

## **C.C.N.S.W. MATCH REPORTS CLASSICS 2021-2022**

### **CLASSICS OVER 50s ROUND 1 v PARRAMATTA AT McCREDIE OVAL, GUILDFORD ON SUNDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2021 : REPORT BY SCOTT WELLS**

Forecasts for the day were not good with rain in the lead up and the morning of the match. However, McCredie Park being such a well maintained and thick couch grass outfield with a raised square, the surface was fine. After a delayed start through passing showers, Scott Wells in his first toss as skipper called correctly and duly sent the opposition in to ensure control of the back end of the game should weather intervene.

With Parramatta being an aging side and perennially positioned in the lower half of the ladder, CCNSW were expected to win this game so we needed to get stuck into their top order quickly to expose their middle to late order and bring about an early finish as the storm clouds continued to roll over to the south and north of Guildford.

Opening the bowling was the ever reliable Mick Tarrant and the curve ball Martin Speiser. Both the bowlers struggled with their length in the opening four overs regularly finding the middle of the bat but with an agile and alert inner ring, the batsmen were rarely able to pierce some excellent fielding. Parramatta were getting off to a decent start with the bat with the outfield like carpet, and were up to 22 in no time. A change was made with Paul Nash (Classics debut) replacing Speiser (Life) from the southern end immediately tightening the screws with only 2 runs off his first three overs.

At the other end (Breaker) Tarrant was starting to find the groove with a breakthrough in the 7<sup>th</sup> over – lovely outswinger pitching middle and leg taking out their opening bat with an lbw. The screws continued to tighten but Parramatta showed no signs of frustration until a peach from Nash (Potato) clean bowled the other opener in the 14<sup>th</sup> over with only 20 runs added since the 7<sup>th</sup> over. A change was made at the top end after Tarrant had only gone for 6 runs off 4 overs. The change was big bustling Andrew Bachelard, making not only his debut for Classics but also his Club debut. Legend has it he was hanging around a Coogee net session where the great Stuart Ridge was batting and running out of bowlers – he whistled him over and said “son... have a crack and do your best”. Stu was that impressed, he signed him on the spot. The rest is (or will be) history.

Having not bowled in a game for some 15 years, Bachelard surprisingly settled into a decent line and length quickly asking questions of the batsmen. Rain intervened twice either side of the scheduled break which saw the match reduced to 34 overs a side. Parramatta were being cautious and CCNSW bowling and fielding were on line and tight until Nash broke through finding the edge for a nick behind off their big No. 3 just as he was looking at getting going. One wicket then bought two with a very well judge outfield catch by Dave Benson (Hedges) in very overcast conditions (I think it ended up between his knees in the end).

After Benson's 5<sup>th</sup> over, he was given a spell to bring on the wily David Craig (man with two first names – never trust them). With the seam starting to get a bit moist, DCs control was impeccable in the very trying conditions. As he had done the previous week, he bowled a very tight line, mixing up the leggies with toppies and the odd quicker straight one and mystery ball (followed by a shoulder shrug). He received a well-deserved wicket with a sharply caught snick behind after spilling an earlier C&B chance. Two of his first three overs were maidens.

Meanwhile, “The Prez” Greg Brooks relieved Nash after a great spell of line and length cumulating in a ‘3 fa’ further tying up the batsmen. An lbw in Brooks' second over continued to see the steady fall of wickets. With the 34<sup>th</sup> over near, Parramatta started playing some shots and a risky run saw (Breaker) Tarrant throw the stumps down at the bowlers end to get our 7<sup>th</sup> wicket. Parramatta finished on 7 for 115 from their allocated 34 overs. All bowlers bowled well and the fielding was top shelf.

With the risk of rain still imminent plus a possible bonus point or three for an early chase, it was imperative we got off to a good start. Both the opening pair of Ed (Red) Cross making his debut for both CCNSW and Classics and Ian Allmey (Lovin') found the middle early and got off to a flyer – 39 off

the first 4 overs until Ian was adjudged by a ball that would have eventually hit the stumps falling LBW for 22. Enter Nashman.

Both he and Ed continued to found the gaps with good timing and hitting to get us to around 65 off 10 with maximum bonus points in sight with a finish inside 17 overs. Approx 50 off 7 required. The green light was given to "go for it" with plenty of wickets in hand and hitters in the shed waiting. Nash retired for a well made 30\* after hitting them to all parts including over the keeper's head. His retirement bought in Scott (All's) Wells (End Wells).

From the outset Well's intentions were clear with a boundary first ball and some hard running between the wickets with Ed Cross. Some mistimed big shots bought about the downfall of Ed (22) and Wells (11) bringing in Greg Brooks as a pinch hitter (Prez) who duly obliged with a sweetly timed 6 back over the bowler. Prez fell for 11. Needing 10 runs off the sixteenth and seventeenth overs, Richie (De Man) De Silva (Also Classics and Club debut) and Mike (half) Pinter safely saw us home with a few balls to spare to secure the all-important bonus points – achieving the required runs within 50% of the allocated overs and more importantly beating the rain to secure a well deserved victory.

**The Team was (playing 12):** - Ian Allmey 22, Ed Cross 22, Paul Nash 31\*, Scott Wells (c) 11, Greg Brooks 11, Mike Pinter 4\*, Richie De Silva 9\*, Mike Tarrant dnb, David Benson dnb, David Craig dnb, Martin Speiser dnb, Andrew Bachelard dnb

**The Result was: -**

**Parramatta CC: 7-115** (34 overs) (P. Nash 3-26)

**Lost to**

**C.C.N.S.W.: 4-117** (16.3 overs) (P. Nash 31\*)

**By 6 wickets**

**FoW:** - 1-36 (I. Allmey); 2-84 (E. Cross); 3-89 (S. Wells); 4-106 (G. Brooks).

**The Bowling was; -:** M. Tarrant 7-1-19-1; M. Speiser 2-0-11-0; P. Nash 7-3-26-3; A. Bachelard 5-1-22-0; D. Craig 5-2-12-1, G. Brooks 7-0-19-1

**The Fielding was: -**

**Stumpings:** - Nil

**Catches:** - 2 to S. Wells (w) and one to D. Benson

**Run outs:** - One to M. Tarrant

**Player points (awarded by umpire):** - 3 points to P. Nash; 2 points to G. Brooks; one point to M. Tarrant

## **CLASSICS OVER 50s ROUND 2 v LINDFIELD AT ACRON OVAL, ST IVES ON SUNDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2021**

**Cancelled by rain**

**CLASSICS OVER 50s ROUND 3 v BURWOOD AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL,  
CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER 2021 : REPORT BY DAVID BENSON**

**GREY SKIES OVER CAMPERDOWN**

Come hell or high water and let's face it, there's been plenty of that lately, twenty two cricket starved individuals were resolute in their determination to get things under way, despite the threatening clouds.

