

MASTERS ROUND 1 v MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY AT ROSS GWILLIAM FIELD ON SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER, 2019: REPORT BY MICHAEL WEAVER

A Wet Patch Wicket for some Test Match Cricket

The NSW Cricketers Club Masters missed a fabulous opportunity to start the season with a win against the Macquarie Uni Lecturers at Ross Gwilliam field

Water had supposedly somehow seeped through the double covers and hessian matting to leave a significantly damp patch on the strip, approximately two metres long and short of short of a length, at the Southern end. The rest of the track was completely dry and the outfield well grassed.

C.C.N.S.W. had assembled at the ground early and organised, well before the opposition and so '*Half Glass Full*' captain Mike Weaver was not looking for any excuses regarding the conditions. After some deliberation, it was determined by the significant persons that play would start at 1:30pm, with overs reduced to 35 per side.

Winning the toss and batting, C.C.N.S.W. lost Tom Robertson first delivery of the day, making it two golden ducks on the trot for the great man. Undeterred by the horror start, new Masters chum - opener Ian '*Allways*' Allmey - did what he 'always' does best, tearing into the bowling with ferocious off and straight driving. This was mixed with the occasional flick to leg when the bowling strayed, plus the odd dab through point for one run, occasionally two and never, ever three. Ian fell just short of retirement for a well made 37.

Numbers 3, 4, and 5 in the order - Scott Wells, Michael Weaver and Brett Favell respectively - were all looking reasonably solid after each smacking an early boundary, then each succumbing for single figures, caught from mistimed shots. All dismissals were to pretty 'rank' balls, to be brutally honest, which each man would admit to if pressed. Fortunately for them, the C.C.N.S.W. standard '*Interrogation After Poor Batting*' (IAPB) procedures were not instigated on the day. Even with President Greg Brooks in attendance, militant questioning of the trio was graciously spared.

Andrew Spedding at no. 6 looked very solid and focused only to be genuinely undone by a ball that hit the dreaded wet patch. The delivery slowed right up after pitching, causing him to be very unluckily bowled playing early. Sincere apologies, Mr Spedding.

Greg Brooks, 'Jono' Shaw and Mick Tarrant all applied themselves very well in the circumstances they found themselves in. With the Macquarie Uni bowlers buoyant after being handed the initiative, several very accurate deliveries were kept out, with nothing much to hit easily on offer.

A couple of solid blows from other new chums, Ben Stanic and Andrew Dadswell, added a little bit more to the meagre first up total. Andrew was possibly a little unlucky to be adjudged caught, to finish the innings but we must accept it was the umpire's call.

Just 97 runs, a small total to defend and the talk after the break was all positive, with the team determined to put a good solid effort in the field

Greg Brooks led the way in taking the new ball, bowling accurately to and past '*The Patch*', being extremely unlucky not to remove opener Sutton. Jono Shaw struck an early blow, clean bowling the other Macquarie opener for a duck and then in his second over unfortunately strained a muscle.

Ben Stanic eventually replaced him from the northern end and put in a very encouraging debut spell for the club, getting some considerable in-swing at a very nice pace.

The Macquarie batsmen dug in though and worked hard, defending well and putting away the loose ball. Ultimately this second wicket partnership was what decided the match. But off spinner Andrew Dadswell and seamer Mick Tarrant gave their all, each man eventually picking up a deserved wicket, at the same time preventing any Uni batter from retiring

David Craig had replaced President Brooks in the field after drinks and nearly had a stumping twice, while preventing the opposition from gaining a batting bonus point. This very quietly pleased the Skipper, who was full of praise for his team's effort and feeling very positive afterwards despite the loss.

A solid effort in the field by all except maybe one team member, who is suffering from sciatica. Special mention to Scott Wells and Tom Robertson for superb ground fielding. David Craig took a very well judged catch at mid off to a skier. Wicketkeeper Brett Favell was excellent standing up to the stumps.

