

C.C.N.S.W. CITY AND SUBURBAN MATCH REPORTS 2010-2011

C&S ROUND 1 v YARALLA AT GODDARD PARK ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 9, 2010

Match forfeited by Yaralla who could apparently only raise 3 players! Not the best start to the season.

C&S ROUND 2 v NONDESCRIPTS AT CAMPERDOWN PARK ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 16, 2010: REPORT BY ED SMITH

Having won by forfeit in week 1 of the City and Suburban Competition, the team was keen to have a hard hit-out against the traditionally strong Nondescripts C.C. in week 2. Covers went down on Thursday evening to make sure of a game (thanks again to Greg Brooks) and, despite heavy Friday rains, by lunchtime on the cold and windy Saturday we had a hard flat track offering plenty of runs.

Last season, 11 of the 12 visiting C&S captains called “heads” in the air. Consequently, Captain Steve Taylor had been working on his coin toss all winter such that he can now produce “tails” at will. The plan almost worked perfectly with Steve’s toss producing the desired ‘tails’ – unfortunately the Nondescripts captain was not part of the programme and he called “tails” in the air and then promptly sent us out into the field.

Our new opening bowling partnership combination of Ed Smith and the very much younger Craig Schofield (on debut for the club) started the season with a maiden each and then struck in the 6th, 7th and 8th overs of the innings to leave Nondescripts struggling at 3 for 17. But Nondo’s gun first grade batsmen, Cummings, was still in and it was clear that their innings was going to rely heavily on his success.

Some further tight bowling to Cummings allowed Steve Taylor to cleverly move himself into short cover. Eight balls later Cummings smashed a low cover drive off Schoey straight into Steve’s outstretched left hand and, with that screamer taken, the writing was on the wall for Nondo’s. Schoey was taken off after 6 overs with the impressive debut figures of 6 overs, 2 maidens, 3 for 5! As Steve later pointed out, his strike rate for those three wickets was even more impressive than the figures suggest given that, despite a 6 – 3 field, he only bowled three balls on or outside off stump.

In what proved to be the shortest retirement in world sport, David Byrnes was brought on in the 14th over to perform his now traditional “Elmer Fudd” role of shooting down the bunnies. Byrnesy (2 for 6 off 4 overs) was up to the task hitting the top of middle stump twice in his 24 balls and when Wayne Walters (1 for 1 off 1.3 overs) has their last batsmen “exceptionally caught” by Ed at mid-on (the catch was easy, the “exception” was that Ed caught it), the Nondos were all out for 35 in 20.3 overs by 3 O’clock – just in time to listen to the Caulfield Cup. (For the record, Ed’s 3 for 21 off 9 overs represented 60% of the opposition’s runs.)

Steve Taylor continued his freakish day of good judgement by placing \$50 each way on the 20 to 1 winner of the Cup and, feeling very lucky, he allowed Tom Robertson to open the batting. Scott Wells (0 off 1 ball) opened with Tom for the first two balls of the innings before he was caught for a golden duck at gully by some good Lachlan Davies seam bowling. Ruaan Jonker (15* off 31 balls) joined Tommy until Tommy, tiring of Ruaan’s company, stuck his pad down the wicket one time too many and Umpire Craig Schofield gave his debut LBW decision (I love it when bowlers umpire).

Craig Johnson arrived at the crease and, playing everything classically along the ground and in the 'V', combined well with Ruaan who played everything Afrikaans style (i.e. through square leg) to bring up the required 36 runs in just 10.3 overs.

The match was over by 4p.m. just in time for Wayne Walters to land the trifecta in the last at Caulfield. If our wives ask, the game officially finished at 6:30pm (i.e. the time we eventually left the Camperdown Bowling Club) which gave us just enough time to fine the new guys, Curtis Murray and Peter Crooks, for failing to take a wicket, catch or run (not that they were given the chance).

The Team was: Tom Robertson, Craig Johnson (w), Scott Wells, Ruaan Jonker, Steve Taylor (c), David Byrnes, Wayne Walters, Ed Smith, Curtis Murray, Craig Schofield and Peter Crooks.

The Result was:

Nondescripts C.C.: - (9 (all out) for 35 off 20.3 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 2 for 36 (off 10.3 overs) by 8 wickets

The Bowling was: C. Schofield 6-2-5-3; E. Smith 9-3-21-3; D. Byrnes 4-1-6-2; W. Walters 1.3-0-1-1

The Batting was: Ruaan Jonker 15* off 31 balls; Craig Johnson 12* off 18 balls; Tom Robertson 7 off 10 balls, Scott Wells 0 off 1 ball.

C&S ROUND 3 v BEAVERS AT CAMPERDOWN PARK ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 23, 2010: REPORT BY ED SMITH

The 23rd of October 2010 is a day that will live in infamy in the Club's history books for one very disturbing reason – it was the day that 10 club members fair and true each paid \$25 just to watch Tom Robertson score a very ugly 50. Ouch!

The day started in a tardy fashion as half of the Beavers team turned up on time but at the wrong ground. Eventually, Captain Steve Taylor negotiated the toss such that we would bat first in exchange for us providing one good fieldsman (Pete Crooks) and a Matt Gale. Tom Robertson opened the batting with our new young recruit Curtis Murray. Curtis looked very impressive playing everything with a straight bat along the ground with all the time in the world but straight to the fieldsmen. In the end, impatience got the better of him and he hit one straight to Peter Crooks (our supplied fieldsman) at mid-wicket to be out for 6 off 20 balls.

Tommy, on the other hand, was swinging away like an old rusty gate and, once he was joined by Ruaan Jonker in the 6th over, the run rate accelerated. In the next 57 balls, the pair put on 72 runs to leave C.C.N.S.W. well positioned at 1- 96 after 15 overs. While Ruaan was effortlessly compiling his 22 runs off 27 balls, the same could not be said for Tommy. Having been dropped on 8 by his good mate Peter Crooks (otherwise known to the team as "The New Guy" for the last 4 years), Tommy swung his bat like a one-armed axeman with the crabs. Tommy's 50 came up in just 38 balls and, of his overall tally of 62* in 45 balls, we estimated that approximately 75% of his runs came off miss-fields from his workmate and old buddy 'New Guy' Pete. We found out in the Camperdown Bowling Club later that afternoon that in a recent restructure at Tommy's workplace, Pete now works directly for Tommy – alas, I'm not kidding.

Unfortunately, from the 11th over it had begun raining and by the end of the 15th over Steve called everyone in and our 'crack covers squad' jumped into action. An early afternoon tea in the change room to which all the Beavers were invited saw Bronwyn Virtue and Tanya's baked goods and muffins devoured but the rain was only getting heavier.

Eventually, the Captains agreed to abandon the match and head to the Bowlo but not before Tommy completed his now traditional boxer shorts slippery slide on the wet covers - thereby completing the 'Tommython' that we all had to pay a \$25 match fee to watch.

PS. If you're looking for a hot tip in next week's Melbourne Cup, it's hard to look past a foreign horse named "Americain" for the win and it might be worth putting something on a nag called "Maluckyday" and the favourite "So You Think" for a place. (I hope that Ken Yardy emails out this report in time.)

The Batting was: Tommy Robertson 62* off 45 balls; Ruaan Jonker 22 not out off 27 balls; Curtis Murray 6 off 20 balls.

The Team was: Tom Robertson, Curtis Murray, Ruaan Jonker, Craig Johnson (w), Steve Taylor (c), Ed Smith, Craig Schofield, Derek Taylor, Dave Stingl, Matt Gale and Peter Crooks.

The Result was:

The match between C.C.N.S.W. (1 for 96 off 15 overs) and Beavers CC was abandoned due to rain after 15 overs of the first innings.

The Bowling was: Not required

C&S ROUND 4 v OLD CRANBROOKIANS AT CAMPERDOWN PARK, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 30, 2010: REPORT BY ED SMITH

Steve Taylor's perfect record of tossing tails continued and this time the Old Cranbrookians' captain obliged by calling heads. Steve had no hesitation in deciding to bat first on what looked like a fantastic batting track and asked Ian Allmey and Curtis Murray to blunt the new ball. Blunt it they did but after pulling a beautiful 6 over square leg, Curtis was bowled for 12 off 14 balls in the fourth over. Allmey, however, was only just warming up.

Ruaan Jonker chipped in with 14 off 30 balls in a partnership of 57 with Ian in just 55 balls before he skied one to mid-wicket. This only brought last year's leading run scorer Craig Johnson to the wicket and while Johno lent on his bat at one end, Allmey brought up his fifty with a big 6 over mid-wicket in just 49 balls. Ian eventually fell in the 22nd over with our score on 130 and his personal tally on the devil's number, 87, from just 68 balls. It's good to have Mr Allmey back in form as it should keep the out of form Tom Robertson away from the opener's position (Tommy only scored 5 runs!!! About which, see below).

Steve Taylor joined Johno and the pair put on 34 runs until Johno was caught at deepish mid-wicket by our own Curtis Murray (who was fielding for the undermanned Old Cranbrookian team) having scored a stylish run-a-ball 29. Scott Wells was next to cash in as, despite a slow start, he and Steve added 54 runs for the fifth wicket in only 40 balls – aided largely by Scott's four 6's over the leg side. Steve was eventually caught at extra cover forcing the pace for a season opening 31 off 40 balls while Scott was caught in the deep off the last ball of the innings for 36 runs off 27 balls. Tommy Robertson failed miserably with the bat for the second time this season scoring only 5 (not out) off the two balls he faced.

After 35 overs we had posted a very healthy 6 for 227 and all our key batsmen (with the obvious exception of Ed Smith) spending plenty of time at the crease leading into next week's round 1 of the Jack Pace Shield. Quietly satisfied with themselves, our batsmen mowed through Bronwyn Virtue's strangely brown but tasty hot dogs while our bowlers fetched them drinks, fanned their brows and polished their shoes in good preparation for the hard work ahead on a perfect batting strip.

Ed Smith and Craig Schofield resumed their promising new opening bowling partnership with the key wicket of Johnstone on the thirteenth ball of the innings – brilliantly caught by Steve Taylor high to his left at gully off an Ed Smith half-volley. The next 10 overs was a tough affair with Old Cranbrookians not losing a wicket but only scoring at 3.3 runs an over when 6.5 was needed and the batsman-friendly deck.

