

C.C.N.S.W. CLASSICS MATCH REPORTS 2020-2021 SEASON

CLASSICS ROUND 1 v GEORGES RIVER AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2020: REPORT BY STUART RIDGE

A tough game first up against a team keen to win the competition who had bowled us out for under 60 in the corresponding fixture last season. However CCNSW Classics were defending a two year unbeaten streak at 'Fortress Camperdown', strengthened by the addition of Masters regulars Scott Wells and Mick Tarrant to the roster.

Georges River won the toss and elected to bat first, Stuart Ridge taking the new ball with new opening partner Mick Tarrant. After a quiet couple of opening overs with everyone dusting off the cobwebs from the extended off season, Tarrant trapped opener Hodgson in front for the early breakthrough and a counterpunch by Georges River was short lived when the other opener chased a wide one from Stuart to nick an easy catch to keeper Scott Wells. The early procession continued with a couple of trademark inswingers from Stuart and Mick also rattling the stumps to leave the opposition 5-33 after the opening exchanges.

The middle overs were an arm wrestle with steady spells from Greg Brooks and Garry James against a resolute Georges River pair, initially watchful but picking off anything loose to rebuild the innings. With both players retired, it was Mick McCormick who finally made the next breakthrough at 115-6 in the 32nd over. Mick Tarrant returned for a tidy death spell picking up two more wickets, but a last over assault on the skipper by the Georges River No. 9 took the score to a competitive 8-174 at the close.

With two bowlers from Australia's World Cup winning Over 50s side we knew Georges Rivers would not give much away and opening pair Mike Weaver and Mike Pinter ground out 27 without loss off the first 10. Needing to build from there, we lost both openers and No.3 Andrew Spedding leaving us 3-40 after 16. Scott Wells and Mick McCormick survived through to drinks with no further loss at 3-63. A couple in the bank would have left us well placed, but in sight of retirement Scott sliced an inviting full toss to point to fall for 26. Mick made his 30*, but a procession of wickets at the other end had us slipping behind the required rate. Mick Tarrant and Garry James chipped in with 18 a piece at close to a run a ball but couldn't find the explosive finish required against steady death bowling.

Definitely one that got away. A good middle order recovery and some late hitting and ragged fielding left us chasing at least 20 more than hoped and we couldn't get the needed momentum against a strong attack that that gave little away. There were plenty of positives though, pushing one of the competitions top teams all the way in a hard fought contest.

The Team was (playing 12/batting 11): - Mike Weaver 14, Mike Pinter 13, Andrew Spedding 4, Scott Wells 26, Mick McCormick 33*ret, Martin Speiser 9, David Benson 0, Greg Brooks 4, Mike Tarrant 18, Garry James 18, David Craig 2*, Stuart Ridge (c) dnb

The Result was:-

Georges River: - 8-174 (M. Tarrant 4-31; S. Ridge 3-28) (40 overs)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: -8-155 (M. McCormick 33* ret) (40 overs)

By 19 runs

FoW: - 1- 27 (M. Weaver); 2-39 (A. Spedding); 3-40 (M. Pinter); 4-79 (S. Wells); 5-105 (M. Speiser); 6-107 (D. Benson); 7-122 (G. Brooks); 8-146 (M. Tarrant)

The Bowling was: - M. Tarrant 8-2-31-4; S. Ridge 9-2-28-3; G. Brooks 9-0-37-0; G. James 7-0-31-0; M. McCormick 4-0-19-1; D. Craig 3-0-22-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: Nil

Catches: One to S. Wells

Run outs: Nil

Player Points: - Three points to M. Tarrant; Two points to S. Ridge; One point to M. McCormick.

**CLASSICS ROUND 2 v OLD IGNATIANS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL,
CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2020: REPORT BY DAVID CRAIG**

A Classic Encounter

A stunning Sydney spring day with bright blue skies and a gentle breeze, a good deck, and the picturesque Camperdown Oval set the scene for an epic game of cricket yesterday. Skipper Stuart Ridge did right by us by winning the toss and batting first in the warm conditions, and two of the four Micks (Weaver and Pinter) strode confidently to the crease on the stroke of 12.15. A cautious start against one of the quickest opening bowlers in the Classics (McCleod) and one of the slowest (Frawley) saw the score advance to one run (sundries 1) before Weaves was adjudged LBW in the third over, to a ball which from our deep square leg vantage point was CLEARLY headed harmlessly down the leg side (the umpires don't read these reports do they? If they do, I didn't write it!)

