

# CCNSW MASTERS MATCH REPORTS 2005 2006

## MASTERS ROUND 1 v LINDFIELD LAWYERS AT GODDARD OVAL ON SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER: REPORT BY SIMON NELSON

An important match for us against traditional rivals Lindfield Lawyers with the John McDonald Memorial Trophy on the line. And today's performance promised a reliable test for the team against the flush of pre season enthusiasm of the established players and the considerable promise displayed by this year's recruits.

From the first ball of the day until the last we played a measured game which gave us control of the game. All bowlers performed well and in the cases of Dale Richards and Jay Patel, outstandingly well; our top order batting had little trouble in overtaking a reasonably challenging total; and Sandy Grant did well with the gloves on a difficult keeper's pitch.

We were invited to bowl in blustery conditions and contained the top order batsmen. Although the pitch was true it offered little bounce or cut; and Lindfield played a conservative game. So Jay Patel capturing the first wicket in the fifteenth over was quite satisfactory given that the run rate was well under 4 an over. From that point Jay continued to choke Lindfield (30 runs from 10 overs, 1 wicket) so that after 31 overs the run rate was still nowhere near 4 an over.

Debut player Dale Richards had also contained well (nine runs from 4 overs, 1 wicket in his first spell) but went mad during the Lindfield happy hour. In the space of three overs he conceded only nine runs, grabbed another four wickets and also achieved a run out by throwing backwards to break the non-striker's stumps. A bowling and fielding effort with which he should be extremely pleased.

Mention also to Angus Martin and Mick McCormick for fine bowling to support Dale during the last overs of the Lindfield innings. Both kept the runs down and put pressure on the batsmen during these critical overs.

Frank Crowe and Simon Nelson then put on a solid fifty run opening partnership that laid the all important batting foundation. Keith Elloy also did well for 19 to continue the momentum and got his trademark drives going. Sadly both Frank and Keith were done by lowish balls that got through their defences; each threatened better things.

We then lost both Simon and Grant Bonner in fairly short order but the team's batting depth was confirmed by a fine partnership between Mick McCormick and Angus Martin who carried us through to the target. No surprises here, their batting ability was well proved in earlier seasons. During a partnership that was rarely in danger continual scoring all around the ground with a fair spread of boundaries (including a fine blow for six from Mick) took us to a good win.

As usual an enjoyable day with the Lindfield boys, well ended over beers and Stirling Hamman's unique brand of end of match summary.

**The Team was, in batting order:** Simon Nelson (c), Frank. Crowe, Keith Elloy, Mick McCormick, Grant Bonner, Angus Martin, Ed Neylan, Sandy Grant (w), Ian MacDonald, Jay Patel and Dale Richards.

**The Result was: -**

**Lindfield Lawyers: - 9-153 (D. Richards 5-18) 40 Overs**

**Lost to**

**CCNSW: - 4-159 (S. Nelson 36, A. Martin 35\*, M. McCormick 30\*) 37 overs**

**The Bowling was:** - A. Martin 9-1-20-1; M. McCormick 8-0-37-1; J. Patel 10-1-30-1; D. Richards 7-1-18-5; E. Neylan 3-0-16-0; I. MacDonald 3-0-26-0

## **MASTERS ROUND No 2 v CASTLE HILL AT FRED CASTLEDINE RESERVE ON SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER: REPORT BY SIMON NELSON**

We had a day of 'what might have beens' in losing to a solid but unremarkable Castle Hill team. The day got off to a poor start with the batting order rearranged due to confusion regarding the start time; and although this shouldn't have caused too many problems – on paper we bat down to number 10 - there followed a procession of soft dismissals. In the end it was left to Mick McCormick to save us. In scoring a really outstanding 64 Mick batting at number six had to wait for our number eleven, Jay Patel, to help him build a decent partnership. All credit to both Mick and Jay who dragged us from a desperate 9-91 to all out 138 in the 38<sup>th</sup> over with some chance of saving the game.

Our batting can point to some bad luck – Ian MacDonald was stiff, and worryingly Gus Martin came up lame from a quick single – but in the face of steady and accurate bowling, no more than that, we obligingly fell into the trap and got ourselves out. We saw this pattern several times last season and it lost us games.

Our bowlers all did well. After a good opening partnership from Castle Hill we steadily picked up wickets and put some pressure on their lower order. Good to see Ian MacDonald get two, Jay Patel got 3-15 off seven overs, Mick McCormick (that name again) conceded only 22 off 8 overs with one wicket and Phil Schaefer gave away only fifteen runs off six. But sadly, it has to be said that catches that should have been taken went down at critical times and the bowlers didn't receive the support they needed to turn the game around.

There were some positives to come out of this game (including a blinder from Dale Richards at point, facing the late afternoon sun) but coming a gallant second isn't much fun.

**The Result was: -**

**CCNSW: - 10-138 – 38 overs (M. McCormick 64\*)**

**Lost to**

**Castle Hill: - 7-139 – 36 overs (Jay Patel 3-15)**

**The Team was, in batting order:-** Simon Nelson (c), Dale Richards, Grant Bonner, Frank Crowe, Ian MacDonald, Mick McCormick, Brian Fallon, Angus Martin, Sandy Grant (w), Phil Schaefer and Jay Patel.

