

CLASSICS ROUND 1 v WARRINGAH AT MIKE PAWLEY OVAL, DEE WHY ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 11 2015 REPORT BY PETER ROLLS

Peter Rolls filled in as skipper for Garry Winney (basking in balmy Cairns as physio for Masters Hockey tournament) for the first game of the season. Peter won the toss and elected to bat in 25°C sunshine on a slow low deck used the day before. A massive AFL oval with longish grass.

Dr Sittampalam Ragavan ("Raga") and Joff Johnson got us off to a great start with even Joff running 2s but looking like he was walking. (Power walking as at the Olympics!). Raga was in fine touch after a couple of games in London and retired at 30. Joff and Fran Crowe had had a pyjama party the night before at Joff's place but were not able to replicate the party in the middle. The ball slipped through Frank like a cheap bottle of red. First wicket down at 65. With Joff sick of singles he lashed out for a boundary but was caught at point (score 2-67).

Peter Rolls was rusty early but with good running between wickets with Mick McCormick, Peter soon retired at 30. Enter the swashbuckling 'Zorro' (Ajoy Roy) but with a white (not black) brimmed hat complete with chin strap. Some superb shots to all parts of the ground for 2s that would normally be 4s and an easy 30 was awaiting him but he fell short caught on the boundary that would have been 6 on other ovals. Mick was solid until one kept a bit low for LBW while looking to straight drive (score 4-134).

Then the late order crash with John Mesar getting a short pitched ball that did not bounce and got through, Dale Richards hit the next onto his stumps then Paul Kumar LBW first ball for 0 Paul Georgiadis to face a hat trick ball which he calmly stroked back to bowler along the ground. Peter Hall holed out to mid-off which saw the return of Raga. Paul Georgiadis also holed out to mid-off from the slow pitch (score 9-159) and the return of Peter Rolls

Last wicket - Raga and Peter R had five overs to rattle up as many runs as possible but with tight bowling they decided on quick singles every ball with the odd 2 until Peter was run out with 4 balls to go on score 183. A score worth more like 220 on this oval.

Dale Richards bowled some unplayable balls while trying to find his rhythm against an opener (Rob Easterbrook) on the attack from the onset. A terrific reflex catch at ankles at short mid-off by Mick McCormick helped Dale get his mojo back. (Score 1-19 off 4). Mick's many hours at the Hell Fire Club, the key to his suppleness!

Paul Georgiadis was on the spot from the get-go and it was hard for them to get him away so he bowled seven overs straight to frustrate the opposition (like Bronwyn Bishop in a Chopper). Mick's first over went for 9 as he tried to rip his shoulder out with pace against his mate Easterbrook who soon retired at 30. He saw the error of his effort (like Tony Abbott in Choppergate) and slowed down to get into the groove (like Madonna) to be rewarded with two caught wickets and the next five overs only went for 10 runs. Mick's backbenchers were Peter Rolls who took a sharp catch at short mid-wicket and Joff Johnson a balloonier at gully. (Score 3-63 off 16).

John Mesar came on and put in the screws (like Malcolm Turnbull). In his seventh over his sound policy of bowling economically saw two wickets in two balls with the new batter digging out the hat trick ball off middle stump. John showed great constitution to bowl eight overs straight. Peter Hall took a super catch behind off John and was as solid as Clive Palmer throughout. (Score 6-80 off 25 with 104 in 15 overs to get). Paul Kumar had an admirable crack at an over after injury last season kept him out of the game.

Ajoy Roy had four amazing overs where he turned the ball sideways to bamboozle the batsmen and with more kick than Donald Trump to a female journalist. Raga followed up his fine batting performance by bowling with more deception than Craig Thomson's expense

account. Easterbrook came back in at 8-130 with 6 overs to go and was the danger man capable of the required 8 an over. A superb throw from Raga at point over the stumps for Peter Hall to whip off the bails to see Warringah 9-139. Next over Easterbrook's stumps were rattled by Raga with 4 overs remaining. All out for 141.

A terrific team effort. Beer sure does taste better after a win. Warringah to their credit played in fine spirit with fine afternoon tea and even finer beers after the game.

The Team was:- Joff Johnson 25; Sittampalam Ragavan 43*; Frank Crowe 1, Peter Rolls (c) 40; Mick McCormick 23; Ajoy Roy 22, John Mesar 0; Dale Richards 0; Peter Hall (w) 5; Paul Kumar 0; and Paul Georgiadis 2

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-183 (S. Ragavan 43*; P Rolls 40) (39.2 overs)

Defeated

Warringah CC: - 10-141 (S Ragavan 4-12) (36.3 Overs)

By 42 runs

FOW: - No details given

The Bowling was: - D. Richards 6-0-39-1; P. Georgiadis 7-0-21-0 : M. McCormick 6-1-19-2; J. Mesar 8-0-19-2; S. Ragavan 4.3-0-12-4; A. Roy 4-1-13-0; P. Kumar 1-0-13-0

The Fielding was: - 2 catches P. Rolls: 1 catch to each of P. Hall (w); J Johnson and M. McCormick

Player Points: - 3 – S. Ragavan, 2 – P. Rolls, 1 – M. McCormick.

CLASSICS ROUND 2 v KU-RING-GAI AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 25, 2015: REPORT BY GARRY WINNEY

Our first game back at home this year. Greeted by an outfield that had been blow-torched dry, hardly a blade of grass to be seen in the outfield which was lightning fast. Thankfully John Lee had prepared a hard wicket for us after all the recent storms. A welcome back to Jim Robson after a two year hibernation, even complaining he couldn't get a net session beforehand. (Jim runs the SCG nets).