Continuing his run of freakishly lucky judgement, Captain Cranky decided to mix it up and he brought on the unpredictable leg spin of Scotty Wells bowling into a perfect leggie's breeze coming from over second slip's shoulder. Predictably, it brought instant success. The batsman who had played so stoically against the pace, charged Scotty's second ball and was easily stumped by Matty Gale. The second drop batsmen tried to hit Scott's sixth ball into Sydney Harbour only to sky one to a hobbling Dave Stingl. Scott's first over had reaped 2 for 2, and he was not yet done – his second over brought 2 more wickets for no runs! Again – stumped and caught with the batsmen effectively throwing their wicket away every time Scott hit the pitch (except for the time that he hit the pitch twice with one ball – but I promised not to put that in the report).

From 1 for 38 after 11 overs, the normally strong batting line-up of the Old Cranbrookians had crumbled to be 5 for 44 after 14 overs and the game was all but over. Craig Schofield was brought back on down wind and cleaned up the last two remaining wickets on offer (O.C.C.C. only batted 8 batsmen for a variety of unfortunate scheduling reasons) which only proved to his Captain that, if we want to play a good competitive game of cricket, we should not bowl Schoey with the wind behind him.

O.C.C.C. were all out for 60 in just 17 overs and the publican at the Camperdown Bowling Club was again cheering the early arrival of his local sporting heroes (and their wallets).

Now four rounds into the season we've been on the right side of a forfeit, a flogging, a flooding and a 'fumping' (as my three year old daughter would say). Not the best tune up for the all important Jack Pace game against Beavers in week 5 but at least we haven't lost nine matches in a row like our national team.

The Team was: Ian Allmey, Curtis Murray, Ruaan Jonker, Craig Johnson, Steve Taylor (c), Scott Wells, Tommy Robertson, Craig Schofield, Dave Stingl, Matt Gale (w) and Ed Smith.

The Result was:

C.C.N.S.W.: - 6 - 227 (off 35 overs)

Defeated

Old Cranbrookians C.C.: - 7(all out) - 60 (off 17 overs)

By 167 runs

The Batting was: Ian Allmey 87 (62), Curtis Murray 12 (14), Ruaan Jonker 14 (30), Craig Johnson 29 (29), Steve Taylor 31 (40), Scott Wells 36 (27), Tommy Robertson 5* (2).

The Bowling was: E. Smith 8-1-26-1; C. Schofield 6-0-21-2 and S. Wells 3-1-11-4;

**JACK PACE ROUND 1 v BEAVERS C.C. AT CAMPERDOWN PARK,
CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2010:**

Match cancelled because of rain. C.C.N.S.W. proceed to Round 2 by virtue of toss of coin

**CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 8 v COLLEAGUES C.C. AT CAMPERDOWN
PARK, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 27 NOVEMBER, 2010: REPORT BY GREG
BROOKS**

C.C.N.S.W. won the toss thanks to captain for the day Craig Johnson and chose to bat. Darren Kay batted beautifully for 106 off 87 balls and featured in match winning partnerships of 67 with Ian Allmey (40) and 88 with Tom Robertson (38). Derek Taylor with a brisk 31* and Mick McCormick 7* saw the innings out to 5-257 after 35 overs.

The bowling was hampered by the unavailability of Ed Smith and the very sick Craig Schofield (0-17) who could not continue after 3 overs and was forced to leave the field. He still managed a fine catch at fine leg off Tom Robertson's bowling before departing. Tom showed his versatility taking 4-39 off 8 overs and Derek capped a fine match with 4-27 off 4 overs. Colleagues were all out for 155 off 28 overs ending up 102 runs short. The day belonged to Darren Kay with his fine century and it was great to see him capitalise on a good batting conditions and he thoroughly deserved his man of the match.

The team was: Darren Kay, Ian Allmey, Scott Wells, Craig Johnson (c) Derek Taylor, Tom Robertson, Mick McCormick, Peter Crooks, Matt Gale (w), Craig Schofield and Greg Brooks

The result was:

C.C.N.S.W.:- 5 - 257 in 35 overs (D. Kay 106, I. Allmey 40, T. Robertson 38, D. Taylor 31*)

Defeated

Colleagues: - 10 - 155 in 28 overs. (D. Taylor 4-28; T. Robertson 4-38)

The bowling was: C. Schofield 3-0-1-0; T. Robertson 8-1-39-4; D. Kay 7-0-31-2; S. Wells 1-0-8-0; D. Taylor 4-0-27-4; M. McCormick 4-0-27-0; C. Johnson 1-0-5-0.

**JACK PACE ROUND 2 v I ZINGARI (AUSTRALIA) AT CAMPERDOWN PARK,
CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER, 2010:**

Game cancelled on the Wednesday before by fear of rain although on the day. In fact, play would have been possible. Steve Taylor's request to waive the Rules and allow the match to be played at a later date was rejected by the Rules Committee who insisted that the game be determined by the toss of a coin.

The result was:

C.C.N.S.W.-:-

Defeated

I Zingari (Australia):

by the toss of a coin

**C&S ROUND v ST GEORGE VETERANS AT TONKIN PARK, HURSTVILLE ON
SATURDAY 11 DECEMBER, 2010: REPORT BY ED SMITH**

With Round 2 of the Jack Pace Shield rained out the weekend before, the C&S team was very keen to get some cricket under the belt before we put some Christmas cheer over our belts. Steve Taylor won the important toss to put us through to the semi-finals in the Jack Pace however Steve's luck ran out this particular afternoon and we were sent out into the field on a small ground and a good track.

The match started perfectly for us when we took the very valuable wicket of prolific run scorer, Neil Anderson, caught behind off Ed Smith's very first ball of the match. A 34 run partnership was then ended with Ed's in-swinging yorker which wrecked the promising innings of their first drop batsmen.

A slow 3rd wicket partnership of 59 was lightened up by a 20 minute over from Tommy Robertson which featured four full tosses, three leg side wides and a six that was hit into the neighbouring bay. After the third wide was just picked up inside the fine leg boundary for the third time, our keeper, Matty Gale, offered our fine leg fieldsman the keeping gloves. When the two of them met just one Tommy ball later, it was in the change rooms looking for a replacement ball for the one which stills sits at the bottom of Gunnamatta Bay. To finish off the comedic over, their batsmen hit Tommy's hip high full toss straight to Tommy's best mate, Pete Crooks, at square leg only for Crooksy to not even lay a finger on the catch.

Shortly after, when their opening bat took off for a quick single to Steve Taylor at mid-on, the batsmen's hip "popped out" and he was forced to retire hurt (despite that he still managed to hobble back for a second run on Steve's rocket-like arm). While he was scoring quite slowly, this may have been the only way we were going to get him back in the pavilion.

After an eleven over spell from Ed, Darren Kay was brought into the attack only to be despatched over the mid-wicket boundary for six. Derek Taylor then took the third wicket, caught and bowled in the 24th over and Darren took his revenge in the 27th over claiming our fourth wicket, well caught behind by Matt Gale.

From 4 for 104 in the 27th over, however, St George Vets started to pick up the pace such that by the 31st over their second drop bat had his eye in - unfortunately for Derek whose third ball of the over cleared the mid-wicket boundary, whose fourth ball cleared the grassy hill the behind mid-

wicket boundary and whose fifth ball cleared the apartment block behind the hill behind the mid-wicket boundary. For the sixth ball, Derek's brother moved our deep mid-wicket fieldsman back to the balcony on the fourth floor of the apartments and this seemed to do the job as Derek then clean bowled his nemesis.

Scott Wells was introduced into the attack and had immediate success claiming a dangerous batsman with a rank long hop which was muddled hard but not enough to the right of a diving Ed at square leg. Steve Taylor then took his third classic catch for the season off Wellsy's bowling, running at full speed (read: a light jog) to his right at deep cover. The innings finished with a Peter Crooks run out off the last ball to leave St George Vets with a respectable 8 for 166 after their 35 overs.

Our batting innings started with an Allmey special – 16 runs off the first over. Ian continued his assault for another ball but in the fifth over was out LBW with his score on 20 off just 11 balls. Steve Taylor came in but left only three balls later having been bowled for a duck by a ripper of a delivery. Darren Kay, meanwhile, was leaning on his bat at the other end quietly building a chanceless innings with the score sitting at 2 for 30 off 5 overs.

While it hurts to write, the big story of the day was about to begin. Tommy Robertson had some pride to restore after his 'over horribilis' and, with a four off his first ball, he began well. Dropped off his fourth ball, the 'Gunnamatta Boy' had received the chance he needed as he started to smash everything that the St George Vets served up into the boundary and, on 5 occasions, over the boundary (including one into the Bay to keep our first ball company). Dropped again on 40, Tommy's 50 came up in just 34 balls. With his score on 94 off just 52 balls, our score was 2 for 164 and we only needed three runs to win.

The Kay-Robertson partnership was undefeated on 134 with Darren playing a classy innings of 45* off 75 balls. And so, with the full intent of playing with Tommy's mind, we yelled out from the sideline that he needed a six for his century but only three runs to win the game. What happened next was another Robertson comedy act. Having missed nothing for 60 balls, Tommy had five air swings, was dropped by a 62 year old, escaped a stumping chance and then finally was caught by a 60 year old off the bowling of a 62 year old. As he left the field to hails of laughter, one of the opposition labelled Tommy the "Chris Gayle of C&S" while another exclaimed "That's what happens when you let red heads play cricket!" For the record, Tommy was out caught off a long-on for 94 off 60 balls

Craig Schofield (0* off 1 ball), who had just managed to arrive at the game shortly before it finished, joined Darren and the two of them amassed the final three runs easily with the winning leg bye coming off the first ball of the 26th over.

A few beers with the opposition after the match and a few more laughs at Tommy's expense were enough to prepare us all for the long trip back from the depths of Cronulla (although Scott Wells almost missed his flight back to the Blue Mountains).

The Team was: Ian Allmey, Darren Kay, Steve Taylor (c), Tom Robertson, Craig Schofield, Scott Wells, Derek Taylor, Dave Stingl, Matt Gale (w), Peter Crooks and Ed Smith.

The Result was:

St George Veterans: - 8 for 166 (35 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 3 for 167 (T Robertson 94; D. Kay 45*) (25.1 overs)

The Batting was: I. Allmey 20 (11), D. Kay 45* (75), S. Taylor 0 (3), T. Robertson 94 (60) and C. Schofield 0* (1).