**The Bowling was:** - P. Schaefer 6-2-15-0; D. Richards 8-0-8-0; I. MacDonald 6-0-34-2; M. McCormick 8-1-22-1; J. Patel 7-3-15-3; A. Martin 1-0-3-0

## **MASTERS ROUND 3 v LANE COVE BLUE AT SOMERVILLE PARK, EPPING ON SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER : REPORT BY SIMON NELSON**

Good news from the front, the Masters emerged victorious today but man, did we make it hard for ourselves! On the upside, today saw the re-emergence of THE GALVINATOR in all his glory.

Put in to bat in pleasant conditions on a pitch that offered something to everybody Angus Martin and Mick McCormick bowled too well for the opening batsmen who repeatedly played and missed. In their opening spells Angus conceded just 13 runs off 6 overs and Mick 14 off seven overs. And cricket being the game it is, the first wicket finally came when Angus bagged an edge of Mick at first slip – after Mick, in the preceding over, had proved his fallibility by dropping an edge off Angus at first slip.

From that solid start all of our bowlers performed well despite a number of catches going down and numerous lofted shots not quite going to hand. Jay Patel came into the attack early and as usual tied up one end against Lane Cove's best bats; in two spells Brian Breakspear picked up three; Sandy Grant gave the gloves to Dean Galvin and bowled well, completely without luck; and Adrian Hawkes wound up the innings perfectly conceding only 11 runs off six overs (plus setting up a fine boundary catch for Brian Breakspear off, it must be said, the worst ball that he bowled all day).

So we commenced our innings chasing a very gettable 161 runs and immediately faced a lot of nut scratching and chest thumping from a couple of the Lane Cove boys – in which our principal sledger, Jay Patel, was an enthusiastic participant (there is a history between the two teams). The upshot was that their strike bowler refused to take the new ball and we had the Lane Cove captain tossing up juicy donkey drops – from which he had our first three batsmen stumped (how often do you see that?) for a total of twenty three runs between us.

Thankfully we began to build partnerships from that low point with Brian Breakspear relishing his opportunity in the top order for 35 (not a bad game from Brian!), Mick McCormick once again compulsorily retired for 40\*, and THE GALVINATOR tearing apart the attack (three fours and a six plus a few quick one's and two's) and effectively taking us to a comfortable victory with three overs to spare. One particularly pleasing aspect of Dean's innings was his watertight defence against the medium pacers, allowing him to pick off the more suitable bowlers at a time of his choosing.

It is also pleasing to report that after all the on-field huffing and puffing both teams relaxed together after the game and drank the bar dry. I personally had the pleasure to meet and have a long chat with Dick Pym and wish him all the best in his current health battles.

**The Team was: in batting order:** - Simon Nelson (c), Frank Crowe, Craig Somers, Brian Breakspear, Mick McCormick, Keith Elloy, Dean Galvin, Sandy Grant (w), Angus Martin, Jay Patel and Adrian Hawkes.

**The Result was: -**

**Lane Cove Blue: - 6-161** (B. Breakspear 3-44, M. McCormick 2-21)

**Lost to**

**CCNSW: - 6-165** (D Galvin 40\*, M. McCormick 40\*, B Breakspear 35)

**The Bowling was:** - M. McCormick 8-2-21-1; A Martin 6-1-13-0; B.Breakspear 7-0-44-3; J Patel 10-1-40-0; S Grant 3-0-24-0; A Hawkes 6-0-11-1

## **MASTERS ROUND No 4 v LINDFIELD LEGENDS AT ACRON OVAL ON SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER: REPORT BY SIMON NELSON**

Catches win matches and our fielding certainly helped us to win this nail biter. More on this later.

We were put in to bat on a good but challenging wicket – with a slow outfield and long boundaries - and the openers had to deal with some quality bowling. Brian Breakspear was unlucky to get a good one just as he was breaking the shackles but importantly had taken us through to the eleventh over. At the other end Simon Nelson put in a bit of a Geoff Boycott performance during which first drop Craig Somers constructed his usual fine 40\*. By the 30<sup>th</sup> over the top order had established a strong foundation for the happy hour.

From there Keith Elloy took charge, lifting the ball over the infield again and again to compile a quick fire 40\*; and was ably supported by John Bateup on debut (*Editor's note for the Masters side; John has played for the Club before*). John mixed judicious defence with some powerful attacking shots. Together they took us to a very satisfactory – in the conditions – 4-155.

Due to pre match injuries and some selection hassles our bowling was a bit unbalanced. Even so Angus Martin and Dale Richards both bowled beautifully and took out Lindfield's first three bats; and Jay Patel came on first change to choke one end with his usual parsimonious offies. At 3-56 off 16 things were going quite well for us.

At that point Dean Galvin pulled off a blinder at first slip that had all us in awe and apparently gave us control of the game. However, Lindfield's captain then proceeded to construct a strong 41\* and worse, a 64 run fifth wicket partnership. But again our fielding saved us with Angus coolly throwing to the keeper to achieve a run out and break the partnership.

With Lindfield needing about a run a ball to win, and with wickets in hand, our work was cut out for us. Angus and Dale came back on and kept the run rate nicely under control. Even so, with four overs to go Lindfield required only twenty to win and the pressure was on.

Our 'go to' bowler in these situations, Brian Breakspear, came on and conceded only six runs off two; Dale did even better conceding only one run off his last; and with a couple of sundries thrown in Lindfield needed 11 from the last over of the day. Jay was put under the pump for the last over and proceeded to pick up two wickets (Dean taking his second catch of the day) for two runs, taking us to another win.

