

**CITY & SUBURBAN ROUND 1 v YARALLA AT GODDARD PARK, CONCORD:  
ROUND 1 ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 12, 2013: REPORT BY ED SMITH**

The team was greeted by a beautiful sunny day, a hard true wicket and a lightning quick outfield for its first game of the season. Before a ball was bowled, however, we all put on black arm bands and Steve Taylor lead us in a minute's silence for Greg Brooks' mum, Faye, who sadly passed away the previous week. Faye raised Brooksy, his twin brother Tony and her two daughters, Vicky and Deb, almost single handedly and was largely responsible for the man Brooksy is today – she did all this while maintaining a golf handicap in the teens and a golf membership for over 50 years at Royal Canberra!. Vale our First Mum.

Yaralla won the toss and correctly chose to bat on a belter. Ed Smith (10 overs 2 for 40) and Peter Burruma (11 overs 4 for 60) opened up and bowled tightly in tandem for fourteen overs. Peter took all three wickets and Yaralla were 3 for 53 after 14 overs with many of their good batsmen out of the way. A double bowling change saw Peter Crooks (6 overs 0 for 25) and Paul Nash (6 overs 1 for 28) take the nut and they too bowled tightly on this dream batting track. The highlight of this bowling partnership was Matty Gale coming up to the stumps to Paul's medium pacers and beautifully stumping their opening batsman N. Ross for a well compiled 55.

Club debutant, Euan Robertson (1 over 0 for 13), was introduced into the attack just as Yaralla had decided to open their shoulders and a quick experiment with Derek Taylor's (1 over 0 for 10) leg spin didn't manage to stem an accelerating Yaralla. From 4 for 145 at the 30 over mark and a recent run rate surging towards 9 an over, Buruma and Smith were re-introduced into the attack. The last 5 overs saw wickets falling as regularly as a Peter Crooks attempted catch and a slick direct hit run out from Matt Abeysekera helped us contain Yaralla to 8 for 179 off their allotted 35 overs on a pitch and outfield that was worth about 220.

It was now our turn to enjoy the great batting track and we opened up with the big hitting Ian Allmey (who was due on this ground given his 3 consecutive golden ducks in the last 3 years on it) and Dave Stingl who was hot off his maiden century on the England tour. At the break, Captain Smith addressed the team noting that if Stingl, Allmey and first drop, Tommy Robertson, fire up on that wicket today, this game could be all over in 20 overs. As it was, they did fire up but it took them 21.3 overs instead!

After Dave missed out caught behind for 4 (off 7 balls) in the fourth over, Carrot head Robertson joined Allmey with his score on 9 off 8 balls. Over the next 109 balls, this big hitting pair put on 168 runs including 26 fours (13 each) and 4 sixes (2 each). Allmey finished on 79\* off 59 balls, clearly out-batting his red headed partner, Tommy, who finished with a disappointing 92\* off 58 balls.

For about 6 seasons now the C&S team has been building much of its batting success on the big hitting of *either* Allmey or the Flaming Fanta Pants Robertson. But this is the first time in my memory that the two have combined their super powers in such a big partnership – and what an amazing partnership it was. It certainly sets a high benchmark for the rest of the season.

Yaralla CC took the convincing defeat very well and brought 2 six packs into our shed afterwards. We shared a beer and a laugh with Yaralla and in particular with their colourful scorer, Barry Ross, whose two sons (Captain David (35 runs) and the opener, N Ross, with 55) contributed over half of Yaralla's score that day.

**The Team (with batting) was:** - Ian Allmey (79\* off 59), David Stingl (4 off 7), Tom Robertson (92\* off 58), Paul Nash dnb, Matt Abeysekera dnb, Derek Taylor dnb, Euan Robertson dnb, Peter Buruma dnb, Matt Gale (w) dnb, Peter Crooks dnb and Ed Smith (c.) dnb

**The Result was:** -

**Yaralla C.C.:** - 8 for 179 (P. Buruma 4-60) (35 Overs)

**Was defeated by**

**C.C.N.S.W.:** - 1 for 182 (T. Robertson 92\*; I. Allmey 79\*) (21.3 overs)

**By 9 wickets.**

**The Bowling was:** - E. Smith 10-1-40-2, P Buruma 11-0-60-4, P. Crooks 6-0-25-0, P. Nash 6-0-28-1, E. Robertson 1-0-13-0 and D. Taylor 1-0-10-0.

**The Fielding was:** - P. Buruma 1 catch, M. Gale 1 stumping, M. Abeysekera 1 run out, (P. Crooks 2 dropped catches including a sitter off the captain's bowling.)

## **CITY & SUBURBAN ROUND 2 v ST GEORGE VETERANS AT CAMPERDOWN PARK, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 19, 2013: REPORT BY ED SMITH**

It was late October and the C&S team was finally playing its first home match at our beloved Camperdown Oval. Our groundsman, John Lee, had done a great job producing a beautiful centre wicket with a lightning quick outfield and not a patch of sand in site, most unusual given all the rugby that got played on the oval over winter.

This was definitely going to be a batting wicket and so it was, with no hesitation, that St George Veterans chose to bat first when we lost our second toss for the season. Despite being one of the older teams in the City and Suburban, St George often boast a strong and experienced batting line up and today was no exception. Ed Smith (9 overs 1 for 48) opened the bowling with Peter Crooks (5 overs 2 for 16) and the two of them kept things tight, finally frustrating the opening batsmen in the 6<sup>th</sup> over when one of them lashed out at a wide one from Pete, only to snag a bottom edge and be superbly caught by a diving Brett Favell behind the stumps. The other opener then skied a cover drive four balls later and was well caught by Connor Benfield running backwards. 2 for 21 after 6 overs - advantage to the Cricketers' Club.

2 for 21 became 3 for 49 when Ed struck their 2<sup>nd</sup> drop plumb in front; however the game had taken a turn in favour of St George as their powerful first drop batsman, P. Weatherill was finding some good form on this very true track. With tight bowling from Paul Nash (6 overs 0 for 27) into the breeze, last week's destroyer, Peter Buruma (9 overs 4 for 55) was brought on with the wind behind him and, after striking once in his second over with St George now on 4 for 70 after 15 overs, Pete bowled the over of the day in his fifth, and our 21<sup>st</sup>, when he claimed the vital wicket of Weatherill and their captain, Dean Reus, in consecutive balls – both bowled.

From 6 for 101, St George struggled to 8 for 132 as Buruma and Connor Benfield (6 overs 1 for 38) each struck. However, their big hitting number 6 (Barden, 65\*) had got his eye in and was making the most of the brilliant batting conditions while being joined by a 14 year old wonder bat (C. Weatherill) and between them they batted beautifully to put on 56 runs in the final 8 overs to finish on 8 for 188 off their 55 overs.

After a fine arvo tea of ham rolls lovingly prepared by Greg Brooks, Ian Allmey and David Stingl went out to try their luck on the Camperdown highway. Ten runs off the first over and 15 runs off the next was an omen of things to come. Powerful hitting from the pair saw us reach our first 50 in only 34 balls! The 'All-Sting' power couple then seemed to take a breather as it took them a pedestrian 36 balls to bring up the second 50 as we found ourselves at 0 for 101 after 11.4 overs.

Allmey brought up his 50 first in just 39 balls (compared to 40 balls for last week's Allmey 50). Stingl meanwhile showed his partner that it could be done in only 33 balls, beating the Ranga Robertson's previous season best of 34 balls. The third 50 of the opening partnership was the fastest of the season so far, just 27 balls. Stingl fed Allmey the strike to help him get to his hundred and Allmey obliged, hitting 40 runs off his last 13 balls to bring his personal tally to 98 off just 59 balls. But just as we stood to clap his maiden century for the season, Allmey miscued a pull and the young Weatherill dived forward at full stretch to take a brilliant catch, thereby ending a brilliant 174 run opening partnership off just 18.8 overs (111 balls) – a new mark for the season.

Matt Abeysekera joined Stingl and slapped a beautiful cover drive into the outstretched left hand of their captain to unluckily fall for 1 run of 3 balls. 'Ronald McDonald' Tom Robertson then joined Stingl

to finish off the game scoring a very slow 6 runs off 3 balls while fortunately leaving Stingl to finish off the run chase with a 6 in just 20.3 overs (1 over less than last week) and finish off his personal tally at 69\* off 51 balls – all of them far more pretty to watch than the biff and bash of last week.

**The Team (with batting) was:** - Ian Allmey (98 off 59), David Stingl (69\* off 51), Matt Abeysekera (1 off 3), Tom Robertson (6\* off 3), Paul Nash dnb, Peter Buruma dnb, Matt Gale ((w - 17 overs) dnb, Brett Favell (w-18 overs) dnb, Connor Benfield dnb, Peter Crooks dnb and Ed Smith (c) dnb.

**The Result was:** -

**St George Veterans C.C.:** - 8 for 188 (P. Buruma 4-55) (35 Overs)

**Was defeated by**

**C.C.N.S.W.:** - 2 for 189 (I. Allmey 98; D. Stingl 69\*) (20.3 overs)

**By 8 wickets**

**The Bowling was:** - E. Smith 9-2-48-1; P. Buruma 9-0-55-4; P. Crooks 5-0-27-2, P. Nash 6-0-27-0, C. Benfield 6-0-38-1.