The Bowling was: E. Smith 13-2-38-2, D. Stingl 4-0-24-0, T. Robertson 2-0-22-0, D. Taylor 9-1-46-2, D. Kay 3-0-16-1 and S. Wells 4-0-16-2

**C&S ROUND 11 v SYDNEY UNIVERSITY VETERANS AT CAMPERDOWN PARK,
CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 18 DECEMBER, 2010: REPORT BY ED SMITH**

It was Thursday lunchtime and your author had just finished the main course of a Christmas lunch when heavy storm clouds gathered over the nearby uncovered wicket at Camperdown. Leaving his dessert and half a beer, our local hero ran for ten minutes in a suit to meet up with the magnificent grounds keeper, John Lee, and we had the wicket covered with three minutes to spare before a huge storm hit. The match had been saved.

When the covers next came off on Saturday morning we were confronted with a moist wicket that was only going to get better as the day progressed. Following discussions about the relative strengths of each team with the Sydney Uni Veterans' captain, our very own Paul Moorhouse, Steve Taylor decided to bat first which would mean that Sydney Uni vet's team would get the better of the wicket and the game would be more likely to be a close one. And it was.

Darren Kay and Scott Wells opened the batting on the slow and popping wicket and Darren was first dropped and then, 8 balls later, caught for 6 runs off 10 balls with our score on 10. Steve Taylor came in and was then dropped shortly before Scotty Wells was also dropped. It appeared at this stage to the crowd that we were doing our best to get out and they were doing their best to keep us in. Eventually, Steve was bowled for 13 (off 37 balls) with our score on 40 in the 14th over having weathered most of the sticky conditions with Scotty. Scotty was finally caught only two balls later with his score on 15 (off 35 balls) and, when Tom Robertson hit a big 6 and then got caught off the 'treacherous' bowling of Paul Moorhouse, we'd lost our season's leading run scorer with our score on a worrying 4 for 57 off 17.2 overs.

Craig Schofield, however, had come to the crease for his first real batting opportunity for the club having scored over 300 runs for his old club in the previous season. He too started his innings by hitting a straight-forward catch, only to be dropped. Testing his luck, he tried again four balls later and was caught and bowled for a duck.

David Dunn was playing his first game for the club and, batting at 5, he managed to put together a 21 run stand with Matt Gale until he was ... you're not going to believe it... caught off the only catch he hit! An impressive 31 runs off 30 balls was a good debut for the unfortunately nicknamed "Dunny". At 6 for 85, Dave Stingl joined Matty Gale but only added 4 runs in 11 balls on the steadily drying wicket before he was bowled with our score on a very awkward 7 for 95 off 27.1 overs.

Ed Smith, still sweating from his Thursday lunchtime suit run, joined Matty Gale for his first bat for the season. Ed and Matty started their fight back slowly and deliberately with Matty scoring only 8 runs off his first 22 balls and Ed only scoring 1 run off his first 9 balls. The pair, however, pushed the "go" button with 25 balls left in the innings. Matty scored a further 12 runs in his next 10 balls before being caught on 18 (off 28 balls) in the 34th over while Ed smashed 41 runs off his next 16 balls (5 x 4s, 2 x 6s, 1 x dropped) to end the innings undefeated on 42* off 25 balls. With Greg Curry pitching in at the end, the team had salvaged a respectable score of 7 for 154 off our 35 overs and the always brilliant batting of Peter Crooks was not needed.

By now, however, the wicket had dried out very nicely (as evidenced from Ed's score), and, as it turned out, Sydney Uni "Vets" had called on some of its regular grade cricketers to strengthen

their line up this day. Their openers started well off the bowling of Ed and Craig Schofield; however they lost their first wicket (bowled) to an Ed Smith slower ball in the fifth over. Schoey got the next LBW in the 14th over but by then they had put on 57 runs courtesy of some big hitting by their opening bat, "D. Lodge" (bloody oath, he was proving very difficult to 'de-lodge' – SORRY). Schoey finished off his marathon 11 over spell with the figures of 11-2-46-1 while Ed's opening 9 overs had cost him 9-4-33-1. As if to continue the theme, we had balanced the dropped catch equation by this stage having dropped three of our own chances.

Scotty Wells was brought on with the protection of a deep leg side field which. This tactic finally paid off in the 25th over when Lodge was caught by Ed who had to wipe the snow off the ball at deep cow-corner for a personal score of 61 and a team tally of 104. Scotty struck again with Galey's 3rd stumping of the season and Steve Taylor dived forward at mid-off to take his 4th C&S catch of the season and to give Scotty's his third wicket with the score on 5 for 124 off 29 overs. Scotty's final figures were an impressive 8.3-0-32-3.

With 36 balls remaining, they needed 31 runs and had 5 wickets to spend trying to get them. Dave Stingl (2-0-22-0) and Dave Dunn (3-0-19-0) each did their best to stem the runs from the other end but our hopes lay with Scotty's clever mixture of long-hops, full tosses and unplayable balls. With 12 balls remaining and only 6 runs needed, Ed was brought back on and kept them to a miserly two runs off the penultimate over. Scotty only had three runs to play with, however, as he came into the bowl the last over. Unfortunately, a slight misfield at gully off the first ball and a four through covers on the third ball sealed our fate. Sydney Uni Vets has won with three balls to spare and we had experienced our first pre-Christmas loss for three seasons.

While disappointed, the majority of the team and their families then retired back to Matty Gale's house for a now traditional Christmas BBQ and fines session. Over thousands of beers we laughed and looked back on the first half of our season which featured only 5 C&S games completed for 4 wins and a loss (with three washed out games and one forfeit).

With all the rain about, it's been tough to build up any momentum this season but despite that, Tommy Robertson has still managed to amass 220 runs off just 158 balls, Scotty Wells has taken a total of 9 for 67 off 17 overs, Galey has pulled off three stumpings, we've taken 20 catches (including a slips catch!) and only dropped 10, and our opposition has kindly dropped us 15 times out of the 32 catches we've hit to them!

Here's hoping that the second half of the season provides us with much more to write about and that we all have a happy new year despite the Ashes.

The Team was: Darren Kay, Scott Wells, Steve Taylor (c), Tom Robertson, David Dunn (debut), Craig Schofield, Matt Gale (w), Dave Stingl, Ed Smith, Greg Currie and Peter Crooks.

The Result was:

C.C.N.S.W. 8 - 154 9 (E. Smith 42*) (35 overs)

Lost to

Sydney University Veterans C.C.: - 5 -158 (S. Wells 3-33) (34.3 overs)

The Batting was: D. Kay 6 (10), S. Wells 15 (35), S. Taylor 13 (37), T. Robertson 14 (15), C. Schofield 0 (5), M. Gale 18 (28), D. Stingl 4 (11), E. Smith 42* (25), G. Curry 3* (3) and P. Crooks (DNB).

The Bowling was: E. Smith 10-4-33-1, C. Schofield 11-2-46-1, S. Wells 8.3-0-32-3 D. Stingl 2-0-22-0, and D. Dunn 3-0-19-0.

**C&S ROUND 12 v KNOX OLD BOYS AT CAMPERDOWN PARK, CAMPERDOWN
ON SATURDAY 8 JANUARY, 2011**

Game cancelled by rain

**C&S ROUND 13 v BARKER OLD BOYS AT CAMPERDOWN PARK,
CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 15 JANUARY, 2011 (A.K.A. 'THE DAY OF
THE RED HEADS'): REPORT BY ED SMITH**

With last week's match against Knox Old Boys rained out because we couldn't get the covers down in time, the club covers crew of President Greg Brooks and his trusty side kick, 'Covers Boy', had the covers down by midday on Thursday - only 10 minutes after our curator, John Lee, had finished preparing the wicket! There was no way that we were going without a C&S game for over a month.

Barker Old Boys always call "tails" so, as advised, Captain Taylor produced heads. Alas, there was a stand-in opposition captain who didn't read the brief and he called heads in the air and put us into the field.

Ed Smith (8-2-17-1) and Craig Schofield (8.2-2-21-1) resumed their miserly partnership by bowling a very tight off stump line to a pair of cautious batsmen. Ed struck first in the fifth over with an off-cutter to the top of middle stump and had their top scorer, Fulcher, dropped at second slip in his next over (thus ending Steve Taylor's amazing run of nine classic catches in a row). Despite the very hot and humid conditions, our opening bowlers were keeping it extremely tight such that, between the third over and the sixteenth over, Steve was confident enough to set an unprecedented eight-one field in this 35 over match. Despite the acres of space on the leg side, Barkers could only manage a very slow 1 for 36 off their first 16 overs.

As has become our modus operandi, Steve then threw the ball to our two spinners, Scott Wells and Derek Taylor, with the full knowledge that the opposition was going to throw the bat at them. Sure enough, Barkers obliged and Scotty Wells struck in the 17th, 19th, and 23rd overs including Matt Gale's fourth stumping for the season. Derek (6-1-17-2), meanwhile, claimed his two victims in 20th and 22nd overs to leave Barkers reeling at 6 for 61 after 23 overs.

In the 27th over, our diminutive carrot top, Scotty, then became our first C&S 'five-for' for the season when he took two wickets courtesy of a running Craig Schofield outfield catch and a fast off-break to trap their number nine bat plumb in front. Scotty finished with the impressive figures of 9-0-31-5 and Schoey finished off their line-up by taking out the middle stump of their last batsmen (but not before dropping two caught-and-bowled catches on consecutive balls and issuing a stream of expletives that would have made a sailor with turrets syndrome blush).

BOBs were all out for 96 despite the normally very safe hands of Schoey (x2), Ruaan Jonker (x2), Steve and even Matt Gale all letting chances through their fingers. Fortunately, the team had the 60 year old iron grip of a diving Greg Currie to take the catch of the match – a highlight of the 33.2 overs that he fielded for us and the full innings that he also fielded for the opposition. All of this in 30+ degree heat and humidity, we offer a big round of applause to our John MacDonald Medallist who had originally just turned up to watch the game.

The club's newest bride, Tania Johnson, then teamed up with the club's first lady, Bronwyn Virtue, to impress us all with another lovely arvo tea before it was our turn to wield the willow.

Darren Kay opened up with this season's top run scorer, Tom Robertson, but had to lean on his bat while Tommy played out an opening maiden over (classic dull Robertson batting). In the 5th over, Darren was caught behind for 3 off 16 balls and our score stood at 1 for 11. Barkers could sniff an upset – especially with Ruaan Jonker coming in at first drop.