Macquarie took until the 27th over to pass the score and this is a testament to the spirit within the team. (Thank you very much guys for never throwing in the towel, just a few extra runs to our total would have made the game very close)

Next game is versus Auburn at Camperdown, October 27. C.C.N.S.W. will be grateful to be back at home and will be hoping fine weather and a good wicket is their just reward.

The Team was (playing 12): - Tom Robertson 0, Ian Allmey 37, Scott Wells 10, Mike Weaver (c) 6, Brett Favell 6, Andrew Spedding 2, Greg Brooks 12, Jono Shaw 6, Mike Tarrant 2*, Ben Stanic 2, Andrew Dadswell 6, David Craig (dnb)

The Result was:-

C.C.N.S.W.: 10-97 (I. Allmey 37) (33.2 overs)

Lost to

Macquarie University: 3-102 (26.2 overs)

By 7 wickets

FoW: - 1-0 (T. Robertson); 2-44 (S. Wells); 3-57 (I. Allmey); 4-63 (M. Weaver); 5-66 (B. Favell); 6-67 (A. Spedding); 7-74 (G. Brooks); 8-88 (J. Shaw), 9-91 (B. Stanic); 10-97 (A. Dadswell)

The Bowling was: G. Brooks 6-3-18-0; J Shaw 4-0-22-1; B. Stanic 3-0-20-20; M. Tarrant 8-2-14-1; A Dadswell 5-1-9-1; D Craig 2-0-9-0; A. Spedding 0.2-0-6-0

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The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: Nil

Catches: one to D. Craig

Run outs: Nil

Player Points: - 3 to I. Allmey; 2 to M. Tarrant; 1 to A. Dadswell

MASTERS ROUND 2 v AUBURN AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER 2019: REPORT BY MIKE WEAVER

The C.C.N.S.W. Masters have suffered a humiliating home ground defeat at the hands of current league leaders Auburn at Camperdown Park last Sunday

Brett Favell, in place of the late arriving Mike Weaver, won the toss and due to the uncertainty of eventual team numbers, elected to put Auburn into the field. With a few exceptions, it was an insipid display of batting that followed, despite reasonable batting conditions when considering the lightening quick outfield.

With special mention to Ben Stanic, new chum Luke Holman and Mick Tarrant, who applied themselves very well, the rest would consider to a man that they did not perform to their potential with the blade in hand. The Auburn bowling attack could be considered nagging, but not highly threatening so it was a disappointed team that took the field to defend a total of just 9-130 off the full 40 overs

With so few runs to play with, captain Mike Weaver rang the changes and it was too no avail against the powerful Auburn batting list. Mick Tarrant again acquitted himself well with the new ball however and he is the rock on which the bowling group must rely. He is a real act to follow in coming games.

Congratulations to Martin Speiser, who avoided complete embarrassment for the club by taking the only Auburn wicket to fall, that of Labrooy, with a looping left arm spinner. Otherwise the Auburn batters thrashed the C.C.N.S.W. attack to all parts of the ground reaching the sub-standard target in just the 18th over. Two dropped catches didn't help the C.C.N.S.W. cause, meaning that no real pressure was ever able to be applied, in what was a dark day in the annals of the C.C.N.S.W. Masters team.

A splendid afternoon tea and after match inter team relations was a highlight of the day though. I applaud everyone for their after match conduct, it's this that still makes me very proud to be part of this Club

Next game is again at Camperdown. C.C.N.S.W. will take on Mosman-Collaroy on November 3 and will be looking to atone. All supporters welcome !

The Team was (playing 12): - Ian Allmey b 28, Mike Pinter r.o. 7, Scott Wells lbw 2, David Benson lbw 0, Brett Favell (w) c 0, Russell Biddle c 0, Martin Speiser c 0, Ben Stanic c 24, Mike Weaver (c) b 3, Luke Holman 20*, Mike Tarrant 19* , Craig Fletcher dnb, Sundries 9

The Result was:-

C.C.N.S.W.: 9-130 (40 overs)

Lost to

Auburn: 1-134 (17.2 overs)