The uncovering of the wicket revealed a dilemma. Deck good albeit with a pizza sized wet spot mid track? And one end acceptable from a bowling run up perspective but the other end looking like a play pen for pigs. Solution to this, 80 overs from one end. Desperate times call for desperate measures.

Having lost the toss and sent into bat, a short change room optic from our abbreviated skipper, Mike Pinter and Ian Allmey strode purposely to the soddened square. Bowling from the hospital end and credit to the opening pair of Rouse and Degura, revealed a couple of things early. Firstly the pitch was playing true, hats off to ground staff, although playing off the front foot rather than back, is always suggested. Secondly our own rain maker Allmey was looking a little frustrated by the good length bowling of the Burwood openers. Positive note, his bat swinging was drying out the wicket.

Allmey's frustration was over in the second ball of the seven over, as he uncharacteristically feathered one through to the keeper. One for 13 off seven overs. In strode Paul Nash full of purpose and resolve, to join Pinter. A quick midwicket glove punch, recap on objectives and on with proceedings. After a cautious start, Nash opened the shoulders and accessed the shorter offside boundary, retiring on 30\* off 39 deliveries. One in the bank.

Where is Punter I hear you ask? Well solid and anchoring at this stage. Captain my Captain now in the fold and looking to push and a great partnership unfolds between Pinter and Scott Wells. Two great runners between wickets is reflected in an increased run rate until Punter retires with a well complied 30\*. Bank looking healthy.

New recruit and big bonus it must be said, Richie de Silva walks to the crease. Starting well with some classic stroke play, De Silva is undone by a peach of a delivery and with castle rattled, departs after scoring 8. Two for 117 of 24.

Enter Ed Cross, again another fine signing in the off season; this guy is a no nonsense cricket. Together with Wells they continue to push forward and in doing so, lower the heads of the opposition. Wells retires on 31\* and bank at this stage, deposit box full. Out walks Martin Speiser to join Cross. Not for long, Cross retires on 33\* (21 balls faced, best on ground). Bank is bursting at the preferable seams.

Two for 157 after 30 Overs. (Hats off to tweaker David Craig for an immaculate scorebook, to which this scribe refers. In partnership with Smith, who knows what these guys could do).

Back to the cricket.

David Benson and Speiser at the crease. Having complied a solid 16, Speiser is undone by the crafty (want to hit this bloke to Marrickville), Nation from Burwood. Three for 186 from 34.

With a target of 240 / 250 in mind, it was all systems go. Benson, Mike Tarrant, Greg Brooks and Anthony Bachelard are given licence to open the shoulders and combined, provide a fitting end to a team effort of 4 for 237 off 40. To be honest the 237 was worth 270, given that accessing the shorter off side boundary was difficult due the bowling accuracy of Burwood and the onside almost unreachable due to the pitch position and prevailing wind.

Covid had its say in innings change as with everything else. Gone I fear are the days of CCNSW providing from the canteen shelf a mid-innings, well deserved break, where we come together as

cricketers. So a short innings break, a quick warm up and CCNSW take the field full of confidence after posting an imposing score.

Things didn't start well for the Burwood openers. Chasing runs from the get-go, a comical run out had the visitors on the back foot at one for 4 off the first over. New recruit Bachelard opened the bowling with spearhead Mike Tarrant and was starting to probe the top of off until popping his hamstring in his second over. Bad for 'Bach'.

Playing 12 is always a good thing, particularly at this level of cricket. So Bachelard is replaced by the scribe and order restored.

Degura and Robinson looked to build the run chase after the early setback and started to accumulate. It took a sharp piece of fielding from Cross and bail removal by Nash to find Robinson short on the second and back in the pavilion. Interesting that as one run was completed of the two, Degura had reached 30\* and was also on his way back to the pavilion. 2 for 58 after 14 with one in the bank.

It's a strange thing bowling from one end. It removes the much needed change of over mid-wicket interactions between team mates, that keeps focus on the task at hand and the legs moving.

Nash and Brooks now rolled them over as first changes. Bowling tight lines, as to be expected, the pair combined to take three wickets in the next ten overs. 5 for 91 after 25 and any flicker of Burwood hope extinguished. The bowling was of course well supported by fielding throughout by the usual suspects but notably, Allmey running the boundary, Speiser with a blooded finger and even the 'Pres', Greg Brooks picking up a couple of grass stains.

In the end Burwood managed to bat out the allotted 40 overs, much to the frustration of David Craig who bowled a luckless spell but in combination with Speiser picked up their 6<sup>th</sup>. Cross came on for a couple before picking up a calf strain and Wells shortly afterwards executed a freakish stumping off the medium-fast Mike Tarrant. You won't see that in the scorebook every season.

A wicket by the scribe off the last ball of the day, had the CCNSW boys pick up two from two to begin the season. Realistically we should have rolled Burwood earlier but to be honest, begin back on the paddock was the true reward and as they say in the Classics "*Cricket was the winner on the day*".

**The Team was (playing 12):** - Ian Allmey 3; Mike Pinter 30\*, Paul Nash 30\*, Scott Wells (c) & (w) 31\*, Richie De Silva 8, Ed Cross 33\*, Martin Speiser 16, David Benson 30\*, Mike Tarrant 27\*, Greg Brooks 1, Anthony Bachelard 0\*, David Craig dnb

**The Result was: -**

**C.C.N.S.W.:- 4-237 (40 overs) (E. Cross 33\*)**

**Defeated**

**Burwood: - 8-163 (40 overs)**

**By 74 runs**

**FoW:** - 1- 10 (I. Allmey); 2-114 (R. De Silva); 3-185 (M. Speiser); 4-226 (G. Brooks).

**The Bowling was;** - M. Tarrant 8-0-37-1; A. Bachelard 1.2-0-9-0; G. Brooks 5-1-19-2; E. Cross 2.2-0-8-0; D. Craig 9-0-30-0; M. Speiser 3-0-25-1; D. Benson 1.4-0-9-1; P. Nash 9-0-25-1

**The Fielding was: -**

**Stumpings:** - One to S. Wells

**Catches:** - One to D. Craig

**Run outs:** 2; - - One to D. Craig and one to M. Pinter

**Player points (awarded by umpire):** - 3 points to P. Nash; 2 points to E. Cross; one point to M. Pinter

**CLASSICS OVER 50s ROUND 4 v WARRINGAH AT FRANK GRAY OVAL, WELDON PARK, CURL CURL ON SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER 2021: REPORT BY MIKE PINTER**

There's nothing like a trip to Curl Curl on a sweltering hot day in Sydney, yet this time we wouldn't get the opportunity to dance across the baking sand, - then dive into the crystal-clear waves for relief. Today the 'Men in Blue' (CCNSW) had their chance to take on the 'Men in Green' (Warringah) at their home ground.

The covers were removed late, and the pitch looked a little bit damp, however in pretty good nick, with a dry well grassed outfield. Forecast for the afternoon was a steamy 33 plus degrees with storms to hit mid-afternoon. Upon initial inspection of the pitch and the forecast storm conditions I remember Scott "Scotty" Wells asking, *"Is there any reason that we shouldn't bowl first on this deck?"* OK Skip- your call!

