

## **C.C.N.S.W. CITY AND SUBURBAN MATCH REPORTs 2020-2021**

### **CITY & SUBURBAN ROUND 1 v BARKER OLD BOYS AT BARKER COLLEGE HORNSBY ON SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2020:**

Cancelled because of rain

### **CITY & SUBURBAN JACK PACE MEMORIAL SHIELD ROUND 2 v OLD CRANBROOKIANS AT DANGAR OVAL, ROSE BAY ON SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2020: REPORT BY SOREN HUGHES**

After a month of rain and no cricket, there were a few of us feeling a bit rusty (and at least three fairly dusty) for the first sun-filled weekend for some time. The pitch was a little worse for wear and after consulting in the middle we decided it was a win the toss and bat pitch as the crumbly surface didn't look so good for a 2nd innings. We lost the toss.

The bowling went pretty well, with Nick Leong in his debut game and Soren Hughes hitting a good length and the pitch doing the rest. Brett James was almost unplayable and at drinks we were looking in command at 3-57 after 18. Unfortunately the remainder was not pretty and despite a good start the middle and lower order got away from us and a flurry of agricultural hitting got them to 219, (162 runs off the last 17 overs) all out. Jose Poothokaren, Paul Nash and Soren picking up a couple of wickets each.

Setting the tone for what was to come, Ian Allmey gifted a lollipop to mid on first ball, luckily dropped and edged the next to the keeper next ball. Tom Robertson hit a couple of balls but walked away with only 8. Paul Nash (26) and Brett James (42) steadied the ship with a partnership that looked to put us in the box seat for a good run home but with little resistance offered by all other than Jim Hadley (26), we came up well short and all out for 158.

There were glimpses of brilliance here and there so with a bit more consistency across the board and our match fitness in order, we may well have been able to control the game and hit our usual JPS standards. Let's hope we all learned something in readiness for the next round.

**The Team was:** - Ian Allmey 0, Tom Robertson 8, Paul Nash 25, Brett James 42, Soren Hughes 4, George Arnold 12, Jim Hadley (c) 26, Declan Thomas (w) 4, Jose Poothokaren 7\*, Nick Leong 1, Luke Fletcher 3

**The Result was:-**

**Old Cranbrookians: - 10-218** (35 overs)

**Defeated**

**C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-158 (B. James 42)** (32.4 overs)

**By 60 runs**

**FoW:** - 1- 0 (I. Allmey); 2-8 (T. Robertson); 3- (); 4- (); 5-163 (); 6- (); 7- 145 (D. Thomas); 8- 147 (J. Hadley); 9- 148 (N. Leong); 10-158 (L. Fletcher).

**The Bowling was:** - S. Hughes 6-1-26-2; N. Leong 5-1-31-0; P. Nash 7-0-44-2; J. Hadley 3-0-28-1; B. James 5-2-9-0; J. Poothokaren 4-1-13-2; L. Fletcher 5-0-65-1

**The Fielding was: -**

Stumpings: Nil

Catches: Three to D. Thomas (w); one to each of B. James, S. Hughes, P. Nash and T. Robertson

Run outs: One to G. Arnold and one to J Hadley

**Player Points (awarded by captain):** - Three points to P. Nash; Two points to B. James; One point to M. Leong

## **CITY & SUBURBAN ROUND 2 v YARRALLA AT GODDARD OVAL, CONCORD ON SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2020: REPORT BY SOREN HUGHES**

### **A hat trick for Mike Tarrant**

Seeking to avenge the loss of last week's Jack Pace Shield game, we arrived at Goddard Oval with a game plan and, much to the shock of Yaralla, without Tom Robertson. After landing a couple of good jokes about the Yaralla Captain's height with his wife at the newly staffed canteen, Jim won the toss and decided to bat.

We had decided to give the young blokes a bat this week. While new player James Murtha, on debut in our C&S team, gave in early, Declan Thomas starred with a cleanly hit 32, sweeping their pace bowlers off the front foot at every given opportunity. Curtis Murray got a start but fell into a trap outside off stump. George Arnold again looked promising but left early with Len Volkov for drinks. Paul Nash formed a brief partnership with Soren Hughes swinging like a rusty gate. Mick Tarrant and Jim Hadley took care of the remaining overs with a healthy and aggressive partnership, putting us in the box seat at 9-154 on a green top pitch offering a bit off the seam and a little bounce.

A bowling partnership between Soren and Mick Tarrant kicked it off and Mick lined up a hat trick off for the first ball of his next over. After an over of random nonsense from Soren, Mick had the new batsman on strike and was lining it up. With precision, Mick peeled back the stumps and landed a hat trick and figures of 4 for 18. Legendary stuff.

There seemed to be only one impediment to our victory, the big tall bloke who was striking them well. After a bit of chat and some cold drinks, Jim again threw the ball to new player Matt Leong, also on debut for our C&S team, who was bowling well before the break. It took just one ball to rouse him with a big LBW shout from the team. How could umpire Brian Breakspear resist a shout like that?

After knocking them all out for 68, we retired to the canteen where we listened to Brian's tales of the planned new C&S headquarters at Goddard Oval, with the pavilion to be fully redeveloped to include new club rooms downstairs and a function room and trophy cabinet upstairs for housing the Jack Pace Memorial Shield. It might even be ready for next year's fixture.

**The Team was:** - James Murtha 3 , Declan Thomas (w) 32, Curtis Murray (w) 12, George Arnold 5, Len Volkov 0, Paul Nash 17, Soren Hughes 23, Mark Leong 5 , Mike Tarrant 27\* , Jim Hadley 23 and Mark Henwood 0\*

**The Result was:-**

**CCNSW: - 9-154 (D. Thomas 32)** (35 overs)

**Defeated**

**Yaralla: 10-68 (M. Tarrant 4-18)** (23.2 overs)

**By 86 runs**

**FoW:** - 1- 8 (J. Murtha); 2- 46 (C. Murray); 3-48 (D. Thomas); 4- 52 (G. Arnold); 5-59 (L. Volkov); 6- 91 (S. Hughes); 7- 93 (P. Nash); 8-111 (M. Leong); 9- 147 (M. Tarrant); 10-154 (M. Henwood).

**The Bowling was:** - S. Hughes 6-1-18-1; M. Tarrant 6-2-18-4; J. Murtha 2-0-16-0; M. Leong 4-2-4-2; P. Nash 2-0-3-1; M. Henwood 2-0-5-1; G. Arnold 1.2-0-4-1

**The Fielding was:** -

Stumpings: One to C. Murray

Catches: One to D. Thomas (w); 2 to M. Tarrant; one to M. Leong

Run outs: Nil

**Player Points (awarded by captain):** - Three points to M. Tarrant; Two points to D. Thomas; One point to M. Leong

**CITY & SUBURBAN JACK PACE MEMORIAL SHIELD ROUND 3 v COLLEAGUES  
AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2020:  
REPORT BY SOREN HUGHES**

**CCNSW C&S TEAM v COLLEAGUES AT CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 22  
NOVEMBER 2020**



**Back row:** Craig Kitson, Jim Hadley (c), Scott Williams, Soren Hughes, Brett James, Matt Leong

**Front row:** Curtis Murray (w); Tom Robertson, Paul Nash, Nick Leong, Mike Pinter

In a "must win" game for us, we had expected the opposition to at least turn up by 1pm, however we found no sign of the opposing team until 1.20pm or so. Losing the toss, they were in to bat with 6 or 7 players by 1.30pm and a blistering display of pace by Nick Leong and Matt Leong had us once again in

the box seat by drinks, with Soren Hughes and Brett James bowling well on a good bowling wicket. Unfortunately there were 3 dropped catches along the way and one of those nearly split apart Paul Nash's hand – The Club President Mr Brooks was spectating and kind enough to take him into Hospital with David Benson quickly taking the field for us in his absence. Jim Hadley's battle with the middle order grabbed him 3 wickets and Scott Williams and Craig Kitson grabbed 2 wickets each off tidy spells. 160 odd was a par score on a fair pitch and lightning quick outfield.