After a few sighters, number 3 Scott Wells moved smoothly through the gears like a finely tuned sports car, unleashing an array of brutally efficient pulls and cuts complemented by sumptuous cover drives, a perennial favourite of the cricket aesthete. Despite the unfortunate loss of Mick #2 (Pinter) who holed out trying to break the shackles, the run rate was a respectable 4 per over in the 12th over when Wells retired to "the shed" with a run-a-ball 32*. Mick # 3 (McCormick) joined Peter Nielsen in the middle, and this pair moved the score on to 60 when Nielsen, who was beginning to look threatening after a couple of belligerent boundaries, unfortunately dragged one on from wide outside off stump. Two overs later the scorebook was looking a little dicey at 4-73 (17 overs) after Martin Speiser was adjudged LBW for 5. Andrew Spedding joined Mick #3 (McCormick) in an efficient half-century partnership, exploiting the fast outfield by putting away (almost) anything too short or too full. With McCormick safely "in the shed" and the Prez, Greg Brooks at the crease, Speds on 29 eyed a loosener from the opposing skipper but tragically carved the short ball straight to a fielder, 5-124 in the 27th.

From this point the powerful CCNSW batting line-up hit the gas pedal, as Mick #4 (Tarrant) quickly belted half a dozen boundaries, mainly through the extra cover region, retiring at 32* after achieving the rare feat of outscoring the Prez in an enterprising partnership. With three batsmen safely banked, Garry James was never going to die wondering, and departed for a run-a-ball 2 as McCleod penetrated his offence with an off-cutter that knocked back the off-stump. Things were getting frenetic at the scorers desk as Brooks moved to a chanceless 30* (retired), and Stu Ridge landed a couple of lusty blows before falling for 13 in a classic skipper v. skipper contest. At 7-212 in the 37th, 29 had been added in just 20 balls, yet further acceleration was to come as the in-form Wells was joined by Mick # 3 (McCormick). The pair added 33 off the last 3 overs, highlighted by a flat pull-shot for six from Wells that nearly caused the scorers to retire hurt. The final tally of 7-245 looked very defendable, but the Old Ignatians had other ideas...

Mick #3 (Tarrant) took the new ball from the Australia Street end, with skipper Ridge wheeling in from the direction of Mallet Street. Pugnacious left-handed opener (Schwager) was extremely fortunate to survive a thunderous LBW appeal from the first ball, a tough decision which was to have significant implications. After a couple of tight overs, the right-handed Thomas made the mistake of backing away to try and thrash Tarrant though the covers. The delivery swung away and cut back to dislodge the off-bail, bringing to mind the FS Trueman sledge "*it were wasted on thee, lad*".

A bright second wicket partnership ensued before Phelps failed to counter a snorter from Ridge, the old-fashioned "top of off stump" working its magic. 2-32 after 8 overs, and nearly 7 an over required. Enter McCleod at number 4, who blocked a couple before smoking his way to 30* off just 18 balls,

including a mighty blow onto the roof of the pavilion. Meantime, Schwager had retired after a brisk 32*. Easy and Frawley set about the task with sensible determination, picking off the rare loose deliveries from James and Brooks before Frawley (23) skied one to long-on off James. David Craig wandered around like a blind man on the turps before the descending ball targeted his chest area like a guided missile and the catch was completed: 3-115 after 21 and the asking rate stubbornly sticking at a tick under 7 per over.

Mick #3 (McCormick) relieved James in the 25th over, and immediately knocked back the off-stump of Garling (20): 4-145 after 25. The Ignatians number 5, Easy, "eased" his way to 30* to become the Ignatians third man "in the shed", as the Prez completed another 9 over spell of his tight, combative medium pace without much reward. It's fair to say he will have bowled a lot worse for much better figures. Ignatians skipper Toal (18) dominated a partnership of 25 with Forde before bizarrely hitting his own wicket while trying to hoick Speds to backward square: 5-178 after 30, 68 off 10 overs required.

Despite having numbers 9 and 10 at the crease, the Ignatians kept the score ticking over. Tarrant and Ridge returned to bowl out the last 8 overs, with 52 required and 5 wickets in hand. The skipper knocked over Forde (23) with the second ball of his spell (that off stump was really taking a hammering on the day!). A miserly over from Mick #4 (Tarrant), who pinned Parsons (19) in front, left the score at 7-219 with a testing target of 27 from 3 overs. The recycled hitters were now coming back to join number 11 Osborne, on strike to Ridge. After carving a boundary and a 2, the Ignatians tested the fielders once too often, and a superb pickup and throw from Mick #4 (Tarrant) to Ridge saw the dangerous Schwager run out without facing a ball in his second dig.

After a tight final over from Mick #4 (Tarrant), the Old Ignatians required 13 (or 12; whatever, scorers!) off the last over. Ridge bowled Osborne (17) with the first ball, and the task proved impossible for the final pairing: CCNSW prevailed in a thriller, by four runs. Phewww!

