed good resistance till he copped a good yorker.

Nondescripts had us 6 for 38 in the eleventh over and in deep trouble. But we fought back thanks to Toby Forbes and Jamie Murtha. These two have been caught in bad situations many times and have really fought hard. Jamie (19), Adam Khamis (3) and Toby (32) got out within 9 runs as we slipped from 6-88 to 9-97. We were in a real pickle at 9 down for 97, needing another 28 to win with six overs to go.

Little did they know we had a Soren Hughes and a Matt Edge at Nos. 10 and 11 and both could bat! Soren put the state of the game aside and played his natural game hitting the bad ones away hard with his 3lb monster bat. Matt too hit some beautifully timed boundaries.

Two overs left and six to get. The pendulum had swung. Matt took strike and the lads worked 3 singles off the first 4 balls. Can Soren finish this? The bowler pitches it up into Soren's sweet spot. Boom! But wait, he's smashed it straight at a fielder on the boundary, oh no! But justice has prevailed; it has burst through his hands and gone for 4.

What a finish! Beers were then enjoyed and tasted oh so sweet.

While there had been a degree of controversy and contention in the game with the odd hard word, next game the slate is wiped clean so I hope it is played in the spirit cricket should be played, especially when in most C&S games the players have to umpire their own batters and the fielding side can sometimes become frustrated.

The Team was: - Michael Carman 11, Tom Robertson 7, Matt Leong 0, Harry Bridge 0, Avinash Bhandari 12, Declan Thomas (w) 2, Toby Forbes 32, Jamie Murtha (c) 19, Adam Khamis 3, Soren Hughes 16*, Matthew Edge 12* (and 11 extras)

The Result was: -

Nondescripts: - 7-124 (35 overs) (J. Murtha 3-19)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 9-126 (33.5 overs) (T. Forbes 32)

By one wicket

FoW: - 1- 8 (T. Robertson); 2-17 (H. Bridge); 3- 17 (M. Leong); 4-33 (A. Bhandari). 5-38 (D. Thomas); 6-38 (M. Carman); 7- 88 (J. Murtha); 8-96 (A. Khamis); 9- 97 (T. Forbes).

The Bowling was: - A. Bhandari 7-1-23-1; S. Hughes 5-2-8-1; M. Leong 2-1-4-0; T. Forbes 6-0-22-2; A. Khamis 5-0-21-0; M. Edge 5-1-18-0; J. Murtha 5-1-19-3

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - 2 to D. Thomas (w); one each to H. Bridge and T. Robertson

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to T. Forbes; 2 points to S. Hughes; one point to M. Edge

GAME 17: C&S ROUND 13 v RANGERS AT ALAN DAVIDSON OVAL, ST PETERS ON SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2023: REPORT BY HARRY BRIDGE

An ominously cloudy morning gave way to open skies as players arrived at a lush and springy Alan Davidson oval. Neither team remembered stumps and Mike Weaver made a dash back to Camperdown to save the day; however Rangers also arrived without a scorebook so we made do with one. Fortunately it was a match where the scorebook did not require detailed scrutiny. The uncovered wicket had held up well in the overnight rain but had enough juice in it for our skipper, Jim Hadley to not hesitate in opting to bowl.

Rangers started slowly as runs were not easy on the thick heavy outfield against solid bowling. Soon one opener was caught at mid off trying to clear the infield, and a few others perplexingly fell playing all around full tosses and being bowled; their eagerness to score off the rare loose balls undoubtedly being their undoing. A 40 run middle order partnership between their No. 5 “Dano” with 35 runs and No. 6 “Jono” with 13 , steadied Ranger's innings but was eventually broken when they tried to up the run rate. A well hit drive to long on was taken by Harry Bridge (narrator) stretching left simply hoping to stop a boundary and somehow holding the catch. A few overs later another firmly hit but much easier lofted drive was also taken by Bridge. Another two potential catches also came to deep mid on but Bridge was content with taking their two established batsmen which stymied Ranger's run rate restricting them to 5-109 in an innings which appeared to have been cut short by the scorers at 34 overs.