By 9 wickets

FoW: - 1-18 (); 2-38 ();3-38 ();4-46 ();5-46 (); 6-47 ();7-62 (); 8-71 ();9-92 ()

The Bowling was: - M. Tarrant 7-1-37-0; B. Stanic 3-0-27-0; C. Fletcher 1-0-12-0; D. Benson 4-0-28-0; M. Speiser 2-0-20-1-; M. Weaver 0.2-0-6-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: Nil

Catches: Nil

Run outs: Nil

Player Points: - Three points to M. Tarrant; Two points to I Allmey; One point to L. Holman

MASTERS ROUND 3 v MOSMAN/COLLAROY PLATEAU AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2019: REPORT BY MIKE WEAVER

The C.C.N.S.W. Masters have suffered a heartbreaking loss of points in their game v Mosman-Collaroy at Camperdown Park last Sunday, the first Sunday in November.

CCNSW won the toss and with the newer strip prepared on the dressing room side, elected to take first use to set a total. The lightning quick outfield had remained from the previous Sunday. The newer pitch seemed a plumb track to bat on, yet was a little deceptive throughout proceedings with the odd ball still doing a bit off a length. The wicket also changed a little, as light rain fell at different times throughout the afternoon and covers were utilised twice.

Captain, Mike Weaver, and Russell Biddle gave C.C.N.S.W. a reasonable start. Russell recorded his first runs for the club with a nice leg side glance for two runs. It was third time lucky for Russell in getting off the mark and there will be many more runs from this classy bat. The now Sydney lawyer has come back to the game after many years and was a Gold Coast representative player in his youth.

Weaver was first to go – after clipping three boundaries, he attempted a fourth with a swat to a short slower ball and could only succeed in hitting it straight back to the bowler, who took a good catch low down. Shortly after, Russell edged to slip to make it 2-34, no runs having been added for the second wicket.

With the initiative lost somewhat, Craig Fletcher, elevated to no. 4 as a pinch hitter, unfortunately nicked off early before he could get set, to a good ball that deviated off the seam. 3-35

Scott Wells and Brett Favell set about their rebuilding task very well with solid and positive batting, hitting the loose ball hard and picking up easy singles. 'Favs' was looking unstoppable, having hit too very powerful maximums, before the left hander was adjudged lbw by umpire Brian Breakspear. It began a trend of dismissal that grew to a total of five lbws for the C.C.N.S.W. innings.

Scott Wells had carried on regardless though and was looking a certainty to reach retirement score, until succumbing to a slower flighted ball from spinner Stepto, beaten and plumb lbw. Two fours and three disdainful sixes were testament to Scott's return to top form. He will play a bit part in future games, if C.C.N.S.W. is to revive its current fortunes.

Michael Thomson was a further victim of the deceptive wicket and of the umpire's raised finger, sent on his way, lbw, by a decision which left the former North Sydney grade all rounder somewhat bemused.

In his first appearance for the Blues this season, Lee Witherden answered his team's call with a well measured 35 runs that featured several fine cuts and drives, albeit being lucky to be given a life when only on five runs, when a regulation mid on chance was missed by the opponents.

A solid knock from Mick Tarrant was cut short by the umpire's raised finger for lbw, in tandem with Luke Holman, who was the one other of the 'Big 5' to be dismissed this way. The lesson for C.C.N.S.W.: use your bat as your best form of defence.

Garry James boosted the total to a handy 186 with a very quick cameo 25* that featured a couple of booming drives. C.C.N.S.W. wound up their innings four overs short, all out, as Benny Stanic, after a fine effort with the bat the previous game, was unfortunately caught for a duck.

With a reasonable total to defend, C.C.N.S.W. weathered an early onslaught by the opposition captain and opening bat, Varasdi, to fight back hard and give Mosman 'the jitters' for most of their innings. Rain, which had already interrupted play earlier was to eventually foil all attempts to complete a very tense contest. It was a match that was going really going down to the wire until then. Two dropped catches in the gloomy darkening conditions did not assist the Blues' cause.