Lost the toss & they fielded, so we batted first (which we had hoped to do). Text from Christian O'Keefe to say he had a family emergency and couldn't play. Hard to get a replacement at short notice, but Dr. Sittampalam Ragavan ("Raga") was able to persuade Paul Georgiadis to fill in (after he had played 4 games during the week at Tamworth Over 60s trials and his wife would not be happy – good club man Paul)

Raga and Joff Johnson opened. First ball Raga glided it through the field and it sped to the boundary, we needed 200 plus on this field. He and Joff plundered the bowling, both keeping the ball on the carpet but into gaps, cover drives, cuts, pull shots, it was great to watch. It wasn't long before both had hit six boundaries in their retirement, and after 12 overs we were 0-66. Peter Rolls and John Mesar played themselves in and again started accelerating the score. Before John got a ball which moved sharply back in to bowl him for 7. Mick McCormick looked in fine touch as he and Peter both motored along to also retire at 30.

Score line 1-133 after 25 overs looked good but then their opening bowler arrived late and his fast accurate bowling slowed us down. Both Garry Winney and Jim Robson struggled

against the tight bowling, Garry was out lbw for 1, Jim for 12 after some lovely glided shots past gully. Keith Elloy also in his first hit struggled, one beautiful cut behind point but was run out trying to force the pace. Paul Georgiadis had arrived by now, and after Dale was yorked for 4 found himself with Peter Hall who after a few balls evaluating things opened out, 27* clubbed in no time – 4 fours, two threes (a big effort in Classics to have two players who can do that). Final score 5-202 just what the doctor ordered.

John Mesar opened bowling, beat the bat, had a near lbw, then took the top of the stumps, 1-0, great over John. Paul Georgiadis was his usual miserly self, 13 off his first 5 overs including a sharp c & b effort. Their numbers 3 and 4 were aggressive bats and took the game back to us. Mick McCormick bowled well for only 18 off his 6 overs. Dale Richards came into the game with a sore back but managed 3 overs with a good lbw a bonus. They were 3-80 at the break and needed quick runs and were soon 3-97. The introduction of Raga and Jim Robson changed the game. Jim's first ball, was a friendly full toss which the batter slammed straight back to him, thank you, snaffled up, how easy is this game after a two year break, now 4-97. A couple of boundaries and a six gave them some hope but their last 5 wickets added only 9 as Jim 4-16 and Raga 3-29 maintained their attacking bowling. All out 131. Another good team effort, with Raga now taking 7 wickets and scoring 76 without dismissal in the two rounds to date.

The Team was: - Sittampalam Ragavan 33* ret, Joff Johnson 31* ret, Peter Rolls 31* ret, John .Mesar 7, Mick McCormick 31*ret, Jim Robson 12 Garry Winney (c) 1, Keith Elloy 9, Dale Richards 4, Peter Hall (w) 27* and Paul Georgiadis 4*

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 5-202 (40 overs)

Defeated

Ku- ring- gai: - 10-131 (32.3 overs) (J Robson 4-16; S. Ragavan 3-29)

By 71 runs

FOW: - No details given

The Bowling was: - J. Mesar 6-1-18-1; P. Georgiadis 7-1-31-1; M McCormick 6-1-18-0; D. Richards 3-0-14-1; S. Ragavan 6-0-29-3; J. Robson 4.3-0-16-4

The Fielding was: - 1 catch to each of J. Mesar, P. Georgiadis, J. Robson and S. Ragavan

Player points: - M. McCormick 3; S. Ragavan 2; J. Robson 1

CLASSICS ROUND 3 v MANDALONG C.C. AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2015: REPORT BY GARRY WINNEY

Game cancelled by rain.

CLASSICS ROUND 4 v LINDFIELD AT ACRON OVAL, ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2015: REPORT BY PETER ROLLS

Peter Rolls filled in again as skipper for Garry Winney (recovering after a hectic week at the national over 60s tournament in Hobart playing for N.S.W. and ably assisting for 3 wins from 4 games) for the third game of the season. Peter won the toss and elected to bat in 22°C overcast conditions on a deck that was doing more tricks than a magician in Vegas. Another massive oval with thick grass.

Dr Sittampalam Ragavan ("Raga") and Frank Crowe got us off to a good start with more singles than an e-Harmony conference. Boundaries were hard to come by on this variable bounce and seam wicket. Frank must have thought he was in Vegas as he got a shooter (minus the Tequila) and was lbw trying to pull a ball that landed half way down the track. First wicket down at 28. Peter Rolls joined Raga and saw more quick singles to keep the scoreboard ticking.

Raga soon retired at 30* and Peter continued the singles scene with Mick McCormick and also spent some time at church as some popping ball edges went to ground by the Lindfield fielders. Mick was deceived by a spinster and could not get his blade back in time before the bails departed. (Score 2 for 78 off 28 overs). John Mesar entered and obliged Peter to court the bowlers for quick runs and had them on the hop with well-timed shots with a superb sounding piece of willow. Peter Rolls retired at 31* and Keith also realised swift feet was the order on this dance floor. Keith showed great *'teamsmanship'* trying to push the run rate and was the first of 4 run outs. (3 for 111 off 36 overs).

Then the late order crash while admirably sacrificing for sharp scoring with "Jungles", Jim Robson run out, John Mesar run out, Dale Richards bowled, Peter Hall lbw with Frank-like dismissal, Paul Georgiadis run out. (8 for 125 off 38 overs). Paul Kumar and Raga held solid for the final two overs to squeeze 10 more runs for the cause. 135 was above par on this pitch but we would need to bowl a tight line and use the uncertainty of the bounce to bring home the bacon.

Dale Richards started us off with swing both ways like an Oxford Street night club but without an edge and a bit too quick for their openers. Paul Georgiadis got off to a flyer with a wicket with his first ball from a spinning sizzling catch at point to Raga. His next over saw an even better diving catch at point by Raga. Paul was also more miserly than a Scottish Backpacker. (2 for 4 runs off 3 overs). Mick McCormick also took a wicket on his first ball with their captain (Latto) faintly edging to Hall for the first of his 3 catches.