The Team was (playing twelve): - Mike Weaver 0; Mike Pinter 1, Scott Wells 54*, Peter Nielsen 11, Mick McCormick 39*, Martin Speiser 5, Andrew Spedding 29, Greg Brooks 30*, Mike Tarrant 32*, Gary James 2, Stuart Ridge (c) 13 and David Craig dnb

The Result was:-

C.C.N.S.W.: - 7-245 (S. Wells 54*; M. McCormick 39*; M. Tarrant 32*; G. Brooks 30*) (40 overs)

Defeated

Old Ignatians: - 9-241 (40 overs)

By 4 runs

FoW: - 1-1 (M. Weaver); 2-20 (M. Pinter); 3-60 (P. Nielsen); 4-71 (M. Speiser); 5-124 (A. Spedding); 6-183 (G. James); 7-212 (S. Ridge)

The Bowling was: - M. Tarrant 9-0-48-2; S. Ridge 9-0-49-3; G. James 7-0-42-1; G. Brooks 9-0-52-0; M. McCormick 4-0-29-1, A. Spedding 2-0-18-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings:- Nil

Catches: - One to D. Craig

Run outs: - One to M. Tarrant/S. Ridge.

Player Points: - Three points to S. Wells; Two points to M. McCormick; One point to M. Tarrant.

CLASSICS ROUND 3 v CASTLE HILL AT KENTHURST OVAL , KENTHURST ON SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER 2020:REPORT BY DAVID CRAIG

Another close win, and a win away from home, but to call this a great cricket match would both devalue the word "great" and insult the noble game of cricket. At times it was more Keystone cops comedy than Swiss watch precision, but the Cricketers' Club knuckled down and produced the goods when it mattered.

It was a hot day in the Far West of NSW, and after clearing customs we were greeted with a brown, lifeless strip which duly provided slow, low and inconsistent bounce throughout the day. Local knowledge (Jamesy) suggested the pitch would only get lower and slower as the day progressed, so winning the toss and batting was a good start. Ian Allmey began proceedings in great style, driving the first ball to the mid-on boundary, followed by 4 byes and another sweetly struck boundary; 0-12 after 3 balls and a big score looked in prospect. It was hard yards after that, with the next 27 overs producing just 97 runs and 3 wickets, all to the sub-military-medium bowling of Wright (9-1-33-3): Peter Nielsen (surprisingly!) adjudged LBW for 2, David Benson holing out after a typically busy 23, and Mick McCormick scuppered by the low bounce, bowled for 10. Meanwhile, Ian Allmey had moved efficiently to 30* with four 4s and one cracking 6, an innings of pure class.

At 3-77, Martin Speiser joined Mike Pinter in a steady 53 run partnership. Between 'Punter's' propensity to smack the ball straight to cover and shout "yes", and Marty's suspicion of any "quick single" that wasn't worth at least one-and-a-half, the running between wickets provided some champagne comedy. As all cricketers are taught, there are only three possible calls: yes, no, and "for f*&k's sake!" Just as they were accelerating the scoring rate (with some help from a rare 5 penalty runs as the ball hit the wicketkeeper's discarded helmet), Marty was bowled by the lesser off-spinning James brother, Paul. At 4-130 after 30 overs, Greg Brooks joined Punter at the wicket and the pair hit the gas pedal, taking 18 off the 33rd over (Perry the bowler) including a big six over midwicket from the Prez. The revolving door was in action thereafter, with Pinter retiring on 30* in the 34th, Brooks (20) bowled by the returning Reaney in the 35th, Andrew Spedding bowled by CCNSW alum Mitch Sturt for 1 in the 36th, and Garry James (3) lobbing a catch to his own brother off Sturt in the 38th (7-181). The in-form Mick Tarrant was joined at the crease by David Craig, and the pair added a breezy 26 off the last 14 balls, including a maximum from Micky T off Reaney. Cricketers' Club had the momentum going into the break, with the last ball of the innings being smoked by D. Craig for a straight six.

Although 7-207 felt like a below par total against an attack that appeared to have all the penetrating power of a pop-gun stuffed with a cork, CCNSW were confident it could be defended on a dead track producing the occasional submarine ball. In the absence of a regular keeper, Andrew Spedding took first shift with the gloves. The Castle Hill innings was off to an invigorating start when a streaker from a nearby campsite began cavorting around the mid-wicket boundary. This certainly seemed to jolt the openers into action, as Paul James cracked 5 boundaries in quick time before being bowled by Tarrant for 27. You could sense the import of the moment as he lingered for several seconds post-dismissal, head downcast (1-38 in the 7th over).