So, on a day when the bowlers through no fault of their own required all the help they could get, our ground fielding and catching was of the required standard. Once again a special word for Sandy Grant who often looked slick behind the stumps, on a wicket that often kept low and generally made life difficult for the glovemen.

**The Team was, in batting order:** - Simon Nelson (c), Brian Breakspear, Craig Somers, Keith Elloy, John Bateup, Brian Fallon, Angus Martin, Dean Galvin, Sandy Grant (w), Dale Richards and Jay Patel.

**The Result was: -**

**CCNSW:** - 4-155 (C. Somers 40\*, K. Elloy 40\*, S. Nelson 35)

**Defeated**

**Lindfield Legends:** - 8-147 (J. Patel 2-18, D. Richards 1-28; A. Martin 2-52)

**The Bowling was:** - A Martin 10-0-52-2; D. Richards 10-1-28-1; J Patel 10-0-18-2; Somers 5-0-14-0; B. Breakspear 4-0-14-0; J Bateup 1-0-2-0

## **MASTERS ROUND 5 v MOSMAN AT EPPING OVAL ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> :** **REPORT BY ADRIAN HAWKES.**

The pitch was bare and very abrasive with low bounce, some seam movement and stopping slightly on the batsmen. It was a wicket on which to show care in playing shots, a care we did not always exhibit. Mosman only had two front line bowlers and each bowled their ten over spell without a break to leave CCNSW at 3-48 after 20 overs. Simon Nelson was lbw for 15 on the front foot to one keeping low; Frank Crowe was bowled by an inswinger through the gate for 8 and Keith Elloy edged a front foot cut to the keeper for 11.

At first the change of bowling brought about a sharp increase in scoring, before Mick McCormick drove strongly back to the bowler to be caught for 16. Angus Martin meantime played with care and superb timing, some of his shots seeming merely pushes but still speeding to the boundary as he cruised to an immaculate 43\*. He received limited support. John Bateup top edged a pull of a rank long hop to be caught behind for 3; Dean Galvin was involved in one of the more stupid slow motion run outs seem for a long time as the ball, thrown in from the boundary, and on its sixth bounce, finally trickled slowly into the stumps with Dean agonisingly short. Sandy Grant hit an enterprising 21 before also being run out and it was finally left to Angus to return and immediately hit two successive sixes off the fourth and fifth balls of the 40<sup>th</sup> over before being bowled by the last ball with the score at 152.

On this type of wicket despite the fast outfield, such a score was defensible but initially Mosman started at over 5 runs per over and were 49 before the first wicket fell in the 10<sup>th</sup> over to a diving Mick McCormick at square leg off a Jay Patel long hop. Jay then slowed his bowling and bowled an immaculate off stump line. Having gone for 10 runs off his first over, he only conceded another 23 off the next nine. Ram Devagiri came on to bowl two overs of medium pace getting a wicket off a waist high full toss which was fortunate not to be called no ball. Then Adrian Hawkes bowled a steady if unpenetrative spell to tie up the other end by merely bowling straight with low bounce, and slowly the required Mosman run rate increased so that they needed 43 runs off the final ten overs.

Unfortunately the combined effects of a hot day and unathletic fielding began to tell and players seemed to forget the basics they had learned (or should have learned!) at age 10: - I e Bowler behind the stumps, fielders backing up and generally always throw to the keeper. We conceded about 6 runs and a possible run out through such sloppy mistakes which were to prove important. It finally came down to Mosman needing 9 runs off the last over with one wicket in hand and a very stiff Angus Martin called back to bowl the last over. Could he repeat the heroics of his batting and win us the game? Unfortunately not this time! Once over 40, coming back for second spells can be hard and so it proved as Angus bowled a series of leg side high full tosses and no balls before he was able to hit the pitch and the match was lost with two balls to go. Disappointing – and Angus was to shout the team a round of beers - but if you're going to lose, any game which goes to the fourth ball of the last over and 9 wickets down is not a bad game to play!

**The Team was, in batting order:-** Simon Nelson (c), Frank Crowe, Keith Elloy, Mick McCormick, Angus Martin, John Bateup, Dean Galvin, Sandy Grant (w), Ram Devagiri, Jay Patel and Adrian Hawkes

**The Result was: -**

**CCNSW:-** 10-152 (A. Martin 55)

**Lost to**

**Mosman:** - 9-153

**The Bowling was:** - A. Martin 4-0-29-0; M. McCormick 9-0-40-3; J. Patel 10-2-33-2; R. Devagiri 2-0-8-1; A. Hawkes 10-2-25-1 J. Bateup 5-0-15-2

**MASTERS ROUND 6 v WARRINGAH AT WELDON OVAL, DEE WHY ON SUNDAY**  
**18 DECEMBER: REPORT BY SIMON NELSON.**

Back on the winners' list again with a very pleasing win against the always strong Warringah team. And that after we had lost three key players to injury and work commitments.

We rolled up to the ground and we confronted by a rather unique wicket that sloped dramatically at one end – Lords has nothing on this – and held traumatic memories at the other end where yours truly was bowled by a genuine grubber last year. And while the boundary was set somewhere beyond the horizon the outfield looked to be soft and very slow.

An interesting day's cricket seemed to be in prospect!