John Mesar came on and was bowling at a pace and length that had them hopping around like toads on the North Pacific highway. He snared the dangerous Ness with a superb webbing by keeper Hall diving to his right. (5 for 33 off 14 overs). Mick McCormick and John Mesar took the game away from Lindfield with 3 quick wickets each and at 7 for 38 off 17 overs, Frank was warming his shoulder up looking to join the bowling booty which would have been his first for over a decade. But with a bonus point up for grabs if we rolled them in 30 overs, he had to be content with chipping in with a good high catch at square leg off Jungle Jim Robson's 'tweekers' (9 for 52 off 22). Raga came on and kept it tight so they had no alternative but to go after Jungles. Jungles' energetic overs were more entertaining from both a bowling and batting perspective than Monty Python's Flying Circus.

With only an over to spare we ran out the final wicket to get our bonus point courtesy of a fine pick up and throw on the run from Mick at square leg to Hall off Jungles. Hall should have featured in the points with an immaculate display behind the stumps with more horizontal motion than a swingers' convention. Raga also worthy of points as opening bat and his first two catches that provided us with a good start in both batting and bowling. The Lindfield skipper was on the money like a female jockey in the Melbourne Cup recommending the umpire to award John Mesar 3 points with a fine display of both bat and ball and a catch to boot. Overall another outstanding team effort with inspirational encouragement from all members.

The Result was:-

C.C.N.S.W.: - 8-135 (S. Ragavan 34*; P Rolls 31*; J Mesar 26) (40 overs)

Defeated

Lindfield CC: - 10- 66 (J Mesar 3-6, M McCormick 3-17, P Georgiadis 2-8 (29.3 Overs)

By 69 runs (plus gaining a bonus point for all out within 30 overs)

FoW: - no details given

The Team (and batting) was: - Sittampalam Ragavan 34*, Frank Crowe 11, Peter Rolls (c) 31*, Mick McCormick 14, John Mesar 26, Keith Elloy 2, Jim Robson 1, Dale Richards 0, Peter Hall (w) 3, Paul Kumar 4*, and Paul Georgiadis 0.

The Bowling was: - D. Richards 5-0-13-0; P. Georgiadis 5-2-8-2; J. Mesar 4-1-6-3; M. McCormick 7-2-17-3; J. Robson 5.2-0-13-1; S. Ragavan 2-0-7-0.

The Fielding was: - 3 catches to P. Hall (w); 2 catches to S. Ragavan; 1 catch to each of M. McCormick, J. Mesar and F. Crowe.

Player Points: - 3 – J. Mesar, 2 – P. Rolls, 1 – M. McCormick.

CLASSICS ROUND 5 v ROSEVILLE C.C. AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 6, 2015: REPORT BY GARRY WINNEY

Played on a firm surface with a tinge of green. I lost the toss and we bowled first. It was a day of a few 'firsts' starting with Graham Buck's first game for the Classics.

The 'youngster' had some pre-game nerves and started with a wide – but made up for it with his first wicket caught nicely stomach high by Peter Rolls in slips next over. Paul Georgiadis continued to tease the batsmen to have a go and was disappointed that a brilliant stumping by Peter Hall was turned down. Paul made up for it by bowling their opener for 7, now 2-20 off 10 overs. He then produced the highlight of the day by dismissing their captain Dom Corrigan second ball off a delivery that reared off a length which he defended to midwicket for John Mesar to catch for 0. We could not recall ever getting Dom out before and he was unlucky to get such a delivery. Now 3-20 and we wanted more wickets. Change of bowling brought Mesar and Mick McCormick on. Their two accomplished bats hit out and only outstanding fielding saved about a dozen hard hit shots from fours. Peter Hall had numerous leg side dives to save runs.

Dr Sittampalam Ragavan (Raga) must have made half a dozen great saves and returns over the stumps from point.

Drinks break 3-51, now to try keeping them below 150.

This great fielding continued and frustrated them. Mick McCormick was finally successful in his fifth over with a late inswinger bowling Khan, now 4-63. He repeated the dose next ball – same result but missed his hat trick. Ventura hit out powerfully before Mick again bowled the other bat and in his next over repeated the dose with another bowled and lbw to take 5 wickets in the space of 4 overs – his first 'five for' in classics. Good line and late movement plus not giving them anything to hit was the key. Raga came on and quickly wrapped the innings up after 33 overs all out 103. A top class day in the field guys and good all round bowling featured by Mick's great spell.

We were chasing a small total but the wicket was playing lower and they had two top class opening bowlers. Raga cut the first ball for four, then a smashing cover drive, while Frank Crowe was bowled for 1. Peter Rolls worked the ones as Raga took on the bowling hitting 5 glorious fours in his 31* retired. John Mesar joined Peter Rolls, hit a lovely straight 4, then other rare first – he hit an all run 5. I know the fielder moved slowly but John and Peter scampered up and down and there was a chance of a 6 when the relay throw was dropped but Peter had decided 5 was enough. He got out to a tired looking slash shot outside off for 16, now 2-67. John was then bowled for 20, Mick McCormick copped an lbw for 6, Garry Winney got an early yorker - through him for a duck, and all of a sudden C.C.N.S.W. was now 5-75.

Keith Elloy joined Peter Hall. Keith blocked a few then attacked; an educated edge for four, then an all run three (who could remember if Keith had hit and run a 3 this century *(or millennium)* ?). Not only that but he repeated it later on. His classic off drive four was a feature of his 22*, while Peter Hall was happy watching on, rotating the strike with his ones until we passed them five down. A solid batting and fielding effort keeps our winning streak going. Probably our best day fielding I have seen from all the team.

The Team was:- Sittampalam Ragavan 31*; Frank Crowe 1; Peter Rolls 16; John Mesar 20, Mick McCormick 6; Garry Winney (c) 0; Peter Hall 5*; Keith Elloy 22*; Jim Robson dnb; G Buck dnb and P Georgiadis dnb.

The Result was: -

Roseville C.C.: - 10-103 (M. McCormick 5-21) (33.2 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 5- 106 (S. Ragavan 31*) (26 overs)

By 5 wickets.