For C.C.N.S.W., Mick Tarrant excelled with the new ball and was always menacing. He was well supported by Stuart Ridge, Lee Witherden and Michael Thomson. Garry James used all his experience, guile and endless passion to almost bowl C.C.N.S.W. to victory, before being forced off the field with a muscle strain, mid over, near the death. Ben Stanic bowled a good single over under the pressure, when summoned.

But try as they might, C.C.N.S.W. were not able to effect the win that they seemed to deserve, as when the rain came again it did not abate, Mosman winning by superior run rate, eight wickets down with still six runs to win. It was a loss that afterwards the team could be very, very proud of, as each man had left nothing remaining in the tank, physically and/or mentally, in their efforts.

The Team was: – Michael Weaver (c) 13, Russell Biddle 7, Scott Wells 35, Craig Fletcher 0, Brett Favell 19, Luke Holman 5, Michael Thomson 4, Lee Witherden 35, Mike Tarrant 13, Ben Stanic 0, and Garry James 25*.

The Result was:-

C.C.N.S.W.: 10-184 (S. Wells 35, L. Witherden 35) (36 overs)

Lost to

Mosman-Collaroy Plateau: 8-179 (32.4 overs)

By Run-rate Calculations (C.C.N.S.W. 4.5 versus Mosman- Collaroy Plateau 5.5)

FoW: – 1-34 (M. Weaver); 2-34 (R. Biddle); 3-35 (C. Fletcher); 4-70 (B. Favell);5-95 (L. Holman); 6-96 (S. Wells);7-111 (M. Thomson); 8-142 (M. Tarrant);9-173 (L. Witherden); 10-184 (B. Stanic).

The Bowling was: – S. Ridge 7-1-45-2; M. Tarrant 9-0-59-3; L. Witherden 6.2-2-31-1; G. James 6.4-1-31-2; M. Thomson 2-0-3-0; B. Stanic 1-0-4-0.

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: One to B. Favell (w)

Catches: 2 to B Favell (w) and one to L. Witherden

Run outs: Nil

Player Points: L. Witherden – 3, S. Wells – 2, M. Tarrant – 1

MASTERS ROUND 4 v BALMAIN-SOUTH SYDNEY AT JUBILEE OVAL, GLEBE ON SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2019: REPORT BY MICHAEL WEAVER

The C.C.N.S.W. Masters have recorded their first win of the season with an empathic performance, accounting for Balmain-South Sydney at Jubilee Park last Sunday. Stand in Skippers Brett 'Favellous' Favell and Ian 'Always get runs' Allmey, working together, were successful in winning the toss somehow and elected to take first use with the bat

Ian and Tommy 'Trigger' Robertson gave C.C.N.S.W. a reasonable start, although Tom never really 'fired', pardon the pun. Ian smashed several boundaries as usual in a quick fire 26. After being 0-36 though, C.C.N.S.W. lost 4 quick wickets in succession after Tom was dismissed for just 8. Ian was bowled through the gate and was quickly followed by Jono 'Queenslander' Shaw and Skipper Favell, both of whom nicked off to the 'keeper early

A revival partnership of 40 between Brett 'The Force' James and new chum Emerson Wilshire got C.C.N.S.W. back on track to obtaining what would prove a satisfactory total, on the traditionally sometimes tricky Glebe wicket. Emerson was looking very good, having cracked a towering six before trying one shot too many to be caught for 18. Thereafter some handy runs from the tail, working with retiree James boosted the runs total to respectability, albeit C.C.N.S.W. were unable to use every available delivery in being dismissed after exactly 34 overs.

Andrew 'Junior' Dadswell, 'Mick 'Tarantula' Tarrant, Luke 'The Hoff' Holman and 'Buzz' Ben Stanic all contributed handy runs although David 'Dutchy' Craig was left stranded not out when Brett was eventually dismissed, caught for a very well made 47 runs.