Having won the toss and put Warringah in to bat on an entirely uneducated guess, we watched their openers bat with sensible aggression to take them to 36 runs after twelve overs. At that point Frank Crowe pounced a bullet at point, a la Bobby Simpson – off the chest and then into the hands – from Phil Schaeffer, who then proceeded to turn the game around.

Three balls later Phil clean bowled their danger bat, Rob Easterbrook and to prove the point also bowled their number four with the very next ball. We have always known that Phil is a fine bowler and today he was about to get the rewards that he so well deserves.

Angus Martin decided to join the party and grabbed an LBW in the next over (Warringah's second duck in a row), Phil bowled a maiden over, as did Angus in his next; and Phil proceeded to pick up a wicket in each of his last two overs to bag five for the day. Simon Lyon was one of those victims and stood at his wicket disbelievingly – he wasn't worried about the decision, he had been bowled - he just couldn't work out how the ball had got past his defences.

Warringah had crashed from 0-36 to be 6 – 46 in the nineteenth over.

From there John Bateup did his thing and picked up three wickets, including opener Ross Dalglish who had been watching the carnage from the non-striker's end. And although the last wicket produced 38 runs and a solid innings of 37 from the Warringah captain we were extremely satisfied to have dismissed them for only 113 runs. On the other hand eight of their batsmen had been bowled or judged to be LBW so we knew there were perils in the pitch.

At 3 -17 in the sixth hearts were pounding and palms were sweaty. But from there Mick McCormick and Angus followed the script perfectly and closed Warringah out of the game. Each played with a very straight bat and didn't give Warringah a ghost of a chance, taking the score to 86. From there Angus brought us home, with Dean Galvin ("The Galvinator") giving us an enjoyable cameo in his last (Masters) appearance for the Club.

Sadly we are losing Dean Galvin to Melbourne where he will take up a business opportunity. We expect to see him on the forthcoming Brisbane pilgrimage and will keep in close touch with him in the future. Good luck Dean, it has been a privilege.

So in summary a satisfying team effort with outstanding contributions from Phil Schaeffer, Mick McCormick and Angus Martin. We go in to the Christmas break with four from six, looking forward to the second half of the season with confidence.

Best wishes to all for Christmas and the New Year.

**The Team was, in batting order:** - Simon Nelson (c), Frank Crowe, Keith Elloy, Mick McCormick, Angus Martin, John Bateup, Dean Galvin (w), Phil Schaeffer, Steve Cross, Ram Devagiri and Adrian Hawkes

**The Result was: -**

**Warringah C.C.:** - 10- 113 (P. Schaeffer 5-21; J. Bateup 3-13)

**Lost to**

**CCNSW:** - 5-116 (A. Martin 37\*, M. McCormick 37)

**The Bowling was:** P. Schaeffer 10-3-21-5; M. McCormick 7-1-19-1; A. Martin 6-2-13-1; J. Bateup 5-1-13-3; S. Cross 7-2-16-0; R. Devagiri 3-0-12-0

### **MASTERS ROUND 7 v HORNSBY AT EPPING OVAL ON SUNDAY 22 JANUARY: REPORT BY ADRIAN HAWKES.**

For once we had a pristine unused wicket, perfectly prepared and much in favour of the batsmen. The recent rain had also freshened the outfield which looked magnificent and was lightening fast.

Simon Nelson lost the toss and Hornsby had no hesitation in batting. Initially we did well as Phil Schaeffer bowled late away swingers into a breeze coming from fine leg and started with 4 maidens. Mick McCormick opened from the other end cutting down his pace and relying on length and line to pick up the first wicket in his first over with one that cut back to clip leg stump. After 8 overs the score was only 21 but slowly Hornsby accelerated till at 60 in the 14<sup>th</sup> over, the No 3 top edged Brian Breakspear over the keeper with Phil Schaeffer from 3<sup>rd</sup> man and Mick McCormick from backward square seemingly inevitably to collide till Phil made a truly marvellous catch, diving at full speed to take the ball underneath Mick just before it hit the ground.

Then Jay Patel started a collapse, bowling flat on off stump and at 24 overs on a perfect batting wicket Hornsby were 5-87 with CCNSW setting aggressive fields. All the next 3 batsmen gave chances varying from easy to difficult; all were dropped, and as the batsmen grew in confidence they started hitting through the line. As we still had the field up, every ball which passed the infield rolled on for 4 Ian MacDonald conceded 22 off his last 3 overs, Adrian Hawkes 19 off two, and Jay having had figures of 2-1 off his first 4 overs, conceded 35 off his next five. None of these bowlers bowled badly; it was good length balls that were hit because the batsmen believed they could hit them for full reward. Cricket is a game largely played in the mind.

It is easy in retrospect to say we should have set more defensive fields but at the time chances were coming and even after 30 overs the score was only 5-139. Hornsby however added 82 off the final ten overs with Mick going for 30 in his last three and not much better from the other end by a variety of bowlers. We looked a tired and unathletic fielding side by the end of their innings. With no recognised keeper, John Bateup had valiantly volunteered to keep but the result was 16 byes to go with an inexcusable 8 no balls which was to be the difference between the sides in the end. Perhaps one of the no balls was excusable when Phil Schaefer bowled a bouncer that cleared the batsman's head to be called under Rule 42.6 (a) (ii)- a law not well known by most who confuse it with one day International rules which do not apply in Masters games.