**The Fielding was:** - C. Benfield 1 catch, B. Favell 1 catch as (w), (M Gale 1 drop (as fieldsman))

#### **C&S ROUND 4 - JACK PACE v BEAVERS C.C. AT JUBILEE OVAL, GLEBE ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2013: REPORT BY ED SMITH**

Another beautiful day greeted us at the picturesque Jubilee Oval where we had arranged to play our second home game of the season as a result of our kind gesture to South Sydney Cricket Club which needed Camperdown for two consecutive Saturdays.

Ed Smith lost his third toss in a row and we were sent out into the field – and what a lush field it was! The grass had been newly laid over the winter and had not been mowed yet so boundaries were going to be hard to come by. To add to this thick outfield, the pitch had a fantastic crack running down the avenue of apprehension which was sure to make things exciting for the batsmen.

Ed (3 for 26 off 9) and Peter Crooks (0 for 17 off 5) started off with a maiden each and kept things tight such that, when Joe Scarcella took a casual one-handed catch above his head at mid-off to give Ed his first wicket, Beavers were only 1 for 28 after 9 overs. Joe (2 for 29 off 9 overs) then took up the reigns with Peter Buruma (2 for 23 off 9 overs) and continued the miserly start highlighted by a beautiful Buruma maiden over in which he beat the bat 6 times in a row. Pete then took an edge with his first ball of his next over and David Stingl, at second slip, stuck up a lightning quick right paw to parry it up in the air for long enough for himself to regain feeling in his hand and take the rebound catch. 2 for 43 after 17 overs.

In Buruma's following over, it was keeper Matt Gale's turn to take a blinder, diving full stretch to his right – 3 for 49. It was now Joe's turn to reap the rewards of a fine spell, first bowling Hammo Becher for 3 runs and then tempting Ben Shields to loft one over Dave Stingl at mid-on – only to see Stingl run backwards for about 30 metres and take a diving two hander at a ball coming over his right shoulder – the catch of the match in a tough field.

5 for 70 became 6 for 73 when Gale took his second catch and Buruma's third wicket. The Beavers then started to throw the bat around and Ed brought himself and Connor Benfield (0 for 20 off 3 overs) on to finish off the innings with a couple of wickets including Matt Gale's third catch – finishing off a brilliant day behind the stumps on a tricky wicket which sadly culminated with his only bye off the last ball of the innings.

Match manager Greg Brooks had brought snacks to the game in lieu of our normal arvo tea and we were still munching on bananas as Ian Allmey and Dave Stingl went out to commence the "All-Sting" attack. Crash! Bang! And we were none for 27 off four overs until Stingl was caught at point for 9 off

15 balls. Tommy Robertson (1 run) came in and scooped his fourth ball to mid-wicket. Uncertain if it was a bump ball, Tommy ignored Umpire Gale's decision and turned to square leg to see Umpire Buruma happily giving him out as well. Still not convinced he was out, Tommy accidentally stepped back on his stumps and removed all doubt. 2 for 32 off 5.3 overs.

Brett Favell finally got his chance to bat for the C&S team and put on a clever 35 run partnership on a tricky wicket until Allmey went aerial once too often and was well caught at long on for a quick fire 42 off just 27 balls – easily the best innings of the match. 3 for 67 became 4 for 72 when Brett was caught at point for a well compiled 13 off 27 balls and then Euan Robertson, after steadying the ship with Connor Benfield, was given out LBW - hit in front but well down the track.

At 5 for 81 off 17 overs, we needed a calming partnership and Peter Buruma provided that nicely with Connor Benfield, the latter hitting 30\* off just 29 balls as Buruma amassed 15\* off 26 balls. With four runs needed to win, Connor hit the first ball of the 26<sup>th</sup> over well clear of the cover boundary for a beautiful match winner.

A few of Stingl's beers from Greg Brooks' esky on Peter Crooks' ice we're shared in the sheds with the much improved Beavers team and we all went home happy with our second Jack Pace Shield win for the season and our 18<sup>th</sup> JPS match win in a row.

**The Team (with batting) was:** - Ian Allmey (42 off 27), David Stingl (9 off 15), Tom Robertson (1 off 4), Brett Favell (13 off 27), Connor Benfield (30\* off 29), Euan Robertson (1 off 13), Peter Buruma 15\* off 26), Matt Gale (w)-dnb, , Peter Crooks dnb, Joe Scarcella dnb and Ed Smith (c).dnb.

**The Result was: -**

**Beavers C.C.:** - 9 for 117 (E. Smith 3-26) (35 Overs)

**was defeated by**

**C.C.N.S.W.:** - 5 for 120 (I. Allmey 42; C. Benfield 30\*) (25.1 overs)

**By 5 wickets**

**The Bowling was:** - E. Smith 9-1-26-3, P. Crooks 5-1-17-0, P. Buruma 9-2-23-3, J. Scarcella 9-2-29-2, and C. Benfield 3-0-20-0.

**The Fielding was:** - M. Gale 3 catches as (w), D. Stingl 2 stunning catches, J. Scarcella 1 catch and I. Allmey 1 run out.

### **JACK PACE ROUND 5 v ST GEORGE VETERANS at CAHILL PARK ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2013**

Game cancelled by rain

### **C&S ROUND 6 v COLLEAGUES at CAMPERDOWN PARK, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23 , 2013**

Game cancelled by rain

## **JACK PACE ROUND 7 v v KINGS OLD BOYS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30 2013: REPORT BY ED SMITH**

After some heavy double covers work by the old firm of Brooks and Smith on Thursday, and with the help of the super-sopper, we were able to salvage our first home game since mid-October and only our second home game of the season at Camperdown.

Up against Kings Old Boys, the last team that beat us in the Jack Pace back in 2009 grand final, we made sure we had a strong team. Unfortunately, Kings were not able to pull together their normally strong full 11 and so they started the match with only 9 players. On the flip side for Kings, however, Ed managed to keep his perfect season record alive by losing his fifth consecutive toss and we were sent into the field on a drying green top.

Opening the bowling with C&S debutant, Shane Peterson, Ed (3 overs- 2 for 3) managed to grab the first wicket with the 4<sup>th</sup> ball of the day, easily caught by the crocodile claws of Tommy Robertson at mid-on despite the batsman announcing mid-flight "Don't worry, he'll drop this". Tommy's renown is spreading. We're just happy Tommy didn't break his finger this time. Shane (4 overs- 2 for 8) then took the important wicket of Brenton Gadsby, caught behind nicely by Matt Gale for only 2 runs.

Ed replied with a wicket maiden when he claimed the other opener LBW in our 5<sup>th</sup> over and 3 for 8 then became 4 for 12 after just 6 overs when Shane took their 2<sup>nd</sup> drop's wicket, also caught behind by Gale.

In the interests of making a good game of it, we quickly changed bowlers and gave Rohan Batra his debut with the ball for C.C.N.S.W.. Rohan (5 overs - none for 22) bowled impressive off spin from one end, keeping things tight while Peter Buruma (2 overs, 1 for none!) snared our 2<sup>nd</sup> LBW in his second over to have Kings struggling at 5 for 22 after 12 overs.

Desperate for Kings to post a challenging target for us, we then resorted to our "last option" -bringing on the extreme pace of Tommy 'the Red Flash' Robertson. The Red Flash turned into more of a 'Hot Flush' as he sent down a clever mix of long hops and wides with return catches being missed and a dropped catch in gully by the embarrassed Shane Peterson (unaware at the time that catching one off 'the Last Option' costs you more in fines than dropping one off him).

At the other end, Paul Nash (2 overs - 1 for 3) had started his own brand of accurate in-swingers while their Captain, Hugh Smith, was posting a spirited come back including swatting 10 runs of one of the Hot Flush's overs. A 35 run sixth wicket stand was eventually broken when Ed threw down the stumps from a kneeling position and then Hugh fell shortly thereafter for 35, well caught by Matt Abeysekera at a deepish mid-on off the bowling of Paul.

Having lost two wickets with their score on 57, the Kings Old Boys last batsman completed the route when he chose to leave the only ball that Tommy bowled on the stumps all day – thereby giving Tommy his maiden C&S wicket for the season and wrapping up the Kings Old Boys innings on 58 in just 20.2 overs.

With the innings over before Bronwyn Virtue could turn up with the 'arvo' tea, we turned the innings around quickly and sent Matt Abeysekera out to open up with Ian Allmey. Only 2 runs came off the first over, signalling an unusually watchful Allmey as he gauged the pace of the drying wicket. Shortly thereafter, however, regular service was resumed with 5 runs off the next over, 10 off the one after, consecutive fours to Matt, a big Allmey 6, 17 runs off the 6<sup>th</sup> over and then 10 runs off the 7<sup>th</sup> over. By the second ball of the 8<sup>th</sup> over, the game was over and we had secured a win without losing a wicket. Ian had amassed 37\* off 29 balls while Matt in his debut as opener had compiled a clever 15\* off 19 balls.

This was definitely the strongest win that this author has been associated with at this club and congratulations to all of the team that played so well. The 3:26pm finish (it was the earliest win as well!) gave us plenty of time to enjoy Bronny's self-confessed 'under-par' arvo tea and Paul Nash's kindly donated case of beer with a slightly embarrassed Kings Old Boys before we headed off to our respective pubs and parties around town.