Our openers each got a start and were so surprised with the lack of pace from Colleagues openers that they didn't go on with it. Brett James and Scott Williams quickly carried us to 100 odd, well ahead of the run rate. Scott fell and our otherwise experienced guard of Tom Robertson, Soren Hughes, Craig Kitson and Jim Hadley each fell for 8 runs between them and the pressure was firmly on Brett James, aided by Nick and Matt Leong to carry us across the line with a limp. Matt hung on for a while before an athletic effort from Colleagues got Brett for 70. As Mr Nash was not able to rescue us from his hospital bed, it was all over and we were 20 runs short. No less, we can only be giant killers and C&S bullies from this point - our dream and ambition of another JPMS title having practically ended for another season.

**The Team was:** - Curtis Murray (w) 13, Mike Pinter 6, Greg James 70, Scott Williams 32, Tom Robertson 2, Soren Hughes 4, Craig Kitson 1, Jim Hadley (c) 1, Nick Leong 1, Matt Leong 5\*, Paul Nash dnb (injured)

**The Result was:-**

**Colleagues: 9-167 (J. Hadley 3-44)** (35 overs)

**Defeated**

**C.C.N.S.W.: 10- 146 (B. James 70)** (27 overs)

**By 21 runs**

**FoW:** - 1-20 (M. Pinter); 2-20 (C. Murray); 3-96 (S. Williams); 4-98 (T. Robertson); 5-102 (S. Hughes); 6-105 (C. Kitson); 7-110 (J. Hadley); 8-120 (N. Leong); 9-146 (B. James)

**The Bowling was:** - S. Hughes 4-0-21-1; N. Leong 6-2-10-1; M. Leong 5-0-27-0; B. James 7-0-25-0; J. Hadley 5-0-44-3; S. Williams 4-1-20-2; C. Kitson 4-0-16-2

**The Fielding was: -**

Stumpings: Nil

Catches: One to S. Hughes and T. Robertson

Run outs: Nil

**Player Points:** - Three points to B. James; Two points to S. Williams ; One point to J Hadley

### **CITY & SUBURBAN ROUND 3 v RANGERS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2020: REPORT BY SOREN HUGHES**

Following our rather (dis)graceful loss last week and almost certain exit from the New Year JPS finals, the memory turned to an equally shocking loss to Balmain Rangers in the JPS Quarter Finals in the 2019/20 season after being undefeated in the preliminary rounds. The BOM forecast was for a mild 40 degree day with occasional winds. Perfect cricket conditions really, other than the discomfort of sunburn and advancing dehydration.

Having lost the toss, Soren opened the bowling with Scott Williams - the latter more economical but both unable to capitalise much on edgy batsmen on a good deck. While Jim Hadley thought 4 overs each might not be enough, it was pretty hot and both opening bowlers were more interested in a drinks break. Ed Robertson took over with Ian Robertson, both bowling fast and taking wickets. Ed was worn out after 3 overs and Jim took us in to the drinks break. In hindsight, perhaps a drinks break every 10 overs may have been preferable as the writer struggles to recall what happened next, other than a mirage of water seen afar on the horizon and the scoreboard endlessly showing 15 overs to go. By the time Tom Robertson's 15 ball over ended, Ed Robertson had resolved to get us off the field quickly by taking wickets. Hitting the stumps with ease, he removed batsman after batsman and showed us how it should be done with a solid 5 for 22 from 5 overs. Despite Rangers getting a good start, we had contained them with some excellent fielding (Ezekiel Hughes as substitute, especially so with a stunning catch) to 210, all out.

In our distant memory was the Tom Robertson of old who scored runs every weekend, batted well under pressure and hit 4s and 6s at will. The old Tom we all remember joined us this week at long last and much to the amazement of his teammates. While the older players knew there was something on the go when he hit one off his hips for four without the trademark squeal, the others exclaimed "I didn't know he could hit the ball!", "My god, does he usually hit sixes over point?" and "I didn't realise he was a batsman!" - Tom passed 50 and soon enough 100, with some trademark Robertson hitting and a well crafted partnership with Mike Pinter who batted flawlessly in a celebration of cricket and heat.

Yes the opposition too had tired somewhat in the heat and while they only had 10 players, then 9 players, Jim Hadley fielded for nearly 70 overs in 40 degree heat and made sure they had 11 fielders throughout. Spirit of cricket award to Jim Hadley right there. With Tom retiring, out for 112 to the pavilion, in came newcomer Harry Bridge who looked handy with the bat, peeling off 25\* with some lusty on drives and delivering the win off just 28 overs.

**The Team was:** - Tom Robertson 112, Gerry O'Shea 13, Mike Pinter 34\*, Harry Bridge 25\*, Scott Williams dnb, Len Volkov dnb, Declan Thomas (w) dnb; Jim Hadley (c) dnb, Soren Hughes dnb, Edward Robertson dnb, Ian Robertson dnb and George Arnold dnb

**The Result was:** -

**Rangers CC:** - all out 210 (Edward Robertson 5-22) (34 overs)

**Lost to**

**C.C.N.S.W.:** - 2-212 (Tom Robertson 112) (28 overs)

**By 8 wickets**

**FoW:** - 1- 110 (G. O'Shea); 2- 169 (T. Robertson)

**The Bowling was:** - S Hughes 7-1-46-0; S. Williams 5-0-25-1; Ian Robertson 7-0-30-2; Edward Robertson 5-0-22-5; J. Hadley 7-0-44-1; G. Arnold 3-0-26-0; Tom Robertson 1-0-10-0

**The Fielding was:** -

Stumpings: Nil

Catches: One to Edward Robertson and S. Williams and one to sub (Ezekiel Hughes)

Run outs: Nil

**Player Points:** - Tom Robertson 3; Edward Robertson 2; Ian Robertson 1

### **C&S ROUND 3 v BEAVERS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2020: REPORT BY MIKE WEAVER**

In response to the Sydney Masters Cricket Association's cancellation of the regular round in accordance with their heatwave safety policy, the CCNSW Masters team and C and S team Beavers

mutually and hastily agreed to this experimental reduced overs match, in the very hot conditions last Sunday.

The match went ahead as a C and S fixture, both captains agreeing to the following special conditions:

- 30 overs per side.
- Compulsory 10 minute drinks breaks every 10 overs.
- Maximum of six overs per bowler
- At least six bowlers used
- Compulsory 'not out' retirement ( recycle at end of innings ) for batters reaching individual score of 30 runs
- Unlimited interchange of players with a 12th player (although there were only 11 players per side in this fixture)

It was also agreed that group leaders would assess conditions during the match and if temperature was to reach 42 degrees, the game could still be called off.