Hornsby were all out in the 40<sup>th</sup> over for 221 as Mick took a good diving catch off a Ram Devagiri full toss. While a high score on this wicket, it was achievable but perhaps for the tactics of the Hornsby captain, who (correctly ) as it turned out gambled on the fact that all he had to do was keep us under 221 by setting defensive fields. He started with a long on and long off and five in total on the boundary. As frequently is the case with older batsmen batting second on a hot day, the early batsmen suffered from

lack of concentration as Brian Breakspear chipped to long off, leaning on the fence by the sightscreen and stepping in one pace, for 9 ("I never thought he would catch it"); Mark Clark resplendent in his Essex sweater, ( Ex first/second grade player and son of Frank Clark, former director of the Cricketers' Club) edged to the keeper for 5, and Frank Crowe inside edged an innocuous ball onto his stumps for 6 to leave us at 3-25 in the 6<sup>th</sup> over. Mick McCormick tried to pull a straight ball to be out lbw for 13 in the 12<sup>th</sup> over with the score at 46.

John Bateup and Simon Nelson consolidated with grim determination but so successful were the containing fields that Simon's first 30 runs were all singles before he blazed 4 twos before retiring at 40\*; John soon followed, also for 40\*. By now the run rate was about ten per over; 7 men were on the boundary with only one off and one on side stoppers. For a few glorious overs, a scintillating innings by Phil Schaeffer (41\*) using the long handle to pull-drive fours and sixes combined with heavy short arm jabs by Ian MacDonald (25) had us in with a chance but reality reasserted itself and we ended up 16 runs short of victory, precisely the number of no balls and byes we had conceded. A case as so often of what might have been.

**The Team was, in batting order:** - Brian Breakspear, Mark Clark, Frank Crowe, Mick McCormick, Simon Nelson (c), John Bateup (w), Ian MacDonald, Phil Schaeffer, Ram Devagiri, Jay Patel and Adrian Hawkes

**The Result was: -**

**Hornsby:** - 10-221 (Jay Patel 5-38) (35.1 overs)

**Defeated**

**CCNSW;** - 5-206 (P Schaeffer 41\*, J Page 40\*, S Nelson 40\*) (40 overs)

**The Bowling was:** - P. Schaeffer 10-4-31-0, M. McCormick 8-0-49-1; I. MacDonald 4-0-26-1, J. Patel 10-3-38-5, A. Hawkes 2-0-19-0, R. Devagiri 1.1-0-11-1

## **MASTERS ROUND 8: C.C.N.S.W. v I ZINGARI (AUSTRALIA) AT SCEGS MEMORIAL GROUND, NORTHBRIDGE ON SUNDAY 5 FEBRUARY: REPORT BY ADRIAN HAWKES**

### **CCNSW PREVENT I ZINGARI TREBLE OVER THE WEEKEND!**

At about tea time John Rothnie-Jones called by the Shore ground to advise that I Zingari (Australia) with a weak side, had heavily defeated CCNSW on the Saturday; easily beaten Knox Old Boys in the Knock Out Cup on the Sunday, and were looking for the treble against CCNSW Masters also on the Sunday. We were able to forestall them and even mix sociably afterwards.

But to go back to the beginning. Shore- technically Sydney Church of England Grammar School Memorial Playing Fields at Northbridge- is one of the best cricket grounds in Sydney with a superb batting wicket and a bowling green smooth outfield which makes fielding a pleasure. CCNSW lost the toss and fielded on a humid overcast afternoon with a gentle cross wicket breeze. Ram Devagiri failed to turn up apparently injured and at 1.30 Simon interrupted Brian Fallon in the middle of cooking lunch to rush out to make up numbers (Sorry Margaret!)

Phil Schaeffer bowled late away swing with an immaculate off stump line continually beating the bat. He then altered his wrist action, bowled wide of the crease to produce a late in swinger which went through a projected cover drive to take middle stump. He followed this up with some bouncers which produced potential catches at square and fine leg, before hitting the splice hard off one short of a length, for an easy catch to Owen Murray in the gully. In the meantime Jay Patel had caught a screaming catch off

Angus Martin off a hard hit cut at cover, diving right, down and forward. Just as well he has only bowled 42 overs on the Saturday!

After 20 overs I Zingari were only 3-58. Mick McCormick and Jay Patel bowled steadily; John Bateup after a shaky opening over kept the batsmen in check but it was the introduction of Owen Murray which made the difference. This year he is bowling with more overspin and not cutting his hand under the ball so much. The result was a bewitching flight, sharp dip and bounce which left the batsmen totally out of their depth. His first wicket was a steeper to Phil Schaeffer at long on who had time to debate the merits of Intelligent Design versus Evolution before the ball finally came down with the batsmen on their second run. His second was a ball which completely deceived the batsman in flight who swung across the line and was bowled. At the other end Adrian Hawkes took a wicket off a straight full toss and Owen then caught a flat screamer just above his eye line at mid on off Jay in his second spell.

While only losing 7 wickets, I Zingari (Australia) only made 126 runs which appeared very gettable but by the time John Rothnie Jones turned up, we were 3-40 in the 15<sup>th</sup> over in danger of emulating the Saturday side. Simon Nelson had been bowled behind his legs for 5; John Bateup lbw for 6 and Frank Crowe chipped a gentle catch to square leg off the toe of his bat for 4.