**The Team (with batting) was:** - Ian Allmey (37\* off 29 balls), Matt Abeysekera (15\* off 19 balls), Tom Robertson (dnb), Connor Benfield (dnb), Euan Robertson (dnb), Paul Nash (dnb), Peter Buruma (dnb), Matt Gale (w) (dnb), Rohan Batra (dnb), Shane Peterson (dnb) and Ed Smith (c) (dnb).

**The Result was: -**

**Kings Old Boys: - 8 (All out) for 58** (E. Smith 2-3) (20.2 Overs)

**Lost to**

**C.C.N.S.W.: - 0 for 59** (I. Allmey 37\*) (7.2 overs)

**By 10 wickets**

**The Bowling was:** - E. Smith 3-1-3-2, S. Peterson 4-1-8-2, R. Batra 5-1-22-0, P. Buruma 2-2-0-0  
T. Robertson 4-0-18-1, P. Nash 2-0-3-1.

**The Fielding was:** - M. Gale (w) 2 catches, M. Abeysekera 1 catch, T Robertson 1 catch and E. Smith 1 run out .

### **C&S ROUND 8 v HUNTERS HILL C.C. AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER 2013: REPORT BY ED SMITH**

Having practised tossing 'tails' for an entire week, Ed Smith tossed high and confidently only to hear the Hunters Hill skipper call "tails" and, in what is possibly a club record, Captain Smith lost his 6<sup>th</sup> toss in a row and we were asked to field.

The new opening pairing of Ed Smith and Shane Peterson started well with only 3 runs scored off the first 4 overs. The experienced Hunters Hill opening pair then tried to force the runs a little until their Captain, Andrew Hobden, slapped the first ball of Shane's fourth over hard and straight to Ed waiting at mid-off. 1 for 25.

Their other opener, Wilkinson, was showing some class through the off side and so Greg Brooks was brought on to restrict his swinging arc. Charith Amarasinghe bowled two nice overs for only 8 runs on the hard and true wicket from one end while Brooks claimed their first drop LBW plumb in front with their team score on a comfortable 64 off 15 overs.

It was at this stage that the game changed. We brought on Craig Kitson from the northern end and swung Brooks around to the south to defend the short leg side boundary of the cafe end. As he has done for 16 years, Kitson took the first vital wicket, that of Wilkinson, deceiving him with flight before clean bowling him for a very well constructed 72 runs – the highest personal score against our C&S team this season.

3 for 106 off 25 overs then became 4 for 107 in the 26<sup>th</sup> over and 5 for 112 in the 28<sup>th</sup> over as Brooks struck twice with his deadly accurate swing bowling. Brooks finished his nine over spell with the figures of 3 for 27 while Kitson claimed 1 for 21 off his 6 overs – a good example of bowling in partnerships.

Ed (3 for 35 off 9 overs) and Shane (2 for 36 off 9 overs) then came back on to clean up the tail courtesy off two well held catches by Tommy "Crocodile Claws" Robertson and a running-full-stretch Matt Abeysekera (and despite the iron gloves of Matt Gale who clanged an easy one off Shane). Ed missed a chance of a hat trick by the bee's proverbial and Hunters Hill finished their 35<sup>th</sup> and final over with the very gettable score of 9 for 137.

Brooksy put on a sensational afternoon tea which saw him surge into favouritism in C.C.N.S.W.'s annual "Arvo Tea Idol" competition while Ian Allmey and David Stingl prepared to resume the now famous "All-Sting Opening Onslaught". They didn't disappoint.

Allmey had broken his bat last week and so was now brandishing a brand new GM that resembles a railway sleeper more than a classic willow. At first we weren't convinced that it was working because he had 'only' managed to score 20 runs off his first 8 balls. By the time he edged one for six over cover to make it 40 runs from 16 balls, we concluded that it was probably \$1,200 well spent.

Dave, in the meantime, was happy rotating the strike with the occasional boundary and, by the time Allmey brought up his 50 with a six in just 27 balls (our fastest half century this season surpassing Stingl's 33 ball 50 and Tommy's 'pedestrian' 34 ball 50), Dave had moved on to 35 off 27 balls. Ian followed up this six with another one and a four before we retired the big wood chopper with his personal tally on 63\* off just 29 balls (!) and our team tally on 84 after 8 overs. Allmey now averages 159.5 in C&S cricket this season at a strike rate of 157. Not too shabby.

Euan Robertson went in to calm things down and picked up some valuable time in the middle while Stingl picked up the pace and another 50 for the season, this time in a rather sedate 40 balls. Euan and Dave put on a stylish 50 run partnership and, with the scores level on 137, Tommy Robertson wagered \$5 with Allmey from the grandstand that the winning runs would NOT be scored by a boundary. Allmey obligingly shook Tommy's hand oblivious of the fact that Stingl was about to hit a return catch to their Captain Hobden to be dismissed for 54 runs off 44 balls.

Despite Matt Abeysekera being next man in, a padded up Tommy jumped the fence like a Big Red to be the next batsman in so that he could control the manner in which the winning runs would be scored. He was now facing and, as long as he didn't hit a boundary, the \$5 would be his. But Tommy is Tommy and he was given a little bit of width. As he crunched a cut shot past point you could hear him cry "Stop that, please!" But no one could and Tommy's shot crunched into the fence as his \$5 note crunched into the Allmey pocket. Just another chapter in these, 'the Robertson Diaries'.

Game over in just 16.4 overs and we had plenty of time to sit around the big blue esky of love with the Hunters Hill boys, administering fines and delivering punch lines. Another successful day for the Club.

**The Team (with batting) was:** - Ian Allmey (63\* retired off 29 balls), Dave Stingl (54 off 44 balls), Matt Abeysekera (15\* off 19 balls), Euan Robertson (7\* off 18 balls), Tom Robertson (4\* off 1 ball), Charith Amarasinghe (dnb), Craig Kitson (dnb), Greg Brooks (dnb), Matt Gale (w) (dnb), Shane Peterson (dnb), and Ed Smith (c.) (dnb).

**The Result was: -**

**Hunters Hill C.C.: - 9 for 137 (35 Overs)**

**Was defeated by**

**C.C.N.S.W.: - 1 for 141 (I. Allmey 63\*; D. Stingl 54) (16.4 overs)**

**By 9 wickets.**

**The Bowling was:** - E. Smith 9-3-35-3, S Peterson 9-2-36-2, G. Brooks 9-2-27-3, C. Amarasinghe 2-0-8-0, C. Kitson 6-1-21-1.

**The Fielding was:** - E. Smith 1 catch, M. Abeysekera 1 catch, T. Robertson 1 catch.

**JACK PACE ROUND 9 v SYDNEY UNIVERSITY VETERANS C.C. AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 14 2013: REPORT BY GREG BROOKS**

Ed Smith lost his seventh successive toss and Sydney University Veterans chose to bat on a well grassed wicket.. After an early break through, the Veterans batted well to steadily build a competitive total. Poor catching cost C.C.N.S.W. dearly with their No. 3 bat Stoop being dropped early on and

taking full advantage. The bowling was tight but the occasional poor delivery was dispatched to the boundary or over it.

Ed Smith, Shane Peterson, Greg Brooks, Rohan Batra and Joe Scarcella all toiled hard but the dropped catches proved costly and after 35 overs Uni had made 199, a reachable total but way more than they should have achieved.

Following Bronwyn Virtue's best afternoon tea of the season (with a real Xmas flavour!), Ian Allmey and David Stingl opened with some excellent drives and cuts. However everyone was in "Warner mode", belting boundaries then getting out when set. The top four all failed to go on from a start and this proved decisive.

At number five Joff Johnson batted sensibly and was 30\* at the end still looking for a partnership to get us home. If anyone had batted for a length of time with Joff the runs were there to take...hopefully a lesson learned. In the end we finished at 9-164.

Still we have lost just one game so far this season and once again have qualified for the Jack Pace knock out stage.

I wish everyone in the club a Happy Christmas and a great New Year. Enjoy your time with family and friends over the holiday period and I look forward to seeing you in 2014.

**The Team (with batting) was:** - Ian Allmey 16, David Stingl 12, Tom Robertson 15, Brett Favell 17, Rohan Batra 4, Joff Johnson 30\*, Greg Brooks 14, Ed Smith (c) 28, Matt Gale (w) 7, Shane Peterson 1 and Joe Scarcella 4\*.

**The Result was: -**

**Sydney University Veterans C.C.:** - 6-200 (E. Smith 4-45) (35 overs)

**Defeated**

**C.C.N.S.W.:** - 9-164 (J. Johnson 30\*; E. Smith 28) (35 overs)

**By 36 runs**

**The Bowling was:** - E. Smith 9-1-45-4; S. Peterson 8-0-41-0; R. Batra 3-0-21-0; G. Brooks 9-0-55-1; and J. Scarcella 6-0-34-1.

**The Fielding was:** - 1 catch M. Gale; J. Johnson and E. Smith

## **CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 12 v BARKER OLD BOYS AT BARKER COLLEGE, HORNSBY ON SUNDAY JANUARY 12, 2014: REPORT BY ED SMITH**

The long drive to Hornsby was well worth it as we were greeted by an immaculately presented Barker College Main Oval on a hot and sunny Sydney afternoon.

Continuing his stunning form with the coin, Ed lost his eighth toss in a row keeping his perfect 100% coin toss loss season record alive. With a probability of 1 in 256, "The Streak", as it is now lovingly referred to by his team mates, must be some sort of club record and is approaching the NFL's Carolina Panthers record of 13 consecutive lost tosses by a sporting team.