Spin was introduced early as Craig relieved Stuart Ridge in the 10th over, and Garry James took over from Micky T in the 13th. The off spin of James did the trick, trapping the opener Petrie LBW for 13 (2-71 after 13 overs). On a wicket offering plenty of slow turn, the spin twins were hard to get away, conceding just 42 runs off a combined 14 overs. However, wickets were proving difficult to come by, and the number 3 batsman Hall looked in ominous touch as he reached 30*. Castle Hill looked to be slight favourites at the drinks break, at 2-92 and the RRR at 5.8 per over with plenty of wickets in hand.

After the drinks break, some tight bowling from Brooks and James began to build scoreboard pressure. Trying to lift the run-rate, Mitch Sturt hoisted the Prez for a maximum, but perished while attempting to repeat the trick, picking out the safe hands of Craig at mid-wicket. 3-120 after 26 (RRR 6.3). Prianta and Stanley remained tied down, inducing a panicky attempted single off James that resulted only the run-out of Prianta as Ridge fired the return in to wicketkeeper #2 (Pinter): 4-126 in the 29th, advantage CCNSW.

David "Benno" Benson took the ball for the 30th over, with Brooksy changing ends, and the change yielded an important dividend when in his second over, Benno bowled the stubborn lefty,

Stanley, for 26. At 5-145 after 32, 8 an over required, and only one man in the shed, CCNSW looked to be firmly in the box seat. Unfortunately, Benno's success earned him another over, and the ensuing 17 runs brought the target down to an achievable 6.5 an over off the last 6. It was a funny/not funny period in the game for CCNSW in the field, with a couple of sitters being spilled, a missed stumping, misfields and numerous overthrows conceded. Some sage psychological advice was offered by Brooksy to the talkative Reaney (Castle Hill allrounder), and our normally mild mannered skipper offered a heartfelt scream of "for f#\$k's sake" as yet another fielding mishap tilted the odds towards Castle Hill. A bit of passion is fair enough, is all I'm saying.

As the RRR shrank below a run a ball, it became obvious that wickets were required, and in a hurry, and opening bowlers Ridge and Tarrant returned to close out the innings. After Reaney retired (gifted his last two runs by an errant throw later claimed to be "tactical"), the skipper stepped up to pin Gunawardhana first ball, and bowled Wright for a duck two balls later. 7-183 after 36, 25 needed off 24 balls. Iveson tonked a couple of boundaries before lofting Micky T to Ridge at long-off. Unfortunately, Stuart had left his glasses at the bowling mark at the other end of the ground, yet somehow miraculously clung on to the catch. Still, at 8-201 after 38, and the retired batters returning to join number 11 Perry, a minor miracle was needed. Cometh the hour, cometh the man, and Micky T pawed the ground at the top of his run, charged in and CLEAN BOWLED the top scorer Hall to bring the cocky and abrasive Reaney back to the crease. Next ball was full and straight, just what the doctor ordered, and the LBW appeal was instantly upheld, victory by 6 runs to CCNSW!

With quick runs, four wickets, and great athleticism all day in the field, Mick Tarrant was a deserving man of the match. Ian Allmey's aggressive innings gave us early impetus and earned the two points, while Mike Pinter won the final point with 30* in the middle order, a solid wicket-keeping stint and some fine out-fielding (with a DRS available, he may have pulled off a memorable run-out with a long throw from the boundary to the "wrong" end). It was a performance this team could clearly improve upon, but a win is a win, and away from home especially valuable.

The Team was (playing 12): - Ian Allmey 30*, Peter Nielsen 2, David Benson 23, Mick McCormick 10, Mike Pinter (w) 30*, Martin Speiser 24, Greg Brooks 20, Andrew Spedding (w) 1, Mike Tarrant 23*, Gary James 3, David Craig 12*, and Stuart Ridge (c) dnb

The Result was:-

CCNSW: - 7-207 (I. Allmey 30*; M. Pinter 30*) (40 overs)

Defeated

Castle Hill: -10-201 (M. Tarrant 4-43) (38.3 overs)

By 6 runs

FoW: - 1- 20 (P. Nielsen); 2-64 (M. McCormick); 3-77 (D. Benson); 4-130 (M. Speiser); 5-167 (G. Brooks); 6-169 (A. Spedding); 7-181 (G. James)

The Bowling was: - M. Tarrant 8.3-0-43-4; S. Ridge 6-0-33-2; D. Craig 5-0-20-0; G. James 9-1-22-1; G. Brooks 7-0-38-1; D. Benson 3-0-26-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: Nil

Catches: One to D. Craig and one to S. Ridge

Run outs: One to S. Ridge

Player Points (awarded by umpire): - Three points to M Tarrant; Two points to I. Allmey; One point to M. Pinter