Tom Robertson and Gerard O'Shea opened in reply with their usual complimentary styles: O'Shea working the ball around nicely for a series of twos and Robertson's aggressive stroke play yielding a quick-fire 21 and bringing the target, and the local brewery, into focus. O'Shea fell in their spinner’s first over driving a ball which turned sharply and edged to first slip. Bridge and Weaver then took us to around 2-60 at drinks with the game in their grip almost as firmly as the Indians in Delhi as Australia haplessly swept their way to defeat on the iPad setup in the clubhouse. After drinks Weaver took a similarly aggressive approach to counter the Ranger's spinner, who was turning it both ways but struggling with his length. Runs steadily accumulated as Bridge (41*) and Weaver (27*) compiled an unbeaten 75 run partnership, offering a handful of sharp catches but surviving. Bridge brought us home with consecutive pulls to the boundary off Ranger's spinner to end the game early and continue our City and Suburban team’s impressive form in 2023, in which it has not lost a C&S game (though it is fair to say a largely C&S based team did lose a non C&S social game in Canberra v Molonglo in the last over).

The Team was: - Tom Robertson 21, Gerard O’Shea 11, Harry Bridge 41*, Mike Weaver (w) 27*, Soren Hughes dnb, Toby Forbes dnb, Jim Hadley (c) dnb, Matt Edge dnb, Matt Leong dnb, Luke Holman dnb and Rob McMahon dnb

The Result was:

Rangers CC: - 7-109 (34 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 2-113 (25 overs) (H. Bridge 41*)

By 8 wickets

FoW: - 1- 28 (T. Robertson); 2- 38 (G. O'Shea)

The Bowling was: - S. Hughes 4-1-12-1; T. Forbes 7-1-15-1; M. Leong 4-0-16-1; G. O'Shea 4-1-9-0; M. Edge 5-0-19-2; L. Holman 6-0-31-1; and R. McMahon 4-1-9-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - Two to H. Bridge and one to M. Edge

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to H. Bridge; 2 points to G. O'Shea; one point to M. Edge

GAME 18: C&S ROUND 14A v YARALLA AT GODDARD OVAL, CONCORD ON SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2023

Pitch unable to be prepared by groundsman because of rain the previous Thursday

GAME 19: C&S ROUND 14B v REG BARTLEY XI AT REG BARTLEY OVAL, RUSHCUTTER BAY ON SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2023: REPORT BY JAMIE MURTHA

It was a stunning late February day for our match against the RBXI at their home ground in Rushcutters Bay. As you turn down Waratah Street you see the picturesque oval, lush green grass surrounded by a cream picket fence, with large trees scattered around the perimeter, a similar feeling to Camperdown. On the North side of the ground is Sydney harbour, home to hundreds of sail boats floating there in the still deep blue water.

It was a warm afternoon, as the teams got ready, the captains tossed a coin, falling against CCNSW this time and we were sent into field.

James Murtha took the new ball from the Paddington end, the conditions produce some inswing in the first over, but the assertive opener looking to capitalise on anything slightly short managed to start well getting a few runs on the board. Andy Durant took the new ball from the harbour end and delivered a quality maiden over, beating the bat a couple of times. In his second over, Murtha found his line and length removing the opener with a sharp cutter that hit the batsman in front (playing on the back foot), after a long appeal the umpires fingers went up! 1 down.

Durant kept toiling and bowled economically without luck, his bowling suited the conditions and made the batters very uncomfortable! A quick change from the Paddington, Toby Forbes too made good use of the conditions, bowling short of a length; the batters couldn't find their timing on the back foot as Mick McGrath prevented any opportunity for runs at cover.