No need to worry. Mick McCormick batted with authority and power off both front and back foot, and after Angus Martin had been bowled for 5 and Phil Schaeffer for 3 (5-85 in the 35<sup>th</sup>), he found a sensible partner in Owen Murray who batted steadily while Mick powered to 40\*, one hissing flat off drive clearing the long off boundary for 6 only to be signaled 4, and another nearly taking the bowlers left hand off!. Dale Richards (unable to bowl with an injured right wrist) then hit an aggressive 31 before also being bowled leaving Owen on 18\* with Brian Fallon to bring us home in the 37<sup>th</sup> over.

Both teams socialised, ate and drank till about 7.45pm before wending their way home. A pleasant day on a lovely ground.

**The Team was, in batting order:-** Simon Nelson (c), John Bateup (w), Frank Crowe, Mick McCormick, Angus Martin, Owen Murray, Phil Schaeffer, Dale Richards (w), Brian Fallon, Jay Patel and Adrian Hawkes.

**The Result was: -**

**I Zingari (Australia) C.C. - 7-126**

**Lost to**

**C.C.N.S.W. 6-127:-** (M. McCormick 40\*. D. Richards 31)

**The Bowling was:-** P. Schaeffer 10-1-23-2, A. Martin 6-1-12-1, M. McCormick 4-0-15-0, J. Patel 7-0-24-1, J. Bateup 3-1-14-0, O. Murray 7-1-18-2, A. Hawkes 3-1-8-1

## **MASTERS ROUND 9 v MANLY MASTERS AT NORTH EPPING OVAL ON SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY: REPORT BY MICK McCORMICK.**

On a very hot and humid Sunday Manly won the toss and sensibly opted for the grandstand veranda whilst CCNSW ventured onto North Epping Oval for a free outdoor sauna.

There had been some overnight rain on the uncovered pitch which rendered it more unpredictable than a Dick Cheney shotgun, the ball popping shoulder height one ball, to be followed by a low skidder the next. Together with a heavy outfield on more than half the field, scoring was going to be somewhat difficult.

Phil Schaeffer and Angus Martin caused plenty of concern to the batsmen with accurate bowling with unlucky Phil failing to pick up an early wicket early with a low diving catch to Ian Macdonald at short mid wicket. Phil in his 4<sup>th</sup> over bowled the right hand opener who in the past has frustratingly scored some quick runs for Manly.

Manly's recruitment drive resulted in Trevor Chappell appearing at number three for them and he and the opener Richard Weekes put on 31 before Weekes went to a skied catch to Craig Somers at 1<sup>st</sup> slip off Phil Schaeffer. Mick McCormick came on and in his second over the captain and number 4 hit a low hard drive straight back which stuck in the hands. Mick in his next over got one to jag back at Mr Chappell who chopped it on to his stumps. Craig Somers then came on and immediately got one to bounce on the unpredictable pitch for another skied catch to 1<sup>st</sup> slip.

At 5-71 against such a strong batting line-up things were going better than planned, but as with all Manly sides the batting was still strong in the lower order and Dan McKenzie the Manly no.6 played a very hard hitting innings of 42 which took Manly off the ropes. There were a couple of hard hit lofted drives that found palms and fingers but nothing stuck.

Sandy Grant (wicketkeeper) copped a nasty imprint of the ball's stitches on his cheek when a ball took off from a good length. Sandy bravely played on for the duration of the match but probably hates the North Epping track more than most.

Dale Richards picked up another wicket and Jay Patel relished the pitch and bowled very well to pick up 2 – 16 in the important last 5 overs. Brian Breakspear bowled tightly in the 39<sup>th</sup> over. Manly ended up with 158 and in spite of the difficult pitch it was a very gettable target.

Frank Crowe and Brian Breakspear opened and were looking relatively comfortable before Frank edged one to 2<sup>nd</sup> slip to be well caught for 8. Craig Somers pulled his first ball for 4 and as usual was looking untroubled until he tried to cut a ball from Chappell and edged it to the keeper out for 11. Brian also on 11 got one that sat up which was spooned to mid off. Mick McCormick after getting a start should have been more patient with Chappell and mistimed a lofted straight drive to mid on running around for 14.

The plan was going awry and when Angus Martin got a leading edge to point for 5 and Ian Macdonald played an aggressive on drive but missed the ball the sorry scoreboard read 7- 54. Dale Richards 24 then batted patiently and showed the resolve that the rest of the batting line up should have adopted, together with Phil Schaeffer 16 they at least put a scintilla of respectability in the score which ended up at 113.

Trevor Chappell (known as TC) to the Manly boys was certainly Top Cat on Sunday ending with figures of 6 wickets for 11.

## **Conclusion**

A solid effort in the field considering the hot conditions and all bowlers bowled well.

However misfields and dropped catches still probably cost 20 to 25 runs and this was in stark contrast to Manly who rarely misfielded and only dropped one catch which would have been a cracker had it been taken. The batting was disappointing and with probably our strongest line-up this season we needed a 40 from the top order to give us a very good chance to knock the Manly monkey off our back. Unfortunately the opportunity was left in the "if only" basket.

**The Team was in batting order:** -Frank Crowe, Brian Breakspeare, Craig Somers, Mick McCormick, Angus Martin, Simon Nelson (c), Ian MacDonald, Dale Richards, Phil Schaeffer, Sandy Grant (w), and Jay Patel.