Unfortunately for Barkers, however, that smell was actually Tommy Robertson stretching a few muscles in preparation for what was to come. From the time that our rangy Ranga was dropped on 6 off his fourteenth ball in the sixth over to the time we were shaking hands with the opposition in the sixteenth over, our infamous 'Fanta Pants' had faced 23 more balls, was only dropped once more, and had smashed 46 more runs to finish with a personal score of 52* off just 37 balls. Ruaan, meanwhile, also faced 37 balls but could only manage 39* (including a six to win the match). That said, at least Ruaan could clear the fence more than once unlike our alleged big red hitter, the Gunnamatta Boy.

And so it was, the 'Day of the Red Heads' was upon us featuring 'Big Red' scoring his fourth fifty of the season and 'Mini-Red' claiming a Pfeiffer. As was mentioned at the Camperdown Bowling Club afterwards, it is one thing to let them play with us, but it's affirmative action gone too far when they don't let the rest of us have a bat or bowl.

The Team was: Tom Robertson, Darren Kay, Ruaan Jonker, Steve Taylor (c), Craig Johnson, Derek Taylor, Scott Wells, Craig Schofield, Matt Gale (w), Ed Smith and Greg Currie.

The Result was:

Barker Old Boys 9 (all out) - 96 (S. Wells 5-31) (33.2 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 1 - 100 (T. Robertson 52*; R. Jonker 37*) (15.2 overs)

The Batting was: T. Robertson 52* (37), D. Kay 3 (16), R. Jonker 39* (37).

The Bowling was: E. Smith 8-2-17-1, C. Schofield 8.2-2-21-1, S. Wells 9-0-31-5, D. Taylor 6-1-17-2 and C. Johnson 2-0-7-0.

CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 15 v SCOTS OLD BOYS AT CAMPERDOWN PARK, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 30 JANUARY, 2011:REPORT BY ED SMITH

The day started well with Captain Steve Taylor using his Jedi mind tricks on the Scots captain to ensure that we batted first on a dead track – if anyone asks though, officially 'he won the toss'. The Taylor family's luck ran out, however, when opener Derek Taylor was bowled for three off 14 balls leaving us at 1 for 9 after 4 overs of good seam bowling. Darren Kay, meanwhile, was slowly getting his eye in and looking in good touch to add to his 160 C&S runs for the season.

Ruaan Jonker joined Darren and the two of them immediately stepped up the pace. On the dead pitch, Scots tried a clever mixture of medium paced seam, seam at medium pace and an occasional variation of medium seaming pace but none of their first six bowlers could break the partnership. Our first 50 came up in 68 balls, our next in just 48 balls such that by the 20th over we were an impressive 1 for 105.

The 21st over (from one of the four Kellaway family members playing for the opposition) saw Ruaan add 17 runs to his personal tally and bring up his first 50 of the season in just 53 balls. Shortly after, and Darren had brought up his second 50 of the season in 58 balls. Despite each

of them being dropped twice, their wagon wheels otherwise showed a tail of dominance all over the park.

Eventually, Darren tried to come back for a sneaky second run with his score on 65 but couldn't beat a good throw from the outfield, thereby ending a magnificent 136 run partnership off 122 balls in just 82 minutes – our highest C&S partnership so far for the season. We sat comfortably at this stage on 2 for 145 in the 25th over.

Unfortunately for Scots, this only brought the club's leading run scorer for the last two years to the crease. Craig Johnson started cautiously taking only 3 runs from his first ten balls but then accelerated taking 21 runs off his next 17 balls. He put on a 64 run partnership (in 58 balls) with Ruaan and was guiding his little buddy through the 90s nicely.

With two overs remaining, Ruaan's score was 99* but Johno had the strike. Johno struck a four and then a single to give Ruaan 10 balls left in the innings to bring up just one run. Our 68 kilo wonder boy played the first ball strongly to cover and called "No!". He played the second ball to an aging, deepish mid-off and nervously called "Nnnnno"? On his third ball he took a swing and missed, but so did the keeper and the pair scampered through for a bye. Johno lustily played the last ball of the penultimate over down the throat of long-on (caught for 24 off 27 balls) but the two of them crossed leaving Ruaan stranded at the non-striker's end for the start of the last over with the infamous red head, Tom Robertson, walking to the crease.

Tommy's instructions from Captain Cranky were clear: "*Give Ruaan the strike*". Instead, Tommy must have misheard "strike" for "shaft" and then tried to play the cruellest of tricks on a team mate. He left the first ball of the last over; he hit the second and third balls for four. With three balls left, Tommy still had the strike and Ruaan was still on 99! Tommy went for the boundary again but only managed to hit it straight to a deepish cover for a single – but the fieldsman miss-fielded it and Tommy called a very reluctant Ruaan back for a cheeky second run! By this stage, the angry crowds were burning effigies of the mischievous Copper Knob as Ruaan was still stranded at the wrong end with only two balls remaining.

The second last ball was a juicy half volley and Tommy swung for the pickets again, only to jam the ball into his pads and have it roll slowly to the keeper. To our amazement, the keeper accidentally let it dribble through his legs and Ruaan called a suicide single – the keeper underarmed at the stumps but missed! Ruaan had earned his chance. One ball left, one run needed.

Scots brought every man in to stop the single. Tommy leant on his bat claiming that he was "too tired to run". Nervous team mates held our collective breathe.

SHORT BALL! ...PULL SHOT! ...ONE BOUNCE! ...FOUR! Ruaan had done it! (Despite the efforts of Ronald MacDonald at the other end).

For the records, Ruaan's first century for the club (103*) came up in just 99 balls and 125 minutes with 14 fours and a six. Meanwhile, Tommy's odds of winning the John MacDonald Trophy for Clubman of the Year lengthened from '100 to 1' to '1 Million to 1'. We had amassed 224 runs for the loss of only 3 wickets off our 35 overs and Scots were feeling a touch despondent.

Fortunately, Bronwyn Virtue's and Tania Johnson's muffins cheered them up at arvo tea time as the legend of the C.C.N.S.W. tea ladies continues to grow throughout the C&S competition.

Last year's opening pair of Ed Smith (3 for 16 off 6 overs) and Dave Stingl (2 for 31 off 10 overs) took the new ball and struck early and often. Three victims bowled and one well caught at second slip by the in-form Darren Kay saw the old firm take the wickets of four normally very good batsmen in only the first eleven overs. By the end of the eleventh over, Scots were 4 for 31 and the game was effectively over.

Needing almost 200 runs off their last 24 overs, Scots did the right thing and started to throw the bat around. It paid off for their third drop bat, J. Coutts, who scored 35 runs and their number eight, N. Kellaway, who crunched 57 runs and shared a forty run 9th wicket stand. Darren Kay finished off a good game with another sharp catch in gully off Johnno (2 for 39 off 7 overs) and Derek Taylor was unlucky to end up with only one wicket (with apologies from your author who recorded his first dropped catch of the season).

The match would not be completed, however, until the 'Baby-Faced Assassin' and man-of-the-match, Ruaan Jonker, was thrown the ball for a joke. In his 1.5 overs, he managed bowl one double bounce delivery and then to con two batsmen into giving them their wickets including their number eleven bat with the second last ball of the last over. Jonker finishing with 2 for 10 and Scots Old Boys finishing on 10 for 156 off 34.5 overs.

Lots of Bowling Club beers later and, of course, a heavy fine session for the 'Assassin-Faced Baby' (a.k.a. Tommy), rounded off our first win over Scots for three years.

The Team was: Derek Taylor, Darren Kay, Ruaan Jonker, Craig Johnson, Tom Robertson, Steve Taylor (c), Scott Wells, Matt Gale (w), Dave Stingl, Ed Smith and Wayne Walters with Angus Brooks as 12th man – thanks Angus!

The Result was:

C.C.N.S.W.: - 3-224 (R. Jonker 103*; D. Kay 65) (35 overs)

Defeated

Scots Old Boys 10-156 (34.5 overs)

The Batting was: R. Jonker 103* off 99 balls; D. Kay 65 off 66 balls; C. Johnson 24 off 27 balls; T. Robertson 118 off 5 balls and D. Taylor 3 off 14 balls

The Bowling was: E. Smith 6-1-13-3; D. Stingl 10-1-31-2; D. Taylor 10-0-56-1; C. Johnson 7-0-39-2 and R. Jonker 1.5-0-10-2.

CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 16 v I ZINGARI (AUSTRALIA) AT CAMPERDOWN PARK, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 6 FEBRUARY, 2011:REPORT BY ED SMITH

Throughout the club's history, there's seems to have evolved a strong rivalry with I Zingari (Australia) C.C. We have shared many hard fought and occasionally heated battles in the past – just ask Scott Perry and President Brooks. Throughout the more recent history of the City and Suburban competition, as other clubs fortunes have ebbed and flowed, both these traditional clubs have vied for the unofficial title of 'hardest buggers to beat'. Last season's fixture had been rained off as had this season's earlier scheduled Jack Pace Quarter Final between the two combatants. IZs were keen to make a point and we were keen to show that we would have won that quarter final just as Brian Breakspear's neutral coin toss eventually forecast. Given the context, this was always going to be a *hot* game.

And hot it was. With the temperature forecast to top 40 degrees on the coast, the Camperdown Frypan started to sizzle by about 9 a.m. that morning. By the time the teams arrived at 1 p.m.,

Steve Taylor had already wisely agreed with the IZ's captain, Peter Mahoney, that the match should be played in 4 X 16 overs (alternating which team was in the field) and that bowlers should be limited to four overs per quarter. With drinks scheduled every 8 overs and a shaded fifteen minute break between quarters, the clubs could be said to have taken reasonable precautions to avoid the ravages of the extreme heat (of course – no one ever contemplated calling the game off).

Steve won the toss and sent IZs out onto the hot plate. Ian Allmey opened with Scott Wells and batted like he only wanted to spend 30 balls out there in the middle. As it happened, he only faced 30 balls but, in yet another Allmey special, had managed to personally score 46 runs in that time. By the time he was out at the end of the 8th over, we had 57 runs on the board and Wellsy was having a drink with his own score on 11.

The much maligned red head, Tom Robertson, joined Scotty looking to add to his club leading 283 C&S runs this season. Showing scant respect for a strong IZ's attack, Tommy swung his bat like a dunny door in a cyclone at every ball. Finally, on his fifth attempt to clear the pickets, our Ginger Ninja made contact with the ball and watched it as it appeared to be sailing about a foot over the point boundary fence – I write "about" because we will never know exactly. You see just inside the point boundary fence stood a smiling IZs fieldsman clasping the cherry comfortably between his hands. After his tongue-in-cheek efforts in the previous match to deny Ruaan a century, Tommy's first duck for the season shows that the cricketing gods must believe in karma.