FoW: - No details given

The Bowling was: - G. Buck 7-1-14-1, P. Georgiadis 7-1-18-2, M. McCormick 9-1-21-5, J. Mesar 6-0-20-0, J. Robson 2-0-17-0, S. Ragavan 2.2-0-7-2

The Fielding was: - 1 catch to each of J. Mesar and P. Rolls.

The Player points were: - 3 to M. McCormick; 2 to S. Ragavan; 1 to P. Hall

CLASSICS ROUND 6 v PENNANT HILLS C.C. AT PENNANT HILLS NO. 1 ON SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER, 2015: REPORT BY GARRY WINNEY

Played at their home ground, a First Grade ground, a perfect batting track with long boundaries but a hot day, thankfully a bit of a breeze. Lost the toss and were sent in. We had 2 subs today, John Sahari and R.. Krishnakumara ("Kris") who could come in at short notice after Ajoy Roy's illness on the morning – the dreaded flu virus.

Dr Sittampalam Ragavan ("Raga") and Garry Winney opened and were safely away but after running 3 threes Garry was coasting home for a two and was unaware the return to his end was on track for a direct hit - out for 5, score 1-20. Peter Rolls was in and out for 1 to a good catch at point. – 2-21. John Mesar & Raga consolidated, John hitting two overpitched balls to midwicket boundary. Runs came in ones and twos with Raga hitting two sweetly timed boundaries to retire at 30* (his 5th in a row). Score 2-39. Mick McCormick came in and after running a three decided boundaries were easier on the overheated body and against some good leg spin from both ends, hit 3 fours and a six to soon retire. He was ably helped by John working the ones. Peter Hall came in but missed a pull shot, bowled 0, now 3-89 off 20 overs. John soon retired after a chanceless 30*; we really needed a few retirees in the bank. Their bowling tightened us up and Frank Crowe smoked a straight drive for four but then copped a mullygrubber that he had no hope of hitting, out for 7, now 4-106.

Keith Elloy immediately went on the attack hitting two boundaries before being to cute on a late cut and put straight into first slips lap, out for 11. Kris came in but was indecisive in a shot and was bowled for 0, now 6-117 and we still had 13 overs left. Paul Georgiadis joined John Sahari but was bowled for 2 with us 7-124 and 9 overs to go. Raga joined John Sahari and after playing himself in again, they worked the ones till the 37th over, then they accelerated. Raga hit 6 powerful boundaries and John a classic straight hit as they added 42 in four overs for us to reach 7-188 - Raga 68*, John Sahari 24* in a 64 run 8th wicket stand. In the

conditions a defendable score. The only problem was that the three retired bats would all be needed to bowl and they were already tired.

John Mesar opened with an accurate over, Paul Georgiadis nearly had a wicket first ball as a leading edge was taken on the half volley by Garry Winney. John then hit top of off stump 1-3. A couple of slogs off Paul then John did it again for him to have 2-4. Paul bowled a few loose deliveries that were all slogged for 4. Their opener was rock solid while his partner tried switch hitting going from right/left handed and doing it quite well before retiring. Garry was able to get a slower ball to deceive their opener to bowl him for 17, now 2-63 off 15 overs.

Peter Rolls was now having his first bowl for the season and after being hit early on started to find his length and took two wickets, bowled and caught by Keith Elloy. A bit of controversy later on as Kris was bowling. Peter Hall caught a ball low down and appealed. We thought we heard a faint noise. The batter then thought the umpire had given him out and walked. We later found out the umpire never gave him out but assumed he was out as the batter walked off. Something new can always happen in a game of cricket.

At the 26 over mark they were 6-109 the same runs as we were. Their danger bat Chas Viner came in and we were aware he could score 30 in no time. Thankfully he took on Frank at midwicket to try to get off the mark. He was sent back only to see a rocket return over the bails to Peter Hall to be run out for 0. Rolls bowled their number 11 for a duck, now 8-114 with two recycled bats now in. Raga came on and with John Mesar returning they were able to clean the tail up for 132.

A hard day's work which again exposed some cracks in our batting. Still, we hold a narrow lead in the Classics with the top four teams drawn to play each other in the last round.

A big day for Raga, he batted until exhausted and his chanceless 68* was his best innings to date. John Mesar 31* retired and 3-9 off 5.2 overs has him in his best form as well. Another clean sheet from our ace keeper Peter Hall. And a big welcome back to the bowling ranks by Peter Rolls. As he found his line and length his pace started to heat up at the end of a top spell of bowling.

Many thanks to John Sahari and Kris for filling in; both really helped in our win. Merry Christmas and safe driving to all in the break.

The Team was: - Sittampalam .Ragavan 68*, Garry Winney (c) 5, Peter Rolls 1, John Mesar 31* ret, Mick McCormick 30*ret, Peter Hall (w) 0, Frank Crowe 7, Keith Elloy 11, R. Krishnakumar 0, John Sahari 24* and Paul Georgiadis 2

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 7-188 (40 overs) (S. Ragavan 68*; J. Mesar 31*ret; M. McCormick 30* ret

Defeated

Pennant Hills 10- 132 (34.2 overs) (J. Mesar 3-9; P. Rolls 3-34)

By 56 runs

FoW: - 1-20 (G. Winney); 2-31 (P. Rolls); 3- 89 (P. Hall); 4- 106 (F. Crowe); 5- 117 (K. Elloy); 6-117 (R. Krishnakumar); 7- 124 (.P Georgiadis)

The Bowling was: - J. Mesar 5.2-2-9-3, P. Georgiadis 4-0-29-0, M. McCormick 3-0-11-0, G. Winney 5-1-16-1, P. Rolls 9-1-34-3, R. Krishnakumar 4-0-16-1, S. Ragavan 4-0-17-1

The Fielding was: - 1 catch to each of K. Elloy, P. Hall (w); M. McCormick and P. Rolls; 1 run out to F. Crowe.