Henry Davis the leg spinner on debut replaced Durant and was unlucky not to take a wicket, several balls in his 3 over spell going either side or just short of the fielders. A double change at around 1-60 after 14 overs: McGrath bowled from the harbour end and Rhys Longbottom from the Paddington end. Both produced exceptional spells. Longbottom was fast, full, and providing real problems for the batters. McGrath was superbly accurate in his spell of 6 overs 1-6, including the critical wicket setting up RBXI's No.3 batter in his first over, getting one to nip away and take the edge, with Declan Thomas taking a great catch with the gloves moving to his right.

With the end of the innings approaching, Aaditya Mahata, Luke Holman and Toby Forbes bowled well, creating half chances, it was a good contest, with the batters continuing to tick the scoreboard over. Longbottom returned to bowl the final over of the innings with devastating effect. 2 wickets and a run-out from cover by McGrath assisted by Thomas behind the stumps, to restrict the score to 8-132.

--- Innings Break ---

As we know, anything above 130 is a tough score to chase at this ground, made tougher by being effectively one down as a result of losing previous John McDonald Medal recipient Forbes to work commitments. Our openers Michael Carman and James Bonkowski went out to get us underway. The opening spells were tight. Our first run didn't come until the fourth over, 'Bonkers' with a tidy flick of the legs for one; unfortunately he fell only two overs later to a sharp return catch by the bowler. 6 overs 1-5.

Rhys Longbottom was positive from the outset but was forced to run ones and twos against his natural game due to the long boundaries, Carman was solid in defence at the other end. Longbottom's luck ran out after being struck right in front moving across the crease for 16. 13 overs 2-32. Followed shortly after by Carman, caught for 15 and Holman caught for 1 (another excellent return catch.)

We were reeling at 4-45. Henry Davis dug in to try and stabilise the innings, while debutant Aaditya Mahata counter attacked effectively from the other end. He too was forced to run ones and twos but did manage to hit three particularly clean fours towards the square leg boundary. The pitch unfortunately had his number when a mistimed pull shot was skied and comfortably taken, out for an attractive 30. Declan Thomas was dismissed without troubling the scorers. It took a good catch, hit hard and flat. 6-70 after 25.

Henry Davis was out for 10 trying to pick up the scoring; he got decent hold of a pull shot in front of square straight to the fielder. Durant and McGrath boxed the ball around with good intent. They put pressure back on the bowling with a quick-fire 20 run partnership. Durant felt hard done by to be adjudged lbw for 12. Perhaps he got a tickle on it? Few could corroborate his feeling on the day.

Murtha was the last batter in, and solidly negotiated the final ball of the over back down the pitch to the bowler. The equation was 21 runs to win off 12 balls, McGrath on strike loaded up for the big pull shot, which had been a feature of his innings so far, but unfortunately picked out the man right on the boundary, out for 21 and closing out the innings. Murtha stranded on 0* entertained with a tongue in cheek request to bat alone, smiles all round.

Despite the outcome a good time was had by all at the beautiful Reg Bartley oval, the game was played in excellent spirit against a good side. Post-match underneath an orange sky the teams shook hands and shared beers and recollections of the enjoyable match and the hopes for even more fixtures in the future.

The Team was: - Michael Carman 15, James Bonkowski 1**,** Rhys Longbottom 16, Luke Holman 1, Henry Davis 10, Aaditya Mahata 30, Declan Thomas (w) 0, Mick McGrath 21, Adam Durant 12, Jamie Murtha (c) 0* Toby Forbes absent

The Result was:

Reg Bartley XI: - 8-134 (35 overs) (R. Longbottom 3-18)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - All out 112 (33.1 overs) (A. Mahata 30)

By 22 runs

FoW: - 1-4 (J. Bonkowski); 2- 32 (R. Longbottom); 3-38 (M. Carman); 4-43 (L. Holman).5-93 (A. Mahata); 6-93 (D. Thomas); 7-105 (H. Davis); 8-108 (A. Durant); 9-112 (M. McGrath);

The Bowling was: - J. Murtha 3-0-19-1, A. Durant 6-1-25-0, M. McGrath 6-3-6-1**,** H**.** Davis 3-1-13-0, A. Mahata 3-0-20-0, R. Longbottom 7-2-18-3, T. Forbes 5-1-24-1, L. Holman 2-0-11-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - 2 to D. Thomas (w) and one to A. Durant