CCNSW Captain Ian Allmey won the toss and had no hesitation in sending the opposition into the field in the oppressive heat. CCNSW reached 1 - 208 off their 30 sets faced, with a hot breeze making life even more difficult for the Beavers in terms of their catching and directional control of bowling. Five CCNSW batsmen reached the individual retirement goal and 8 batsmen were utilised in all.

In reply, the Beavers kept up with the run rate very well and were on track to record a very meritorious win, although the loss of their 8th wicket with 23 still needed effectively deemed them all out, as two of their players had succumbed to muscle injury while fielding and could not bat.

CCNSW deserved the win though, as they had a better understanding tactically of the importance of having players 'in the bank' who could return afterwards to continue if necessary.

All the CCNSW bowlers acquitted themselves very well to continually take wickets. The temperature did drop considerably later in the afternoon, which was possibly more to the fielding team's advantage.

Many thanks to both sides for agreeing to play the match at short notice. Since several players noticeably had muscle cramps and niggling injuries during the game, the lesson to be learnt is that much water should be consumed by players before and during play, possibly more than they may think is necessary, on a very hot day (*Editor's note: The Beavers captain had instructed his players to bring a minimum of 3 litres of water each*)

**The Team was:-** Ian Allmey (c) 33\* retired not out; Mike Weaver 32\* retired not out; Scott Wells (w) 30\* retired not out; Jon Shaw 32\* retired not out; Dan Turner 32\* retired not out; Jose Poothokaren 5; Lee Witherden 19\*; Tim Croft 17\*; Mike Tarrant dnb; Ben Stanic dnb; Luke Holman dnb and sundries 8 (8 wides)

**The Result was:-**

**CCNSW: - 1-208** (30 overs)

**Defeated**

**Beavers C.C.: - All out 186 (8 wickets down but 2 unable to bat)** (26.1 overs)

**By 22 Runs.**

**F.O.W:** - 1 –155 (J. Poothokaren)

**The Bowling was:** - T. Croft 5.1-0-26-1; B. Stanic 5-1-38-2; M. Tarrant 5-0-32-2; L. Witherden 4-0-27-0; L. Holman 3-0-21-1; J. Poothokaren 2-0-13-0; D. Turner 2-0-19-1;

**The Fielding was: -**

**Run outs:** - One to J. Poothokaren

**Catches:** - One to L. Witherden and one to S. Wells (w)

**Stumpings:** - Nil

**Player Points (awarded by captain):** 3 points to D. Turner; 2 points to T. Croft; one point to S. Wells

**CITY & SUBURBAN JACK PACE MEMORIAL SHIELD ROUND 4 v KNOX  
OLD BOYS AT CAMPERDOWN VALLEY, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 5  
DECEMBER 2020: REPORT BY SOREN HUGHES**

Our chance to put Knox out of the JPS semis was the motivation. We were greeted, again at 1.30pm (*Editor's note JP Rules stipulate 1pm start*), by one of the youngest Knox teams we had seen in recent memory. We won the toss and batted which brought a reward from C. Bangs and his offsider, who opened with 15 ball overs each and after two overs, we were about 0-23 from wides. Curtis Murray and Tom Robertson got off to a good start before Curtis departed for 6. Simon James (54) and Tom (22) also progressed well, however at an unusually slow pace. Perhaps these two just like each other's company and enjoyed the chat at the end of the over. Admittedly the bowling was good, lost of shape in and cut away and good line and length. Brett James (2) and George Arnold (3) departing promptly after arriving following Tom's wicket. Craig Kitson (28) put up some resistance, partnering with Simon to take us into respectable territory with Soren Hughes and Jim Hadley coming out of the box with a couple of overs left to score as much as possible. 7-156 from 35 overs might have been enough.

Our 'fierce' bowling line up offered some loose calls here and there; however Knox were playing for a finals spot and seemed to be able to put one ball per over away for a four. This pattern continued late into the game with almost no wickets down. While we eventually took a couple of wickets, Knox had cruised into a winning position and continued gliding over the finish line with about 7 overs to spare. Best of luck in the finals 'Knobs'.

**The Team was:** - Curtis Murray (w) 6, Tom Robertson 22, Simon James 54, Brett James 2, George Arnold 3, Craig Kitson 28, Soren Hughes 11, Jim Hadley (c) 6\*, Edward Robertson 4, Matt Leong dnb, Ian Robertson dnb

**The Result was:-**

**C.C.N.S.W.:** - 7-156 (Simon James 54) (35 overs)

**Lost to**

**Old Knoxonians:** - 2-157 (27.3 overs)

**By 8 wickets**

**FoW:** - 1-27 (C. Murray); 2-69 (Tom Robertson); 3-72 (Brett James); 4-78 (G. Arnold); 5-125 (Simon James); 6-144 (S. Hughes); 152 (C. Kitson)

**The Bowling was:** - S. Hughes 4-0-25-0; Ian Robertson 4-0-22-0; Brett James 7-0-44-0; Matt Leong 5-0-20-1; J. Hadley 3-0-18-0; Edward Robertson 8-0-17-1; C. Kitson 1-0-11-0

**The Fielding was: -**

Stumpings: Nil

Catches: Nil

Run outs: Nil

**Player Points (awarded by captain):** - 3 pts Simon James; 2 pts Mathew Leong; 1 pt Brett James

**CITY & SUBURBAN ROUND 4 v SYDNEY UNIVERSITY LIONS AT GODDARD OVAL, CONCORD ON SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2020: REPORT BY SOREN HUGHES**

Many new faces in the team this week with Tom Robertson scrambling to find four extras through the week. Another fairly slow start on a fast wicket in overcast but comfortable conditions. The outfield was also a bit slow so 150 odd was going to be a good score. Tom (0) caught a leading edge early. Jamie Murtha (6) following not long after. Len Volkov and Gerry O'Shea commenced a partnership reminiscent of Test cricket. Lenny moved quickly to 1 from seventeen balls and Gerry held the fort at the other end, scoring 18 from about 50 balls. After Lenny departed, Jonathan Dupaquier-Green on debut (47) batted well, offering more aggression and lifting our total significantly. Soren Hughes and Ben Hayes (11), also on debut, offered a 40 partnership towards the close of our innings and Jim Hadley was given less than an over to score runs. Thus we rallied to 6-148 off 35 overs, which seemed to be a good result.

New comers Jonathan Dupaquier-Green and Morley Goodchild (also on debut) took the new ball and bowled magnificently. Jonathan removing an opener with some inswing and Morley was unlucky to see a catch drift through the slips. Ben Hayes and Soren Hughes replaced the opening bowlers, also bowling economically. Soren taking 4 wickets in fairly quick succession and passed up on a hat trick opportunity. Ben took 2 wickets too. By drinks, Sydney University Lions was 5 or 6 down and less than halfway there. Some craft bowling by Jim Hadley broke the father and son Croft partnership and it looked like smooth sailing from there. Morley absolutely nailed it at the end, bowling full and straight and taking out the final wicket to take the game with a few overs to spare.

**The Team was:** - Tom Robertson 0, Gerry O'Shea 18, James Murtha 6, Len Volkov 1, Jonathan Dupaquier-Green 47, Ben Hayes 11, Soren Hughes 26, Declan Thomas (w) dnb, Jim Hadley dnb, Morley Goodchild dnb, Mark Henwood dnb

**The Result was:-**

**C.C.N.S.W.:** - 6-148 (J. Dupaquier-Green 47) (35 overs)

**Defeated**

**Sydney University Lions:** - 10 - 121 (S. Hughes 4-20) (33.5 overs)

**By 27 runs**

**FoW:** - 1- 1 (T. Robertson); 2-7 (J. Murtha); 3-11 (L. Volkov); 4-74 (G. O'Shea); 5-88 (J. Dupaquier-Green); 6-128 (S. Hughes).