Inevitably, we were asked to field on a beautiful batting track and we struck in our third over when Angus Brooks took a good catch at square leg off Ed's bowling to remove the dangerous Cowan – 1 for 4. Pete Crooks (0 for 18 off 5 overs) and Ed (2 for 50 off 9 overs) kept things tight and B.O.B.s were only on 33 runs after the first 10 overs. Joe Scarcella (1 for 31 off 6 overs) and President Greg Brooks (2 for 40 off 10 overs) then teamed up well and continued the miserly bowling until Brooksy ("Brooks caught Crooks") broke the 50 run second wicket partnership of Palmer (47) and Bryant (25) in the 13<sup>th</sup> over – 2 for 54.



Joe got one to jag back for an LBW in the 16<sup>th</sup> over and Brooksy had their top scorer, Palmer, first dropped by Ed Smith and then shortly after, well caught by Peter Crooks in the 25<sup>th</sup> over ("Brooks caught Crooks" x 2). At 4 for 101 with only 10 overs to go, B.O.B.s started to throw the willow around a bit more. Charith Amarasinghe (0 for 14 off 3) and Angus Brooks (0 for 22 off 2 overs) each had short spells (featuring another dropped sitter by Ed off the President's son) and both showed promise.

Ed Smith and Greg Brooks were brought back in for the last few big hitting overs, Ed claiming the wicket of the big hitting Johnson for 41 but then being hit for consecutive huge sixers in the next two balls.

Our last 6 overs ended up going for 64 runs but at least it enabled B.O.B.s to post a good target (5 for 178) for us to chase down.

Ian Allmey (54 off 38 balls) opened the batting, this time with his good mate, Paul Nash (44 off 63 balls), and the two of them each survived an early chance to go on to post a great opening stand of 88 in just 13.2 overs (80 balls). Ian's fifty came up in just 34 balls and featured a 6 off the bottom edge of his new million dollar super-bat. He eventually fell to a superb John Dyson-like diving outfield catch by 'Staff' Schmidt off a shot that would have easily cleared the boundary.

The B.O.B.s captain breathed a sigh of relief as Allmey left the crease only to be greeted by a Tom Robertson first-ball-one-bounce-four sizzling over his head at cover. 5 fours, 4 sixes and only 16 balls later, everyone's favourite Red Head raised his bat to celebrate his (and the team's) fastest 50 of the season (17 balls!). It was an innings of extraordinary power and big hitting all around the ground. The Big Tomato eventually retired on 53 off just 20 balls in order to share the batting around.

Paul Nash had meanwhile moved smoothly onto 44 until he confessed to not getting a bat on a leg spinner's full toss and Joe Scarcella retrospectively gave him out LBW with our score on 118. Having kept wicket well all afternoon, Brett Favell (11\* off 15 balls) then batted nicely to combine with the late cutting Euan Robertson (3\* off 4 balls) to get us home in just 22.5 overs.

B.O.B.s invited us all back to the local pub where they bought the first round and we shared a few laughs while fining each other heavily. Another good day at the wicket.

**The Team (with batting) was:-** Ian Allmey (54 off 38), Paul Nash (44 off 63), Tom Robertson (53\* retired off 20), Brett Favell (w) (11\* off 15), Euan Robertson (3\* off 4), Charith Amarasinghe dnb, Angus Brooks dnb, Greg Brooks dnb, Peter Crooks dnb, Joe Scarcella and Ed Smith (c) dnb..

**The Result was: -**

**Barker Old Boys C.C.: - 5 for 178 (35 Overs)**

**Was defeated by**

**C.C.N.S.W.: - 2 for 179** (I. Allmey 54; T. Robertson 53 ret; P. Nash 44) (22.5 overs)

**By 8 wickets**

**The Bowling was: -** E. Smith 9-2-50-2; P. Crooks 5-1-18-0; J. Scarcella 6-0-31-1; G. Brooks 10-1 40-2; C. Amarasinghe 3-0-14-0; A. Brooks 2-0-22-0

**The Fielding was: -** P. Crooks 2 catches, A. Brooks 1 catch.

**JACK PACE ROUND 15 QUARTER FINAL v I ZINGARI (AUSTRALIA) AT SHORE SCHOOL GROUND, NORTHBRIDGE ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2014: REPORT BY EDWARD SMITH**

We know that we are in for a tough game any time C.C.N.S.W. takes on I Zingari (Australia) C.C. The fact that this game was also a Jack Pace Shield quarter final on a Sunday (when their grade players are available) and on IZ's home patch meant that we would have to be at our best to beat our traditional rival.

Fortunately, for the first time in a C&S game this season, Captain Smith won the toss and we chose to bat on a wicket that would most likely require a posted score of over 200 to win. Ian Allmey (79 off 49 balls) started in true Allmey fashion smashing two fours off the first 2 balls but the ever reliable Paul Nash (1 off 3) received a full toss early in the second over which he spanked hard but on the full to a waiting mid-off. 1 for 10.

Tommy Robertson (11 off 16) then crashed a huge 6 over cover off his second ball but only connected with the ball twice more as he swung wildly at the next 14 balls he faced until he was LBW to the clever finger spin of their Captain, Sandy Tubbs. 2 for 42 off 6.5 overs.

Meanwhile Allmey was connecting nicely at the other end but when last week's hero, Connor Benfield (2 off 3), took on the gun arm of their mid-on fieldsman only to come off second best at the non-strikers end, we were in a spot of bother at 3 for 56 off 8.2 overs.

Dave Byrnes (4 off 2), coming off a ton in his last outing, cut beautifully for a four off his first ball but was then very well caught at 1<sup>st</sup> slip off the next – another victim of Captain Tubbs. 4 for 61 and we were now nervous and in need of a good partnership.

Fortunately, Peter Buruma (12 off 24) was able to steady one end while Allmey went on an all out attack plundering 7 fours and 6 sixes in his 49 balls until he was eventually (and inevitably) well caught at long-on off their leg spinner, Bancroft. Peter Buruma and Ian Allmey had added a much needed 51 runs in 8 overs and steadied our ship to leave us at 5 for 112 off 15.4 overs.

Unfortunately, however, Pete also holed out to Bancroft just two balls later and we were once again nervous at 6 for 112 (after 16 overs) with Matt Abeysekera and President Greg Brooks knowing that another rear guard partnership was required. The pair set their eyes on batting through until at least the 30<sup>th</sup> over and they started sensibly by allowing the run rate to drop but their eyes to get accustomed. They firstly saw off Sandy Tubbs's 9<sup>th</sup> and last over (2 for 27), to leave us at 6 for 119 after 21 overs. Then they accelerated for the next 8 overs to put on a further 49 of their 56 run partnership before, on the stroke of the 30<sup>th</sup> over, Matt Abeysekera (29 off 35) was caught at deep mid wicket striving for consecutive sixes.

This brought Ed Smith to the wicket with the game evenly poised at 7 for 168 after 29 overs with the President on 26\* and the Captain yet to score. Over the remaining 6 overs of the innings, C.C.N.S.W. seized the advantage scoring 38 runs off the first 30 balls and an amazing 21 runs off the final over to secure a score of 7 for 227 after 35 overs. The President finished on 49\* off 54 balls and the Captain on 35\* off just 18 balls in a unbeaten 59 run partnership off 36 balls.

With the job only half done, we now had the task of stopping a very strong IZs batting line up. Ed (0 for 24 off 5) and Peter Crooks (0 for 23 off 5) started well holding them to 46 off their first 10 overs until President Brooks and Dave Byrnes were brought on to take the pace off and strangle the run flow with tight and accurate bowling.

Securing his man-of-the-match award, our 54 year old President Brooks (3 for 55 off 9) struck with his first ball, a full toss well caught by Peter Crooks. Brooks then removed the other opener in his third over when their attacking opener hit into a trap at deep backward square (a good catch to Paul Nash). In his very next over, Brooks struck again clean bowling their 2<sup>nd</sup> drop as he was forced to play across the line due to the scoreboard pressure being applied by the Byrnes and Brooks show. From 0 for 46 off 10, they were now 3 for 75 off 17 and we were starting to feel confident.

Not to be outdone, Byrnes (with a game's best bowling of 3 for 28 off 9 overs) then stepped up to the plate and took the next three wickets, the first well caught by a diving Captain, the second beautifully stumped down the leg side by Matt Gale and the third clean bowling an aggressive batsman with fancy footwork.

At 6 for 101 off 24 overs, IZs need another 127 runs off 11 overs and we were able to control the game from here on in, despite their first drop batsman, Luke Richmond, compiling a nice 50\*. Peter Crooks chimed in with a foxing run out from the deep and Peter Buruma (1 for 22 off 4) and Connor Benfield (1 for 13 off 3) were brought into the attack to finish off with good pace and a couple of wickets as IZs batted out their 35 overs over finishing with a score of 9 for 166.

A great win by the club against a tough competition. Many thanks must go to John Rothnie-Jones for umpiring through the entire game and to IZs for hosting us so well and for sharing two cases of beer and many laughs after the game.