Unfortunately, three of our eleven must have relied on Weaves-Nav™ - (the navigational software that guarantees *"50% of the time – it will get you to the right location and on-time, every time!"*) to get them to the ground and hadn't arrived with fifteen minutes to ball one. The opposition captain seized on this opportunity (after he won the toss) and sent the Men in Blue into the field. So far scores are level – one win for Blue and one win for Green.

Apparently, the oppressive heat had impacted the performance on Weaves-Nav™ (Author's note No. 1: I have reliably informed by the Technical Support division of Weaves-Nav™ that all technical faults have "kinda been fixed"). Now with one minute to go as we were taking to the field; we were still three men down. Unfortunately for us one of the three yet to arrive was our opening bowler Mick "The Showman" Tarrant. So, Scotty threw the new ball David "Beno" Benson who was still smarting from his last unsuccessful tour to Frank Gray Oval – however today he had the eye of the tiger and wanted his pound of flesh.

Somehow, the Founder and CEO of Weaves-Nav™ Michael "The Founder" Weaver miraculously appeared on the field (after bush-bashing his way through a jungle and dumping his gear on the far boundary). Then our second last man Gary "Gazza" James also made it onto the field just before ball one. Ten men in the field. Relishing his opportunity with the new rock Beno opened magnificently with a maiden over – keeping it tight and letting the Men in Green know that Blue was here to play. Then at the start of the second over The Showman ran onto the field, to complete our eleven, only to be informed that it was he who would be bowling from the other end. Naturally, being the ultimate professional, The Showman also only went for one run off his first over.

A few balls were then dropped short and the Men in Green took full toll, taking twenty-one runs off the next three overs before Paul "Nashy" Nash (2-36 off 8) took first honours with a well-executed lbw to take out their short-ball plundering opener. Then bang another wicket fell on the same score with Beno (2-26 off 9) clean bowling the other opener. Score 2-21 in the 6<sup>th</sup>. A couple more wickets fell soon after at 3-29 (lbw No. 2 to Nashy); then 4-31 in the 10<sup>th</sup> over off a spectacular catch diving forward from Ed "Crossy" Cross at short mid-off – Men in Blue were back on top.

Unfortunately, their middle order then knuckled down with some disciplined batting and decisive stroke play to build a solid partnership to see both their No.5 & No.6 batters retire. Martin "Marty" Speiser (0-14 off 3) chipped in with the ball, with no boundaries conceded from his brief spell.

The next wicket came in the 27<sup>th</sup> over when our two elderly statesmen Garry "Gazza" James (1-21 off 3) and Richie "Richie" De Silva combined for the fifth wicket score 5-111, Unfortunately Gazza was then shot by a sniper and suffered a hamstring tear whilst bowling and had to leave the field with thirteen overs to go. At this stage Green had two in the shed and a licence to thrill. We were concerned that we could be chasing anywhere up to 200+ runs. Green back on top.

There was another small partnership that advanced the men in Green to 6-133 in the 32<sup>nd</sup> over, with a nice caught behind by Scotty Wells off David "Maxy" Craig. There was a sniff of blood for Maxy as he then clean bowled three of their batsmen for one run in his second last over (7-141, 8-141 & 9-141) to end up with the very respectable figures of 4-48 off his nine overs. The Showman then finished off their innings with yet another lbw for the Men in Green to be all out for 170. Well done to Beno and Nashy for their outstanding fielding, after their bowling efforts in the oppressive heat – unfortunately (as sometimes happens) the ball just seemed to follow them both in the field. Awesome job – Men in Blue back on top – however even scorecard.

It was decided that The Showman should open the batting ... well ... it really was The Showwoman (or Mrs. Tarrant) as she had purchased some tickets to "Jagged Little Pill The Musical" and we believe The Showman was offered the option of either a) coming to the musical, or b) don't bother coming home. It seems that Zeus (the god of rain and thunder) must have heard about The Showman's dilemma and decided to make the decision easy for him, as it started to bucket down with torrential rain (no ... not Tarrant-ial ... torrential) and blustering gusts of wind. Exit stage left The Showman to the musical. Several of us ran to the pitch to help lay down the covers – it took six people just to keep the hessian on the pitch, as a further ten people struggled to drag the large cover - to save them both, as well as Maxy from being blown into the Pacific Ocean. Zeus now on top.

Some thirty minutes ensued and as fast as it started - the storm stopped and conditions cleared up - however Zeus managed to get his fingers under the covers, which resulted in one end being unplayable for the right handers on a good length. After agreement between the captains, it was decided to continue the game, however only bowling from one end. Fortunately, only two overs were deducted and the revised target was now 162 off 38 overs for the Men in Blue. The outfield was somewhat slower than before the rains; however all surface water was absorbed into the sandy base of Frank Gray Oval.

So, it was our turn to bat and we had to pry The Founder away from helping resolve his Weaves-Nav™ technical issues that were now further impacted by the rain and windstorms (Author's note No. 2: I have again reliably informed by the Technical Support division of Weaves-Nav™ that all subsequent technical faults have also "kinda been fixed"). Striding to the middle with The Founder was Mike "Punter" Pinter, and he was looking forward to spending some quality time in the middle with The Founder. Unfortunately, their partnership was short lived, because soon after Punter struck a glorious cover drive for three, and the Founder clobbered a pull short to the boundary, The Founder managed to find the inside edge of his bat onto his stumps – score 1-13 in the fourth over. The Founder seemed OK with this as it gave him more time to continue working on the Weaves-Nav™ technical support issues. Enter Nashy, as usual he was very watchful, and rightly so as he seemed to be getting the Spitting Cobras, the 'Zooters' and the 'Garrys' from the medium pace attack. Nashy was solid in defence and punishing in attack, with Punter at the other end also defending well and regularly pushing for the ones and twos. The partnership grew to 49 runs before Nashy (23) was caught off a skied top edge just before the drinks break. Score 2-62 off 18 overs. Green back on top with Blue now needing more than five runs per over to win.

After the drinks break our fearless leader Scotty then joined Punter in the middle ticking the score along, and within a couple of overs Punter retired on 31\*. Enter Richie. Scotty and Richie did a fantastic job taking the ones and twos and punishing the bad balls to the boundary. However, Scotty was adjudged lbw to a ball that was questionably going down leg for a well-constructed 26. Score 3-104 in the 25<sup>th</sup> over. Richie was then briefly joined by Crossy but he was a victim of the tacky pitch being caught at cover for 1. Score 4-114. Now enter Beno who had come off a brilliant bowling and fielding effort, as well as 30\* last week – cometh the hour cometh the man – it's your day and it's your time to shine. Unfortunately, the only shine he saw was off the side of the bowler's shaven scalp who yorked him for a golden duck. Score 5-117 in the 29<sup>th</sup> over. The Men in Green now had the scent of our Blue blood on the pitch.