Run outs: - One to M. McGrath

Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to M. McGrath; 2 points to R. Longbottom; one point to D. Thomas

GAME 20: C&S ROUND 15 v BEAVERS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 5 MARCH 2023: REPORT BY LENNY VOLKOV

As told by Lenny Volkov, who was there. *(Ed note: and playing!)*

Sunday afternoon cricket, what could be better, we ten men of the Cricketers Club assembled to take the covers off, the grass was shorn and it was humid and still. The air was thick and warm like the remnants of a Macca's strawberry milkshake that had been left in a late eighties, pale blue Commodore only to be found after three days of free parking five clicks out of town.

Beavers had a full eleven Beavers (large rodents, most of whom had English accents and pink hats) so they made us field hoping to gain an advantage before our eleventh turned up. They didn't and he didn't**.** Captain Soren Hughes (*"Big Sooz')* and Avinash Bhandari opened the bowling making the breakthrough in the fifth over. Hughes set it up with a well directed bumper followed by a slower ball yorker that left the batter politely asking Hughes what the ball had done. (1-26) Beavers next batter, Mr. J. Shoeffers came out with a 'GoPro' strapped to his helmet no doubt to later rub one out over a scratchy looking start interspersed with a few clean shots before Avi got him lbw having changed ends for his second spell. If you are ever invited to J. Shoeffers' lodge for a home movie night, my advice would be to politely decline. They were 2-72 in the sixteenth over. Avi finishing with 1-31 off his 7 overs; it was time for spin.

Adam Khamis bowled something unplayable to the new bat who had clearly been watching the recent Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Rather than being beaten again, he decided to play the reverse sweep. Also lbw, player review would have shown he was fired by his own team mate for stupid shot selection as much as the fact as it was cannoning into middle. 3-77 and Beavers called for an early drinks to help slow down the rot.

It worked with a handy little partnership but then In his first game for the Club, his first ball even, Bhandari's mate Sumeet Kudal, making his debut for the Club, struck with his leg spin. He put a very juicy one loose, full and wide and the new batter chased it all the way to me at point. Two balls later he struck again: Gerry O'Shea pouching it nicely low down. 5-112 in the 24th. Khamis declared it a spinners' paradise.

Sumeet Kudal got 2 more wickets both caught by his mate Avi Bhandari at mid and later at long on to have figures of 4-40 off 5 overs.

Matt Leong who had kept until drinks, was now unleashed from the shackles of borrowed keeping pads; he bowled with good pace and zero luck beating the bat or the ball ballooning to exactly where Captain Hughes would have had an eleventh fielder placed. If we had had one!

At is at this point I feel I should mention we were not only a player down but we also had no specialist keeper. Matt Leong kept till drinks. After drinks Mike Beergah kept, playing his first game for the Club for three years, since Perth in 2020. They worked hard given the conditions and lack of familiarity, but a specialist keeper would have helped.

Young Harry Walsh also in his first game for the Club wasn't going to be the only leg spinner not getting wickets; he bowled some great balls, went for a bit of stick coming on late in the day when they were going for quick runs and got two great spinners' wickets in one over to finish on 2-23 after 4 overs plus a dropped catch and one that fell agonizingly short: could have easily been four wickets for not many.

Captain 'Big Sooz' brought himself back on to finish off the innings with their opening batter finally holing out for 86 to Matt Leong who took a good catch at deep square. Hughes finished with figures of 2-20 and Beavers all out for 182 in the thirty fourth over.