**The Bowling was:** - M. Goodchild 7-0-13-1; J. Dupaquier-Green 4-1-16-1; B. Hayes 4-1-8-2; S. Hughes 5-1-20-4; M. Henwood 3-0-21-0; J. Murtha 3-0-18-1; J. Hadley 5-0-13-1; G. O'Shea 2-0-9-0

**The Fielding was: -**

Stumpings: Nil

Catches: One to D. Hughes (w) and one to T. Robertson

Run outs: Nil

**Player Points (awarded by captain):** - Three points to J. Dupaquier-Green; 2 points to Soren Hughes 2; one point to M. Goodchild



**CITY & SUBURBAN JACK PACE MEMORIAL SHIELD ROUND 5 v ST GEORGE VETERANS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER 2020**

Cancelled because of Covid 19

**CITY & SUBURBAN ROUND 5 v SYDNEY UNIVERSITY LIONS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 10 JANUARY 2021: REPORT BY SOREN HUGHES**

It had been a while since we won a toss and Tom Robertson, captain on the day in the absence of Jim Hadley, sought advice from Ed Smith, who happened to be inspecting the pitch, about what we might do. With a chorus of "bat" we were on our way in comfortable conditions on a hard crusted pitch with a good cover of green grass closest to the fig trees.

Sydney University Lions pre game pep talk seemed to focus on bowling to the long boundary and Curtis Murray and Mike Pinter soon had carefully negotiated past the opening bowlers, albeit with not too many runs. A solid foundation for us. Before long we were at drinks for about 60. A brief and aggressive foray from Harry Bridge and Lenny Volkov soon brought Scott Williams and Jamie Murtha to the crease for a partnership that lifted us to 110 odd with not many overs to go. Before long Tom Robertson and Ed Smith batted out the final overs quite successfully, with the red ball flying over and into the boundary fence regularly. We had set a competitive total at 9-166 from our 35 overs.

The plan for our bowlers was much the same as the Lions; a fourth stump line from the Australia Street end and to hit leg stump from the RPA end. On debut, 'Roop' Singh bowled his heart out in his first match for the club, hitting a yorker length like there was no other option and Scott Williams hitting his usual line with variable length to great success. The first change gave Soren Hughes another hat trick opportunity not taken. Jed Wesley-Smith and Ezekiel Hughes then took over, both bowling effectively and creating chances, Ezekiel racking up 3 wickets from his seven overs. By the time Jamie Murtha came on, the pressure was on Sydney and he was good enough to capitalise with a couple more wickets and take the game with 3 overs to spare.

Sydney all out for 126 and our impeccable C&S record to date this season in non competitive games, (I.e. outside the Jack Pace games) intact - the Bill Wray Shield screaming from a dusty cabinet somewhere calling for us to polish it and take it to Camperdown for the 2020/2021 season.

*(Editor's note: The W B Wray Shield was awarded on a quotient basis to the best team in the competition during the 1980s. The C&SCA discontinued it in 1990 on the basis "it was contrary to the traditional social spirit in which our cricket was meant to be played". The shield has been lost despite the efforts of the current secretary Brian Breakspear to trace it)*

I guess we may have to settle for the President's Cup once again - no offence Prez.

**The Team was (playing 12):** - Curtis Murray (w) 20, Mike Pinter 11, Harry Bridge 10, Len Volkov 3, Scott Williams 38. Jamie Murtha 19, Soren Hughes 8, Tom Robertson (c) 24\*, Ezekiel Hughes 0, Ed Smith 15, R Singh 4\*, Jed Wesley-Smith dnb

**The Result was:-**

**C.C.N.S.W.:** - 9-166 (S. Williams 38) (35 overs)

**Defeated**

**Sydney University Lions:** - 10-126 (32.3 overs)

**By 40 runs**

**FoW:** - 1- 38 (C. Murray); 2-51 (M. Pinter); 3-51 (H. Bridge); 4-65 (L. Volkov); 5-112 (S. Williams); 6-112 (J. Murtha); 7-122 (S. Hughes); 8-122 (E. Hughes); 9-159 (E. Smith)

**The Bowling was:** - S. Williams 4-2-11-0, R. Singh 7-1-19-1, S. Hughes 6.3-0-26-3, J. Wesley-Smith 6-1-14-1, E. Hughes 7-0-34-3, J. Murtha 3-0-20-2

**The Fielding was:-**

Stumpings: Nil

Catches: Three to C. Murray (w); One each to Ezekiel Hughes and Soren Hughes and two to sub (G. O'Shea)

Run outs: Nil

**Player Points (awarded by captain):** - Three points to S. Williams; Two points to E. Hughes; One point to J. Wesley-Smith

**CITY & SUBURBAN ROUND 6 v I ZINGARI (AUSTRALIA) AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 16 JANUARY 2021: REPORT BY SOREN HUGHES**

**The Robertson show**

Walking on the field on a gloriously comfortable day, the cool breeze consistent reminder of why many of us love cricket and the Australian summer. Gone were the thoughts of COVID, bushfires, floods and our JPS season past.

We had the choice of two pitches, Mr T. Robertson selecting the closest to the fig trees rather than the newer prepared pitch nearest the pavilion, probably to ensure his father Mr Rodger Robertson would not have a clear view of his batsmanship. We won the toss and Mr T. Robertson opened with his elder son Mr E. Robertson, with his younger son Mr I. Robertson umpiring from square leg. Yes, it was the Robertson show from there with Tom hitting one off his hips early as a sign of a longer innings. The Robertson Show put on 130 runs for the first wicket and we had all expected Ian Robertson and Rodger Robertson to fill out the batting order from there. Instead Harry Bridge made a golden and Mr Paul Nash 21 (his injured hand now back together) with Scott Williams, Curtis Murray and Soren Hughes filling out the remainder of the overs reach 5-200. The ball seemed to be stopping in the pitch for a split second, 'splatt', which made batting a little tricky and make 200 feel defensible.

From here we switched off entirely. We gifted the prolific IZA opener two or three chances (*Ed note: C. Manzie went on to score 105\* and take his season's C&S average to 119 from 3 completed innings (one run out)*) and we only bowled the right lines and lengths occasionally. Before long, IZAs had racked up 120 odd from 18 overs and it was going to be difficult to get back in the game from there with a much older ball scratched up on the sandy surface and with the pitch offering almost nothing to our bowlers. Mr I. Robertson had chimed in with a couple of wickets and Scotty Williams and Mr E Robertson took one a piece.

Despite 'Rodger's men' performing well, the rest of us had little to contribute to the Robertson show, apart from teasing Tom. Our poor record against IZAs remains firmly intact. Most were apprehensive, even fearful, of losing their spots in the fierce recruitment drive that could occur in the weeks ahead that may draft even more of the Robertson kin into our team in two weeks' time.