As Zeus hadn't been on the scorecard for some time, he decided to let us know that he hadn't gone anywhere and provided us with some gentle tears for Blue starting to fall from the sky. Not heavy, just kissing the pitch to let us know he was still in the game. Noting that if he had decided (at that time) to take this game from us, Green would have won as we were behind the required run rate.

Enter Martin "Marty" Speiser. With Richie still doing his thing defending the good ball, caressing late cuts, pushing into a vacant cover and Marty defending and glancing behind square, we were starting to get close to the required run rate. Richie then retired on a brilliantly crafted 30\*. Enter Maxy - I hear you ask, "Why Maxy?" Well on cue, soon after coming to the middle, Maxy (our very own Glenn Maxwell) pulls out his reverse sweep for a couple to deep gully – yes, the reverse sweep ... really??? Now with four overs to go Marty smacked one towards long-off, it somehow managed to both land short of their fielder, and then run through his legs to the boundary – we were finally in front of the run rate required. However soon after Marty was also out lbw for 17 trying to keep the run rate going. Score 6-149 with 3 overs to go. It is still anyone's game.

Maxy was joined by Gazza at the crease and Zeus decided it was time to cry a lot harder, and the rain was quite heavy. It was then that the drenched one-legged Gazza lofted one to long-off to be out caught for 2. He "may" have been heard muttering something about the windscreen wipers not working on his helmet as he hobbled off the pitch. Score 7-151 with 2.4 overs to go. As The Showman had earlier (wisely) decided to exit stage left, he was effectively timed out. Score 8-151. It was then that our first retiree Punter re-joined Maxy in the middle, and the pair immediately took every half opportunity on offer. With three runs to get Punter struck a well weighted on-drive through mid-wicket, and immediately called for two - as the fielder was deep at cow corner. However, Zeus once again played his hand, because as Punter took off for the second run he slipped and fell on the wet pitch - he got up and tried to make his ground, however was run out for 34. Score 9-160 with two runs to win.

Re-enter our second retiree and last wicket in hand, Richie with three balls to go in the match. He perfectly assessed the condition of the pitch and decided that he would not advance, fearing he may suffer the same fate as Punter on the slippery surface. The bowler delivered the third last ball slightly outside off stump, and Richie rocked back and punched the ball through cover-point to score the two runs required for victory. Richie finished on a very elegant and well-constructed 32\* and Maxy again did his bit with 10\*.

Blue finished victorious in an outstanding game that was played in fantastic spirit by both teams - where absolutely everyone contributed to the result. Well done lads and bring on the New Year!

**The Team was:** - Michael Weaver 9, Michael Pinter 34, Paul Nash 23, Scott Wells (c) and (w) 22, Richie De Silva 32\*, Ed Cross 1, David Benson 0, Martin Speiser 17, David Craig 10\*, Garry James 2, Michael Tarrant 0 (timed out dnb)

**The Result was:** -

**Warringah C.C.:** - 10-170 (38.2 overs) (D. Craig 4-48) - run rate 4.25 p over

**Lost to**

**C.C.N.S.W.:** - 9-162 (37.4 overs) (M. Pinter 34, R. De Silva 32\*) (Match reduced to 38 overs) - run rate 4.33 p over

**By one wicket**

*(Editor's Note: Match was rain affected and two overs were deducted, so the target was reduced to 162 to win.*

**FoW:** - 1-9 (M. Weaver); 2-62 (P. Nash); 3-104 (S. Wells); 4-114 (E. Cross); 5-117 (D. Benson); 6-149 (M. Speiser); 7-151 (G. James); 8-160 (M. Pinter).

**The Bowling was:** - D. Benson 9-1-26-2; M. Tarrant 6.2-1-23-1; P. Nash 8-0-36-2; D. Craig 9-0-48-4; G. James 3-0-21-1; M. Speiser 3-0-14-0

**The Fielding was:** -

**Stumpings:** - Nil

**Catches:** - One to S. Wells (w) and one to each of E. Cross and R. de Silva

**Run outs:** - Nil

**Player points (awarded by umpire):** - 3 points to D. Craig; 2 points to R. de Silva; one point to P. Nash

## **CLASSICS OVER 50s ROUND 5 v MOSMAN AT CAMPERDOWN PARK, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 16 JANUARY 2022 : REPORT BY ED CROSS**

After what was a wet week, we were pleased to arrive at Camperdown Park with dry and relatively cool conditions. Thanks to the ground staff, we discovered a grassy, hard and dry wicket. The outfield was green with a generous grass covering to most areas, meaning boundaries wouldn't be easy. Our opponents were Mosman, who traditionally field a strong team, and we were prepared for a good contest.

The selection pool was stretched this weekend with an competing o50s festival on at Armidale plus a few ongoing and new injuries. Two o50s debutants being club stalwart Jed Wesley Smith and new guy Paul Devaney offered a hand. These two along with a miraculous recovery from Mike Weaver made up a strong 12 for what would be a good game.

Skipper Scott Wells lost the toss and we were bowling; perhaps a good toss to lose given the reports on how the wicket had played in the previous day's C&S competition. Bowling the right lengths would be imperative to let the pitch and ball do the work. Mick Tarrant took the new ball and hit a good length right from the start. His third ball was tucked behind square leg to the long side of the field for an easy 2. However, the Mosman openers decided to run one more on the throw. Debutant Paul (Doc) Devaney pounced on the ball and his return throw was flat and over the stumps for a great run out (diamond duck). What a start! This set the tone for the day, as we continued to play with positive intent.

Doc (Paul Devaney) took the second over of the day and also hit the right length, having the Mosman batsmen jumping around and feeling uncomfortable with bounce and pace. Mick Tarrant struck in his third over to have Mosman 2 for 16. The surviving Mosman opener was starting to look good with boundaries flowing, when on 28, he hit a leading edge off Doc and was out caught at mid-off. The score was 3 for 30 with Mosman ruing a missed opportunity to have their opener retire. Paul Nash and Greg Brooks took over the bowling and continued to restrict Mosman, bowling tight lines and getting the ball to bounce and nibble off the pitch. Greg struck in his second over to put further pressure on the batting side. At the other end, Paul was bowling a consistent line and length with good swing but without luck. Garry James and Ed Cross then took over the bowling to have Mosman 4 for 56 at the halfway mark. Garry in particular bowled handsomely without success.

After the break, runs continued to be hard to come by and wickets were falling regularly. The fielding was excellent restricting most shots to singles only. Scott Wells took two good catches behind the stumps in the ensuing period as Ed picked up a wicket before Dave Benson and Mick McCormick came into the attack, with Dave getting two wickets and Mick one. With the score on 8 for 106 there was a late flurry from Mosman before Doc came back into the attack to pick up the ninth wicket with the score on 134. Then a run out (with one batsman requiring a runner) to Ed Cross and Paul Nash in the final over saw Mosman dismissed for 139. We are still unsure who was out with all three batsmen out of their creases at respective ends. A great all-round effort in the field and in particular the bowlers who did not deviate from great lines and length all innings.