Ruaan Jonker bid our walking Duracell Battery a heartfelt "bad luck" as they passed at the gate but Tommy was able to repay the sentiment two balls later when Ruaan was well caught at gully for 4 runs. From none for 57, we had slipped to 3 for 63 off 11 overs. Fortunately, these things only seem to make Craig Johnson work harder – and work he and Scotty did! With the thermometer at the ground topping 47 degrees in the shade at one stage, the two of them saw us through to the end of our first 16 overs with our score nicely poised at 3 for 98.

Now it was IZ's turn to sit in the shade and our turn to spend 16 overs out in the middle of Campfire-down Oval. The old firm of Ed Smith and Dave Stingl opened the bowling, the latter claiming a wicket with his fourth ball with an unplayable top-of-off-stump delivery. Meanwhile, at the other end, Ed bowled out his first 24 balls with only one scoring shot off the bat (a thin edge *under* first slip's left leg for four runs).

At the 8 over drinks mark, IZs were 1 for 33 but we knew that they had plenty of depth and the track was playing nicely. Making his debut for the club, Tony Weston impressed with his first 4 over spell of seam and swing claiming the wicket of the IZ's first drop batsmen and finishing with the figures of 4 overs, 1 for 8. Johnno and Derek Taylor meanwhile had managed to help the bowling contingent restrict IZs to 2 for 67 after their first 16 overs.

Bronwyn Virtue rode solo with this week's afternoon tea and, given the heat, she decided not to bring any baked goods. That said, by the time the bowlers were allowed to eat the batsmen's leftovers, the sandwiches and watermelon certainly tasted baked. Good effort Bron! (Most wives would have chosen to stay at home in the air conditioning on such a day.)

Scotty Wells and Johnno then resumed their partnership and batted beautifully and 'chancelessly' until both of them had brought up their respective 50s. Scotty was finally bowled on 53 (off 64 balls) by Peter Mahoney who had bowled accurately all game (returning the figures of 4 for 26). After their 90 run partnership off 80 balls, Johnno picked up the pace. First with Captain Steve Taylor (until he was bowled for 11 (off 19 balls)), then with Derek Taylor (until he was caught off a popping delivery for 4 (4 balls)) and finally with Matt Gale who went out there for the final two overs just to run 5 twos and watch Johnno clear the fence three more times.

Galey didn't get to face a ball but off the 66 balls that Johnno faced, 92 runs had been added to the eventual team tally of 6 for 220 off our 32 overs! After batting for 84 minutes in plus-40 degree

heat, Johnno walked off the field 7 kilos lighter but also knowing that he had some more bowling to do.

IZs commenced their last 16 overs of batting with the knowledge that they needed 154 runs off 96 balls with 8 wickets in hand – and they batted accordingly. In the first 7 overs of the final quarter, their opening bat (Gerber) and their second drop (Grant) had put on 76 runs for the loss of no wicket. Fortunately, the re-introduction of our opening bowlers brought about both their wickets but IZs were showing no signs of slowing down. At one stage their most powerful hitter hit one of Ed's delivered so high to Greg Currie (12th man) at long-off that we were not wondering about whether Greg would catch it, we were only worrying whether he would survive it! In the end, fortunately, the ball only grazed Greg's left ear as it lodged itself two foot deep into the outfield.

Q/ What sort of club legend volunteers to be 12th man on a 47 degree heat day?

A/ Our John MacDonald Medallist!

With four overs to go, they needed 42 runs and one over later, despite a third wicket to Dave Stingl (8-0-3-67), they then needed 32 runs off 3 overs. The very short boundary on the leg side was not helping our cause as twelve more runs were taken off Johnno in the third last over. 20 runs off 12 balls and the IZs main hitman had his eye in swinging for the short leg side. As it turns out, not a good time for your author to try his first ever 'slower ball bouncer' (but it works so well on the TV!). Having retrieved the ball from the back yard of the Camperdown bakery, I'm proud to say I bowled the bugger the very next ball.

6 balls left, 10 runs needed and man-of-the-match, Craig Johnson, was given the task to win us the match. WICKET with his first ball! A miss-field for two off the second, and a dot ball on the third left them needing 8 off 3 balls with two new batsmen at the crease. Great bowling from Johnno restricted IZs to only two singles off the next two balls and so it came to be that this great inter-club rivalry came down to the old cliché *"You need a 6 off the last ball to win it."* (Cue Trevor Chappell).

JOHNO's FLING! BIG SWING! NO DING! WE WIN! A dot ball to finish the game!

Despite the heat and the closeness of the game, both clubs played it in extremely good spirit (which, ironically, was exactly what we drank at the Camperdown Bowling Club for two hours after the match). I can't wait until next year's re-match.

The Team was: Ian Allmey , Scott Wells , Tommy Robertson, Ruaan Jonker , Craig Johnson 92, Steve Taylor (c), Derek Taylor, Matt Gale (w) , Dave Stingl, Tony Weston and Ed Smith with Greg Currie as 12th man

The Result was:

C.C.N.S.W.: - 6 - 220 (32 overs) (C Johnson 92; S. Wells 53)

Defeated

I Zingari (Australia) C.C. 7 - 215 (32 overs)

By 5 runs

The Batting was: I. Allmey 46 (30), S. Wells 53 (64), T. Robertson 0 (5), R. Jonker 4 (2), C. Johnson 92 (66), S. Taylor 11 (19), D. Taylor 4 (4), M. Gale, Dave Stingl DNB, Tony Weston DNB and Ed Smith DNB

The Bowling was: E. Smith 8-2-35-2, D. Stingl 8-0-67-3, T. Weston 8-1-35-1; C. Johnson 5-0-35-1 and D. Taylor 3-0

CITY AND SUBURBAN JACK PACE SEMI-FINAL v KNOX OLD BOYS AT CAMPERDOWN PARK, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 12 FEBRUARY, 2011

The Original Semi-Final – 12 February

The pulse starts racing on about the Thursday before a Jack Pace semi-final, for most of us because of the excitement of defending our title, but for Captain Covers and his trusty side kick, Peg Boy, the added fun of putting the covers on at 2pm in 35 degrees heat assists our normally sedentary office-mode heart rate. We'd been drawn to play Knox Old Boys, a team that we had not beaten for at least three years, and they are notoriously young, quick and irritatingly good.

To add to the imbalance of age, Derek Taylor's ill-timed buck's weekend was not going to assist our cause. As it was, we selected our best eleven and let Derek invite the remainder of the squad to join him for a weekend of deep self-contemplation and long, meaningful chats by the fire. Adrian Hawkes has been chasing Derek for his full match report of the civilised away-tour however we fear that, if produced, Adrian's C.C.N.S.W. 2010/11 Almanac may require a sealed section.

At midday on Saturday, 12 February, we pulled off the covers to reveal a wet seam down the middle of the track. Unlike Matt Gale of late, there appears to have been a lot of sweating under the covers during the humid week and so, after giving the pitch another 15 minutes to dry, stand-in Captain Craig Johnson won the toss and correctly sent them in. We started well leaking only one run off our first four overs and when Craig Schofield took our first wicket in the eighth over, they were 1 for only 19.

Knox Old Boys mounted a small come back but the introduction of Dave Byrnes (9-1-2-34) and Wayne 'Dougy' Walters (9-3-4-28) reduced their middle order to ruins. By the time Dougy had taken his fourth wicket and Schoey his third (8-3-3-20), the normally strong Knox Old Boys had been bowled out for 124 in 34 overs, their lowest score against us in living memory.

Given the chance, we knew it was a very gettable target but mother nature was not kind to us. Just as we were walking off the field, the heavens opened up and it then rained non-stop for the next 3 hours, wrecking any chance of us completing the 15 minimum overs that we needed to call it a game. With the match officially abandoned and following some mid-week rescheduling (with special thanks to Greg Brooks, Brian Breakspear, Old Cranbrookians and Barker Old Boys), we were able to schedule a semi-final replay for the following Saturday, 19 February.

The Team was: Darren Kay; Scott Wells; Ruaan Jonker, Craig Johnson (c); Tom Robertson; Curtis Murray (w); David Byrnes; Wayne Walters; Craig Schofield; Ed Smith and Greg Currie

Match abandoned at tea due to rain; to be replayed next Saturday at Camperdown

Knox Old Boys: - 9 (all out)-124 (34 overs)

The Bowling was: E. Smith 8-1-33-0; C. Schofield 8-3-20-3; D. Byrnes 9-1-34-2 and W. Walters 9-3-28-4

CITY AND SUBURBAN JACK PACE SEMI-FINAL (REPLAY) v KNOX OLD BOYS AT CAMPERDOWN PARK, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 19 FEBRUARY, 2011: REPORT BY ED SMITH

For my normal bull-spin on match context, excitement level, a hot covers crew and a tough opposition, please repeat paragraph one from last week's report.

A hard but well grassed centre wicket awaited the teams as Steve Taylor resumed his normal tossing position. Exhausted from his brother's buck's weekend, however, Steve's flick of the wrist couldn't produce the normal result and we were sent out into the field.

Absent the destructive Craig Schofield, Ed Smith opened up with Dave Stingl and struck with only the second ball of the day, their opener well caught by Darren Kay at an unorthodox second gully (as recommended to the skipper by Darren himself based on his scouting from the week before). Dave replied with a maiden and Ed with two more including another wicket, their strong first drop bat, Garing, juggled but eventually caught behind by Curtis Murray.

In the 6th over, the Knox second drop played one to deep backward square leg and chose to come back for a comfortable second run. Unfortunately for him, he didn't count on Ed's quick pick-up-and-throw directly hitting the base of leg stump to catch him outstretched but just short of his ground. At last, our first C&S run out for the season and it could not have come at a better time.

Ed's lucky run of accuracy continued through to the end of his fifth over by which time he had bowled 30 deliveries of which only two had been scored off (2 for 3!) and Knox were under the pump at 3 for 23 off their first nine overs. Knox needed something special, and they got it from their powerful third drop batsmen, Baldock.

Mr Baldock started cautiously against the first-change spin bowling of Dave Byrnes, but then on the fourth ball of Dave's first over, exploded with a big six over long-on. True to form, Dave responded superbly trapping Baldock plumb in front the very next ball, only to have his vociferous appeal turned down by their umpire – as it turned out, this was going to be the first of two critical moments in a sensational match. From that moment on, Baldock unleashed on everything in a superb display of big hitting.