**The Team was:** - Edward Robertson 55, Tom Robertson (c) 83, Harry Bridge 0, Paul Nash 21, Scott Williams 8, Soren Hughes 20\*, Curtis Murray (w) 4\* , Ian Robertson dnb, Ezekiel Hughes dnb, Mark Henwood dnb, Len Volkov dnb

**The Result was:-**

**CCNSW: - 5-200 - (T. Robertson 83; Ed. Robertson 53) (35 overs)**

**Lost to**

**I Zingari (Australia): - 4-201 (29.3 overs)**

**By 6 wickets.**

**FoW:** - 1- 130 (E. Robertson); 2-130 (H. Bridge); 3-156 (T. Robertson); 4-168 (P. Nash); 5-175 (S. Williams).

**The Bowling was:** - Ian Robertson 7-0-45-2, S. Williams 8-0-56-1, E. Hughes 4-0-30-0, P. Nash 2-0-21-0, M. Henwood 3-0-21-0, Edward Robertson 4-0-24-1, H. Bridge 1-0-1-0, Tom Robertson 0.3-0-3-0

**The Fielding was: -**

Stumpings: Nil

Catches: One to C. Murray (w) and one to Tom Robertson

Run outs: Nil

**Player Points (awarded by captain):** - Three points to Tom Robertson; Two points to Edward Robertson; One point to Ian Robertson.

### **CITY & SUBURBAN ROUND 8 v OLD ALOYSIANS AT COLLEGE OVAL, WILLOUGHBY ON SUNDAY 31 JANUARY 2021**

Game cancelled by rain

### **CITY & SUBURBAN ROUND 9 v OLD ALOYSIANS AT ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE OVAL, NORTH WILLOUGHBY ON SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2021: REPORT BY SOREN HUGHES**

One of the more memorable days in CCNSW's 50 seasons of C&S history though for us, for all the wrong reasons! The Old Aloysian fixture has often been cancelled in previous seasons as it generally clashed with the date of the Jack Pace Quarter Finals when both teams were drawn v different oppositions. Till now we had made the Quarter Finals of the Jack Pace every season and OAs have been finalists the last 3 seasons. This season neither we (deservedly) or OAS (more controversially) made the Finals.

Most if not all of our C&S team had never played Old Aloysians at their home ground and had hopes of a mass capitulation by the home team akin to their performance in last season's JPS Final against I Zingari Australia (who are not a highly rated bowling side) when they were bowled out for 140.

Old Aloysians struggle to raise a side on Saturdays but can generally rely on assistance on Sundays from some OAs who play Grade on Saturdays. Based on his memory of playing us some seasons ago, their captain recalled CCNSW as a powerful C&S Team and paid us the honour of raising the strongest side he could, bringing in a number of OA Saturday grade players so they could make a game of it and not selecting some of his weaker players. As he commented later, he was surprised that he recognised almost none of our team.

The toss was won by Old Aloysians who initially chose to bowl, given the bowler friendly state of the wicket. However they shared with me that their batting side was exceptional, in particular with Tom Goh playing - he had already scored 255 v Barker Old Boys this season. Not a particularly big man Tom Goh is a professional golfer playing off a 2 handicap with great hand/eye

coordination, very fast hands but limited technique. He plays cricket with a golfer's driving technique and does not play grade where he might be found vulnerable.

Upon looking at the absence of grade cricket shirts among our group, the Old Aloysians became concerned that they would not be able to show their full batting potential if they bowled first and immediately revoked their decision to bowl and asked to bat instead. This situation is not covered in the Laws of Cricket but being a self umpired social game, I acceded to their request, with a plan to get them out cheaply.

Despite our best attempts to make use of the longer boundary, the other being ridiculously short, Matt Leong's first over went for a few and Scott Williams's first over went for a few more. Their first wicket fell at about 80 when Scott Williams bowled one through the North Sydney 3<sup>rd</sup>/4th grade opening batsman Mr. I. Merlehan on 35, (despite his averaging 7 in grade cricket this year) which brought Tom Goh to the wicket. First ball went well over cover for 4 and Tom was on his way to scoring 106\* retired at a personal strike rate of about 2 per ball and overall team run rate of about 10 per over, before his captain retired him with the total at 250 after about 25 overs. He had however been carelessly dropped on 96 and caught off a no ball shortly after. In the meantime the other opener Mr J. Leary (North Sydney 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade keeper/batsman) proceeded sedately to 96, copping some talk along the way for squeezing one to our keeper, Declan Thomas for which the bowler, George Arnold was well rewarded, courtesy of the OA's bench

The retirement allowed time for their later batsmen to have a go and their chief 'George sledger', their, captain Fudge Ashlan at No 7, had time to make 50\* but not before we took a wicket or two, dismissing two of their middle order batsmen for ducks (include Tom Goh's brother!). Scott Williams first set us in motion in his second spell and George Arnold and Luke Holman strolled through a seemingly shaky middle order with ambitions to accelerate the home team to 500. While a rather large total, it seemed a decent result to have held them back to 320 after 35 –only just over 9 an over needed! Time for one or three of our batsmen to make a big score.

To keep it brief, the CCNSW batsmen never really settled with most of the top order getting a start but not taking it any further. Scott Williams belted one over the fence onto and over Eastern Valley Way (revenge is sweet) and George Arnold hit some decent cricket shots to keep the dream alive. The fabled capitulation was however for us. The lower order was soon reversed by our "sacrificial lamb" captain, with the lads holding out to the last ball. With 221 to win required from the final ball of the innings, only pure idiocy could have given us the 32 no ball sixes we required. The LBW golden duck that followed probably summed up the day, albeit a pleasant one should you be able to stomach the result without feeling embarrassed.

Given his technique, the OAs captain commented after the game to our honourable secretary that Tom Goh frequently gets out in single figures, just like our Tom. Must be in the name. With the benefit of hindsight, had we have removed their top 3 batsman early in their innings, we might have been looking at chasing down 65 or less (assuming the Old Aloysian team made their average of 5 or 6 as usual) but then they would possibly have batted differently. We will never now. Something to think about.

*(Editor's note: CCNSW has in the past won in the C&S by greater margins than we lost today; have to take the rough with the smooth)*

**The Team was:** - Paul Nash 5, Declan Thomas (w) 12, Tom Robertson 10, Scott Williams 19, Matt Leong 11, George Arnold 25, Harry Bridge 1, Morley Goodchild 7, Len Volkov 2, Luke Holman 1\*, Soren Hughes (c) 0

**The Result was:-**

**Old Aloysians: - 6-320** (35 overs)

**Defeated**

**CCNSW: - 10-100** (35 overs)

## By 220 runs

**FoW:- (OAs)-** 1-63 (I. Merlehan); 2-215 (J. Leary); 3-232 (C. Weber); 250 (T. Goh retired no); 4-250 (D. Goh; 5-250 (T. Sidgreaves); 6-253 (A. Murray)

**FoW: - (CCNSW) -** 1-7 (P. Nash); 2-30 (T. Robertson); 3-44 (D. Thomas); 4-51 (S. Williams); 5-79 (M. Leong); 6-86 (H. Bridge); 7-96 (G. Arnold); 8-98 (L. Volkov); 9-100 (M. Goodchild); 10-100 (S. Hughes)

**The Bowling was: -** M. Goodchild 5-0-39-0, S. Williams 7-0-47-2, M. Leong 3-0-36-0, S. Hughes 3-0-21-0, P. Nash 4-0-51-0, H. Bridge 3-0-31-0, L. Holman 6-0-65-3, G. Arnold 4-0-28-1

**The Fielding was: -**

Stumpings: Nil

Catches: One to D. Thomas (w)

Run outs: Nil

**Player Points (awarded by captain): -** Three points to S. Williams; Two points to G. Arnold; One point to L. Holman.

## **CITY & SUBURBAN ROUND 10 v NONDESCRIPTS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2021**

Match cancelled because of rain.