**The Result was:-**

**Manly : -9-158**

**Defeated**

**CCNSW 10-113** (D. Richards 24)

**The Bowling was:** - P. Schaeffer 10-2-29-2, A. Martin 6-0-24-0, M. McCormick 6-0-23-2, C. Somers 4-0-20-1, D. Richards 5-0-28-1, B. Breakspear 4-1-11-0, J. Patel 5-0-16-2

### **MASTERS ROUND 10 v KENTHURST AT KENTHURST OVAL ON SUNDAY 26 MARCH: REPORT BY BRIAN FALLON**

In a game marked by excellent sportsmanship and sociability, CCNSW lost to the undefeated league leaders, Kenthurst by seven wickets in the 38<sup>th</sup> over as rain threatened.

CCNSW won the toss on a reasonable batting wicket with a tendency to keep low. Cracks on the pitch, although promising, provided little assistance to the bowlers (except McBride for Kenthurst). Captain Simon Nelson opened with Brian Breakspear, and they quickly put pay to any thought within Kenthurst of a quick or easy victory. Both started cautiously hitting fours when on offer and slowly lifting the run rate to 3.3 at the 10<sup>th</sup>. Breakspear looked settled in for a possible 40 retirement when brilliantly caught and bowled by Fraser for 17 after lifting a certain straight four that, if not caught in an outstretched hand, may have killed the umpire. Grant Bonner came out to be quickly caught for one.

Mick McCormick came out to join Nelson and both batted without providing a chance, seeing Nelson retire on 40; after Angus Martin was stumped for 4, McCormick, ably supported by Sandy Grant, also retired on 40. Grant batted on for 29 (caught) seeing Dale Richards (LBW 3) and Jay Patel (0) fall to McBride. CCNSW were 5 for 130 in the 33<sup>rd</sup> over, and looking to a 170+ score

Enthused by the impending return of the two retired batsman, numbers 9,10, & 11 only managed to increase the score by 13 to 155 in the 38<sup>th</sup> Over: Brian Fallon (Bowled McBride 5), John Bateup (run out 0), and Ram Devagiri (run out 8) leaving McCormick and Nelson back at the wicket. Nelson hit one additional run before McCormick was also bowled by McBride, again using excellent out-swing in overcast conditions, leaving CCNSW all out for 156 and (Captain) Nelson not out. This was a disappointing finish. The best of the Kenhurst bowlers were K. Mc Bride taking 4 for 28 off 8 overs, followed by A. Mitchell 3 for 35 off 7 overs

The Kenthurst batsman Bailey and Griffen started with a flourish being 1 for 30 after 6. Griffen who threatened a large quick score was caught for 18 trying to pull a ball off Angus Martin. S Robinson batted well for a quick 14 before being caught behind by Sandy Grant off Dale Richards (2 for 53 after 11 overs.)

G Montgomery came in to lift the score 89 for 3 after 18 overs being LBW to Patel for 27. Opener Nugget Bailey batted though to be the last wicket to fall on 38 (LBW Patel) with the score 4 for 126 after 29 overs.

D. Lea and B. Fraser batted on in deteriorating conditions (Rain, thunder and reduced light) to finish not out 28\* and 13\* respectively in the 37<sup>th</sup> over. We lacked an extra 20 runs to build necessary pressure on Kenthurst, on a good batting track, but enjoyed an excellent afternoon tea, and post match beers and banter.

**The Team was, in batting order:** - Simon Nelson (c), Brian Breakspear, Grant Bonner, Mick McCormick, Angus Martin, Sandy Grant (w), Dale Richards, Jay Patel, Brian Fallon, John Bateup, Ram Devagiri

**The Result was:** -

**CCNSW:** - 10 - 156 (S .Nelson 41\*; M. McCormick 40, A. Grant 29)

**Lost to**

**Kenthurst:** - 4 - 152 (J Patel 2-14) (37 overs)

**On run rate**

**The bowling was:** - **Best bowlers for CCNSW:** -Jay Patel 2 for 14 off 10 overs, supported by Angus Martin 1 for 18 off 4, and Dale Richards 1 for 38 off 7. Brian Breakspear bowled tightly for 24 off 6 without success. *(Editor's note- full bowling figures will be supplied once the scorebook has been checked)*

## **MASTERS ROUND 11 v DOYALSON AT MARRICKVILLE OVAL ON SUNDAY 19 MARCH: REPORT BY MICK McCORMICK**

**(Thank God for Jay Patel!!)**

*(Editor's Note :- To understand what follows, you need to know we were booted off North Epping Oval by Hornsby Council on Monday as they did not wish to prepare a wicket as Epping had not made the finals. After a half day phoning round various Councils with no luck, the City Council found to their surprise Jubilee Oval was available. However it was to transpire that Balmain-UTS were using the ground for a two-day semi final on the Saturday and Sunday. In coming to Jubilee Oval Jay Patel had noticed Marrickville Oval was not being used and the toilet facilities were open. While no pitch (obviously) had been prepared for the Sunday and the wicket was dusty, dry, cracked and arguably dangerous, it was at least playable immediately so our players were to decamp there. Sydney City Council have now apologised to us, refunded the booking fee, offered us a free game next season and warned Balmain that if the situation were to reoccur the Rangers would turn Balmain off the ground. To be fair to Balmain we understand they have apologised to the Council and the mistake was inadvertent- it was always a 2-day semi final). Here follows Mick's report.*

"Not good" is the only way to describe the atmosphere above the tram stop at Jubilee Oval Glebe around 12.45pm on Sunday on the back of a double booking of the ground. Of course the opposition had to be the one that had the greatest distance to travel just to rub some chili into the wound. As much as the Doyalson boys like a Sunday drive, a one and a half hour trip to observe the back of the Anzac Bridge is unlikely to ever appear as a "must do" trip in any central coast tourist brochures.