Mike Beergah and I opened the batting. Beergah looked me square in the eye and said "*Mind if I take the first one"* I did not. He fell to the one bowler that managed to swing the ball for the day for 1 in the third over and we were 1-3. Adam Khamis came out and started swinging just as the ball stopped doing the same and helped himself to 14 of the finest before a rush of blood to the head took out his middle stump. 2-18 now. Gerry O'Shea walked to crease like a man that thinks about his cricket; the bowling was tight and so was our defence. Gerry worked away for 5 before being undone playing one of his usually very dependable cut shots. We were 3-29 in the 14th. Those of you playing at home will have no doubt have done the maths and worked out that not only was I still in, but I hadn't been scoring at a click either. '*History will be kind to me, for I intend to write it',* said Churchill. I kept out a lot of very good balls from the openers and found the fielders with frustrating regularity.

Beavers first change bowler was probably the pick of their lot, easily a yard If not more faster than the openers and accurate with a little movement off the pitch to make you worry. He bowled an absolute peach to Harry Walsh who did everything right only to have it find the outside edge for a well placed single between the keeper and first. 3-31 at drinks.

Those assembled around the score book suggested to the skipper it might be time to retire me. As a team player I didn't really have a problem with that, but nobody said anything further so I hydrated as best as I could in the heat and HW and I strode back to the middle where my sweat dripping, hand-me-down, Sydney Thunder helmet was waiting. Harry was out not long after to the offie for 3 in that typical Camperdown way of a shorter pitched one staying low and finding the stumps at ankle height. Tom Robertson, not opening because of the Volkov/Beergah experiment, came in and opened his account second ball with a four. Captain *Big Sooz* was now a lot more serious about dragging me, I negotiated as much out of pride than out of stubbornness to hit out or get out the next over. A man of my word my next two balls had a strike rate of 50 and I was finally on my way for 11 caught at cover off a nothing ball. *"Must be a day for ironic helmets*" chirped the Beavers keeper.

Matt Leong came in and got moving including a lovely cover drive that Gerry O'Shea declared shot of the day. He and Robertson put on a 20 run partnership before he fell for 9. 6-64 in the 29th

Now Bhandari joined Robertson in the task of quick scoring *(Ed note: CCNSW needed 112 off 6 overs)*. Avi got off the mark with a 4 first ball and scoring 12 runs off his first 5 balls received, These two with some power hitting, a never say die attitude and also some great running including a couple of threes, quite heroically almost got us there, putting on 84 runs in a little over 5 overs. Tommy finishing on an unbeaten 50* of 35 balls and Avi on 45* off 36 balls. After 35 overs, Cricketers' Club ended 34 runs short at 6-148.

Possibly if we had that 11th fielder or held our catches or a specialist keeper or I had negotiated to *'hit out or get out'* a few over earlier, we might have got across the line but it was not to be. We are playing them again in three weeks time; history will not repeat itself.

The Team was (playing 10): - Michael Beergah (w) 1 (9 balls), Lenny Volkov 11 (54 balls), Adam Khamis 14 (28 balls), Gerald O'Shea 5 (15 balls), Harry Walsh 3 (14 balls); Tom Robertson 50* (35 balls), Matt Leong (w) 9 (16 balls), Avi Bhandari 45* (36 balls), Sumeet Kudal dnb, Soren Hughes (c) dnb

The Result was: -

Beavers CC: - 10-182 (33.3 overs) (S. Kudal 4-40)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 6-148 (35 overs) (T. Robertson 50*; A. Bhandari 45*)

By 34 runs

FoW: - 1- 2 (M. Beergah); 2-18 (L. Volkov); 3-29 (A. Khamis); 4- 42 (H. Walsh); 5-44 (L. Volkov); 6-64 (M. Leong).