Player Points: - S. Ragavan 3; John Mesar 2; M. McCormick1

CLASSICS ROUND 7 v ASHFIELD DE LA SALLE OLD BOYS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY JANUARY 17, 2016: REPORT BY GARRY WINNEY

It was a welcome return to the club by Stuart Ridge, a long club stalwart of our C&S team in the 90s. The family had grown up and he was keen to find out what Classics was about. Frank Crowe had injured his knee mid week and we were lucky that Raga knew a good keeper-bat Dev Chelliah to fill in that role.

After the tumultuous storm that hit Sydney Thursday afternoon the wicket was surprisingly in good condition and we had no hesitation in batting. Disaster struck ball one Raga caught cutting to point (his first dismissal all season) – time for everyone to concentrate on scoring runs. Our ‘newby’ Dev was joined by Peter Rolls and both were beaten by balls cutting off the wicket but still attacked the bad ball. Dev played some lovely drives and pulls for four and the two added 43 before he was run out from a great throw from the boundary for 29. Peter went shortly after for 10, getting a faint edge to the keeper.

John Mesar and Mick McCormick started to attack the change bowlers as the wicket died down a bit. Mick was very severe on anything pitched up in his 4x4s and 3x3s before retiring. John tried one pull shot too many and was caught on the fence for a well compiled 17. Now 3-100 off 21 overs. Our senior batsmen Ajoy Roy and Keith Elloy rattled up a quick partnership Keith with 2 x 6 and 2 x 4, Ajoy 1 x 6 and 2 x 4 adding over 50 in 10 overs. Keith’s flick off his toes for 6 and Ajoy’s brutal power really set us up for a good score.

Both retired, now up to the lower order. Dale Richards hit a hard 4 before he went lbw, now 5-158, ten overs left. Garry Winney was joined by ‘debutant’ Stu Ridge who batted as if he had been batting all year, timed the ball well, one outstanding cover drive for 4 before he went for 14, Garry showed glimpses of form with a rapid 17 both out going for quick runs, 7-203. Mick McCormick was recycled and scored a further rapid 17 runs for us to finish 7-221 Mick 49* to continue his good form, Paul Georgiadis 3* but he was saving himself for his bowling.

A great batting effort and early wickets would put the game beyond doubt. They came out attacking but a good ball from John Mesar had their opener plum in front 1-18. Paul Georgiadis started to becoming more worrying to the batsmen and he got the prize wicket of Tom Walsh who he frustrated for nearly two overs before he played over a yorker, 2-25 off 8 overs. John Mesar then had Tom’s brother caught by a sharp catch to Dale at mid-wicket 3-36 off 10. Paul continued on as they all struggled with his pace. He took a shin high return drive to get rid of their next bat – 4-59. Dale Richards had now come on and was showing signs of his previous good form to bowl the next bat. 5-69; 5-74 at drinks. Dale took another wicket, a skied ball between Dale and Peter Rolls who was thundering in for the catch – a collision seemed assured (with Dale looking like he would be run over by a charging Pete), thankfully Dale called ‘mine’ a stride before Peter avoided him. Whew, no disastrous collision and Dale calmly taking the catch.

It was now time to set Peter Rolls on the tail, one over to warm up then a quick ball that keeper Dec took nearly head high on the up. No surprise next ball bowled the bat, and the next bat didn’t want to be there as he let it hit top of off stump. 9-97 with Peter on a hat trick. Their opener was recycled back and he did a great job to dig out a fast yorker. The last two batted quite well against Peter and Ajoy and added 26 before Ajoy lured a big hit straight to Dale Richards on the boundary to take his third catch.

An outstanding team effort both with the bat and ball. In addition to Dev’s excellent job behind the stumps, Raga saved umpteen runs at point that were smashed at him, he did a perfect pick up and throw to Dev for a run out (and supplies a ‘yummo’ afternoon tea and late game wine – (He will be keen for runs against Sri Lanka next game). Stuart Ridge as the new young

player chased whole heartedly all afternoon and probably will recover mid next week from the game – a pleasing return to C.C.N.S.W. for him. All bowlers contributed with an even spread of wickets. Well done team.

The Team was: - Sittampalam Ragavan 0, Dev Chelliah (w) 29, Peter Rolls 10, John Mesar 17, Mick McCormick 49*, Ajoy .Roy 30*ret, Keith Elloy 32*ret, Garry Winney (c) 17, Dale Richards 6, Stuart Ridge 14, and Paul Georgiadis 3*

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: 7-221 (40 overs) (M. McCormick 49*; Keith Elloy 32*, Ajoy Roy 30*)

Defeated

Ashfield De La Salle Old Boys: - 10 -123 (33.5 overs)

By 98 runs

FOW:- no details given

The Bowling was: - J Mesar 6-0-22-2, P. Georgiadis 8-1-28-2, M. McCormick 6-0-21-0, D. Richards 5-1-15-2, P. Rolls 5-0-17-2, A. Roy 3.5-0-15-1

The Fielding was: - 3 catches to D. Richards; 1 to P. Georgiadis; 1 run out to S. Ragavan

Player Points: - 3 to M. McCormick; 2 to P. Georgiadis; 1 to K Elloy

CLASSICS ROUND 8 v SRI LANKA LIONS AT MONTE BENNETT OVAL, WENTWORTHVILLE ON SUNDAY JANUARY 31, 2016

Game cancelled because of rain

CLASSICS ROUND 9 v MOSMAN C.C. AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2016: REPORT BY GARRY WINNEY

A hot humid day for what was to be the clash of the top two Classics teams and it proved a run feast on a beautiful batting wicket. A demolished grandstand meant marquee shelter & portable chairs to watch the game. C.C.N.S.W. won the toss & batted.

As Raga was away for the game we were able to procure Bandula Wijesinghe as an opening bat replacement, a big thanks Bandula for making yourself available. Greg Brooks came in at short notice for a sick Graham Buck, thanks Greg.