**The Team (with batting) was:** - Ian Allmey (v/c.)(79 off 49), Paul Nash (1 off 3), Tom Robertson (11 off 16), Connor Benfield (2 off 3), David Byrnes (4 off 2), Peter Buruma (12 off 24), Matteesha Abeysekera (29 off 35), Gregory Brooks (49\* off 54), Edward Smith (c.) (35\* off 18 balls), Matthew Gale (w) dnb and Peter Crooks dnb

**The Result was: -**

**C.C.N.S.W.:** - 8 for 227 (I. Allmey 79; G. Brooks 49\*) (35 Overs)

**Defeated**

**I Zingari (Australia) C.C.:** - 9 for 166 (D. Byrnes 3-28) (35 overs)

**By 61 runs**

**The Bowling was:** - E. Smith 5-1-24-0, P. Crooks 5-0-23-0, G Brooks 9-0-55-3, D. Byrnes 9-0-28-3. P. Buruma 4-0-22-1; C. Benfield 3-0-13-1

**The Fielding was:** - P. Crooks 1 catch, P. Nash 1 catch, E. Smith 1 catch, M. Gale (w) 1 stumping, P Crooks 1 run out.

## **CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 16 v KNOX OLD BOYS AT GILLESPIE FIELD, WAHROONGA ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2014**

**No report was ever received on this match**

**The Team was:** - Ian Allmey 5, Tom Robertson 39, Charith Amarasinghe 2, Euan Robertson 2, Rohan Batra 15, Brett Favell (w) 13, Peter Buruma 4, Greg Brooks 19, Peter Crooks 1, Ed Smith (c) 1 and Shane Peterson 8\*.

**The Result was:-**

**C.C.N.S.W.:** - 10-116 (T. Robertson 39) (30 overs)

**Lost to**

**Knox Old Boys C.C.:** - 4-117 (S. Peterson 3-18) (26 overs)

**By 6 wickets.**

**The Bowling was:** - E. Smith 5-0-12-0; P. Buruma 5-0-13-0; S. Peterson 7-0-18-3; G. Brooks 5-0-28-0; R. Batra 3-0-23-1 and P. Crooks 1-0-6-0

**The Fielding was:** - B. Favell (w) 1 catch

**JACK PACE SEMI FINAL (CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 17) v YARALLA C.C.**  
**AT GODDARD PARK, CONCORD ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2014:**  
**REPORT BY EDWARD SMITH**

For the eighth year in a row (out of 8) we found ourselves in the semi-finals of the Jack Pace Shield. Last year we were rained out and bowled out as the lower placed team and this year we were very keen to avoid the same fate. Unfortunately, rain had been threatening all week and on Friday night it set in. Fortunately for us, Brian Breakspear (in his capacity as C&S secretary, Yaralla Club stalwart and C.C.N.S.W. long time member) had got the covers down in time and both teams were keen to get on if there was a chance. Thanks Brian – a legendary effort.

As forecast, the rain cleared at 1pm, the covers came off and we got started 20 minutes after the scheduled start to let a damp but hard wicket dry slightly. Another lost toss by Captain Smith saw us put into bat on what was always going to be a difficult wicket and Ian Allmey and David Stingl were back together again making a tricky wicket look more playable than it really was as they moved us to 32 off the first 36 balls.

Allmey was the first to go, bowled by Wall for 23 off just 18 balls in an innings that would prove to be the equal highest individual score for the match! Ten balls later and Stingl was well caught by their excellent keeper, Clare, off the bowling of Wall and we were suddenly 2 for 43 and looking a touch nervous.

Tom Robertson joined Connor Benfield but Yaralla cleverly targeted Tommy's legs while Connor could only notch up the singles as the runs started to dry up due to tight bowling on a tough track. Having hit Tommy on the legs about 10 times, Yaralla's quick, Craig Hollister, eventually hit him in front enough for the official umpire to give him out LBW. Tommy (7 off 15) showed us his legs later that day and they look like they had been tenderised by a Concord butcher. 3 for 52 off 10 overs then became 4 for 59 off 13.5 when Connor (4 off 13) was caught at cover off some superb bowling by their left arm orthodox bowler, Jack Rickard.

Our nerves turned to deep concern when club run-machine, Mick McCormick, was beautifully stumped by Clare off Rickard the very next ball. The delivery turned a mile across Mick and, as Mick over balanced and only slightly lifted his toe, Clare had the bails off in a millisecond to complete a sweet dismissal and to have us at 5 for 59 after 14.

Paul Nash and Peter Buruma set about settling the innings and they took us to 77 until, at 19.4 overs, Rickard bowled another ripper that spat off the wicket and bowled the set Paul Nash for 16 (29 balls). Ed Smith (c) joined Peter Buruma at the crease with another 15.2 overs to go and, with the possibility of a rained shortened match looking more likely, Ed was very aware of the need to bat out all of our overs and not be dismissed – the run chase calculations change significantly if the team batting first is dismissed.

Peter Buruma batted very conservatively and (critically, as it proved to be) took us through to 24.4 overs before he connected with a big swing only to be very well caught at deep mid-wicket for 4 off 24 balls. We were now 7 for 87 after 25 overs and Matt Gale looked out of sorts before becoming Rickard's fourth wicket, LBW for 0 off 2 balls. Shane Peterson didn't fare much better when he was caught at slip off Rickard for 1 off 5 balls and we were now 9 for 93 with another 7.3 overs that we had to survive if we were to stand a chance of winning.

Peter Crooks came to the crease at this stage and, following a lengthy mid-wicket consultation with his captain, proceeded to play out the previously unplayable Jack Rickard's last 9 balls. Jack finished with the incredible man-of-the-match figures of 5 for 17 off his 9 overs.

In the meantime, Ed was keeping out the good balls at the other end and slowly accumulating runs off the loose ones as we crept patiently through overs 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34. With only 6 balls remaining, Ed (23\* off 38 balls) and Crooksy (6\* off 19 balls) opened up a little and took 15 runs off their last over to leave us hanging on by our nails at 9 for 119 after 35. Most critically, we had not been bowled out which meant that the run chase calculations would be significantly more balanced than if we had been bowled out.

Sure enough, between the innings the rain got heavier and the covers were put down. We ended up losing about 38 minutes of play which our badged umpires (Brian Breakspear and Steve Black) correctly calculated to be a loss of 10 overs. Yaralla now had 25 overs in which to better our score at the 25 over mark of our innings - which was 7 for 87. With each wicket we lost being worth a 10 run deduction, our 'net' score after 25 overs was in fact 17 (87 minus 7 X 10 runs).

To further confuse matters, if the game conditions got too dark or wet before 15 overs could be bowled, the game would be abandoned and Yaralla would progress to the final as they were the higher placed team. If the umpires call the game off between 15 overs and the 25 over revised target due to the failing conditions, Yaralla's net score at that point in their innings would be compared against our net score at the same point in our innings. Clear as mud?

Yaralla had a very strong batting line up this week with some former first graders playing however Ed Smith (7 overs 1 for 16) and Shane Peterson (5 overs 2 for 23) bowled a very tight line on the tricky wicket until Shane struck when their opener, Clare, gloved a hook shot through to Matt Gale. Ed then bowled the very dangerous Dave Telfer first ball to have Yaralla at 2 for 11 after 5 overs (and a net score of minus 9). Nick Ross played us nicely through gully to score 20 runs and take their total to 27 until Shane had him well caught by Paul Nash in the gully in the 8<sup>th</sup> over (net score now minus 3).

Their second drop, P. James, threw caution to the wind and started to swing hard and over the infield until a clever fielding change had him caught by Connor Benfield off Peter Buruma's bowling to have them 4 for 42 after 12 overs (net score of 2). Hilton then joined their captain, Dave Ross, at the crease and the two of them set about conservatively tracking down our net score run by run.

Following a query from the Yaralla sheds asking whether the 9 over limit per bowler was reduced, the umpires conferred and responded that the rules did not provide for such a reduction and so, technically, a bowler can bowl his full 9 over allotment. Despite this official position, Captain Smith thought that it was an unfair oversight of the laws and that a 7 over limit was more appropriate given the circumstances and so he removed Shane and himself from the attack and brought Peter Buruma (3 overs, 1 for 9) and Connor Benfield on in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> overs respectively.

Captain Ross and Hilton had meanwhile taken their score to 4 for 60 (net score of 20) in the 19<sup>th</sup> over until Hilton cut firmly to Mick McCormick at point off Benfield. With a new net score of 10 and with 6 overs of the 25 remaining to score 7 runs, man-of-the-match Jack Rickard joined Dave Ross at the crease and the two of them wisely crept up on the total, conscious that another wicket could cost them the game.

By now the light levels had decreased and a soft but steady rain had settled in. The umpires conferred after the 21<sup>st</sup> over but decided to play on. Paul Nash (3 overs none for 2) then bowled the second of his two maidens as our 22<sup>nd</sup> over with their score on 5 for 66 (Net 16). The light worsened, the rain kept coming and the umpires met again, this time for the last time as they declared the match over. Neither team were sure who had won but, upon inspection of our well kept scorebooks, we were 6 for 82 after 22 overs (net 22) which meant that we were 6 runs ahead of their net score of 16 (5 for 66) and we had won!

Neither team wanted to win in such a strange way and so our celebrations were very subdued. We all shared a beer afterwards compliments of Yaralla and we left full of respect for our opposition and for the umpires, Brian Breakspear and Steve Black, who managed to steer 22 competitive men through a tough and complicated match. Our gratitude goes out to the two "hat holders" and we would also like to thank Barry Ross (father of Jack and Nick) who scored the entire game and kept both books on the straight and narrow.