With C.C.N.S.W. taking the field very determined to make a good fist of things, Balmain Souths were never in the hunt against some persistent medium pace bowling. This was backed up by some excellent spin of both right hand varieties. The standouts were Mick Tarrant and Ben Stanic with two wickets each. Plus Dave Craig bamboozling the tail to 'jag' 3 wickets. 'Jono' Shaw grabbed a handy scalp with his sliders and Andrew Dadswell provided reliable off spin to tie the late order batters down, taking a wicket himself in the process. Andrew also converted a run out opportunity very well.

A comfortable win in the end for C.C.N.S.W. gaining all bonus points for dismissing the opposition. Congratulations to stand in Captain Brett Favell and also Ian Allmey for his leadership support. C.C.N.S.W. were to look forward to their next challenge against the well credentialed Warringah C.C., on 1 December, back at home.

The Team was : – Ian Allmey 27, Tom Robertson 8, Brett Favell (w) and (c) 2, Jonathon Shaw 1, Brett James 47, Emerson Wilshire 11, Andrew Dadswell 10, Mike Tarrant 18, Luke Holman 10, Ben Stanic 8, David Craig 2*.

The Result was: –

C.C.N.S.W: 10-159 (B. James 47) (34 overs)

Defeated

Balmain-South Sydney: 10-86 (D. Craig 3-9) (33.2 overs)

By 73 runs

FoW: – 1-36 (T. Robertson), 2-37 (I. Allmey), 3-42 (J. Shaw), 4-46 (B. Favell), 5-86 (E. Wilshire), 6-111 (A. Dadswell), 7-142 (L. Holman), 8-150 (M. Tarrant), 9-152 (B. Stanic), 10-159 (B. James).

The Bowling was: – B. James 5-1-18-0; M. Tarrant 6-0-14-2; B. Stanic 6-2-15-2; A. Dadswell 7-3-10-1; J. Shaw 2-0-10-1; D. Craig 2-2-9-3; L. Holman 3-1-5-1.

The Fielding was: –

Stumpings: Nil

Catches: Brett Favell (w) and B. Stanic

Run outs: A. Dadswell

Player Points: - Three points to B. James; Two points to I. Allmey; One point to A. Dadswell

MASTERS ROUND 5 v WARRINGAH AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 2019: REPORT BY MIKE WEAVER

The C.C.N.S.W. Masters side has surprisingly suffered another loss at home last Sunday 1 December 2019, this time to a very well organised Warringah side.

A reshuffled C.C.N.S.W. team took the field at Camperdown after the late withdrawal of Ian Allmey, while Mick Tarrant was also a delayed attendee on the day. And the 'Queensland Connection' – Jono Shaw and Craig Fletcher – had earlier in the week succumbed to influenza and could not be available.

Fortunately C.C.N.S.W. were able to call on the services of UK tourist, Dallas McDermott, and over 50s specialist Mike Pinter to make up the full line up. Both players gave their all in what was an honest performance by the team. For various parts of the game C.C.N.S.W. gained ascendancy but were thwarted by a very determined and talented opposition.

Captain Michael Weaver took a gamble by inserting the opposition to bat first on a particularly green wicket. The decision looked to be correct as a fresh Brett James commenced bowling with excellent rhythm, moving the ball considerably both ways and with decent carry to 'keeper Favell.

A few plays and misses with the ball being too good for the bat and a dropped catch saw Brett finish an excellent 9 over spell with just the one wicket. He did effect the first wicket of the match though, with an excellent throw on the run from fine leg. It saw the unfortunate Warringah opener O'Connor stranded after being sent back by his partner who has initially called for two runs. After this early breakthrough, Captain Mick Weaver probably erred by not setting a more attacking field – short cover to go with the two slips ,etc. Although this goes the benefit of hindsight.

The Warringah batsmen worked hard and despite two wickets from Lee Witherden, one a splendid caught and bowled, and some initial accurate bowling by Dallas McDermott, persevered to get themselves into a reasonable position at 3-90 off 20 overs.

For the final 20 overs, despite taking regular wickets, C.C.N.S.W. were not able to stem the flow of runs. Ben Stanic, Luke Holman, Mick Tarrant and Stuart Ridge all had their moments but at other times were thrashed around the park. Luke received the appropriate accolades for dismissing the Warringah captain for a second ball duck and Mick Tarrant picked up a wicket in his 2nd and 5th overs before a final onslaught against him. Stu did well to collect a wicket at the death in his return spell after an accurate wicket-less stint at the start of the innings.