Despite Ed pulling off a second run out in the 18th over and Byrnesy claiming a scalp in the 20th over, nothing was going to stop their big hitter. With the Knox score on 82, Baldock was joined by the fortuitous Mr McGilvray who rode his luck with some big swings of his own. First David Byrnes, then Craig Johnson, then Derek Taylor and then Scott Wells were all despatched to and (on 8 occasions) over the boundary and the re-introduction of Ed to finish off the innings did nothing to stem the flow of runs. Ed eventually took the wicket of McGilvray, caught behind for 45 thereby ending the 130 run partnership but Baldock finished unbeaten with an extremely impressive 142* and Knox had posted 6 for 215 off their allotted 35 overs.

A great arvo tea from the First Lady (Bronwyn Virtue) and her lady-in-waiting (Tania Johnson) gave us time to re-group and focus on our largest run chase in recent memory and, with a pep talk from Steve, Tom Robertson strode out to the crease with Darren Kay to start an onslaught of our own.

Tommy faced the first over from the very quick seamers of the Knox captain, Ed Bangs. While Tommy could hardly lay bat on any of his first ten balls, fortunately Mr Bangs couldn't land foot behind crease for much of the day and our run rate was helped along by Mr Sundries. Meanwhile at the other end, our in-form opener, Darren Kay, splayed his first ball from the younger Bangs brother, Nick, straight to gully for a 5th ball duck.

Ed Bangs then resumed his attack on our gallant red-head and was feeling very confident until Tommy finally made good contact with one outside off – drilling the ball only two-foot off the ground all the way into the point boundary for a six. From that point on, our second favourite Ranga was going to be tough to stop.

By this stage, Ruaan Jonker was also at the crease and he scored 14 good runs (16 balls) until he played across the line of a quick ball from Ed Bangs with our team score on 48 off just 40 balls. The club's reigning champion batsmen, Craig Johnson, then joined the club's leading run scorer for the season with a mammoth task in front the pair.

First ball to Craig Johnson, a snick to first slip, a fumble and DROPPED! This stroke of fortune proved to be the turning point of the game as Johno and the over-sized match stick put on a chanceless 116 run partnership off only 87 balls in under an hour. Tommy brought up his fourth C&S fifty for the season in just 39 balls and Johno brought up his second season fifty in 38 balls. When Johno was finally out in the 22nd over with his score on 57 (off 46 balls), our score was a comfortable 3 for 164 and we were well on track to bring up the 216 needed to progress through to the Jack Pace Final.

Three overs later, Tommy ran out of steam and was bowled by Nick Bangs for 82 off 72 balls. 4 for 170 became 5 for 171 when Curtis Murray (3 off 10) skied one to mid-wicket but Derek Taylor (22 off 24) and Scotty Wells (24* off 19) first steadied the ship and then brought her safely into port with 3.2 overs to spare.

One of our greatest ever run chases against a very good bowling attack warranted the long session at the Camperdown Bowling Club that followed. All great preparation for Derek's wedding next Saturday (good luck Denise!) and the all important Jack Pace Grand Final against Old Aloysians on Sunday 6 March at Godard Park.

The Team was: Tom Robertson, Darren Kay, Ruaan Jonker, Craig Johnson, Curtis Murray (w), Derek Taylor, Scott Wells, David Byrnes, Steve Taylor (c), Dave Stingl and Ed Smith

The Result was:

Knox Old Boys CC: - 6 for 215 (35 overs) (E. Smith 3-35)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: -6 for 216 (31.4 overs) (T. Robertson 82; C. Johnson 57)

by 4 wickets

The Batting was: T. Robertson 82 (72), D. Kay 0 (5), R. Jonker 12 (16), C. Johnson 57 (46), C. Murray 3 (10), D. Taylor 22 (24), S. Wells 24* (19), David Byrnes 0* (0), S. Taylor (DNB), D. Stingl (DNB) and E. Smith (DNB)

The Bowling was: E. Smith 9-3-35-3, D. Stingl 5-1-23-0, D. Byrnes 9-2-58-1, C. Johnson 5-0-0-38, D. Taylor 5-0-40-0 and S. Wells 2-0-18-0.

The team and bowling for the original semi final was: Darren Kay, Scot Wells, Ruaan Jonker, Craig Johnson (c.), Tom Robertson, Curtis Murray (wk), David Byrnes (9-1-2-34), Wayne Walters (9-3-4-28), Craig Schofield (8-3-3-20), Ed Smith (8-1-0-33) and Greg Curry.

CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 19 v REG BARTLEY XI AT CAMPERDOWN PARK, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 26 FEBRUARY, 2011: REPORT BY ED SMITH

With Derek Taylor's wedding taking out 7 Saturday team regulars, 4 other regulars also unavailable and Greg Brooks overseas for the week, the impossible task of putting eleven players on the field fell to Ed Smith. After approximately 50 phone calls over 5 days, by 1 p.m. on Saturday we had 9 players ready for the start and one extra (Curtis Murray) kindly agreeing to turn up as soon as he could after his work finished. A last minute call to Dave Fagan secured our eleventh player for the match and the impossible had been achieved (good on you Dave, I hope your wife's birthday party was going well by the time you got home). Thank you very much to everyone in the club who tried to help me out in piecing together the team – it's weeks like these that the club's depth in playing talent and spirit really shines through.

The Reg Bartley XI's captain called correctly and sent us out into the field on a beautiful batting track. The RBs have been improving every year and this year they produced a very impressive top order. Darren Kay opened the bowling with Ed Smith for the first time this season and he took our first wicket with their score on 24. RBs then batted very well to put together a 66 run partnership in the following 14 overs to set themselves up for a big score.

At 1 for 90, however, Scotty Wells came into the attack and struck with the old leg-spinning-long-hop trick. When he saw this ball, the batsmen couldn't believe his luck but his attempt to put Scotty into the old nursing school was mistimed and Tom Robertson took a well judged outfield catch. Their big left handed opener, Fletcher, was out for 35 but meanwhile their first drop was batting beautifully – that is until he uncharacteristically played across the line to a straight ball from Captain Johnson. This was probably the turning point of the match.

Despite a good 56 run partnership from their numbers 4 and 5 batsmen, the scoring rate was beginning to slow and when Ed was re-introduced into the attack bowling in tandem with the extreme pace of "The Red Flash" Robertson, wickets fell quickly at 165, 170, 178, 180 and again on 180. Tommy himself confessed that, while happy about his figures of 2 for 19 off 5 overs, he was most happy about the fact that he didn't bowl any wides (this coming from a man still scarred from his 'over horribilis' earlier this season and his 15 wides, in 15 overs in 15 days club record from the season before. (Note: Tommy reads these reports to his kids for their bed time reading). After their allotted 35 overs, RBs had proudly scored 8 for 185, one of their highest scores since joining the City and Suburban.

With Bronwyn Virtue away at Derek's wedding, Tania Johnson took on the job as Kitchen Captain and did a superb job – much to the delight of a mostly English Reg Bartley XI. For some of them, this was the first time that they had been offered a cup of tea at an Aussie cricket match!

Perhaps it was Tania's buns that put them off, but when our newest strike bowler, Tommy Robertson, went out to open the batting with Darren Kay, we were confronted with a Reg Bartley bowling attack that didn't quite match the strength of its batting line up. Tommy and Darren took their toll, smashing our first fifty in just 23 balls! Trying to restrain himself, Darren (13 off 13) then holed out at deep mid-wicket just when a big score beckoned him. As a disappointed Darren left the field, he was heard to utter quietly words such as "Dash ...Darn it ... Hmmm" and "Oh well, such is life". He then placed his helmet and bat softly down in the change room and immediately saw the funny side of his dismissal. (Note, angrily amplify the last sentence by 1,000 to get the real story).

Ruaan Jonker joined our Carrot Crotch at the crease and took the score from 52 to 77 when the Red Barren (sic) nicked one with his score on 45 off just 27 balls – just missing out on the fastest 50 for the season. Ruaan was the next to go on 7 (off 11) when he was adjudged LBW by our newest member to the club, the Sri Lankan born globe trotter, Matt Abeysekera. While Matt's

only statistical addition to his first game for the club was giving a South African out LBW (well done!) and throwing 4 overthrows off Ed's bowling (not so well done!), Matt showed good speed, knowledge and skill in the field such that I suspect the club will enjoy watching his flashy opening batting and seam bowling in the future – put him on your list if you're looking for players. (He also doesn't mind a drink at the Camperdown Bowling Club.)

With our score on 3 for 93 off 10.4 overs, Mini-Red (Scotty Wells) joined Captain Craig Johnson and the two of them took up where Tom Robertson left off. At one stage, Scotty hit 6 fours in 6 consecutive balls and, after taking a breather for one ball, and then hit two more fours! It was a race to 50 between our two talismans and Johno just got their first bringing up his 3rd C&S 50 for the season in just 44 balls. A couple of balls later, Scotty brought up his 2nd for the season in just 35 balls. The two of them smashed an undefeated 95 run partnership in just 73 balls and saw the C.C.N.S.W. home safely with one ball left in the 23rd over.

As it turned out, our eleventh player, Curtis Murray, who had driven for an hour after work to make it to the second innings, was not needed but, as a true clubman should say, Curtis smiled and said *"Ed, I'd rather turn up and not be needed, than not turn up when I am needed"*. A big club thank you goes to Curtis and to Dave Fagan who risked the wrath of a birthdaying wife to fill in for his old team.

And so, as has become our wont, it was off to the Bowling Club for a few beers and a lot of laughs. Almost all of the RBs joined us and we allowed them to nominate the fine for Darren Kay's terrets attack. A club record \$30 was levied on Darren but, as the RB's captain said, it probably won us the game. When we asked "Why?", he replied that when the RBs huddled together after Darren's wicket and witnessed how disappointed he was, they all agreed it was probably safer for them if they didn't get any more of us out.