## **CITY & SUBURBAN ROUND 13 v HUNTERS HILL AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2021: REPORT BY SOREN HUGHES**

From the moment the team was announced, but probably more so from the moment our opposition was announced, we were all reasonably confident that we would take this one by the horns and shower in the glory of a big victory. It was a must win toss. The only credible option against Hunters Hill was to bat, put a large total on the board and get them out early.

Jim Hadley was back from a break too and it was good to have him around to lead the team. He rewarded us by sending us in to bat. Tom Robertson was elected No.1 in the scorebook quicker than a fat guy at a hot pizza and smartly chopped out 15 from five balls. George, not wanting to be left behind, smoked the next ball to cover and was out caught for 5. Tom continued briefly however found the same fielder, out caught for 26 and remarked "*it's us versus the pitch here*" on his way to the pavilion.

This brought our old blokes (*Ed note: both in their fifties*) to the centre, Craig Kitson and Paul Nash, who went about jogging singles in the sun for a time. The singles soon became twos and threes and 'Kitso' had accelerated to 40 odd in a very gracious and unassuming manner. The partnership continued along past drinks with Mr Nash swatting the occasional UFO floating past his neck. Kitso and Nash continued running twos and threes with now the odd four thrown in and we fired up the defibrillator, with both now tanned to an unusual purplish colour in the heat and the pressure gauge indicating they might boil over at any minute. In true form, both men continued the onslaught with shots played in every direction all around the ground and Hunters Hill having no answers to the batting exhibition put on by our old blokes, Kitso now timing almost everything for four. With four odd overs to go, Kitso got himself through the 90s up to 100 in fine style with a couple of fours and a two: a fine innings. Mr Nash was unlucky to have run out of time to bag himself a 100, however was unbeaten on 68\* in a classic C&S partnership of nearly 200 runs. After Kitso unselfishly hit one to the fielder at long on, Scott Williams came in and the score mounted by 10 from five balls (including extras) and we had scored 3- 227 with 7 wickets left in the shed.

Chasing down 228 was always going to be tough for Hunters Hill v our battery of 5 fast bowlers at hand. Soren Hughes opened with Morley Goodchild and despite an attempt at a fast start by the Hunters Hill openers, Morley and Soren bagged 2 each and they were 4-43 after eight overs. Perhaps they were hoping for a first change combination with less menace and pace. However the Robertson boys (Ed and Ian) ripped in to the middle order with figures of 1 for 4 (Ian) and 2 for 3 (Ed) over the next eight overs. From here, the medium pace of Scott Williams and the flighted slow odd spin of Mark Henwood terrified the tail, Mark knocking off the tail in 1.2 overs, picking up two wickets for just one run to dismiss Hunters Hill for 55 in the seventeenth over.

A memorable day out for us and Jim Hadley must have been pleased with his return. After a few months of hardship, perhaps we are back to form. If only JPS started next week!

**The Team was (playing 12):** - Tom Robertson 26, George Arnold 5, Craig Kitson 100, Paul Nash 68\*, Scott Williams 4\*, Edward Robertson dnb, Mike Weaver (w) dnb, Jim Hadley (c) dnb, Soren Hughes dnb, Ian Robertson dnb, M. Goodchild dnb, Mark Henwood dnb

**The Result was:-**

**CCNSW: - 3-227 (C. Kitson 100; P. Nash 68\*) (35 overs)**

**Defeated**

**Hunters Hill: - 10-55 (16.2 overs)**

**By 172 runs**

**FoW: - 1- 24 (G. Arnold); 2-32 (T. Robertson); 3-216 (C. Kitson)**

**The Bowling was: - S. Hughes 4-0-23-2; M. Goodchild 5-0-22-2; Ian Robertson 4-1-4-1; Edward Robertson 3-2-3-2; M. Henwood 1.2-0-1-2; S. Williams 1-1-0-1**

**The Fielding was: -**

Stumpings: Nil

Catches: 3 to M. Weaver (w); one each to Edward Robertson and Tom Robertson

Run outs: Nil

**Player Points (awarded by captain): - Three points to C. Kitson; Two points to M. Goodchild; One point to P. Nash.**

### **CITY & SUBURBAN ROUND 15 v REG BARTLEY XI AT REG BARTLEY OVAL, RUSHCUTTERS BAY ON SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2021**

Whether the weather would have allowed this game to proceed will remain academic but it was cancelled not by weather but by confusion as to whether it was to be played on the Saturday or Sunday and at which ground which led to neither Camperdown or Rushcutters Bay being available.

Tom Robertson in consultation with Ian Allmey is seeing if it may be possible to raise a side for a possible late March date (NB This did not happen)

### **CITY & SUBURBAN ROUND 16 v BEAVERS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, ON SUNDAY 7 MARCH 2021: REPORT BY MARK HENWOOD**

If you're driving through Wollie Creek, you might notice a bus station in front of Woolies. It's a functional modern bus station, but it has a pleasing aspect. Sitting on the bench, one can gaze through the blur of six lanes of traffic and the greenery of Cahill Park, towards the Cooks River.

It's a quasi-idyllic scene. I was enjoying this aspect in the morning sunshine when a voice hailed me from the road.

I jumped, and in a rapid quarter hour was soaking in the ambience of Camperdown Park, together with a soothing flat white from Gather on the Green. The park was indeed green, and the team began to gather, including Morley Goodchild in an iconic brown 'Steely Dan' tee. The covers were neatly folded in a way Ed Smith would've been proud to see had he arrived earlier than 2 min. before match time.

Our illustrious skipper, Jimmy Hadley, strolled out wanting to bowl on a pitch that was hard and a healthy shade of green. The recent precipitations had left the whole park looking green, even the usually sandy perimeter had an ominous four blocking look. Immediately though we were batting, and Tommy Robertson was unscrewing his dilapidated kitbag to access his batting pads. Those pads would be put to fine use in his lengthy stay at the crease. The sun shone warmly as the Beavers, pink striped and pink capped, scattered across the field. The sky was just that shade of blue that NSW puts on for special occasions. Robertson (85) and debutant, Peter Constantinou, strode out to commence our innings. Constantinou (0) returned rapidly for an unlucky two-baller, which brought young Declan Thomas (17) to the crease. From here things began to develop, spurred on by Robertson peppering deep square and greedily taking 18 off an over.

After Thomas, came Matt Leong (14), and after him came Jamie Murtha (11), all providing balance to their partnerships with Robertson and pushing the score along. At the other end Robertson was struggling to middle it with his front pad, but trying his best not to run his partner out. When Murtha skied one (possibly he was out another way but I imagine he skied one), Soren Hughes (26) strode out to the middle. Hughes was wound up and ready to swing away. He did too, while also watching Robertson and then Lenny Volkov (0) depart. That bought out the skipper, Hadley (22\*), for a few choice lusty blows. The scoring rate blossomed, and it was only in the final few overs that Smith (4) and Goodchild (0\*) made entertaining cameos. The final score 186 runs for 8 wickets down after our 35 overs.