Emerson Wilshire's shoulder gave way in his only over and the set was effectively completed by his skipper. A fielding highlight for C.C.N.S.W. was Benn Stanic's direct hit run out from mid wicket.

The final 5 overs yielded 58 runs though C.C.N.S.W. were not able to close the innings off after the 8th wicket fell. Only 4 boundary riders were set during this period. There are no restrictions on field settings in the Sydney Masters Competition, and perhaps this could be looked at in the future by the organising administration. As I believe no more than 4 or 5 is a fair amount.

Despite the early loss of opener Weaver, who continues his lean trot, C.C.N.S.W. were given a strong start in the run chase by Emerson Wilshier and Scott Wells. Unfortunately Scott was dismissed lbw just 1 short of the 40 retirement mark in the 19th over. So instead of being only one wicket down at the drinks break, CCNSW were 2-95 after 20, a similar position to their opponents at the same stage.

Emerson Wilshier performed admirably in playing the pace bowlers confidently, producing several strong drives and pulls in his 42* retired. Mike Pinter gene the innings together to prevent the fall of further wickets with a well made 27 runs. Brett Favell was looking like it was his day after smiting the Warringah finger spinner over the far cover boundary, before he was unfortunately caught at mid-on off the same bowler, succumbing to a change of pace. C.C.N.S.W. were still looking a chance when Brett James was joined by Lee Witherden. However an unfortunate mix up saw Lee run out at the bowler's end before he could inflict any damage.

This was probably the telling wicket. From there on it was all Warringah as they tightened the screws with defensive fields, using more boundary riders than C.C.N.S.W. had implemented in the first stanza of play. Brett made a solid 35 runs before bowled trying to address the ever increasing required run rate dilemma that had developed. Luke Holman was run out and Ben Stanic bowled, both cheaply, trying to do the same.

With C.C.N.S.W. 8 wickets down, 22 an over required and Warringah urging themselves to get full bonus points for taking all ten wickets, Dallas McDermott and Mick Tarrant combined to spoil that for the visitors, shutting up shop to prevent any further dismissals. Both players look to be well suited to test cricket, displaying sound defence and smart 'leaves'.

Well done to Warringah and for C.C.N.S.W., it was back to the drawing board and the search to find a winning combination of players and an improvised selection situation, in so far as player availability is concerned.

The Team was: Mike Weaver (c) 1, Emerson Wilshier 42* ret., Scott Wells 39, Mike Pinter 27, Brett Favell (w) 12, Brett James 35, Lee Witherden 1, Luke Holman 1, Ben Stanic 5, Dallas McDermott 8*, Mike Tarrant 5*.

The Result was:

Warringah: 9-262 (40 overs)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: 8-182 (E. Wilshier 42*; S. Wells 39) (40 overs)

By 80 runs.

FoWs: – 1-1 (M. Weaver); 2-92 (S. Wells); 3-109 (B. Favell); 4-144 (M. Pinter); 5-147 (L. Witherden), 6-149 (L. Holman), 7-167 (B. James), 8-169 (B. Stanic).

The Bowling was: – S. Ridge 9-1-41-1; B. James 9-1-44-1; L. Witherden 5-0-44-2; D. McDermott 4-1-22-0; B. Stanic 2-0-14-0; L. Holman 4-0-30-1; M. Tarrant 5-0-50-2; E. Wilshier 0.3-0-10-0. M. Weaver 0.3-0-0-0

The Fielding was: –

Stumpings: Nil

Catches: One catch to both L Holman and L. Witherden

Run outs: B. James/B. Favell 1, B. Stanic 1

Player Points: - Three points to B. James; Two points to E. Wilshier; One point to S. Wells

MASTERS ROUND 6 v GEORGES RIVER AT BLAND OVAL, RIVERWOOD ON SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER 2019: REPORT BY MIKE WEAVER

A decimated C.C.N.S.W. Masters side suffered their second humiliating defeat of the season, this time on their travels to Riverwood to meet Georges River.