We knew we had to bat positively and put Mosman under pressure early. Michael Weaver and Ed Cross got us away to a strong start with some nice shots before Ed was caught on the square leg boundary by an excellent diving catch. By that time we were 1 for 23 in the seventh over. Paul Nash was next in to bat and both he and Michael continued the good scoring rate until Mike was out for a well made 22. Enter Richie De Silva just off a plane from Sri Lanka. As always, Richie was hitting the middle of the bat right from the start. He and Paul accelerated the scoring until Paul was out with the score on 58. Scott Wells came in to partner Richie and the strong scoring rate continued, with Richie in particular taking a number of well-judged twos. Scott played some lovely shots but fell on 19 trying to up the tempo even more. We were 4 for 103 in the 25<sup>th</sup> over and the game was there to be won.



Richie, even though struggling with jet lag and dehydration, continued to bat well and finally retired for a well made 30\*. Dave Benson and Mick McCormick continued the batting, but unfortunately were both out quickly. We still needed 29 to win with plenty of overs left. No need to panic. Mick Tarrant and Greg Brooks strode to the crease. After a short period to get their eyes adjusted, they took several singles. Mosman by this time were getting quite frustrated and some quips towards the batsmen bought out 'the eye of the tiger' (Richmond) in Greg. He decided he liked the look of the Mosman spinner and the short boundary back to the clubhouse. A few fours and a six had us equal with Mosman. Greg dispatched the next ball into the clubhouse to see us home. 6 for 145 was the final score in the 31<sup>st</sup> over securing a couple of bonus points in the chase.

A big shout out to Jed Wesley-Smith for umpiring our innings in full. Thanks for a great job, Jed. Something tells me Jed would actually pay for the privilege to umpire in any game. In his element as David Attenborough would say.

Another very good win which sees us maintain one of the top positions on the competition table with Roseville. (*Editor's note: Roseville is currently first on 173.90 points and CCNSW second on 173.05 with the next team nearly 40 points behind*) The main talking point after the game was the way we competed and the fact that everyone played a role in the win. Let's hope we can continue this form into February and finish the season strongly.

**The Team was (playing 12):** - Mike Weaver 22, Paul Nash 10, Ed Cross 13, Richie De Silva 30\*, Scott Wells (c) and (w) 19, Mick McCormick 7, David Benson 2, Mike Tarrant 7\*, Greg Brooks 25\*, Garry James dnb, Paul Devaney dnb, Jed Wesley-Smith dnb

**The Result was:** -

**Mosman C.C.:** - 10-139 (39.4 overs)

**Lost to**

**C.C.N.S.W.:** - 6-145 (31 overs) (R. De Silva 30\*)

**By 4 wickets**

**FoW:** - 1-23 (E. Cross); 2-39 (M. Weaver); 3-58 (P. Nash); 4-103 (S. Wells); 5-111 (M. McCormick); 6-111 (D. Benson).

**The Bowling was:** - M. Tarrant 9-0-38-1; P. Devaney 7-1-31-2; P. Nash 5.4-1-19-0; G. Brooks 4-1-6-1; G. James 6-0-19-0; E. Cross 3-2-10-1; D. Benson 3-0-13-2; M. McCormick 2-1-1-1

**The Fielding was:** -

**Stumpings:** - Nil

**Catches:** - 2 to S. Wells (w) and 2 to E. Cross

**Run outs:** - One to E. Cross and one to P. Devaney

**Player points (awarded by umpire):** - 3 points to R. De Silva; 2 points to S. Wells; one point to P. Devaney

**CLASSICS OVER 50s ROUND 6 v GEORGES RIVER AT BLAND OVAL,  
RIVERWOOD, ON SUNDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2022 : REPORT BY MIKE WEAVER**



**Back row (L to R);** Garry James, David Craig, Mike Weaver, Suiart Ridge, Martin Speiser, Greg Brooks

**Front row (L to R):** Mike Pinter (v/c), Mike Tarrant, Scott Wells (c) & (w), Ed Cross & Richie De Silva

CCNSW assembled rather haphazardly for this tough away game v Georges River. In contrast, they met a very well organised home team who were fielding their strongest possible line up. Captain Scott Wells' plans to set a total, high enough to put some pressure on the home team, began just about as badly as possibly his worst cricketing nightmare.

After Ed Cross was able to find the boundary with the first ball of the match, an unfortunate mix-up saw returning opener Mike Pinter hopelessly run out without scoring. Mike Weaver, in at number 3 for this match, tried to settle in, with Ed scoring freely at the other end. Then, as per the nightmare scripting, an attempt to get himself off the mark with a quick single resulted in a direct hit to the stumps to leave Ed just short of the crease. 2-20 in just the 7th over. Both openers run out!

It was sharp fielding from Georges River and inadequate partnership building by CCNSW. The bowling was to very tight lines. After keeping out a succession of accurate deliveries to the left arm opening

bowler, a thin edge to the 'keeper by Weaver, to a ball slanted across him, saw the batter start his walk off, for nought, before the umpire raised his finger. 3 for 25 in only the 8th over.

Captain Wells and Richie De Silva elected to take the attack up to the bowling somewhat and were looking like reviving the 'Blues' fortunes. Richie managed three boundaries in just a 12 ball stay and Scott one maximum in the 17 deliveries he faced.

Richie was trying to hit to the short mid on boundary with a stiff breeze behind him. The bowler very smartly dropped his pace and length though, pushing the ball a little wider as the batter stepped down the track to one. A simple catch to backward point was the result to see the fourth batter out with the score on 44, his personal score 13. In the next over the skipper chased a wide full ball and was unluckily bowled with no addition to the team total. 5 for 44 in the 13th over.

After the nightmare start CCNSW had, Scott Wells might now have dreamt that Mick Tarrant and 'The President' Greg Brooks, had actually opened the batting. They batted solidly. They ran well between the wickets, each considerate of the other's willingness and agility. They had wisely noted their opponents fielding capabilities, while still calling sensibly for ones and twos, not missing out on taking advantage of an overthrow. They left the good ball go to the 'keeper and waited patiently for the ball to hit. Mick was happy to play second fiddle to 'The Prez', as one would anyway, and yet it was good sensible tactics. against a keen opponent who were very much up for the match on their home turf.

These two got their side to drinks unscathed. And beyond! At 5-81 into the 25th, with Greg having hit two boundaries and a six to the far straight boundary, he got himself to 29. One more run scored to get 'into the bank' retired on 30, would see the CCNSW lower order set the innings up to bat deep into the final overs. And leave the President to return triumphantly to smash the bowling into oblivion to all parts, raising his bat as the first ever CCNSW Classics centurion and with the score passing 200 at the 40 over close...or so the dream could have eventuated...