Based on their strength and sportsmanship, I hope we get to play Yaralla next year in the Grand Final.

**The Team (with batting) was:** - Ian Allmey (23 off 18), David Stingl (13 off 27), Connor Benfield (4 off 13), Tom Robertson (7 off 15); Paul Nash (16 off 29), Mick McCormick (0 off 1), Peter Buruma (4 off 24), Ed Smith (c) (23\* off 38), Matt Gale (w) (0 off 2), Shane Peterson (1 off 5) and Peter Crooks (a critical 6\* off 19 balls).

**The Result was: -**

**C.C.N.S.W.: - 9 for 119 (35 overs)** (E. Smith 23\*; I. Allmey 23)

**Defeated**

**Yaralla C.C.: - 5 for 66 of 22 overs – net 16 (chasing 6 for 82 – net 22)**

**By 6 runs.**

**The Bowling was:** - E. Smith 7-2-16-1, S. Peterson 5-0-23-2, P. Buruma 3-0-9-1; C. Benfield 4-0-12-1 and P. Nash 3-2-2-0

**The Fielding was:** - M. Gale 1 catch as (w), P. Nash 1 catch, C. Benfield 1 catch, and M. McCormick 1 match winning catch.

**CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 18 v KINGS OLD BOYS AT REG BARTLEY OVAL, RUSHCUTTERS BAY ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2014: REPORT BY EDWARD SMITH**

The team arrived at the picturesque Reg Bartley Oval in Rushcutters Bay on a sunny Sunday after battling to find parking in the same postcode, and were greeted with a ground in excellent condition. Captain Ian Allmey continued his good form with the coin toss, electing to bat first. Hopefully he can share some tips on this aspect of the game with Ed Smith ahead of next season.

Ian Allmey and Matt Abeysekera opened the batting, with a slow start by their standards against some solid seam bowling. Allmey was given a chance dropped on 1; then was out not long after for 14, caught behind off Hayden, and we were 1 for 32 after 9 overs. Matt settled in, playing through a nasty finger injury early in his innings. Paul Nash and Tom Robertson came and went with little impact, and at 3 for 59 in the 14th over, Steve Moran joined Matt in the middle.

Matt and Steve put on a 40 run partnership that would set up the C.C.N.S.W. innings. Matt was eventually bowled by Viner for a total of 68 off 65 balls, playing a stylish innings punctuated by a pair of well struck sixes. Steve survived some early chances to bat through the remainder of the innings, displaying a variety of shots and some quick running between the wickets, to finish 62\* off 60 balls. Other than a late 13 runs from Rohan Batra, the bottom order barely bothered the scorers thanks to some effective line and length bowling from Viner (5 for 49 off 9.2 overs). C.C.N.S.W. finished all out for 175 runs in the 35th over.

Shane Peterson and Peter Crooks opened the bowling and contained the runs early, with King's 0 for 14 after 6 overs. Hugo was then well caught driving to mid off by Rohan Batra off Crooks, who struck again several overs later, bowling Keech. King's were now at 2 for 28 after 12, and needing to speed up the run rate if they were to reach the required total. Their task was made difficult as President Brooks now came on to bowl, taking the next 3 wickets for not many runs. 'The Prez' finished with figures of 4 for 25 off 8 overs, particularly impressive considering the several dropped chances off his bowling.

Tom Robertson (0 for 17 off 5 overs) joined the bowling attack late in the innings and bowled a fairly tight spell, though the ball which clipped Tommy's leg mid delivery and thudded into the pitch before rolling to short cover was a notable lowlight.

Other than the dropped chances it was a good fielding effort from .C.C.N.S.W. Allmey escaped the dropped catch multiplier with a well taken slips catch. Rohan Batra was a magnet in the field and despite a few missed chances took 3 tough catches. Tommy and Shane Peterson chimed in with a run out each, Tom with a direct hit throwing at one stump. A similar direct hit at the other end from Abeysekera, throwing with his injured hand, was unlucky to be turned down.

King's finished all out for 123 in the 34<sup>th</sup> over, a solid win for C.C.N.S.W. to lead in to the JPS grand final next week. King's supplied some post-match beers and we shared these in the grandstand overlooking the beautiful ground.

**The Team (with batting) was:** - Ian Allmey (c) (14 off 24), Matt Abeysekera (68 off 65), Paul Nash (0 off 4), Tom Robertson (v/c) (6 off 11); Steve Moran (62\* off 60), Brett Favell (w) (2 off 8), Euan Robertson (0 off 3), Greg Brooks (3 off 4), Rohan Batra (13 off 16), Shane Peterson (2 off 2) and Peter Crooks (0 off 1).

**The Result was: -**

**C.C.N.S.W.: 10-175** (M. Abeysekera 68; S. Moran 62\*) (34.2 overs)

**Defeated**

**King's Old Boys: - 10-123** (G. Brooks 4-24) (33.4 overs)

**By 52 runs**

**The Bowling was:** - S. Peterson 9.4-1-62-2, P. Crooks 8-1-30-2, R. Batra 4-0-23-0, G. Brooks 8-0-25 -4, and T. Robertson 5-0-17-0

**The Fielding was:** - 3 catches - R. Batra: 1 catch – I. Allmey; T. Robertson and S. Peterson

### **JACK PACE SHIELD GRAND FINAL v KNOX OLD BOYS AT GODDARD PARK, CONCORD ON SUNDAY MARCH 2, 2014: REPORT BY EDWARD SMITH**

Having fought our way through a tough away quarter final against I Zingari (Australia) and a very tight away semi-final against Yaralla, the team was *hardened and ready* to take on Knox Old Boys C.C. in the Jack Pace Shield Grand Final. Unfortunately, however, the same could not be said for the wicket due to a week of wet weather.

All week Brian Breakspear and the accomplished groundsmen at Goddard Park had been pulling the covers on and off to maximize our chances of play but heavy rain had somehow leaked under the covers and soaked two-thirds of the wicket at the far end. The captains and umpires inspected the pitch at midday on Sunday and it was touch-and-go whether the wicket would be playable by 2:15pm (the latest time we could start and still get at least a 30 overs per side game in). The umpires decided it was possible and players were sent the message to make the long trip out to the oval as there was an unexpected chance of play.

By 2pm, the umpires decided a 30:30 game could be played on the drying track but we all knew the toss was going to be critical. Given Captain Smith's appalling form with the coin this year, the always lucky Ian Allmey tossed the coin and the Knox Captain (Tom Bangs) called incorrectly – "*Thank God; we'll bowl*" was the response from Ed.

Unfortunately, we started with only 10 men while Shane Peterson picked up his whites from his girlfriend's house (kinky stuff?) and David Byrnes made his way to the ground from work. Fortunately, Peter Crooks (who was very unlucky to miss out on selection) filled in as our 12<sup>th</sup> man and, throughout the day, was there when we needed him – as always. Thanks Pete.

It got worse when a catch at second slip went down off only the third ball of the innings – but it turned out to be our only error in the field as things rapidly improved. Firstly, Ed bowled the reliable Evan Hattersley with an in swinging yorker in the third over (1 for 12). Things got even better for us when Captain Smith (2 for 11 off 6 overs) had the other opener well caught at point by a running Tom Robertson (2 for 15) in the fifth over. Meanwhile, fellow opening bowler Peter Buruma was having trouble with the wet ball and his footing at the other end. Having finally arrived at the park in his freshly washed whites, Shane was brought on at Peter's end and he immediately chipped in when he found the thin edge of Mick Kelynack who, to his credit, walked as soon as Gale took the catch – 3 for 22 off 8.

The ever dangerous McG (H. McGilvray) was handling the popping pitch pretty well but was lured into a Dave Byrnes fielding trap. In other words, Byrnes fell over while chasing a ball thereby tempting them into a second run only to have Peter Buruma whip it in to an agile Matt Gale at the stumps who did well to find McG stranded an inch short of his ground. Knox were now 4 for 27 after 10 overs but we knew they had plenty of batting power to come.

Garing and Donaldson started up a partnership until Shane Peterson (3 for 22 off 6 overs) stepped up to plate in a big way by taking Garing's leading edge for Connor Benfield to take a well judged skier, then running out Alcoch for a duck from the deep and then having Donaldson caught by Connor popping one up at short cover. 4 for 39 became 7 for 47 in the space of 3 overs and we were comfortably on top with the wicket drying nicely for our innings.

Ed Bangs, however, had other thoughts and started hitting out with Lachy Fenwick at the other end. The two of them put on 14 runs together until Gale took the second of his three catches for the match, the thinnest of all possible edges off Presidente Brooks (1 for 11 off 5 overs) – dismissing Fenwick for 6. 8 for 61 became 9 for 69 when Byrnes (2 for 12 off 3.5 overs) had Ed Bangs caught by Brooks at gully for his team's highest score of 17 and then Tom Bangs feathered one of Byrnes' deliveries through to Gale for a duck leaving his twin brother Charlie stranded on 4\* and his team all out for just 72 in 23.5 overs of wet wicket cricket.

There was no complacency in the sheds at the change of innings however as the rain started to come down quite heavily and re-wet the wicket – unfortunately undoing the last two hours of drying. Brian Breakspear provided some tea, chips and biscuits for all as we watched the rain fall and, as it lifted, Ian Allmey went out with David Stingl to start our cautious approach to 73 runs.