CCNSW over 50s CLASSICS TEAM AT CASTLE HILL ON SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER 2020



Back Row (l to r): Mick Tarrant, Stuart Ridge (c), Garry James, Greg Brooks, Ian Allmey, Martin Speiser, Peter Nielsen.
Front Row (l to r): Andrew Spedding (w), David Craig, David Benson, Mike Pinter, Mick McCormick

CLASSICS ROUND 4 v KU-RING-GAI AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER 2020

Cancelled because of Covid 19

CLASSICS ROUND 5 v LANE COVE AT CAMPERDOWN PARK ON SUNDAY 17 JANUARY 2021: REPORT BY DAVID CRAIG

A Classic Encounter

It was a glorious day for cricket at the beloved Camperdown Oval, with bright blue skies and warm sunshine. We were greeted by a hard, well-grassed deck that promised a fair contest between bat and ball. A good day to win the toss and bat big.

Unfortunately, the Lane Cove skipper called correctly and we took the field. The skipper's pre-game pep-talk must have been a psychological masterpiece, as our bowling group had an absolute day out, supported by some fine fielding. After the second ball of the innings was glanced for four, it was all downhill for the Lane 'Covids', as we tore through them like a pandemic at a Republican fund-raiser.

Mick Tarrant got the ball rolling with a superb in-swinging yorker rattling Amolda's stumps in the third over, and followed that with two more 'jaffas' in the fifth over to clean bowl MacLaine and Wignall. At the other end, Stuart Ridge was delivering a six over spell that yielded just 3 runs, and the steady build-up of dot-ball pressure yielded results when Magarey aimed a pull shot at a ball that was not short enough, and the castle was disturbed for a fourth time. After ten overs of immaculate pace bowling, Lane Cove were mortally wounded at 4-12.

A double change introduced the spin-twins, Garry James and David Craig, and paid immediate dividends in the form of a wicket maiden from James, the fifth wicket falling to a sensational left handed "pluck" by Greg Brooks at slip. At the other end some accurate leg-spin maintained the pressure until a long-hop was despatched to deep square leg, where Scott Wells ran and dived forward to take a sensational low catch. A raucous lbw shout was rewarded soon after, followed by a smart catch at mid-wicket by Andrew Spedding in the same over, as Lane Cove limped to 8-30 at the drinks break.

At this point Treweek and McRae put together a decent partnership, and another double bowling change saw the left-arm orthodox of Martin Speiser paired with Mick McCormick's medium pacers. Once again, the change paid dividends, as the top-scorer flicked Speiser to mid-wicket where David Craig took a tumbling low catch, and after a shortish stay that was both charmed and controversial, their number 11 cut McCormick into the safe hands of Speiser at point: Lane Cove all out 66. This was a really solid performance in the field, with five good catches taken and solid ground-fielding to back up a terrific outing by the bowlers.

After the break, Mike Weaver was quickly into stride with pulls and drives yielding early boundaries. At the other end Mike Pinter slowly warmed to the task and started accumulating runs effectively. The best chance for a wicket seemed to be a run out, as one of Punter's characteristic 'sharp'* singles produced a shy at the stumps and three overthrows, the (rare) all-run four nearly resulted in 'Weaves' being simultaneously lapped and retired hurt with a strained hammy. Nevertheless, our heroes soldiered on toward the target as the number 3 bat Scott Wells began calculating the mathematical probability of the win being achieved without either opener retiring. Alas, Weaves reached 30* retired with only a handful required, and Wells was required to walk out to the middle and watch Punter knock off the remaining runs as CCNSW completed a comprehensive victory.

*i.e. suicidal

The Team was (playing 12): - Mike Weaver 30* ret not out, Mike Pinter 30*, Scott Wells 0*, Mick McCormick dnb, Greg Brooks dnb, Glenn Mortell (w) dnb, Martin Speiser dnb, Andrew Spedding dnb, Mike Tarrant dnb, Garry James dnb, David Craig dnb, Stuart Ridge (c) dnb

The Result was:-

Lane Cove: - 10-66 (32.1 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 0-67 (M Weaver 30* ret not out; M. Pinter 30*) (12.2 overs)

By 10 wickets

The Bowling was: - M. Tarrant 5-1-9-3; S. Ridge 6-3-3-1; G. James 8-2-22-1; D. Craig 7-0-17-3; M. McCormick 3.1-1-5-1, M. Speiser 3-1-5-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: Nil

Catches: One to each of G. Brooks, D. Craig, A. Spedding, M. Speiser and S. Wells

Run outs: Nil

Player Points (awarded by umpire): - Three points to M. Tarrant; Two points to M. Weaver; One point to D. Craig

CLASSICS ROUND 6 v BURWOOD AT CAMPERDOWN PARK ON SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2021: REPORT BY STUART RIDGE

Burwood won the toss and chose to bat on another fine day for cricket at Camperdown.