In these Covid times, each man looks to himself for sustenance, and sadly, the once-famous afternoon teas are but a distant memory. Remember those home-made sausage rolls or pickle sandwiches with real cheese? Somehow, in spite of these troubled times, the team steadied itself, confident in the bowling attack waiting to be unleashed. Perhaps our morale was boosted by the 'Prez' Greg Brooks in attendance on the sidelines.

Smith (7-1-39-2) and Goodchild (7-0-22-1) opened up with the fresh red cherry. There was only one over where Smith took some tap over cow from one of the finest Maharajan moustaches to grace Camperdown Park. It was quality bowling though, well supported in the field. Runs dried up, pressure built,. Smith got his man caught on the run by Leong at cow, and then Hughes took a blinder at gully, all reflexes, to dismiss the danger man off Goodchild. Enter Leong (5-0-15-0) and Hughes (4-0-21-1), and the pressure kept on. The RRR was building nicely into sevens and eights.

Spin was introduced at the climax of the innings. Match pressure told as Hadley (2-0-15-1) immediately struck with a bowled, clean through an agricultural attempted hoick. Meanwhile, from the RPA end, Henwood (3.4-0-19-5) was on his way to a 22 ball honours board spell. Credit to Weaver for his Monday night nets. The first fell to a rank long-hop outside leg that deceived the batsman for pace and looped off the back of the bat to give the keeper the easiest of catches. This was followed immediately by a flighted delivery that the new batsman on the charge could only chip out to Leong for another running catch in the deep. Only a shaky forward defence saw off the hat-trick ball.

The RRR went up another notch, and the lower order was forced to bristle with aggression. So it was no surprise an over later another charge had the batsman playing all around the ball, as he didn't get fully to the pitch, and the top of the leg bail was dislodged. It was only an umpire's call impact, but sometimes that's all it takes.

Panic had truly set in amongst the Beavers tail, and with quick runs needed they tried to hit out. Revs on the ball - credit to Curtis Leigh Murray - were now causing late dip, and a brace of

stumpings followed off desperate running swings as Thomas showed quick work behind the stumps. It should be noted that at the other end during this mayhem Murtha (2-0-20-0) was unlucky to have a lolly grassed by mid-on in his tidy spell. So the game was over in a flash, with Beavers a few dozen runs behind with five to go.

A few beverages in the evening followed as the side celebrated a comprehensive win. Aside from the cricket, the Prez was most impressed by Goodchild's chosen attire, and conversation easily drifted into concerts attended.

**The Team was:** - Tom Robertson 85, Peter Constantinou 0, Declan Thomas (w) 17, Matt Leong 14, James Murtha 11, Soren Hughes 26, Len Volkov 0, Jim Hadley (c) 22\* , Ed Smith 4, Morley Goodchild 0\*, Mark Henwood dnb

**The Result was:-**

**CCNSW: - 8-186 (T. Robertson 85) (35 overs)**

**Defeated**

**Beavers CC: - 10-156 (M. Henwood 5-19) (30.4 overs)**

**By 30 runs**

**FoW:** - 1-1 (P. Constantinou); 2-58 (D. Thomas); 3-85 (M. Leong); 4-118 (J. Murtha); 5-138 (T. Robertson); 6-140 (L. Volkov); 7-177 (S. Hughes); 8-181 (E. Smith).

**The Bowling was:** - E. Smith 7-1-39-2; M. Goodchild 7-0-22-1; M. Leong 5-0-15-0; S. Hughes 4-0-21-1; J. Hadley 2-0-15-1; M. Henwood 3.4-0-19-5; J. Murtha 2-0-20-0

**The Fielding was: -**

Stumpings: - Two to D Thomas

Catches: - 2 catches to M. Leong; One each to D. Thomas (w) and to S. Hughes

Run outs: - Nil

**Player Points (awarded by captain):** - Three points to T. Robertson; Two points to M. Henwood; One point to S. Hughes.

### **CITY & SUBURBAN ROUND 16 v PADDINGTON AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 13 MARCH 2021: REPORT BY TOM ROBERTSON**

This week the true hero was Michael Weaver. (*Editors note: not playing in this game*) Without his efforts this game would not have gone ahead. 'Weaves' jumped in his car on Thursday night and drove to Camperdown from Gosford to help get the covers on in the nick of time. Legend.

The covers did their job and Paddington kindly allowed us to bat. We opened with Curtis Murray and Edward Robertson. Off to a steady start on what looked like a wicket where it was hard to get going. Curtis fell first being fired LBW by Tom Robertson who is renowned as a trigger finger when you are not a blood relative.

Scott Williams came and went but kept his strike rate intact (200). Edward and Paul Nash then built a partnership but the run rate was not to the crowd's liking. Edward just could not put the foot to the accelerator. Nash departed which brought Soren Hughes to the crease. He is 'Mr Accelerator' so we knew the right man was on the job. 'Sooz' hit some flat sixes giving us a total to defend (an innings that would prove the difference between the two teams).



Morley Goodchild and Ian Robertson took the new ball. Both challenged the unorthodox openers. Morley struck first and it felt like the game was in control but with no wickets falling. Scott Williams came on and bowled with heat. They couldn't get him away until his last over. Peter Constantinou came on and bowled a great line and length. He was very hard to get away and there were many chances that lobbed in between fielders. With only four wickets down, it seemed Paddington still played with the idea that they could not win. Their fifth and sixth batsmen were however somewhat better and got them within 10 runs in the end.

We really need to finish these games better and only getting 4 wickets is something we need to do better next year.

A good day had by all except for one player in the opposition who was angry from the first ball . He even ensured his players (though he was not captain btw) would not touch the sight screens when our batsmen asked if they could move them. Very strange! When I asked why he thought this necessary, he replied, *"It's not for us to do"*. I said it was social cricket and every other fielding team did this for the opposition. He replied *"Oh, you must think we are assholes"*. He then continued to cuss at every one of our players who batted or umpired.

**The Team was:** - Curtis Murray (w) 18, Edward Robertson 64, Scott Williams 8, Paul Nash 30, Soren Hughes 48\*, Peter Constantinou 0\*, Harry Bridge dnb, Jim Hadley (c) dnb, Morley Goodchild dnb, Ian Robertson dnb, Tom Robertson dnb

**The Result was:-**

**CCNSW: - 4-179 (Edward Robertson 64) (35 overs)**

**Defeated**

**Paddington CC: - 4-169 (35 overs)**

**By 10 runs**

**FoW:** - 1- 42 (C. Murray); 2-52 (S. Williams); 3-101 (P. Nash); 4-163 (E. Robertson).

**The Bowling was:** - M. Goodchild 7-0-22-1; Ian Robertson 8-0-35-0, P. Constantinou 4-0-8-0; S. Williams 5-2-15-1; H. Bridge 4-0-19-0; S. Hughes 3-0-13-1; J. Hadley 2-0-13-1; Edward Robertson 2-0-19-0; Tom Robertson 1-0-8-0

**The Fielding was: -**

Stumpings: Nil

Catches: One to H. Bridge and one to S. Williams

Run outs: Nil

**Player Points (awarded by captain):** - Three points to Edward Robertson; Two points to P. Nash; One point to S. Hughes.

### **CITY & SUBURBAN ROUND 17 v PRIMARY CLUB AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 20 MARCH 2021**

Cancelled by rain.