The wicket was back to its spitting best and Tom Bangs (5 for 23 off 7) was bowling well. Stingl (1 off 5 balls) went first swatting one to cover in the second over off Ed Bangs. The now 'Unlucky Allmey' (1 off 5 balls) went 4 balls later, LBW on the front pad to Tom Bangs (the only LBW of the match in the popping conditions). We were now 2 for 2 with Connor Benfield ever watchful and the Tommy-Gun Robertson at the crease swinging hard. Unfortunately, Connor (2 off 6 balls) got a brute of a ball on the last ball of Tom Bangs' deadly second over to be caught behind – at 3 for 7, we were nervous!

With Tommy batting as comfortably as if it were the Adelaide Oval wicket on a clear day, Paul Nash (3 off 6 balls) was also finding form until he tried to turn one to leg, only to catch a leading edge and be caught at mid-on. 4 for 17 off 4.3 overs. David Byrnes joined the Tommy Gun and immediately pulled a short ball for a one-bounce four. Tommy (17 off 14 balls) meanwhile was adding boundaries until, given the state of the game and the wet wicket, he thought he should tame it down – only to middle a ball softly to cover and leave the team in a perilous position at 5 for 27 off 6.4 overs.

Peter Buruma (0 off 3 balls) then gloved one onto his thigh pad to be caught at short backward square by one of the many close-in fieldsmen to leave us at 6 for 31 off 8.1 overs and giving Peter his second third ball duck for the week! Desperation had hit the sheds.

Cometh the moment, cometh the man - enter the President. If ever someone questions "*why is this 'Lurch look-a-like' our Club President?*", this innings by Greg Brooks was the definitive answer. With fieldsman camped all around the bat, he and Byrnes batted brilliantly showing the rest of us how to bat in sticky conditions. With 100 years of experience and 220 kilos between them, this odd couple took countless balls on the body, left countless more pop innocently through to the keeper and then pounced on anything short or full to keep the board ticking over. Our 43 run deficit became 40, then 30 then 20 in the next 5 overs. Brooks (16\* off 33 balls) didn't score off his first 15 balls and then took 16 runs off his next 18 deliveries. Byrnes (31\* off 42 balls), meanwhile, was playing the best innings of the game as he dispatched anything short for a boundary and took countless twos as he punched the pitched-up balls through the closely set field.

While the rest of us nervously counted down the required runs one by one in the pavilion, Brooks and Byrnes compiled an undefeated 43 run partnership to win us the game in just 19.1 overs. Brooks had the reward of hitting the winning runs through covers and the nerves turned to relief and then turned to joy as both teams shook hands and B1 and B2 had the 'back-slapping' of a lifetime. Although not large in total, this 43 run grand final winning partnership was one of the best I have witnessed for the Club.



In the presentation of the Jack Pace Shield afterwards we were able to rightfully thank the C&S association president, Bob Marshall, and especially Brian Breakspear for all of his efforts as well as Glenn and Bill, our two 'badged' umpires for the day. Despite the impressive bowling figures of 5 for 23 off 7 overs, Tom Bangs only came runner-up in the Grand Final man-of-the-match award, that honour instead being bestowed upon David Byrnes for his unbeaten 31 off 42 balls and his bowling figures of 2 for 12 off 3.5 overs.

Many beers ensued both at the ground and at the now traditional grand final venue of the Pine Inn (they won the 'hotly sought after' right to host our grand final celebrations for the fourth time in the last five seasons). Strangely, the drinks quickly ended when Ed threatened to tell his infamous Rope-a-Dope story one more time.

A special thanks goes out to everyone at the Club who have played for and helped the C&S team this year and in the past, it really was a Club-wide effort and something we can all be proud of.

**The Team (with batting) was:** - Ian Allmey (v/c.)(1 off 5 balls), David Stingl (1 off 5 balls), Connor Benfield (2 off 6), Tom Robertson (17 off 14), Paul Nash (3 off 6), David Byrnes (31\* off 42), Peter Buruma (0 off 3), Greg Brooks (16\* off 33), Ed Smith (c.) dnb, Matt Gale (w) dnb and Shane Peterson dnb. (12<sup>th</sup> Man: Peter Crooks )

**The Result was: -**

**Knox Old Boys CC: - 10 - 72** (23.5 overs)

**Was defeated by**

**C.C.N.S.W.: - 6 for 73** (D. Byrnes31\*) (19.1 overs)

**By 4 wickets**

**The Bowling was:** - E. Smith 6-2-11-2, P. Buruma 3-0-13-0, S. Peterson 6-1-22-3, D. Byrnes 3.5-0-12-2 and G. Brooks 5-2-11-1.

**The Fielding was:** - 3 catches: - M. Gale (w); 2 catches: - C. Benfield; 1 catch: -T. Robertson and G. Brooks. 1 run out each of P. Buruma and S. Peterson

**CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 20 v SYDNEY UNIVERSITY VETERANS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2014: REPORT BY GREG BROOKS**

Unfortunately Sydney University Vets forfeited the Saturday C&S game, our first back at Camperdown for 2 months. I know Paul Moorhouse did everything possible to get a Uni team together but it was not to be.

**C.C.N.S.W.**

**Defeated**

**Sydney University Veterans C.C.**

**By forfeit.**

**CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 21 v OLD ALOYSIANS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2014: REPORT BY ED SMITH**

At 12:30pm on Saturday, we still had not found an 11<sup>th</sup> player for the game. Fortunately, Connor Benfield was coming from a Moore Park game that morning and found a member of his opposition, Luke Duggan, who was free and keen to join us on turf. Thanks very much to Luke and to Connor for helping us out.

Losing his ninth toss out of 12 C&S attempts this season, our Captain was asked to bowl first on a hot, muggy day on a beautiful centre wicket batting track at Camperdown. (Well done to our groundsman John Lee on a tough, disjointed season.)

Things started poorly when we dropped an easy one at second slip off Ed's fourth ball but improved in our fifth over when Dave Stingl dived forward at mid-wicket to take a good catch off Ed's bowling to remove their opener for 10 and to put their score on 1 for 25. Unfortunately, for us, this just brought the very impressive Tom Goh to the crease.

Despite us beating his outside edge a few times early in his innings, once Tom got his eye in he proceeded to bat brilliantly off both front and back feet until he had amassed a very impressive 132\* in 30.4 overs at the crease. None of the bowlers was spared as Tom notched up the highest individual score that I can remember against the C.C.N.S.W. C&S team. Our congratulations go to Tom and I'm sure that the Northern Districts Grade Cricket Club would be interested in talking to you.

Meanwhile at the other end, things were going a little bit better. Having dropped their other opener, McKenzie, in our first over, Greg Brooks was introduced in our 16<sup>th</sup> over with immediate effect, having him well caught in a trap at deep mid-wicket by Peter Buruma. 2 for 85.

Their second drop then batted strongly until he smashed a ball so high down to long on that by the time it arrived safely in Ed's waiting hands, it had snow on it. Ed only caught it because, just before the ball was bowled, Peter Crooks told him it was coming down his throat. 3 for 176 off 29.2.

Matt Gale took a fine diving catch to take their fourth wicket as the Old Aloysians were swinging very hard at everything with very little to lose. Both the third and fourth wickets fell to the bowling of club debutant, Luke Duggan, who bowled a very nice line and length and swung the ball well to record the best figures of the game at 2 for 24 off 4 overs.

Old Aloys clicked up a huge 4 for 241 off their 35 overs but it was not without us enjoying a season highlight of our own. With the batsmen seemingly picking and connecting with our full straight bowling, Ed and Ian Allmey held a mid-pitch conference and decided to embark upon what will forever be known as "The Robertson Experiment". On the basis that, *"if Old Fanta Pants Tommy doesn't know where his next delivery is going, then how will the batsman know?"* we asked our favourite 'Copper Top' to bowl the third last over of the innings – this he did and, predictably, and to plan, he sprayed it everywhere. From short junk to loopy full bangers; Tommy was at his unpredictable best.

At least this part of the strategy had gone to plan – unfortunately for us, Tom Goh was not on board with the idea and he proceeded to dispatch Tomato Robertson for a 6 and three 4s in an over that cost us a season high 19 runs.

The other season highlight came shortly after with a superb afternoon tea from Bronwyn Virtue. It featured her old classic fresh bread roll filled with ham, baby chutney, cheese and tomato for main course, two varieties of home made cakes (umpires were split as to which was better), and more fruit than Tommy could bowl in 10 overs. A 'Brown Tea' for the ages – it's good to have her back.

With full bellies, the All-Sting attack went out to face to express pace of Stephen Goh (Tom Goh's older brother). Stephen is probably the fastest bowler in the league and doesn't mind digging it in short. This didn't seem to phase Ian Allmey (38\* off 28 balls) and David Stingl (10\* off 25 balls) as they crunched 53 runs in just nine overs to put us well on track to chasing down the high total.

Unfortunately, very dark and daunting thunder clouds had gathered in the last 5 of those overs and, with lightning flashing every 10 seconds and bouncers flashing past the courageous Stingl's ears, the captains wisely called the troops inside moments before the mother-of-all-storms hit and washed the rest of the game away.