Opener Deguara started confidently punching anything full through the off-side but in the fourth over played across a straight one and was trapped in front by Stuart Ridge to break the opening stand at 9. he picked up a second in his next over with the new batsman skying a slower ball to keeper Glenn Mortell.

Burwood's Warwick Hayes was looking typically solid but lost another partner to a sharp overhead catch at slip by Ian Allmey with Mick Tarrant deservedly drawing the edge after another probing opening spell. Burwood now 3-28 in the 11th over.

Burwood looked to consolidate against change bowlers Garry James and Mick McCormick adding 29 runs without further loss. Mick then struck twice in the space of 5 balls including the prize wicket of Hayes, nicking a snorter of a ball to Glenn who took a one handed screamer at full stretch.

Burwood were 5-67 at drinks and David Craig joined the attack. Despite the batsmen eyeing the short leg side boundary to the wrist spinner, David and Garry tied things up nicely. The pressure was rewarded with two smart run outs as Burwood struggled to accelerate, a direct hit by David Craig from mid-on and a sharp return from backward square from Scott Wells catching the batsmen short.

Martin Speiser's slow left arm spin picked where Garry's off-spin left off, to continue the spin attack from both ends moving into the last ten overs. With the openers warming up to close the innings, the slow bowlers ensured they weren't required with Craig giving a third catch behind to Glenn and a second catch to Ian Allmey before Speiser finished things off with a caught and bowled. Burwood all out 117 in the thirty sixth over.

Ian Allmey and Mike Pinter got the reply off to a brisk start with 20 off the first four overs. However, Ian was just warming up. After moving to 16 at a run a ball, he bludgeoned another 16 off the next 3 balls to retire on 32* half way through the 6th over.

Scott Wells then joined Pinter and with the score at 0-57 off ten overs. 60 were required off the next ten to maximise bonus points, which was a realistic prospect. We then lost momentum against some tidy bowling and at 0-91 after 18, needed 27 to wrap things up before drinks. Mick McCormick, replaced Mike Pinter after his well hit 30* but holed out for 4. Scott wells closed out his 30* with a flurry to keep us in the mix, contributing to 13 runs off the nineteenth over before Glenn Mortell and Mike Weaver took the required 14 runs off the twentieth over for a second successive early finish.

Another outstanding all-round performance at Camperdown, with all the bowlers applying pressure and taking regular wickets, tight fielding, stunning catches, two sharp run-outs and a dominant chase.

The Team was (playing 12): - Ian Allmey 32* ret not out. Mike Pinter 30* ret not out, Scott Wells 32* ret not out, Mick McCormick 4, Mike Weaver 10*, Glenn Mortell 3*, Mike Tarrant dnb, Martin Speiser dnb, Garry James dnb, David Benson dnb, David Craig dnb and Stuart Ridge (c) dnb

The Result was:-

Burwood CC: - 10-117 (35.5 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 1-118 (I. Allmey 32* ret, M. Pinter 30* ret, S. Wells 32* ret) (20 overs)

By 9 wickets.

FoW: - 1-100 (M. McCormick).

The Bowling was: - M. Tarrant 7-1-15-1; S. Ridge 6-1-16-2; G. James 8-0-21-0; M. McCormick 4-0-26-2; D. Craig 7-0-23-2; M. Speiser 3.5-0-9-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: Nil

Catches: Three to G. Mortell (w); two to I. Allmey; one to M. Speiser

Run outs: One to D. Craig and one to S. Wells

Player Points (awarded by umpire): - Three points to I. Allmey; Two points to S. Ridge; One point to S. Wells.

CLASSICS ROUND 7 v MOSMAN AT RAWSON OVAL, MOSMAN ON SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2021: REPORT BY DAVID CRAIG

A Game of Two Halves

With perfect late summer weather and excellent facilities at Allan Border Oval, the stage was set for some great cricket and a chance for CCNSW to break the “Mosman hoodoo” and firmly stamp ourselves as title contenders. Spoiler alert: that didn’t happen!

First up, the under 17s game still had 15 overs to play when the appointed starting time rolled around, giving us all a lengthy wait for a delayed start. Mosman won the toss and batted on a good looking pitch that offered more pace and bounce than most. We took the field with a confident bowling line-up that had skittled our opponents in the last two outings. Mosman, however, were ready to play with a line-up including most/all of their gun bats: they jumped out of the gate with a flurry of early boundaries that was interrupted briefly when Mike Tarrant knocked back Davis’ off peg with a beauty. Atkinson at no.3 scored freely, retiring at 1-52 in the ninth over to be replaced by Perrott, who was stone cold LBW first ball to Tarrant. Unfortunately, the umpire was not “with us” at that moment, a decision that cost us 43 runs.