Resourcefulness however came into play as scouts were sent scouring the inner west to find a pitch that had a semblance of preparedness. Jay Patel's local knowledge led the convoy to Marrickville Oval where the grass was green, the wicket marked and a couple of sixteen year olds in a Torana hiding behind the stand were more than willing to mind our gear.

Doyalson won the toss and sent CCNSW into bat with play starting just over an hour behind schedule. Greg Currie started reasonably with a 4 and a 2 off the first 4 balls; no further runs came off the bat for another 41 balls in which time we lost both Greg for 6 and Brian Breakspear for a duck. Greg spooned a soft catch back to the bowler. Brian then was out to a mistimed drive.

The pitch was variable with many balls literally running along the ground as well as the odd sharply rising delivery. Mick McCormick and Keith Elloy settled in watching the worm burners carefully. Just when Keith was looking comfortable he hit a back foot cover drive in the air to cover to be out for 7. Angus Martin joined Mick with Angus getting a nasty delivery off a length which he gloved away from in front of his nostrils.

Angus was looking untroubled until on 9 with the score on 70, a full toss drifted around his legs to clip the leg stump. Mick then retired on 43\* with plenty of overs still remaining to mount a reasonable score. Frank Crowe was timing the ball well until when he was on 8, a half pitcher failed to rise more than an inch or two and the choice of a pull shot to confront this grubber proved his undoing as the stumps were dismantled. Simon Nelson was out for our second duck of the innings as he hit slightly across a ball that also failed to rise removing some more varnish from the timberwork. Jeff Atherton came in on debut and hit some fine shots for 12 runs, before also becoming a member of the bowled fraternity for the day. The opening bowlers returned and proved difficult to dispatch but Jay Patel with 10, Brian Fallon (1) and Steve Cross (8\*) did well in putting on further runs. Mick McCormick returned but only added only 3 to his score before being the 6<sup>th</sup> to be bowled (by an “unplayable leg cutter) in the CCNSW innings with just over an over remaining. Steve Cross remained unbeaten and could legitimately claim a move up the order in his next appearance. Only Mick McCormick, Jeff Atherton and Jay of our batsmen reached double figures

118 was the final total and although a skinny score, the pitch was such that anything was possible. Angus Martin opened and got Doyalson’s opener and captain Frank Caruana in his opening over for 15 LBW after he had clipped three fours off his toes from the same spot in front of the stumps. In his next over, he then removed the number 3 with a ball that can only be described as “ugly” at least from a batsman’s point of view as it grubbed into the stumps. Jay Patel came on and was immediately successful with a wicket on his second ball.

He continued to bowl well and trouble all batsmen with good variation of speed and flight a couple of catches could have quickly changed the game. Steve Cross from the other end picked up a wicket off the bottom of the bat which was well caught by Angus Martin at mid wicket.

Doyalson continued to eat away at the score and with our fielding falling even below our normal “can do better status”, catching chances were not taken and the runs were not going to be enough in spite of the crumbly pitch. At one stage Doyalson were 6-87 in the 23<sup>rd</sup> over (By comparison we had been 6-83 in the 28<sup>th</sup> ) but their number 8 with an aggressive 23\* took the game away from us

Doyalson passed the score with 6 wickets down. Their captain Frank Caruana, when reporting the scores to Adrian was to say on the Monday that despite the scores it had been a “tight” game. And at least, thanks to Jay, we played!

We adjourned to partake in some frosty treats and reminisce about another seasons wear and tear and the uncanny ability of Jay Patel to not only sniff out any game of cricket but to smell the absence of cricket on an oval where cricket can be played.

**The Result was: -**

**CCNSW: - 10-118 (M McCormick 46) (38.4 overs)**

**Lost to**

**Doyalson: - 6-120 (J Patel 3-16) (30 overs)**

**The Bowling was:** - G Atherton 5-1-20-0, A Martin 8-1-21-2, M McCormick 2-0-8-0, J Patel 8-1-16-3, S Cross 4-0-22-1, B Breakspear 3-0-18-0.

### **Masters Statistics**

In terms of season's statistics, Mick McCormick ended the season with 340 runs at 56.67 (+11 wickets) while Jay Patel took 21 wickets at 11.14. Both were streets ahead of all the other CCNSW players. No other bowler took 10 wickets, and of the batsmen, only Simon Nelson also exceeded 200 runs. To my memory (without checking figures for the last decade) no-one in the Masters has ever taken more wickets or scored more runs in a season for CCNSW. The full averages for 2005-2006 Masters season are on the web site at [www.ccnsw.com](http://www.ccnsw.com) together with the averages for the previous three seasons. Mick also was the player who received most points during the season from opposition captains (with 17) with Jay second on 13. Since these tend to be awarded solely on playing performance (unlike our John McDonald medal) and by the opposition captain they do reflect well the playing contribution of these two players. In terms of the team, last year CCNSW ended up 10<sup>th</sup> out of 18 teams with 261 points. This year they are likely to end up ninth or tenth with 258 points. The winners by a large margin are Kenthurst with 394 points.