The dream again unfortunately became the nightmare. And according to Garry James, was due to the spell cast by Michael Weaver. While some of his watching teammates were muttering they'd be happy seeing a glance to leg for one run, this writer proudly propositioned to Garry and to others listening, about whether it wouldn't be fitting for a six to be struck. This would bring about a Classics retirement 'maximum' of 35 runs, emulating the great deeds of Mr James himself just one week earlier, when playing for the CCNSW Vintage over 60s team.

I'm sure Mr Brooks wasn't within earshot and yet I'm a strong believer in mental telepathy. The message certainly got to the President, 150 metres away in the centre of the field, to 'go for it'. Next ball, a hefty swipe at a wide ball, an attempt to launch way, way over mid off, saw a catch dolly straight to the fielder, strategically placed at short third man. 6 for 81, Brooks out confirmed caught and spelled. And not approved by Garry James, who immediately let this writer know of his indiscretion.

Next in was 'The Nurdler' Marty Speiser and the situation he found himself definitely suited his game. After 'nurdling' to get off the mark, he was soon uncharacteristically out caught to a shot to point, well hit and very well caught. Garry James followed suit shortly after. He began his scoring with a well struck boundary before succumbing to the catch of the game, caught at short cover. The ball travelled very fast and yet the fielder still managed to make the grab with the ball having gone past him.

Stuart Ridge tried to support the not out and ever trusty Mick Tarrant. He was unfortunately well run out, going for a second run while forgetting to slide his bat at the crucial moment. 9 for 102 into the 36th and only 6 more runs were added before last man Dave Craig couldn't resist going for the far boundary himself, with the wind behind him, missing and being adjudged lbw. Mick Tarrant was left watching everything on 25\*. Definitely could be an opener for CCNSW if he wasn't needed to open the bowling. Well played Mr Tarrant.

All out for 108 was disappointing for all the CCNSW Classics team and probably was never going to be close to enough, especially if early chances weren't accepted. And so it proved. Two difficult chances for catches on the far boundary were put down. The Georges River batters took full advantage of these misses, finding their range with their hitting games and clearing the fence five times, losing the ball permanently twice. There's a cricket ball under water over long on, over a 2.5 metres wire fence, if one

is looking next time and happens to have snorkel and flippers with them. There's also another somewhere up on the M5 highway behind the boundary at the far end of Bland Oval, if anyone's keen. It would make a decent practice ball. Fittingly, as the bowling from the far end by the CCNSW bowlers was very good practice for Georges River.

From the opposite end though, only 30 runs were scored off the bat out of the final winning total of 110 off 18.4 overs. Opening bowler Mick Tarrant and his replacement Ed Cross, bowling from this end, did the Club proud with a spirited display. Mick deservedly picked up the only wicket to fall, an lbw, to complete a very fine match for him personally.

From the far end, the bowling suffered greatly, especially after the two early chances were put down.

CCNSW were without a number of other players that may otherwise have been available for this match, and will put this result behind them. It appeared that some players returning to the team from injury or holiday or whatever, were understandably not at their best, a little 'short of a gallop,' while others certainly were not prepared as well, to a man, as the opposition. Congratulations to Georges River and I know CCNSW won't be giving up on the season.

The writer also promises to go and sit inside the dressing room the next time he is present when Greg 'The President' Brooks is 29 not out. He will wait until the batter returns to the room to inform him that he is either out again or retired. And if Greg gets out again, he will jump into his car and immediately drive all the way back to West Gosford before Garry James can send out a directive. And he will travel at a speed of no higher than 45km per hour and including all the way along the highway M1, if that is possible (actually, I know it is possible).

**The Team was:** - Ed Cross 14, Mike Pinter 0, Mike Weaver 0, Scott Wells (c) and (w) 11, Richie De Silva 13, Mike Tarrant 25\*, Greg Brooks 29, Martin Speiser 1, Garry James 4, Stuart Ridge 0, David Craig 1

**The Result was:** -

**C.C.N.S.W.:** - 10-108 (38.3 overs) (G. Brooks 29)

**Lost to**

**Georges River C.C.:** - 1-110 (18.4 overs)

**By 9 wickets**

**FoW:** - 1-6 (M. Pinter); 2-20 (E. Cross); 3-25 (M. Weaver); 4-44 (S. Wells); 5-44 (R. De Silva); 6-81 (G. Brooks). 7-85 (M. Speiser); 8-93 (G. James); 9-102 (S. Ridge); 10-108 (D. Craig).

**The Bowling was:** -: Ridge 4-0-25-0; Tarrant 6-0-20-1; James 3-0-26-0; Cross 3-1-10-0; Craig 3.4-0-28-0

**The Fielding was:** -

**Stumpings:** - Nil

**Catches:** - One to each

**Run outs:** - Nil

**Player points (awarded by umpire):** - 3 points to G. Brooks; 2 points to M. Tarrant; one point to E. Cross

**CLASSICS OVER 50s ROUND 7 v CASTLE HILL AT CAMPERDOWN PARK,  
CAMPERDOWN, ON SUNDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2022 : REPORT BY DAVID CRAIG**

In a first for the team this season, 12 players arrived well before midday, giving the skipper, Scott Wells plenty of options as he headed out to toss the coin on a typically well grassed but dryish deck. In warm and humid conditions, with little chance of rain, convention would say win the toss, bat first and set them 200+, and as the recently departed Meatloaf observed, "Two out of three ain't bad".

The skipper's instructions to the top order were to get us to the drinks break no more than 2 down, and accelerate from there. Openers Ian Allmey and Mike Weaver did the job with a watchful but confident start, punctuated by a sudden flurry of trademark Allmey boundaries followed by a fine pull shot from 'Weaves', and we were 0-44 after 9 overs. Tragedy struck in the 10<sup>th</sup>, when a well set Allmey on 25 aimed for a decisive lofted drive off Gal, but miscued and failed to clear mid-off. Weaver and Mike Pinter ('Punter') consolidated with a mixture of watchful defence, aggressive running and the odd boundary getting us to the 20 over break at 1-83. Part one of the mission accomplished.

Weaves retired in the 21<sup>st</sup> over, and 'the Prez,' Greg Brooks, was sent out at No. 4 with a licence to thrill, pounding his first 2 balls faced down the ground for 4 and 2, before miscuing a drive to be caught for 8 at 2-99. When 'Punter' (22) chipped one back to the bowler in the next over, we were 3-100 in the 24<sup>th</sup> with 2 new batters at the crease. Wells and Richie de Silva looked all class, but the 22 run partnership was broken when one kept low to bowl the skipper for 13 as he looked to accelerate. Ed Cross (19) and de Silva (23) added 34 in quick time, highlighted by an effortless pull shot from Richie that cleared the boundary left of the fig trees by 15-20m – pure timing!. Unfortunately, a somewhat traditional late flurry of wickets saw us fall away from a promising 4-156 in the 33<sup>rd</sup> to 179 all out in the 39<sup>th</sup>, Weaver 38\*. Six of the last 7 wickets were bowled or lbw, highlighting the need to attack the stumps on a wicket offering some variable bounce. Garry James was particularly unlucky to perish to an absolute screamer as he slashed a cut shot through the gully region.