Greg Brooks replaced Stuart Ridge but tragically broke down with a left knee injury in his third over that ended his participation in the match – get well soon, Prez ! At the other end, Garry James relieved Tarrant, a move that sparked Varasdi into a brief flurry of hitting that ended with him lifting one to Mick McCormack, caught for 26 at 2-90 after 15. Moss came out swinging and soon top edged a skier to keeper Glenn Mortell off James: however at the drinks break Mosman were ominously placed at 3-115 and two in the shed.

After the break we did pretty well to restrict them to under 5 an over, with all the bowlers giving away very little in the way of loose deliveries. Turner survived an early LBW shout (James) and a caught and bowled “chance” off yours truly (although TBH, if they start hitting them back any harder I might have to consider bowling in a helmet!) before retiring at 33*, while at the other end wickets fell regularly enough, until the recycled hitters had a few overs of slather and whack to end the innings at 8-212. A challenging target, but achievable on a nice pacey wicket.

The less said about our batting, the better. Scott Wells hit 30 but everyone else failed, all out 92. The end.

I’ve been informed I won’t get paid* unless I write a bit more about our innings, so here it is. Mike Weaver and Mike Pinter started positively against some tight bowling by Turner and Greenwood, until a nip-backer from Turner disturbed ‘Punter’s castle and ‘Weaves’ was caught trying to up the run rate:

2-20. Short of frontline bowlers, Mosman's strategy of basically bowling out Greenwood and Turner in the first half and exerting scoreboard pressure was working. Scott Wells started smacking a few 4s and 6s, but lost Mick McCormick (lbw) and Andrew Spedding (stumped) before retiring (30*) at 4-50 in the fourteenth over.

Leg-spinner Frost relieved Turner, and needing more than a run a ball, Martin Speiser slapped a loosener for 4 before holing out. Glenn Mortell and Mike Tarrant consolidated but we limped into drinks at 5-65 needing 7.5 an over in the back half. Boundaries were hard to come by: it appeared that the outfield grass had grown half an inch during the innings break. An alternative, but more likely explanation was that they just hit the ball harder than us!

Tarrant and Mortell put on a steady 26, but with the RRR escalating, risks had to be taken, and Tarrant (12) fell to a return catch off Elliott, and when Mortell was bowled by Condon for 4, it was 7-85 and the RRR up over 9. A fine* partnership between David Craig (2) and Garry James (7) was cruelly cut short when Craig lofted Condon to deepish mid-off. I don't know what happened next, but by the time I had the pads off, the ground was completely empty! The scorebook indicates a hat-trick may have taken place to end the innings, with James stumped and the recycled Wells LBW "first" ball.

In a game played in two halves, we fell behind in the first half and got slaughtered in the second. We were comprehensively beaten in the battle of the bats: their top six amassed 3-167 while ours in reply could only muster 6-53. On the positive side, we bowled and fielded well, held most of our catches, and did pretty well restricting them after a fast start. A good win against Roseville in the next round could see us back in the top four, but our title hopes are well and truly gone. If you think I'm taking that well, I have a bridge I'd like to sell you...

*not really

The Team was (playing 12): - Mick Weaver 10, Mike Pinter 4, Scott Wells 30, Mick McCormick 3, Andrew Spedding 0, Martin Speiser 6, Glenn Mortell (w) 14, Mike Tarrant 12, Garry James 7, David Craig 2, Stuart Ridge (c) 0*, Greg Brooks dnb

The Result was:-

Mosman CC: - 8-212 (40 overs)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: -10-92 (S. Wells 30) (27.3 overs)

By 120 runs

FoW: - 1-9 (M. Pinter); 2-20 (M. Weaver); 3-30 (M. McCormick); 4-41 (A. Spedding); 5- 54 (M. Speiser); 6-80 (M. Tarrant); 7-85 (G. Mortell); 8-92 (D. Craig); 9-92 (G. James); 10-92 (S. Wells).

The Bowling was: - M. Tarrant 9-0-44-2; S. Ridge 9-0-55-2; G. Brooks 2.1-0-14-0; G. James 9-0-40-2; M. McCormick 5.5-0-27-1, D. Craig 5-0-24-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: Nil

Catches: Two to S. Wells and one to each of D. Craig, M. McCormick, G. Mortell (w) and M. Weaver.

Run outs: Nil

Player Points (awarded by umpire): - Three points to S. Wells; Two points to M. Tarrant; One point to G. James.