The Bowling was: - A. Bhandari 7-0-31-1; S. Hughes 5.3-0-20-2; G. O'Shea 2-0-11-0; A. Khamis 7-1-26-1; M. Leong 3-0-19-0; S. Kudal 5-0-40-4; H. Walsh 4-0-23-2

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - 2 to A. Bhandari; one each to M. Leong, G. O'Shea and L. Volkov

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to T. Robertson; 2 points to A. Bhandari; one point to S. Kudal

C&S ROUND 16 v PADDINGTON AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 1 1 MARCH 2023: REPORT BY SOREN HUGHES

The Team was: - Tom Robertson 79, Gerald O'Shea 38 , Harry Bridge 0, Sumeet Kudal 30, Matt Leong (w) 17, Declan Thomas (w) 24, Soren Hughes 7*, Ed Robertson 2, Adam Khamis 0, Jamie Murtha dnb, Matthew Edge dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 8-201 (35 overs) (T. Robertson 70; G. O'Shea 58)

Defeated

Paddington CC (playing 10): - All out 155 (30.5 overs)

By 46 runs

FoW: - 1-107 (T. Robertson); 2-107 (H. Bridge); 3-125 (G. O'Shea); 4- 168 (M. Leong). 5-185 (S. Kudal); 6-196 (D. Thomas); 7-201 (E. Robertson); 8-201 (A. Khamis).

The Bowling was: - J. Murtha 7-0-29-2; M. Edge 7-2-29-2; S. Hughes 5-1-30-1, E. Robertson 4-0-28-1; A. Khamis 4-0-14-1; S. Kudal 3.5-0-21-2

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - One to M. Leong

Catches: - Two to M. Leong (w)

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to T. Robertson; 2 points to G. O'Shea; one point to M. Edge

C&S ROUND 17 v PRIMARY CLUB AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 1 8 MARCH 2023: REPORT BY JAMES MURTHA

There was a real buzz of excitement around the ground for the CCNSW vs PCA grudge match, it's always competitive! It was a warm day reaching approx. 32 degrees. PCA skipper Damien Langley (former CCNSW member) won the toss and elected to bat on a rather flat looking wicket.

Soren Hughes and 'Jonno' Shaw bowled extremely well early, PCA were 10 overs in for as many runs when the first wicket fell: 'C .Brown out lbw to J. Shaw'. There was a collective groan and a loud call from Tom Robertson:*"Why'd you get him out, knucklehead!?"* followed by a few laughs.

Our bowlers continued to threaten in the first session without much luck as the PCA batters were happy to deal in dots and singles. We were on top at drinks with the score around 1-50, on a pitch that wasn't offering a lot for our seamers.

After drinks, Aaditya Mahata was brought on from the Rotunda End and had an immediate impact. The pitch complemented his left arm finger spin as he took 3 wickets in his tidy spell. Jamie Murtha building good pressure at the other end and bowling full at the stumps was hard to get away early on.

PCA knew they had to get a move on and started playing some risky shots, balls were flying around the park and falling everywhere except the fielders' hands for a while!

Paul Nash and Jim Hadley grabbed three important wickets and looked good, but one over of slogging and good fortune for the batters boosted their total significantly in the last 10 overs. Adam Khamis chipped in with an important wicket too which likely saved a couple of runs.

The catches that were taken on the day were particularly challenging with a lot of power behind them, but regular boundaries and naked aggression saw the PCA batters score a very competitive 8-184 off their 35 overs.

The team gathered in the shed for a 10 minute change over and much needed drink!

The Tom (Robertson) and Gerry (O'Shea) show got underway and threatened to provide us with another solid start. Gerry took on a risky single which required a direct hit, unfortunately for him there was a direct hit! Tom was clearly rattled after the loss of his opening partner and was bowled for 15 trying to hit a yorker out of the park. Nash copped a good ball and ended up on the wrong side of a 50/50 lbw decision, not a good start to the chase with CCNSW 3-37 after 9.

Jamie Murtha and Harry Bridge dug in for a while trying to ensure there were no further wickets lost, both played some nice shots as the afternoon sun started to bite, they made it to drinks with the team score on 3-71.

After drinks the pair came out positively and moved the score onto 94 before both losing concentration and getting out caught in consecutive balls.

Soren Hughes fell soon after to a ball that slowed off the pitch while Aaditya Mahata in his second game for the club was at the other end and took on the bowling with a rapid 29; it would take a good catch on the fence to remove him, but that's exactly what happened.