This is the fourth successive season our C&S game in March v The Primary Club has been cancelled on this weekend- 3 times because of rain and the 4<sup>th</sup> time by Covid 19

**CITY & SUBURBAN ROUND 18 v BEAVERS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL,  
CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 27 MARCH 2021: REPORT BY MARK  
HENWOOD**

**Farewell, My Lovely (For Another Season).**

The kerb outside 'Gather on the Green' was murmuring. I was in a club blazer, clean shaved and sober, and I didn't care who knew it. Camperdown was stumbling for a coffee under four bucks. Recent rain hadn't cleaned it much, just smeared things around. It seemed like a nice neighborhood to have bad habits in. Flat white, small, \$3.50. I breathed it in while glancing over at the clubhouse. A few cricketers were mulling around their kitbags. The sky had puffy white clouds straight out of a postcard. The field looked about as green as a pub on St Pats. It was after midday, but there was just time. I took the scenic route past the pitch. Soft and fractured, with the upper layer just starting to peel away in places. The pitch was worth a stare. It was trouble.

Skipper Jim Hadley was out, a late scratching. Ian Robertson was nowhere. His five minutes away felt like a full half hour before he ran out to field later. By then Curtis Murray lost the toss and CCNSW was fielding.

Morely Goodchild took the new red pill. He was sweating out his third beer from last night on King Street, but holding up fine. The sun started burning a hole in the back of my neck. The ball was talking though, in soft whispers. The opener kissed one. Just a peck on the cheek, but enough for Murray to clutch at. Sometimes they stick, and this stuck in his right glove about two inches in front of Paul Nash's nose. Nash hadn't moved. At the other end, Scott Williams was keeping it full. Somehow the ball kept missing. Missing the bat, missing the sticks.

A few more early wickets with catches going to hand? That's what I'd have liked. You and me have both lived too long to think it likely to happen. They should, but not in this competition, not in any club half our size, not in any part of this lazy, sleeping state of NSW. Things just don't run that way. So it happened that when Murray called Soren Hughes in to replace Williams, there were a couple of return catches bouncing off his hands. Then Murray juggled one all the way to the grass off Ian Robertson. Nothing doing. No runs, no wickets.

Enter Craig Kitson. He shook up the game like a dirty martini. A flurry of boundaries and loopy no balls above the waist. One ball remaining and another full toss drew a miss-hit. The ball lazily floated back for a diving take. C&B Kitson. Drinks. I could have had a pleasant conversation with a dirty martini. 74/2.

Ian Robertson and Kitson struck twice straight after drinks. Leg before for Robertson. The batsman gestured wistfully. Such a lot of batsmen around town and so few brains. Then off Kitson a loopy hoick to mid-W. We thought it was no chance. Williams made it though. Probably the catch of the season, a magical one hander, after a long run from deep under the trees. Those two overs from Kitson were the game in the game.

More changes. Nash replacing Hughes and Mark Henwood replacing Ian Robertson. The Beavers innings stalled as 5 went down for not much. The pitch kept things low and slow. There were a few wild swings, and Nash picked up a few bowleds. I noticed the pitch had a nice slant to it. You could drop the ball outside off and it would drift in towards middle without much persuasion. I snuck a couple past the bat for a LB and a bowled. Tom Robertson came on for one over and took a C&B to close out the innings. 132 all out off 32.

We were confident. Couple o' weeks ago we made 186 against this team. There is no trap as deadly as the trap you set for yourself. Complacency laughed around the team. Tom Robertson and Kitson went out to open. Robertson hit a few to deep square. Things were moving. Bang! Kitson LBW a full pace down the wicket. It was a trigger call. A decision to make a bishop kick a hole in a stained-glass window. Simon James got a start but chipped at one and was caught. Nash followed and was batting nicely. Then he played all around one. Bowled. Partnerships mean everything, and we were only getting them in miniature. 68/3.

Enter Williams for a quick fire innings. The scoring jumped. Timing, placement, and some brutal hitting. Beavers introduced the spinner. A tall, solid bowler with a jerky action. More runs. Then after hitting a glorious straight four, Williams popped back a catch. Tom Robertson and Len Volkov soon followed. 100/6. I knew one thing: as soon as anyone said it was going to be easy, it would be all hard work. Hughes and Murray started a partnership, slowly chipping away at the runs required. There were overs to spare, but it was playing low and slow. Scoring wasn't easy. Murray played all round one trying to get some momentum. The spinner had 4.

I needed a drink, I needed life insurance, I needed a vacation, I needed a home in the country. What I had was gloves and pads, a helmet and a bat. I put them on and went out to bat. On this pitch everything was keeping low and tracing into middle 'n' off. Solid defence. Hughes hit out against the spinner for a couple of boundaries. Patience, plenty of overs. Only 8 runs needed. Change of bowler. Hughes went for the big drive. Castled. Suddenly nerves were evident. A couple of crows had an argument in the trees down at cow. Goodchild flicked a couple of deliveries for runs fine. 4 needed. Fist punch between overs, we still had this.

A leg side delivery flicked my pad before trickling down leg. Hearty appeal. James is as honest as you can expect a man to be in a world where it's going out of style. Not out. The bowler was thinking though. I could see, even on that short acquaintance, that thinking was always going to be a bother to him. Bad call, he thought. Defence. Defence. Crack! One jagged back just above shin height. Bowled. Good batsman don't get bowled. I felt as hollow and empty as the spaces between stars.

Still 4 needed. Plenty of overs. Thwack! Dead in front, Robertson LB! Grimaces on the sidelines. 129 all out off 28. Murray took a long pull on his vaper. Common sense is the guy who tells you that you ought to have had your brakes relined last week before you smashed a front end this week. Common sense is the Monday morning quarterback who could have won the ball game if he had been on the team. But he never is. He's high up in the stands with a flask on his hip. I could've used a hip flask just then, but Covid-reduced hours weren't even keeping me in bourbon. Close losses like this are heavier than broken hearts.

My wife arrived and gave me a smile I could feel in my hip pocket. I eased out quietly without a proper farewell to the season. The French have a phrase for it. The bastards have a phrase for everything, and they are always right. To say goodbye is to die a little.

**(In the style of Raymond Chandler,)**

**The Team was:** - Tom Robertson 51, Craig Kitson 3, Simon James 6, Paul Nash 10, Scott Williams 17, Len Volkov 2, Soren Hughes 23, Curtis Murray (c) and (w) 6, Mark Henwood 0, Morley Goodchild 4\*, Ian Robertson 0

**The Result was:-**

**Lost to**

**Beavers CC: - 10- 132 (32 overs)**

**Defeated**

**CCNSW: - 10-129 (T. Robertson 51) (28 overs)**

**By 3 runs**

**FoW:** 1-18 (C. Kitson); 2-36 (S. James); 3-68 (P. Nash); 4-91 (S. Williams); 5-92 (T. Robertson); 6-100 (L. Volkov); 7-114 (C. Murray); 8-125 (S. Hughes); 9-129 (M. Henwood); 10-129 (I. Robertson);

**The Bowling was:** - M. Goodchild 5-0-16-1; S. Williams 4-2-4-0; S. Hughes 4-0-21-0; Ian Robertson 7-1-33-1, C. Kitson 2-0-25-2; P. Nash 5-0-16-3, M. Henwood 4-0-14-2, Tom Robertson 1-0-1-1

**The Fielding was: -**

Stumpings: Nil

Catches: One to each of C. Kitson, C. Murray (w), T. Robertson and S. Williams

Run outs: Nil

**Player Points (awarded by captain):** - Three points to S. Williams; Two points to P. Nash; One point to T. Robertson