**CLASSICS ROUND 8 v ROSEVILLE AT ROSEVILLE CHASE, EAST ROSEVILLE
ON SUNDAY 7 MARCH 2021: REPORT BY STUART RIDGE**

A good toss to lose.

After the sobering defeat at Mosman, the CCNSW Classics were looking to get back on track at Roseville Chase. Despite a greenish patchy wicket, Stuart Ridge was keen to bat but called wrongly and Roseville chose to make first use of the track.

Mick Tarrant hit the spot straight away and a big shout second ball was rewarded with the Roseville opener on his way without scoring. A lively first over from Stuart Ridge at the other end had the ball passing the bat regularly and any disappointment at losing the toss was quickly forgotten. With Roseville yet to trouble the scorers, Mick went up again and the Roseville skipper came to the crease at 2-0 in the 3rd over. 3 balls later, another shout, another lbw, Roseville 3-0 after 3.

Roseville's next in started solidly, hitting everything cleanly in the middle but struggling to pierce the field as they edged into double figures without further damage. Then, as often happens when runs are tight, a loose ball made the breakthrough with a flick down the leg side off Stuart going straight down the throat of Frank Baliotis at short fine leg.

Garry James' off spin replaced the skipper and after a couple of looseners, he got in the act with the help of a sharp catch by Scott Wells at mid wicket. 5-21 after 12. David Craig's leggies were also looking dangerous replacing Mick Tarrant at the other end.

The next Roseville bat tried to break the shackles taking on Mick Tarrant's golden arm in the deep and was caught short to leave them 6-30. Garry James then struck twice for the 4th lbw duck of the innings shortly followed by another catch to Scott Wells - 8-36 in the 18th.

Roseville's Rowan Harry steadied the ship, farming the strike from the tail enders to reach his retirement at 30*. He did not get much of a rest as Martin Speiser took the 9th wicket, caught Tarrant at cover for the 6th duck of the innings. Harry returned to make 42 out the eventual total of 70 before being last man out caught by Glenn Mortell standing up to Mick McCormick in the 31st over.

With Mike Weaver absent, David Benson opened the CCNSW innings with Mike Pinter but with only 4 on the board, both were dismissed, 'Beno' with a leading edge to cover for the 7th duck of the match and Mike to a lifting delivery outside off to be caught behind.

Scott Wells was wasting no time and hit the Roseville skipper out of the attack before losing partner Frank Baliotis bowled to leave us 3-29 after 9 overs. Scott quickly moved to his 30 * ret and we were looking good for maximum bonus points for another chase inside 20 overs at 3-41 after 11. However, retirements can quickly change momentum and Martin Speiser was run out going for a quick single, followed by Glenn Mortell caught behind, unlucky to get a snorter first ball. 5-45 after 15 and a scurry of activity in the pavilion as one or two who had checked out for the day had to put the whites back on.

Mick Tarrant joined Mick McCormick and we got through to drinks without any further mishap at 5-57 and only 14 required. McCormick was keen to finish things quickly but after a lofted four was out caught trying to repeat the act leaving Garry James to close out the win in the 22nd over.

A good win set by up another great bowling and fielding performance led by Mick T (3-9 off 6 overs plus a catch and a run out) with Garry James (also 3-9 off 9 overs) and a tricky chase with Scott Wells looking like he was playing on a different wicket to the rest on a day with 8 ducks.

The Team was: - Mike Pinter 3, David Benson 0, Scott Wells (w) 30* ret, Frank Baliotis 5, Mick McCormick 8, Martin Speiser 4, Glenn Mortell 0, Mick Tarrant 10, Garry James 8*, David Craig dnb, Stuart Ridge (c) dnb

The Result was:-

Roseville CC: - 10-70 (M. Tarrant 3-9; G. James 3-9) (31.3 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 6-71 (S. Wells 30* ret) (21.5 overs)

By 4 wickets

FoW: - 1-4 (M. Pinter); 2-4 (D. Benson); 3-29 (F. Baliotis); 4-45 (G. Mortell); 6-45 (M. Speiser); 6-62 (M. McCormick).

The Bowling was: - M. Tarrant 6-2-9-3; S. Ridge 5-1-8-1; G. James 9-5-9-3; D. Craig 6-0-26-0; M. Speiser 4-0-7-1; M. McCormick 1.3-0-10-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - Two to S. Wells; One each to F. Baliotis, G. Mortell (w) and M. Tarrant

Run outs: - Nil

Player Points (awarded by umpire): - Three points to S. Wells; Two points to M. Tarrant; One point to G. James.

**CLASSICS ROUND 9 v SRI LANKA LIONS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL,
CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 21 MARCH 2021**

Game v Sri Lanka Lions, Premiers this season, cancelled by rain