I'm not too sure what happened during the innings break. I was too upset that my beloved reverse sweep had finally betrayed me to notice anything. Although perhaps it would be an interesting trigonometry question for one of maths teacher Ed Cross' classes to determine whether an off-spinner operating over the wicket can hit a pad 2 metres down the track in line with the stumps and still be going on to hit? Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying I wasn't out, and I'm sure the umpire was more than competent, I'm just contemplating whether the odds were in my favour...but I digress.

While 179 was perhaps below par on our home turf, against a weakened Castle Hill team it was surely competitive and we seemed confident in our ability to defend the total. Game on!

It took just 3 balls for the breakthrough: Castle Hill opener Petrie sealed his own fate by calling for a 3<sup>rd</sup> run on the relay throw de Silva-Brooks-Wells, departing for a diamond duck! When Stuart Ridge produced a pearler that swung in to bowl the dangerous P. James, the cat was well and truly among the pigeons. Just 3 balls later Weaves was moving like a man three quarters his age to grab a fine catch to his left at mid-on and the Castle Hill chase was in disarray at 3-14 (a double wicket maiden to S. Ridge). At the other end, Mick Tarrant. was beating the bat regularly, and he was eventually rewarded with the wicket of Ward, stumps scattered: 4-19. A fine opening spell from both ends kept our opponents under constant pressure: Ridge 6-2-17-2 and Tarrant 6-1-17-1.

A change of bowling to Brooks and Cross, then David Benson, did nothing to improve Castle Hill's fortunes, and Brooks was soon celebrating the wicket of Reaney, lbw for 14: -: 5-42 after 15 overs. Rao (30\* retired), Akle and Hungerford steadied the ship for Castle Hill, getting them to the drinks break at 5-67.

There may have been something in the Castle Hill drinks, but this is pure speculation based on circumstantial evidence as Hungerford took 28 runs off just 8 balls after drinks, twice clobbering Barry James off middle stump into the fig-trees at mid-wicket. After this brief excitement, normal service was resumed as Ranga nicked the off-spinner to slip where Allmey grabbed a smart chance, and soon after Akle lifted a drive to mid-on, falling victim to the "four first names" trap (c David Craig b Garry James). When Stimson perished in identical fashion, it was 8-120 after 29, and the retiring bats returned to the crease. In response, Wells recalled the opening bowlers, who proved too good. First, Ridge drew a thin edge from Rao into the safe hands of the keeper Wells. In the next

over, it was Tarrant who disturbed Hungerford's castle, and the spirited Castle Hill chase was over some 42 short of the required total.

It was a good day's cricket played in fine spirit, and it's always nice to pick up the win. In particular, we put in a great effort in the field, with very tight bowling all round backed up by a near-flawless fielding display. However, our batting total, highlighted by Weaves unbeaten 38, was somewhat disappointing, with several dismissals in the 20s and a late collapse keeping us 20-30 short of a satisfying total. Looking forward to the next challenge!

**The Team was (playing 12):** - Mike Weaver 38\*, Ian Allmey 25, Mike Pinter 22, Greg Brooks 8, Scott Wells (c) & (w) 15, Richie De Silva. 23, Ed Cross 19, David Benson 4, Mike Tarrant 2, Garry James 0, David Craig 9, Stuart Ridge dnb

**The Result was:** -

**C.C.N.S.W.:** -10-179 (38.3 overs) (M. Weaver 38\*)

**Defeated**

**Castle Hill C.C.:** - 10-138 (33.3 overs) (S. Ridge 3-27)

**By 41 runs**

**FoW:** - 1- 44 (I. Allmey); 2-99 (G. Brooks); 3-100 (M. Pinter); 4-122 (S. Wells); 5-156 (R. De Silva); 6-160 (E. Cross); 7-162 (M. Tarrant); 8-163 (G. James); 9-167 (D. Benson); 10-179 (D. Craig).

**The Bowling was:** -: M. Tarrant 6.3-0-17-2; S. Ridge 7-1-27-3; G. Brooks 4-2-9-1.; E. Cross 3-0-17-1; D. Benson 2-0-14-0; G. James 6-0-40-2; D. Craig 4-0-19-0

**The Fielding was:** -

**Stumpings:** - One to S. Wells

**Catches:** - One to S. Wells (w); 2 to D. Craig and one to both I. Allmey and M. Weaver

**Run outs:** - One to G. Brooks

**Player points (awarded by umpire):** - 3 points to S. Ridge; 2 points to G. James; one point to M. Weaver

### **CLASSICS OVER 50s ROUND 8 v SRI LANKA LIONS AT MONTE BENNETT OVAL, WENTWORTHVILLE ON SUNDAY 6 MARCH 2022 :**

**Cancelled by rain**

NB Our Round 8 confirmed home game v Old Ignatians at Marrickville Oval was redrawn at last minute so CCNSW (coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in League) could play the Sri Lanka Lions (coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in League) at their home ground but the game was rained off. We are due to play the Sri Lankan Lions at Camperdown in round 9 but this was also redrawn so that we played Burwood at Camperdown instead while Sri Lanka played Roseville

The result o all this farce? We remained in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Georges River leapfrogged both the No. 1 and 2 teams to claim the premiership. Sri Lanka Lios finished second and Roseville dropped to fourth.

## **CLASSICS OVER 50s ROUND 9 v BURWOOD AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 20 MARCH 2022 : REPORT BY SCOTT WELLS**

CCNSW were originally down to play the Sri Lankan Lions after missing this opportunity for the past two seasons due to wet weather. The week prior however, the Classics Committee changed the draw to a finals game of 1 vs 2 – being Roseville and Lions respectively.

As Roseville were down to play Burwood (whom we had already played earlier in the year) we were matched against them again – at Camperdown.

Whilst 1 and 2 played it out for a table topping match, 2, 3 and 4 were all very tight on the table leaving the final round as moving day. CCNSW were just ahead of the team who comprehensively beat us the round prior – Georges River. Roseville were top of the table by some 30 points ahead of the training group which left a remote opportunity (leaving the maths out of the explanation) for CCNSW to top the competition needing Lions to roll Roseville for not many and score very slowly losing no wickets.

But first we had to comprehensively beat Burwood by scoring 200+ and get all 10 wickets which was possible given we had beaten them well in the earlier round.

With regulars Ian Allmey, David Benson, David Craig, Richie De Silva, and Garry James not available for this game it was a slightly different looking side to previous games. Big Andrew Bachelard making his comeback from a near season ending leg injury, Jed Wesley-Smith offering to keep and umpire a full 40 and a young Brett James making his Classics debut for the club making up the 12. A side with deep batting and plenty of bowling options which has been our strength all year.