Keith Elloy and Bandula got us away to a brisk but safe start against a good Mosman opening attack. Bandula was severe on anything pitched on his legs while Keith relished the fast attack and punished any bad deliveries. A ball kept low as Keith was out lbw for 13 (1-36 off 6), Bandula 19*. Peter Rolls came in and looked in good form working the ones as Bandula retired with a very satisfying innings of 31* including 5 well struck fours, an impressive first bat for C.C.N.S.W.. Peter then mistimed a leg side shot and got a leading edge to mid-on for 17 (2-67 off 18 overs). John Mesar and Mick McCormick consolidated to 2-77 at the half way point. Mick bludgeoned two boundaries; then he miss-hit a drive and was caught for 11 (3-81). Ajoy Roy came in and hit a typical lofted four but was soon out from a brilliant running catch for 6. (4-97 off 26 overs). Up to the middle order now.

Enter '*El Presidente*' Greg Brooks. He and John Mesar took to their bowling and dispatched anything short or pitched up. John 30* retired (4 x4s) settled the innings for us, two in the bank and we could launch an attack now. Garry Winney came to the crease at 4-128 after 32

overs. He and Greg both set to the bowling, Greg with his booming shots over cow corner, Garry with his placement dissecting the field. The shot of the day – one lonely spectator sun baking near the rotunda, Greg pulled a short ball; everyone had to call out ‘MOVE’ as the spectator woke up, rolled to his side as the ball landed next to him – Warning: - don’t fall asleep if Greg is batting . Greg retired for 31* (1x6, 4x4s)

That gave us the impetus we needed, Garry retired shortly afterwards for 30* (4x4s) in a welcome return to form. Peter Hall 8, Dale Richards 6, Paul Georgiadis 2 added quick late over runs for us to total 7-197.

An excellent team batting performance but we knew we were up against a quality batting side and would be pushed right from ball one.

And attack they did, John Mesar got one through their opener for lbw, 1-17 off 3 overs. Two overs later Nation, after smashing a big drive for 4, tried one shot too many and edged a ball from John onto his stumps 2-26 off 5 overs. Paul Georgiadis was his usual impeccable self, frustrating the batsmen. John picked up his third wicket, another bowled to have them 3-39 off 9 overs as their best form bat Davis came in (average of over 200 this year). We all thought we had the new batsman, White caught behind early on but not to be. Davis and White then plundered runs off all bar Greg Brooks whose line and length frustrated them and at half way they were 3-93. They continued the attack but the late introduction of Mick McCormick changed the game. He in tandem with Greg slowed the scoring with accurate line and length. Davis retired; the new batsman was tied down and run out from some poor calling, 4-115 off 24 overs. Runs were hard to come by and Greg Brooks bowled the next bat for 5. Mick McCormick got the prized Ross Greenwood wicket for 0 from a nick and a full length diving catch by keeper Peter Hall now 6-129 off 29 overs. We then picked up another run out from an excellent throw by Peter Rolls 7-136 off 30 overs. Mick got the next bat lbw 8-144 .

Now our worst case scenario - we had Davis back in with their very capable Condon at number 11. They needed 54 off 8 overs with a bat in the bank – anyone’s game now. After a few quick boundaries Mick got the crucial wicket of Davis for 46 on a leg cutter that just hit off, 9-164, 34 off 5 overs now. White came in, we were able to stop the fours but they still scored over 6 an over and with 3 overs left needed 23 to win. John Mesar’s crucial 38th over yielded only 4 runs; then Mick’s last over only 5 runs. 14 to win, last over, 9 out – who to bowl the last over? Garry decided to put his faith in Paul Georgiadis to do the job.

1, 2, 2, an overthrow 3 – left 6 off two balls to win. A hard shot was saved on the boundary – only 2. It came down to 4 to win, 3 to tie - last ball – no pressure Paul!!!

He bowled it wide of off block-hole length, it was hit hard - ahh!! To a fielder (Dale I think), phew!! He stopped it in the outfield, don’t do a silly rocket return, we don’t need a run out or give them overthrows – phew!! His throw got a run out as they tried for two anyhow. We won, and maintained a record of bowling out our opposition each game.

A great finish to a top match, played like it was a final. We were all physically and mentally exhausted but rapt that we had kept our unbeaten season record intact (if only just). Well played Mosman, a gallant effort that just failed, an enjoyable game to play, both sides played the game for a win and a cliff hanger result ensued. Also well umpired by Rupert Matthews.

All players gave their all, now to do that again next match.

The Team was: - Keith Elloy 13, Bandula Wijesinghe 31*, Peter Rolls 17, John Mesar 30* ret, Mick McCormick 11, Ajoy Roy 6, Greg Brooks 31* ret, Garry Winney (c) 30* ret, Peter Hall (w) 8, Dale Richards 6, Paul Georgiadis 2

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 7-197 (40 overs) (B. Wijesinghe 31*; J. Mesar 30*ret; G. Winney 30* ret)

Defeated

Mosman C.C.: - 10-195 (40 overs) (M. McCormick 3-34) (NB Mosman played 12; batted 11 as per Masters Rules)

By 2 runs

FOW: - 1-36 (K. Elloy), 2-67 (P. Rolls); 3-81 (M. McCormick); 4-97 (A. Roy); 5-186 (D. Richards); 6-193 (P. Hall) and 7-197 (P. Georgiadis)

The Bowling was: - J. Mesar 9-0-47-3, P. Georgiadis 8-0-41-0, D. Richards 2-0-17-0, G. Brooks 9-3-20-1, P. Rolls 1-0-9-0, A. Roy 2-0-10-0, G. Winney 1-0-4-0, M. McCormick 8-0-34-3

The Fielding was: - **Run outs: 3** - 1 to Dale Richards, 1 to Greg Brooks and 1 to Peter Rolls
Catches:- 1 to Peter Hall (w)

Player Points: - J. Mesar 3 points; Garry Winney 2 points; and B. Wijesinghe 1 point

CLASSICS ROUND 10 v PARRAMATTA at McCREDIE OVAL, GUILDFORD WEST ON SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2016: REPORT BY GARRY WINNEY

Nice sunny day, lovely ground, good wicket – all we need today is a win to finally win our first ever Classics competition – no pressure guys, just another game. Nadarajah Gowripalan came in as a late replacement for Graham Buck who had to work. ‘Gowri’ is an accomplished left arm spin bowler.