Many beers were had in the change room as we mused at how easy 241 would have been to chase down and we thanked Brooksy and Allmey who had each played their last C&S game for the season – and what great seasons they both have had.

**The Team (with batting) was:** - Ian Allmey (38\* off 28), David Stingl (10\* off 25), Connor Benfield (dnb), Tom Robertson(dnb); Paul Nash (dnb), Peter Buruma (dnb), Ed Smith (c) (dnb), Matt Gale (w) (dnb), Greg Brooks (dnb), Peter Crooks (dnb), and Luke Duggan (dnb).

**The Result was: -**

**Match drawn - abandoned due to rain**

**Old Aloysians C.C.:** - 4 for 241 (L. Duggan 2-24) (35 overs)

**Drew with**

**C.C.N.S.W.:** - 0 for 53 off 9 overs (I. Allmey 38\*)

**The Bowling was:** - E. Smith 10-0-75-1; P. Crooks 3-0-22-0; P. Buruma 4-0-20-0 G. Brooks 6-0-37-1; C. Benfield 7-0-37-0; L. Duggan 4-0-24-2 and T. Robertson 1-0-19-0.

**The Fielding was:** - M. Gale 1 catch as (w), P. Buruma 1 catch, E. Smith 1 catch and D Stingl 1 catch

### **CITY AND SUBURBAN ROUND 22 v SYDNEY WINDIES AT JUBILEE OVAL, GLEBE ON SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2014: REPORT BY ED SMITH**

The last C&S game of the season had been moved from our spiritual home of Camperdown to the beautiful Jubilee Field due to ground refurbishment works now underway at Camperdown. A phone call at 3:30 on Friday afternoon sent Ed Smith out to Jubilee to attempt to put the covers on by himself – fortunately there was a young family playing on the ground nearby and Ed conscripted the kids and mum (at pocket money prices of \$3.30 per kid) to help him get the mammoth Jubilee covers down before the threatened rain arrived. Many thanks go out to this anonymous family who seemed to have a great time helping.

With the rain behind us, we met on a blissfully sunny afternoon and won the toss on what looked like a belter. Matt Gale was given his annual opportunity to shine with the bat as he was asked to open with Dave Stingl. Gale (15 off 20 balls) and Stingl started well posting 41 runs together until Gale teased and tempted a fieldsman to throw down his stumps at the non-strikers end. The fieldsman promptly obliged. hilariously, Gale got his bat stuck trying to slide it in and ended up telling his sorry story to anyone who could stop laughing in the pavilion.

Stingl was joined by Euan Robertson who played his best knock of the season putting on a 67 run partnership and taking us through to drinks and on to 108 until Euan (11 off 28) was given out lbw in the 19<sup>th</sup> over. Of the 108, Stingl had contributed an impressive 79 off 58 balls in a display of beautiful timing and calculated risk taking.

Unfortunately, Steve Moran (0 off 2) was also given out LBW only 2 balls after Euan and then Stingl was bowled across his pads by a prodigious off spinner from Harshal's second ball of the day. We'd lost 3 for none and were now 4 for 108 after 20 overs.

Some tight bowling from Harshal and Srikanth saw the run rate slow as Tom Robertson and Scott Wells (playing his one and only C&S game of the season) steadied the ship. Despite looking out of sorts, Tommy 'Red'ertson managed to score 15 runs off 20 balls until he was caught behind bringing Connor Benfield to the crease with the score on 5 for 134.

Connor and Wells first settled the innings and then combined to up the rate in a 50 run partnership against some very good off spin bowling from Harshal. Eventually, Wells (29 off 40) was caught in the deep pushing for runs in the second last over and then, the very next ball, something happened that I have never seen before in any cricket match.

Connor was facing the off-spinner's last ball and swung hard at a yorker length delivery. The keeper grasped it and quickly fumbled it onto the stumps for a stumping. Connor's foot was down safely so there was no appeal however Connor then walked – announcing to all that, despite there being no appeal, he had nicked the ball. Walking when not given out is noble, walking when not even appealed against is the ultimate in sportsmanship. The W'indies captain personally asked me to pass on his appreciation to Connor and the club for the gesture and it set a very friendly tone for the game.

We were now 7 for 184 with one over to go. Looking to force the pace in the last over, Peter Buruma (0 off 1) was bowled for a golden and Ed Smith (0 off 1) was well caught middling one to a deepish mid wicket. Fortunately, club debutant, James Clarke, and former John McDonald Medalist, Peter Crooks saw us through to a very competitive final score of 9 for 188 off our allotted 35 overs.

With the President and First Lady unavailable for tea duties, Peter Crooks stepped in valiantly and provided some top notch rolls which managed to meet Matt Gale's now lofty expectations (to Gale's defence, it is the only meal he eats all week). Ably assisted by other savoury and sweet snacks brought in by the few who remembered, we were able to cater nicely for both teams over the tea break for which the W'Indies were most appreciative.

The W'Indies opened the batting with Harshal and Srikanth. Srikanth had good form and good runs behind him this season but it was the very dangerous Harshal that concerned us most. Harshal averages over 150 this season (including a double ton) and was offered a Rajasthan Royals Contract before moving to Australia! We knew that if we could get these two out inside the first 15 overs, we stood a good chance of winning the game – if not, the game could well be over by the 20<sup>th</sup> over.

Ed Smith's first ball was a loosener that Harshal put over mid wicket for a one bounce four. Ed's third ball was the outswinger that Harshal dispatched over cover for a one bounce four – this was not going to be easy. Apart from those two balls, however, Ed and Peter Crooks were able to bowl tightly to this top batting pair with Crooks's first 4 overs going for 19 and Ed's first 4 overs going for only 14 runs.

Things swung in our favour in the ninth over courtesy of some more Stingl brilliance. At none for 35, Ed's short ball took the top edge of Srikanth's bat and rose sharply on Galey's gloves. Stingl, at first slip, instinctively dived behind Galey as Galey managed to parry the ball up and slightly over his own head. Stingl looked up from his new position on the ground and stuck out his right hand to take a great catch reverse handed one inch above the ground. This was Stingl's third classic catch on this ground this season which, when you add his runs to his catches, makes this a favourite hunting ground for the evergreen brewer.

1 for 35 became 2 for 40 in the next over when Peter Crooks had their first drop adjudged plum in front - but Harshal was still in and the game was not safe. Ed's 6<sup>th</sup> over saw Harshal take on the bowling taking a well played two off the second ball and a beautiful once bounce four off a pull shot that showed true class the next ball. Harshal had clearly worked out Ed's 'pace' so the very next ball Ed bowled an in-swinging slower ball which Harshal failed to pick up until it was too late. Harshal checked his drive only to splay the ball back to Ed for a caught and bowled with his score on 33 – more than one hundred less than his average – and the W'Indies found themselves in trouble at 3 for 46 after 11 overs.

Club debutant, James Clarke, then came on to bowl his medium pace swingers and, once he found his line, he was very hard to get away. James took the next three wickets courtesy of a nice diving catch by Euan Robertson at point, a snick through to Matt Gale and another LBW as the W'indies became 4 for 63, 5 for 74 and then 6 for 76. James finished his debut five over spell with a very impressive 3 for 17 and, judging by his fielding and late order batting, could be a very good find for the club.

Peter Buruma then took the next wicket, LBW (the 5<sup>th</sup> LBW of the match!), to finish his C&S bowling season with figures of 1 for 10 off 5 overs. Scott Wells bowled the leg break of the season to take David Gemola's leg bail off and finish with 1 for 18 off 4 overs while Conner Benfield bowled with pace at the other end and was unlucky not to get a wicket (none for 8 off 3). In summary: 7 for 92, 8 for 11 and then 9 for 111.

We finished the season in now traditional fashion with an over of Matt Gale wrong-uns and Tom Robertson's bakery all-sorts. Euan Robertson had the last over of the C&S season and the W'Indies finished with 9 for 136 off their 35 overs.

Both teams stayed back long into the evening with the Stingl supplied beers out of the Ed supplied esky and, as all good seasons should end, the final four hangers-on were seen walking into the sunrise in China Town many hours later – replete with a victorious season complete.

**The Team (with batting) was:** - Matt Gale (w) 15 (20 balls) ; David Stingl 79 (88 balls); Euan Robertson 11 (28 balls); Steve Moran 0 (2 balls), Tom Robertson 15 (20 balls), Scott Wells 39 (40 balls), Connor Benfield 32 (24 balls), Peter Buruma 0 (1 ball); Ed Smith (c) 0 (1 Ball); James Clarke 3\* (2 balls), and Peter Crooks 1\* (1 Ball)

**The Result was:** -

**C.C.N.S.W.:** - 9-188 (D. Stingl 79; S. Wells 39; C. Benfield 32) (35 Overs)

**Defeated**

**Sydney Windies C.C.:** - 9-136 (J. Clarke 3-17) (35 Overs)

**By 52 runs**

**The Bowling was:** - E. Smith 9-0-25-2; P. Crooks 6-0-32-1; P. Buruma 5-2-10-1; J. Clarke 5-0-17-3; S. Wells 4-0-18-1; C. Benfield 3-0-8-0; M. Gale 1-0-7-0; E. Robertson 1-0-4-0; T. Robertson 1-0-3-0

**The Fielding was:** - D. Stingl 1 catch, E. Smith 1 catch, E. Robertson 1 catch, M. Gale (w) 1 catch