It was an unusually dry week leading up to the game so we were hoping for a nice hard wicket and dry, mown outfield. Unfortunately La Nina had different plans and dumped another load of wet stuff on the ground Friday. The pitch had been well prepared and the covers down in time thanks to the C&S Saturday team. However, upon inspection Saturday, somehow water under the covers had prevented any chance of play Saturday – as did the constant rain that morning. A call to arms was made Saturday afternoon to see if the pitch could be salvaged with Mike Pinter removing water off the covers and remove them for an inspection. The outlook was dire.

With no rain expected for the rest of the afternoon along with a stiff sea breeze expected and sun first thing Sunday morning, we decided to leave the covers off (Mike P with the assistance of some local soccer lads packed them away) with this being our only real option to get a dry pitch within 24hrs.

An early inspection on Sunday morning lead to hope we would be playing and with efforts to sop up some wet areas, the slight breeze and eventual sunshine left us with a playable pitch come 1pm. Special mention to the great clubman Mike Weaver who caught the 6:05am from Gosford to get the ground to help with the mopping up.

Game time – Skipper Scott Wells won the toss and showed no hesitation to bat knowing we needed to post a big total to stay in touch on the table. A few scoffs from Burwood were heard seemingly surprised at the decision expecting a wet deck but that was the chance we had to take.

CCNSW started steadily but busily with the two Mikes (Pinter and Weaver) opening up with the strike being turned over well until Weaves was adjudicated lbw. Sliding down leg - perhaps - a shiver went through the shed thinking we had a trigger finger at the helm. Enter Paul Nash who too started cautiously with the pitch playing a bit slow due to the dampness and the opening bowlers swinging the ball on tight lines. Pinter was the next to go chasing a wide one caught behind. Nash and Wells batted cautiously until drinks with both the Burwood openers and first and second changes bowling very tight lines and swinging the ball. beating the bat but still offering the odd loose one to score off. 2 for 53 at drinks with a platform to launch in the second 20.

Upon return Nash wasted no time in getting the runs to bring up his 30\* retired. However this change bought the early dismissal of Ed Cross which saw Brett James making his Classics debut. The left handed batter seemed to throw the Burwood attack who lost their line and length which Brett took full advantage of after a watchful start 2 (11) launching a few into the hill to bring up a very good 30\* (23). Greg Brooks entered the fray making his intentions clear in picking up the run rate (and running a 3)

whilst at the other end Wells nudged his way to a very tradesman-like 31\*. Leaving us at 3 for 119 after 30 overs. Brooksie departing after a hard hitting 24 – 147 with 6 overs remaining

With 3 in the “bank” 200 looked possible after a steady start with 7 or 8 an over required. Mick Tarrant, Martin Speiser, Andrew Bachelard and Stuart Ridge continued to push the score getting us to 171 with 2 overs left and retirees Nash and James seeing them well. 23 runs off the last two overs saw us get to 8-194 with Nash 46\* and Brett James 49\*. A very solid total on a tricky deck.

Keen to take the wickets required and with plenty of bowling options, CCNSW opened up with Tarrant and Ridge. Both bowled tight lines on the pitch which saw the score plod along to 2 for not many with Tarrant getting one to jump for a snick behind and Ridge the other not before toying with their resilient number 3 twice hitting him in the money makers much to the amusement of the other 12 players on the field and umpires. A double change was made with Brett James bowling well pitching the ball up seeing what swing could be extracted from a drying pitch and Brooks from the other end bowling his usual reliable tight lines. Brett finished up with 2 wickets to cap off a great day along with a direct hit run-out earlier. But still Burwood seemed intent and hanging around with only 4 or 5 wickets down at drink but for a miserly 34 runs.

Straight after drinks, a double change was again made with Wells (for the first time in 3 seasons) sending down a few leggies to try to break the shackles and Andy Bachelard bowling from the café end. It was Andy B who struck twice to get the break throughs needed and we were well on our way to a victory. Not wanting to risk another injury, another double change was made with Ed Cross from one end and Martin Speiser from the other to try to shake their stubborn batsmen out of their defensive mode and not letting them get comfortable. Enough was enough and with 6 or 7 overs remaining with the last pair offering nothing, the secret weapon was released with the skipper yelling – “warm up Weaves”. Truth be known, we were only stalling until Brooks came back with the beers and tonic water but don’t tell Weaver that.

Once Brooks was spotted with a carton on his shoulder, Tarrant and Ridge were bought back into the attack to mop up and swiftly did so leaving Burwood all out on 93 runs (*Editor’s note: Burwood only had 9 players and we provided one sub in the field*) and a comprehensive, deserved and expected victory to CCNSW.

A flurry of text messages post game with other teams and the dusting off and clanking of abacuses (abaci?) saw the results and bonus points filter in. Sri Lanka Lions had beaten Roseville by first sending them in and rolling them for 70 odd and then achieving the run chase within 50% of the overs securing 5 bonus points.

The League table saw Roseville drop to 4<sup>th</sup> by 1.3 points (effective 2 wickets or 26 runs) and Lions retrain take second place. CCNSW had done enough to hang onto 3<sup>rd</sup> place

The competition winner which no one had seen coming was Georges River who absolutely spanked Old Ignatians by scoring a mammoth 270 runs earning 43.5 points outing Lions by 1.1 points (22 runs or 2 wickets) and CCNSW by 2.3 points (46 runs or 3 wickets). Ironically, the ultimate winner didn’t play in the 1 vs 2 game.

Anyhow, a great, fun year which everybody contributed to and we toughed out a couple of close games whilst winning the games we should have won but for one blemish against Georges River who were the ultimate competition winners.

**The Team was (playing 12):** - Mike Weaver 2, Mike Pinter 9, Paul Nash 46\*, Scott Wells (c) 31\*, Ed Cross 0, Brett James 49\*, Greg Brooks 24, Mike Tarrant 3, Martin Speiser 6, Andrew Bachelard 1, Stuart Ridge 9, Jed Wesley-Smith (w) dnb

**The Result was: -**

**C.C.N.S.W.:** - 8-194 (40 overs) (B. James 49\*; P. Nash 46\*; S. Wells 31\*)

**Defeated**



**Burwood C.C.(playing 9): - all out 93 (36 overs)**

**By 101 runs**

**FoW:** - 1- 3 (M. Weaver); 2-19 (M. Pinter); 3-69 (E. Cross); 4-132 (M. Tarrant); 5-142 (G. Brooks); 6-143 (A. Bachelard); 7-157 (S. Ridge); 8-171 (M. Speiser).

**The Bowling was:** -: M. Tarrant 7-0-19-1; S. Ridge 6-1-11-2; E. Cross 2-2-0-0; B. James 5-0-15-2; G. Brooks 5-0-15-0; S. Wells 3-0-8-0, A. Bachelard; 3-0-8-2; M. Speiser 3-0-9-0; and M. Weaver 2-0-4-0

**The Fielding was: -**

**Stumpings:** - Nil

**Catches:** - One J. Wesley-Smith (w); and one to each of P. Nash and M. Pinter

**Run outs:** - One to B. James

**Player points (awarded by umpire):** - 3 points to B. James; 2 points to P. Nash; one point to S. Ridge