Mike Weaver started out positively, and hit a nice boundary behind square, but unfortunately tried to work an offside ball to the leg side and was bowled through the gate taking the score to 8-145 with 5 overs remaining.

It was a tough task to win from here, but the team still had a lot of belief with Jim Hadley and 'Jonno' Shaw at the crease, Jonno was happy to rotate the strike while Jim looked in superb touch. Shot of the day went to Jim, slapping one off the back foot over the pavilion for 6, the pair scored at around 7 an over and brought the equation down to 10 runs off the last over. Jim looked to take the bowler downtown and middled a lovely straight drive only to be outdone by the bowler who stuck his hand in the path of the ball which regrettably stuck.

Mike Pinter ("Punter") the last man played and missed, and an eager Jonno called him through for a single, but the keeper's throw was on target and again regrettably Punter was run out at the non striker's end to end the match 7 runs short.

A disappointing loss for the team in blue who believed the entire time a win was possible. A little more discipline from the top/middle order could have seen the result go in our favor, but credit to PCA who fielded well and took any chances that came their way. In any case, some positives could still be taken away from the match and we will go into the next one a better team for it!

Spirits were still high at the end of the match and both clubs shared a drink together and discussed highlights from the match overlooking the beautiful Camperdown oval under a gold and orange sky.

The Team was (playing 12): - Tom Robertson 15, Gerard O'Shea 4, Paul Nash 5, Jamie Murtha 34, Harry Bridge 25, Aaditya Mahata 29, Soren Hughes 1, Michael Weaver (w) 9, Jonno Shaw 14*, Jim Hadley (c) 23, Mike Pinter 0, Adam Khamis dnb

The Result was: -

The Primary Club of Australia: - 8-184 (35 overs) (A. Mahata 3-18)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-177 (34.3 overs) (J. Murtha 34)

By 7 runs

FoW: - 1-12 (G. O'Shea); 2-31 (T. Robertson); 3-37 (P. Nash); 4-94 (H. Bridge).5-94 (J. Murtha); 6-102 (S. Hughes); 7-138 (A. Mahata); 8-145 (M. Weaver); 9-177 (J. Hadley); 10-177 (M. Pinter);

The Bowling was: - S. Hughes 7-0-16-0, J. Shaw 7-0-26-1, J. Murtha 7-0-36-0, A. Mahata 7-1-13-0, A. Mahata 7-0-28-3 P. Nash 3-0-23-1, J. Hadley 3-0-39-2, A. Khamis 1-0-10-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - 2 to M. Weaver

Catches: - 2 to A. Mahata and one each to S. Hughes and J. Murtha,

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to A. Mahata; 2 points to J. Murtha; one point to S. Hughes

C&S ROUND 18 v BEAVERS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 25 MARCH 2023: REPORT BY JAMES MURTHA

Back Row: - Gerard O'Shea, Jonathan Shaw, Mike Weaver (w), Adam Durant, James Murtha (c), Matt Edge

Bottom row: - Adam Khamis, Matt Leong, Soren Hughes, Tom Robertson, Ed Robertson, Ian Robertson.

The season's final C&S game on lively Camperdown pitch unfortunately cut short by rain.

We turned up to Camperdown oval with grey skies overhead, some players inspected the rather soft wicket, others practiced on the outfield and a few groups chatted amongst themselves. Beavers won the toss and elected to bat, a good toss to lose Jamie Murtha thought.

Ian Robertson took the new ball from the Australia Street end, and 'Jonno' Shaw from the Rotunda end. Line and length was a slight issue early on as Beavers pounced on anything wide and started strong with 20 runs off the first

4 overs. Ian and Jonno took control and tightened the run rate up in the second halves of their spell, both bowled well in the end without any luck going their way.

Soren Hughes ("*Sooz")* replaced Ian and struck in his second over, with their best batter misjudging the slower bounce off the pitch and chipping one to Ian at mid-off. Soon after the teams took drinks with Beavers at 1-78.