The Team was: Tom Robertson, Darren Kay, Ruaan Jonker, Craig Johnson (c), Scott Wells, Curtis Murray, Matt Abeysekera, Dave Fagan, Peter Crooks, Greg Currie (w) and Ed Smith

The Result was:

Reg Bartley XI: - 8 for 185 (35 overs) (E. Smith 3-59)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 3 for 188 (22.5 overs) (S. Wells 55*; C. Johnson 54*; T. Robertson 45)

By 7 wickets

The Batting was: T. Robertson 45 (27), D. Kay 13 (13), R. Jonker 7 (11), C. Johnson 54* (48), S. Wells 55* (39) C. Murray (DNB), M. Abeysekera (DNB), D. Fagan (DNB), P. Crooks (DNB), G. Currie (w) (DNB) and E. Smith (DNB)

The Bowling was: E. Smith 12-0-59-3, D. Kay 8-0-40-1, S. Wells (6-0-45-1), C. Johnson 5-1-15-1 and T. Robertson 4-0-19-2

CITY AND SUBURBAN JACK PACE SHIELD FINAL v OLD ALOYSIANS AT GODDARD PARK, CONCORD ON SUNDAY 6 MARCH, 2011: REPORT BY

The big day had arrived. Finally, our chance had come to defend the Jack Pace Shield that we so proudly won last season. In the 'long' and illustrious six year history of the Jack Pace Shield, only one team (I Zingari (Australia)) has won the shield twice and no team had ever successfully defended it. Captain Steve Taylor's experienced tossing skills had seen us through the first two

(rained out) rounds in this knock-out competition and some fine batsmanship had witnessed our impressive and successful run chase in the semi-final two weeks earlier. On an overcast day with no chance of rain on a pitch that's not noted for runs and an opposition with a strong bowling attack, we were going to have to rely on something different to get us over the final Jack Pace hurdle.

Noting that the umpire held the coin heads up, Steve cleverly and correctly called "tails" and decided to bat. Ian Allmey opened our account with a four off the fourth ball and a single off the fifth while Scotty Wells batted watchfully at the other end. Scotty was the first to go, trapped in front by their opener, Stew Emmanuel, for a fifth ball duck. It may have been a tough decision against Scotty but, from 100 yards away, I couldn't tell you if he hit it first or not – ask Scotty the next time you see him.

Meanwhile, dropped off a sitter in the second over, Ian managed to crash another boundary before holing out to mid-on off the other opener, Steve Goh, with his score on 11 off just 11 balls. After our first 25 balls, we were 2 for 14 and looking a bit shaky against a very strong pace attack. Fortunately, however, we had our season's leading run scorer, 'Ever-Reddy' Robertson, at the crease with our club champion batsman, Craig Johnson at the other end.

Johno was very watchful as the combination of a new ball, good pace and a seaming wicket made it difficult to stay in, let alone score runs. Eventually, Johno was bowled for only the second time this season for just one run off 11 balls. Tommy, meanwhile, played cautiously and let the first ten deliveries go by without taking any toll. Then on his 11th, 17th, 21st and 22nd deliveries, he unleashed over the off-side field for crunching boundaries. Alas, a ripper of a 25th nut shaved his outside edge, their keeper did the rest, and Tomato Robertson was out for 16 (bringing his season's tally to 426 runs off just 330 balls).

We were now in trouble at 4 for 40 off 10 overs and we needed some good partnerships. Fresh from a recent century, Ruaan Jonker was keen to oblige and, once joined by the newly wedded Derek Taylor, the two of them started the C.C.N.S.W. counter-punching. The pair put on 40 runs over the next ten overs and successfully saw off the Old Aloysians' tight seam bowling with only Derek receiving a let off via a dropped catch with his score on 13. Eventually, Old Aloysians reverted to spin with immediate effect, drawing Ruaan (16 off 34) only just out of his crease for a super-slick stumping to their captain-keeper, Carl Henshke, off the first over of Pat Lindsay.

At 5 for 80, Derek was joined by his brother Steve but 13 runs later, Steve incorrectly decided to leave an off-cutter that up-rooted his off stump with his personal tally on 3 (13 balls). 6 for 93! We were in trouble again and in need of another good partnership.

Cue now the highest partnership of the match. Curtis Murray, our new wicket-keeping batsmen recruit who has already notched up a fifty for the club in an earlier social match, played an untidy but effective innings while Derek started to lift the ball repeatedly over mid-on for boundaries. In just 37 minutes and 67 balls, the pair had amassed a fifty run partnership in tough conditions. In the thirty third over, however, just when we were feeling settled, Derek became Stew Emmanuel's fourth victim, skying a big shot to cover with his score on a brilliantly compiled 53 off 67 balls. The very next ball, Curtis became Mr Emmanuel's fifth and last victim – LBW for 16 off 23 balls. Stew Emmanuel finished with the impressive figures of 5 for 39 off his permitted 9 overs - well bowled, sir!

Demonstrating the extraordinary depth in the side's batting line up, the powerful and well qualified batting of Dave Byrnes (6* off 6 balls) and Craig Schofield (3* off 6 balls) took our final total up to 8 for 154 off our 35 overs and left the "hidden talent of our resident number 11's mercurial batsmanship unrequired. From memory, this score was only 2 runs less than our last season's grand final winning first innings score.

Tania Johnson and Bronwyn Virtue's rissoles and baked goods bolstered the afternoon tea that was very kindly provided by Brian Breakspear and the Association. Apart from the arvo tea and post match beers, we would also like to thank Brian Breakspear for all of his efforts in arranging the day and, more importantly, for his on-going secretaryship of the C&S and Jack Pace competitions. Good on you Brian and good luck with Yaralla CC. Also a quick shout out for Brian, Derek Taylor, Matt Gale and Ian Allmey who, at various stages in the days leading up to the match, went out to Goddard Park and performed the covers duties so admirably. Now back to the game.

After a big locker room rev up from our Captain emphasising the importance of doing the fundamentals well, partnerships and the pressure of runs on the board, we all entered the field as a unit raring to get into the well respected top order of the Old Aloysians. We knew that there was good pace and seam in the pitch and that accuracy was at a premium (every single ball that went down leg side in this match was being called a wide – so much so that wides were our second highest scorer on 21) .

Ed Smith opened up with only a single off his first over and Craig Schofield replied in kind. Schoey was the first to strike in our fourth over, claiming their opener (Joe Clarke) well caught by Johno in the gully for only 3. Their other opener, Hugo De Jong, was looking confident on his front foot but our bowlers were hardly giving him the chance - keeping just short of a length and seaming it both ways. Pat Lyndsay joined him and, between the two of them, they had scored over one hundred runs in the Jack Pace semi – this was the crucial partnership. Consecutive maidens from Ed and Schoey and then an off-cutter that ripped off Mr Lyndsay's off bail (for a duck!) cut the partnership down to just 2 runs. Schoey then claimed their second drop batsmen, Chris McKenzie, in the very next over caught behind by Curtis Murray in a manner resembling a wind-up clapping toy monkey.

After eight overs from Ed and Schoey, the opposition were in tatters with three of their best batsmen out and only 12 runs to show for it. Steve Taylor noted in his pre-game chat that winning the game is all about partnerships and, by the time our opening bowling partnership was retired (presumably to save them for the end of the innings), Old Aloysians were 3 for 21 after eleven overs. Craig Schofield finishing with the incredible grand-final figures of 5 overs, 1 maiden, 2 for 5 runs and Ed finishing his first spell with 6 overs, 2 maidens, 1 for 13.

David Byrnes was then brought into the attack to perform his usual mop-up roll, however their opener Hugo De Jong was still at the crease and so it would not be as easy as normal for our mystery spinner. Last season, Byrnesy bowled 100 C&S overs without bowling a single wide and this season he had completed his first 23 overs similarly. Then, the unbelievable happened. There was so much turn in the pitch that one of Byrnesy's off-breaks pitched outside off stump and went past the batsmen's left thigh and into Curtis's gloves down the leg side. To our amazement, the umpire called Byrnes for his first wide in over 123 overs! (This must be a club record.) So as to prove it was not a fluke, Byrnes then repeated the exact same ball for the exact same result with his very next ball!

Lulled into a false sense of security, Mr De Jong then came down the pitch to a tossed up third Byrnes ball only to sky a catch to Scott Wells waiting patiently at cover. This was not easy for Wells as it sounds, however, as despite everyone in Canada Bay Council calling out "Wells's catch", Ruaan Jonker came screaming in from what seemed like deep third man to attempt a Cazaly like miracle mark. Looking more like an out-of-form Warwick Capper, however, Ruaan had an air swing on his 'specky' and crunched into our diminutive Gnomeo who arose three seconds later from the collapsed pack holding the ball aloft with pride. De Jong was out for 13 and another big threat was extinguished.

Ruaan was to get his catch just 8 runs later as their third drop hit Byrnes straight down his throat at point – thus relieving Ruaan of the nagging pressure of the \$32 fine that a fifth consecutive dropped catch would attract (being \$2 to the power of 5). Old Alos were now 5 for 33 with their

Captain Henshke being politely welcomed with respectful applause to the crease. Byrnes's first ball to their captain pitched way outside off and was well left alone – I write “well left” as the ball just missed the top of middle stump. Proud of his fine judgement, Mr Henshke humorously claimed that, “with the bounce and turn in this track, I can leave them all day”. Three balls later, he tried to prove himself right, only to prove himself wrong. The captain was out for a duck and they were now 6 for 33.

Having nobly put the club first by wagging his best friend's Sunday afternoon wedding ceremony, Craig Johnson squeezed in two quick overs for four runs before heading off to the wedding reception. We all feel a little bit guilty about this because we had convinced Johnno during the week that, at an *Australian* wedding ceremony, no one notices if the best man isn't there.

With the score on 41, OA's number 6, Chris Gill, tried to take a sneaky single to the oldest man in the field. Steve Taylor showed that he still has what it takes not only to win a grand final, but to win an FA Cup, when he ran in from mid-wicket and booted the ball about 8 metres to a silky skilled Byrnes at the non-striker's end to catch Mr Gill just short of his ground for 7! That's one I haven't seen before. Steve then fielded the next three balls to him using only his feet and it wasn't until he tried to use his hands on the fourth effort that he misfielded.

Wellsy was brought on and claimed his 16th C&S wicket for the season in his third over, the unlucky James Edwards (4) who was caught in a red jam sandwich (bowled Wells, caught Robertson). The Goh brothers, Steve and Dave, then combined forces for a twelve run ninth wicket partnership until Byrnsey broke it with a successful LBW appeal to claim his fourth wicket, making that two consecutive grand finals in which the big fella has claimed 4 wickets.

Their tenth wicket pairing of Dave Goh and Stew Emmanuel managed to swing hard and accurately for the pickets as they compiled Old Aloysians' highest partnership of the innings (helped in part by a dropped catch by “Little Red Droppingshood” - you guessed it, Tommy) until Ed (8-2-18-2) was successfully re-introduced into the attack to finish off the Old Aloysians in the twenty seventh over for just 78 runs.