Lost the toss as usual, bowling first.

John Mesar and Paul Georgiadis got straight into their line and length bowling. The wicket was like a road, giving little assistance but still eight overs before the first boundary. Paul got the first breakthrough yorking their opener in the tenth over 1-24 and followed that up two overs later with Peter Hall (w) taking a great reflex grab off the inside edge of their main bat for 3, now 2-30. Their other opener twinged a hammy and retired injured for 20*

John had 0-9 off 5 overs and was rested in the steamy humidity. Two new bats in and Sittampalam Ragavan (“Raga”) and Mick McCormick also maintained the tight bowling. The batsmen started swinging at Raga: - a four and a six but he got his man next ball caught on the boundary by Paul Georgiadis, Now 3-47 and by the half way point 3-59. Keeping them under 140 was the aim now.

They continued blazing away but Mick bowled the next bat, now 4-80 off 24 overs. Their number 4 retired at 30* after looking like he might have torn us apart. Jay Patel & Nadarajah Gowripalan came on and were able to contain the bats, both having a few near half chances but kept them down to 4 runs an over up until the thirty sixth over: fine bowling by both. At 5-127 they could have reached 160 plus with some big hitting. John Mesar and Mick McCormick bowled the death overs exceptionally well – 3.1 overs 5 for 5 – all bowled. John’s Yorkers were spot on taking 3-3, Mick 2-2 off 7 balls. A terrific effort that left Parramatta all out for 133: - a very gettable score on a good batting track.

Raga and Bandula Wijesinghe opened and played themselves in against a fine opening spell from their bowlers who repeatedly beat the bat. Runs were hard to get, then Bandula did a lovely cut and a flick off the pads for fours. Raga did a pull shot past the bowler and both started scoring more freely. Raga was given a life after a missed time pull shot drolled in the air and was dropped. He was not going to give any more chances. Meanwhile Bandula made a composed 30* retired, 0-57 after 15 overs. Well on track.

Raga retired for 30* , a much more sedate innings from him bur crucial to the team to get us a strong platform to win the match. 0-69 at drinks. Peter Rolls and John Mesar also played themselves in, working the ones. John was the more aggressive and we were 0-100 after 28 overs before John retired also for a well deserved 30* , score 0-118.

Mick McCormick joined Peter Rolls but Peter was soon out, smashing a hard cover drive to cover to be out for 23. 1-119 after 32 overs. Ajoy Roy joined Mick as we crept along to 133 before Ajoy played over a good Yorker - 2-133. Garry Winney came out to hit the winning run but could only miss the ball (as did the keeper) and we got a bye, a big anti-climax.

Relief was our main feeling, knowing we had finally won the Classics competition for the first time in C.C.N.S.W. history. This match was played the same as all our other games, good batting, tight bowling and good fielding certainly is the key to success.

During the season, we had lost Joff Johnson and Frank Crowe through injuries; Ajoy Roy was overseas for half the season and Jay Patel played Grade on Sundays most of the year.

All the players stood tall when we were put under pressure. My proudest moment as a captain at the Cricketers' Club. Thanks guys.

The Team was: - Sittampalam Ragavan 30* ret; Bandula Wijesinghe 30* ret; Peter Rolls 23; John Mesar 30* ret; Mick McCormick 9*; Ajoy Roy 3; Garry Winney (c) 0*; Peter Hall (w) dnb; Jay Patel dnb; Nadarajah Gowripalan dnb and Paul Georgiadis dnb

The Result was: -

Parramatta C.C.: - 10- 133 (39.1 overs) (J. Mesar 3-12; M. McCormick 3-12; P. Georgiadis 2-22))

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 2-134 (36 overs) (S. Ragavan 30*ret; B. Wijesinghe 30* ret; J. Mesar 30* ret)

By 8 wickets

FOW: - 1-117 (P. Rolls); 2- 133 (A. Roy)

The Bowling was: - J. Mesar 7-1-12-3; P. Georgiadis 7-1-22-2; S. Ragavan 6-0-33-1; N Gowripalan 5-0-18-0; M. McCormick 6.1-1-12-3; J. Patel 7-0-27-1.

The Fielding was: - 1 catch to P. Hall (w) and 1 catch to P. Georgiadis.

Player Points: - 3 to J. Mesar; 2 to M. McCormick; 1 to B. Wijesinghe

**CLASSICS ROUND 11 v GEORGES RIVER AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL,
CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY MARCH 13, 2016: REPORT BY GARRY
WINNEY**



Back row: Ajoy Roy, Bandula Wijesinghe, Paul Georgiadis, Mick McCormick, Sittampalam Ragavan, John Mesar
Front row: Jay Patel, Keith Elloy, Garry Winney (c), Peter Hall (w)
Absent: D. Richards

Officially we had won the Classics competition before we played our last game – a great achievement by our players, undefeated after 9 games we were determined to finish the season on a high note by beating last season's premiers Georges River.

Lovely day, grandstand now fully demolished and removed from the grounds. It was good to see Joff Johnson and some Masters players come to the ground to cheer us on. Georges River won the toss and decided we could melt in the hot weather in the field. John Mesar struck first over, a little nick pocketed by Peter Hall, 1-0. A poor call led to a run out shortly after, now 2-9. This brought their best bats in and they started to attack from the start. Aggressive running between the wickets probably yielding their side an extra 30 or so runs on the day. By the tenth over they had restored the situation at 2-41. Dr Sittampalam Ragavan ("Raga") came into the attack with immediate results, Peter Hall taking his second catch, now 3-43. Heaton their best bat made it look easy before retiring at 30, but Raga struck again having their number 3 out, again caught by Peter Hall (4-74) and two balls later bowled the incoming bat with an off-cutter, 5-74 – in with a show of getting them out for 130 or less now.