Jonno completed his spell and was replaced by Matt Edge who despite a couple of loose balls made good use of the conditions and nabbed two important wickets, the first wicket produced by a yorker, bowled. And the second to remove 'Mr. GoPro' which was a long hop down leg side hit straight to Jamie at short square leg who took the catch on the second attempt, no doubt that footage will be erased!

Jamie Murtha replaced Sooz and bowled his spell of 7 overs straight, using cutters to good effect. He had the ball rise sharply off a length, unplayable for the batters who at this point were really struggling to score. During this spell Ed Robertson contributed with an excellent direct hit run-out from mid-wicket that began a Beavers collapse!

With a queue of bowlers eager to make sure of the conditions, the ball was thrown to Adam Khamis, his leggies troubled the batters considerably. Adam took two in two and found himself bowling an excellent hat-trick ball which was fortuitously negotiated by the tail-ender. No matter, Adam struck again soon after ripping a leggie that passed the opposition captain and Weaves was quick to whip the bails off.

Matt Leong bowled 2 overs at the death and was unlucky not to get a wicket with a ball that sliced away from Jamie Murtha clipping his fingertips behind point. The innings was wrapped up off the last ball, the batters tried to take two runs with a shot through cover and Ed Robertson fired a great throw into the keeper's gloves; Mike Weaver made it look easy as he whipped the bails off.

With Beavers 9with only 10 men) all out for 138 in 35 overs, the teams retired to the sheds for a quick drink and changeover.

Requiring 139 to win, once again, the Tom (Robertson) and Gerry (O'Shea) show got underway. Batting conditions were extremely challenging as the light deteriorated and rain appeared imminent. Both batters were forced to concentrate against one particularly decent bowler from the Australia Street end. Tom and Gerry were struck on the pads multiple times but the ball was doing far too much and fading light made it difficult to judge for everyone.

At the 14 over mark the rain started to come down and Tom's luck ran out, hit on the pads one too many times. Matt Edge who was umpiring, decided and up went the finger. At that moment the skippers decided the rain was too heavy to continue and players departed from the field.

There would be no more play that day, after 30 minutes the teams agreed to shake hands and call it a draw, (despite Duckworth-Lewis having CCNSW ahead by 9 runs*).(Ed note: There are no provisions in C&S social games to use any method of determining a commenced but subsequently rained off match. In Jack Pace Shield games they use average run rate))*

After a solid hour's work returning the kit and covers beneath the Rotunda (NB: Careful to anyone who opens our gate!! It's jammed in there) the guys went down the road to the Lady Hampshire for a few pints and to reflect on some highlights and enjoyable moments from the season.

Great work and thank you to each of the 50 C&S players this season, there were plenty of positives to take away and I am looking forward to seeing you next season where we will no doubt improve on some of this year's JPS matches!

The Team was (playing 12): - Tom Robertson 36 (50 balls), Gerald O'Shea 13* (35 balls), Edward Robertson dnb, Mike Weaver dnb, Adam Khamis dnb, James Murtha dnb, Soren Hughes dnb, Adam Durant, dnb, Matt Edge dnb, Matt Leong dnb, Jonathan Shaw dnb, Ian Robertson dnb

The Result was: -

Beavers CC: - 10*-138 (35 overs) (A. Khamis 3-18) (* NB Beavers only playing ten)

Drew with

C.C.N.S.W.: - 1-50 (14.4 overs) (T. Robertson 36)

Because of rain

FoW: - 1- 50 (T. Robertson)

The Bowling was: - Ian Robertson 4-0-15-0; J. Shaw 7-1-34-0; S. Hughes 5-0-18-1; J. Murtha 7-0-15-1, M. Leong 2-0-15-0; M. Edge 5-0-19-2; A Khamis 5-0-16-3

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - One to M. Weaver

Catches: - Two to A, Khamis; one each to M. Edge, J. Murtha and Ian Robertson

Run outs: -Two: - one to Ian Robertson; one to M. Leong (asst. M Weaver (w))

Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to A. Khamis; 2 points to M. Edge; one point to M. Weaver