We had done it! We had claimed back-to-back Jack Pace Shields for the first time in the competition's 2,191 day history! Many happy jeers and beers were enjoyed in the change rooms, during the presentations (at which both captains spoke well and were complimented by our badged umpires for the spirit in which the game was played) and at the celebratory pub dinner afterwards (thanks again Steve).

Apart from the thank you to Brian, a big thank you must also go to Stephen and Rupert, our two badged umpires for the day, Ralph Sadler (the C&S President) for his kind words and continued support, to Matt Gale and Darren Kay who shared the twelfth man duties, our spectators including our families, team photographer Frank Crowe, the larger-than-life Corey Haigh, and to Peter Crooks for his 5 year role as the club's 'new guy'. Finally, “respect” to our President, Greg Brooks, whose tireless club and match management keeps us winning and grinning.

The Team was: Ian Allmey, Scott Wells, Tom Robertson, Craig Johnson, Ruaan Jonker, Derek Taylor, Steve Taylor (c), Curtis Murray (w), David Byrnes, Craig Schofield, and Ed Smith.

The Result was:

C.C.N.S.W.:- 8 for 154 (35 overs) (D. Taylor 53)

Defeated

Old Aloysians C.C.:- 10 for 78 (27 overs) (D. Byrnes 4-38)

By 76 runs

The Batting was: I. Allmey 11 (off 11 balls), S. Wells 0 (5), T. Robertson 16 (25), C. Johnson (11), R. Jonker 14 (34), D. Taylor 53 (67), S. Taylor 3 (13), C. Murray 16 (23), D. Byrnes 6* (6), Craig Schofield 3* (6) and. E. Smith (DNB) (wides 21)

The Bowling was: E. Smith 8-2-18-2, C. Schofield 5-1-5-2, D. Byrnes 8-1-38-4, C. Johnson 2-0-4-0, and S. Wells 4-0-12-0

CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 21 v PADDINGTON AT CAMPERDOWN PARK, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 12 MARCH, 2011: REPORT BY ED SMITH

With the Jack Pace Shield back in the trophy cabinet for another year, we arrived on a hot and humid afternoon still hung over from the weekend before to take on Paddington C.C. A cool change was forecast for later in the day and so we were hoping that Steve Taylor could continue his tails tossing form – alas no, and we were sent out into the field.

Ed Smith resumed his opening partnership with fellow ball-smith, Craig Schofield. As has occurred all season, the two of them quickly set to work on the opposition's top order. Ed struck first, bowling their opening bat for a duck in only the third over and then again bowling their other opener with his now infamous 'off-cutter / off-bail' manoeuvre. After five overs of the Smith and Schofield show, Paddington was 2 for 15 and after 11 overs they were still only 2 for 36. Schoey's 6th over brought a double success, first when he bowled the Paddington 2nd drop and then when their 1st grade batsman, Quoye, nonchalantly tried to walk down the wicket to Schoey on only his second delivery, only to spoon a simple catch to the ever-a-lert (sic) red head, Tommy Robertson.

When Ed removed their 1st drop bat easily caught behind by Curtis Murray in the very next over, Paddington was reeling at 5 for 43. Since taking over the gloves 4 games ago, Curtis has now taken 6 catches, dropped none, claimed a stumping and let through only 3 byes in 131 overs! The club may have found itself a new number 2 keeper – Greg Currie remaining its perennial number 1, of course.

Hoping to avoid another low run chase, Steve Taylor took Schoey off with the figures of 7-1-26-2 and replaced him with the consistent swing bowling of Dave Stingl. Dave had not read Steve's script and took a wicket with only his fifth ball – surprisingly well caught by Ed Smith at backward square leg diving forward full stretch to snag the fast moving leg glance a centimetre off the ground. (That was one unlucky batsman!). Paddington was now 6 for 45 off 16 overs at a time that we were looking for a good target to chase.

Enter the Paddington Captain, Gardner, who, after an edgy start, decided that he would take to the bowling of Dave Stingl and Scotty Wells. With his partner, Bhatia, at the other end, Mr Gardner put on a 98 run partnership, scoring 74 of them himself. It wasn't until the introduction of Craig Johnson into the attack that we were able to break the couple, firstly with a well worked run out of Bhatia by Ruaan Jonker to Johnno from long-on and then with a straight ball that collided with Gardner's middle stump. Ed was re-introduced with three overs to go and Johnno bowled their number 10 bat to finish their allotted 35 overs at 9 for 162.

Greg Brooks and Bronwyn Virtue were busy this Saturday preparing to host their daughter's engagement party - congratulations Ashleigh (and best of luck Charlie). This meant that Tania Johnson took on the role of Tea Queen and, most controversially, she bravely chose "the sausage roll" as her debut performance. And "controversial" it was as the sausage roll is clearly Bronny's signature dish and we could not help but conclude that this was a blatant take-over attempt by Tania. While they were lovely, however, Tania's shot at the title fell short (according to cricket tea connoisseur, Matt Gale) and Bronny's position as 'Madame of the Innings Break' remains safe for another year.

Having proclaimed the death of Tania's attempted coup, Matt Gale was then given the opportunity to open the batting for the first time this season. With Ian Allmey smashing 21 off 21 balls until he was given out LBW, Gale was able to add a further 5 (off 24 balls) until he walked having been caught behind.

By the ninth over, Paddington was bowling very well to our two South African wonder-bats and when Ruaan was caught off his tenth ball playing across the line on 5, we were 3 for 33. Johnno then joined Ruaan back in the change room, bowled cheaply for 3 off 10, and Captain Steve was joined by Tommy 'Ro-betroot' to resurrect an innings flailing on 4 for 39.

The odd-couple managed to put on 16 runs until Steve was also caught playing across the line. Fortunately, as had been the case all season, Tommy was starting to hit his straps and, while Scotty Wells came, faced 11 balls, and went (for 3 runs), the scoreboard was at least ticking over at a better rate.

Curtis Murray joined the 'Red Battin' with the team needing to score 86 runs off 72 balls and only 4 wickets left. While Tommy was still at the crease, the odds were still even – but when he was caught behind for 46 runs off 42 balls, we were in deep trouble at 7 for 105 and only 9 overs left.

In a little side note, as it turned out, our game the following weekend would be rained out and Tommy is unavailable (for the first time this season) for our last game on 26 March. Consequently, Tommy's 45th run would turn out to be his last in C&S this season bringing his season's C&S tally to 472 runs off just 372 balls. Throughout his 13 innings, he was only dismissed 9 times (once bowled, once LBW and 7 times caught – mind you, he was dropped a club record 9 times!) for an impressive average of 52.44 at an even more impressive strike rate of 127 runs per one hundred balls. With the ball this season, Tommy only managed 9 wides in his season aggregate of 14 overs, 1 maiden, 6 for 80 and a season bowling average of 13.33. Only one catch was dropped off his bowling all year – that being a caught and bowled chance. Tommy only dropped one other catch all year (off Ed of course) and managed to catch 6 in the field. In fact, if it weren't for his four misfields and the infamous 'over horribilis', the Big Red Tomato might have been in the running to win the JR Medal.

Nonetheless, a very impressive season for an only moderately talented cricketer. When we asked Ranga-tunga for his thoughts on his super season, he simply replied:

"I dedicate my season to my two inspirational sons, Ed and Ian, who are currently lying in bed proudly listening to me read this quote to them. I think this season conclusively proves that I am a far better cricketer than my father, Rodger, ever was".

And now back to the cricket. At 7 for 105, Schoey came, swung, connected on one but missed the next (3 off 8 balls) and then Curtis did likewise having compiled 14 runs off 12 balls. And so it was left to Ed Smith and Dave Stingl, each of them in only their second innings of the season, to try to score 45 runs in 30 balls. Paddington dropped most of its fieldsmen back on to the boundary and, despite some lusty swings and copious running, the task was not getting any easier. Eventually, the situation required that the pair run on everything and Ed (14 off 14 balls) was run out coming back for a very risky second run leaving Dave stranded on 7 runs off 6 balls and the club 22 runs short of our target.

For the first time this season, the C&S side had been bowled out and for only the second time, we had lost. All credit to the Paddington bowlers who kept a very good line and length and to their Captain Gardner whose superb innings of 74 set up his team's win.

The Team was: Ian Allmey, Matt Gale, Ruaan Jonker, Craig Johnson, Steve Taylor (c), Tom Robertson, Scott Wells, Curtis Murray (w), Craig Schofield, Ed Smith and Dave Stingl.

The Result was:

Paddington C.C.:- 9 -162 (35 overs) (E. Smith 3-34)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10 for 140 (33.3 overs) (T Robertson 46)

By 22 runs

The Batting was: I. Allmey 21 (off 21 balls), M. Gale 5 (24), R. Jonker 5 (10), C. Johnson 3 (10), S. Taylor 11 (27), T. Robertson 46 (42), S. Wells 3 (11), C. Murray 14 (12), C. Schofield 3 (8), E. Smith 14 (14) and D. Stingl 7* (6).

The Bowling was: E. Smith 11-1-34-3, C. Schofield 7-1-26-2, D. Stingl 7-2-32-1, S. Wells 7-0-55-0 and C. Johnson 3-0-11-1

**C&S ROUND 22 v OLD ALOYSIANS AT CAMPERDOWN PARK, CAMPERDOWN
ON SATURDAY 19 MARCH, 2011:**

Cancelled by rain

**C&S ROUND 23 v SYDNEY WINDIES AT CAMPERDOWN PARK, CAMPERDOWN
ON SATURDAY 26 MARCH, 2011:**

The team was: Ian Allmey, Darren Kay, Craig Johnson, Steve Taylor (c), Ruaan Jonker, Harry Dalton, Matt Gale, Curtis Murray (w), Greg Brooks, Craig Schofield and Ed Smith.

The result was:

C.C.N.S.W.: 8-158 (H Dalton 39)

Defeated

Sydney Windies: 10-87 (C. Johnson 5-12)

The batting was: I. Allmey 13, D. Kay 24, C. Johnson 1, S. Taylor (c) 0, R. Jonker 0, H. Dalton 39, M. Gale 24, C. Murray (w) 21*, G. Brooks 25, C. Schofield 4* and E. Smith DNB

The bowling was: E. Smith 8-1-23-2; C. Schofield 10-2 22-0; C. Johnson 8-3-12-5; H. Dalton 8-0-21-2 and R. Jonker 1.4-0-6-1