New bat Scott played an excellent innings, gave no chances, worked the ball around and ran well. Raga was soon involved again, deflecting a hard straight drive onto the stumps for their number 8 to be run out – 6-89 with drinks approaching – an enterprising session by both sides. New bat Stares was a hard hitting batsman and he and Scott took it to 128 before he was lbw to Raga. Scott retired and Ajoy soon had the new bat caught at mid on by Keith Elloy, 8-129 and their number 11 went not long after caught by Mick off Jay Patel 9-144. This brought Scott and Heaton back in and again, both punished the bowling until John Mesar got a nick and Peter Hall took the vital catch, all out 173. Again a terrific team effort by the bowlers well supported by our fielding, no chances spilt and good solid fielding against a good batting line-up.

Now to get the runs against a younger, fitter, faster team. Raga started out guns blazing 0-18 (Raga 18) off 3 overs before Bandula Wijesinghe was deemed lbw after being hit near the hip. Keith Elloy came in and reeled off some vintage Elloy drives and raced past Raga who had been tied down. Keith's five spanking boundaries had us up with the run rate, until he called for a quick single. Unfortunately the keeper was quicker than Keith; he picked up the ball and threw the stumps down – 2-49 off 12 overs. John Mesar had a back spasm and had to bat

lower down the order. Mick McCormick came in; hit two well struck boundaries but was well caught soon after for 16 now 3-65. Drinks 3-68

Raga retired at 30* and it was up to Ajoy Roy and Garry Winney to take up the battle. It was short as Garry went first ball getting a faint edge to slip to the new spin bowler Scott. 4-70. John Mesar went out to bat but was very restricted in his movements and running. Ajoy hit a towering 6, but was well caught on the boundary for 18, 5-92. Peter Hall got a faint edge to the keeper for 1, 6-93. John did a good job before he was out lbw for 11, 7-111. Dale Richards had hit a superb cover drive 4 and was in good form hitting up a quick 13 but was also caught behind. Their bowling was tight and their fielding excellent as they brought on their fast bowler to have Paul lbw for 0, 9-113 with Raga back in with Jay Patel. The main interest was could Raga get a not out to average over 250 for the year. Unfortunately 'No' was the answer, bowled by a nice yorker for 35 – an excellent double as he took 4-32 bowling earlier on.

Whilst we lost the game it was a wholehearted team effort beaten by the better team on the day.

Still, our first C.C.N.S.W. Classics premiership after nearly two decades of trying.

Raga, Mick McCormick and John Mesar all had standout seasons with both bat & ball. Peter Hall raised the bar many levels in the keeping department while the rest of the players' contributions were invaluable. For example very few chances were dropped in the whole season. Also many thanks to Paul Georgiadis for his 'MyCricket' updates and to Raga for getting us good quality replacements with very little advance notice during the season.

The Team was:- Sittampalam Ragavan 35; Bandula Wijesinghe 0; Keith Elloy 24; Mick McCormick 12; Ajoy Roy 18; Garry Winney (c) 0; John Mesar 11; Peter Hall (w) 1; Dale Richards 13; Jay Patel 4*; Paul Georgiadis 0.

The Result was: -

Georges River: - 10-173 (38 overs) (S. Ragavan 4-32)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10- 120 (S. Ragavan 35) (35.5 overs)

By 53 runs.

FoW: - 1-18 (B. Wijesinghe); 2-48 (K. Elloy); 3-65 (M. McCormick); 4-70 (G. Winney); 5-92 (A. Roy); 6-93 (P. Hall); 7-111 (J. Mesar); 8- 113 (D. Richards); 9-113 (P. Georgiadis); 10-120 (S. Ragavan)

The Bowling was: - J. Mesar 6-0-28-2; P. Georgiadis 5-1-18-0; S. Ragavan 9-0-32-4; D. Richards 2-0-25-0; M. McCormick 5-1-25-0; A. Roy 6-1-28-1; J. Patel 5-1-14-1

The Fielding was: - **catches** - P. Hall (w) 3 catches; one catch to each of K. Elloy, M. McCormick and D. Richards. **Run outs:** One to J. Mesar and one to S. Ragavan

Player Points: - 3 to S. Ragavan; 2 to K. Elloy; one to J. Mesar

Sydney Masters Cricket Association - Sydney Classics Over 50s Final League Table

Sydney Classics Over 50s

RANK	TEAM	P	W	D	L	WKTS LOST	RUNS FOR	WKTS TAKEN	RUNS AGST	POINTS
1	Cricketers' Club of NSW	11	8	2	1	61	1488	90	1197	357.40
2	Warringah	11	7	3	1	44	1490	65	1262	324.50
3	Roseville	11	8	0	3	80	1562	85	1330	323.10
4	Georges River	11	7	1	3	80	1361	72	1229	315.05
5	Mosman	11	7	0	4	80	1837	82	1534	313.85
6	Lindfield	11	7	1	3	65	1291	80	1352	299.55
7	Mandalong Lawyers	11	5	1	5	79	1269	84	1316	262.45
8	Burwood Briars	11	5	1	5	63	1158	82	1385	254.90
9	Sri Lanka Lions	11	4	2	5	71	1255	66	1375	238.75
10	Ku-ring-gai	11	4	1	6	84	1245	80	1305	237.25
11	Parramatta	11	2	1	8	88	1375	61	1545	184.75
12	Ashfield DLS Old Boys	11	2	1	8	86	1311	60	1440	180.55
13	Lane Cove	11	1	3	7	63	984	62	1104	176.20
14	Pennant Hills	11	1	1	9	92	969	67	1221	150.45