Coupled with the late overnight withdrawal of Andrew Dadswell due to family matters, C.C.N.S.W. could only manage to field 9 players. This thanks to some last minute recruiting work by David Craig to obtain Sam Skoulis, formerly of Cronulla Seagulls and rushed to the ground via 'Uber' transportation.

Unable to summon any other reinforcements, which was largely due to the club having 3 fixtures scheduled on the same day, captain Mike Weaver exacerbated the situation by calling incorrectly at the coin flip. Georges River duly elected to bat first.

Responding somewhat to the Skipper's pre-game talk that *'this will be the greatest win in the Club's history'*, Ben 'Buzz' Stanic and Lee 'Leeroy' Witherden opened the bowling with zest and with Georges River donating a sub fielder. Ben picked up the GR opener early, well caught at 1st slip by new chum Mike Dahl.

One for 8, things looking positive for C.C.N.S.W.. Thereafter, things went to steady, then to bad and then to worse.

In a period where Georges River had 5 successive retirees until the 2nd wicket fell with their score at 261, there were at least 4 easy catches put down and several mishit shots lobbed into the air, falling in between fielders. Wicketkeeper Brett Favell struggled in the very hot, low air quality conditions. Unable

to stop the several balls down leg side, and distressed when instructed to wear a helmet by the umpire when standing up to the stumps, he was uncomfortable wearing it. Also 'Favs' went off the field at another point to rest a sore neck he had carried into the game. So C.C.N.S.W. had even less troops to use, to plug gaps in the field. Mike Dahl did a good job taking the gloves for a few overs until Brett returned, in a debut game for the club he may long remember.

Lee Witherden and David Craig sent down some good deliveries without much luck. Mike Dahl acquitted himself well considering the small ground and the time he was introduced into the attack. He will have success in future games bowling his off spin when the wicket is more suitable and he is afforded more protection on a smaller ground. Craig Fletcher bowled with a good plan and unfortunately suffered as well, as C.C.N.S.W. simply didn't have enough fielders on the day. Good effort from Craig Fletcher (*Fletch*) in his return match, considering the circumstances.

Mike Weaver was the sixth mandatory bowler used and the seventh, Emerson Wilshier, could only bowl one over before his shoulder gave way. Weaver, after being punished for two overs, switched himself to the other end later, to produce some reasonably effective death bowling.

David Craig came back well also to 'jag' two late wickets, which were well deserved.

But by far and away the best bowler on the day for C.C.N.S.W. was Ben Stanic. For the first time for the club, he completed the individual maximum of 9 overs and there was only one wayward set amongst this. In his return spell, at 'the death', he picked up a very good wicket with a yorker and kept the runs down. Georges River were 4-316 at the close of their 40 overs and it could have been worse if not for the 'never give up' attitude of Ben. He is a player of immense promise in Masters and will continue to improve with regular nets training.

Facing a monumental task with only nine batsmen and with 'keeper Favell requesting to be number 9 due to fatigue/stress/sore eyes, Mike Weaver and Emerson Wilshier opened up with a resolve to be positive and keep up with the required run rate of 8 runs per over. Emerson struck a couple of nice shots before skying a catch to deep mid-on after attempting to smash the ball up onto the outside motorway. Mike Dahl, in at number 3, received a long hop early which he unfortunately hit straight to square leg to be well caught for no score.

Lee Witherden and Weaver then looked good to put on a nice partnership only for 'Weaves' to mistime a pull shot to be caught for 17. Lee top scored with 21 and Ben Stanic played a useful innings of 17 runs. Both players cracked three 4s each in a fighting effort. In between their occupation of the crease, Craig Fletcher was unfortunately bowled off his pads for a duck and David Craig run out with just one run to his name. At the end it was a stodgy performance by Sam Skoulis who was the final wicket to fall. Sam displayed great determination in his first cricket match for 10 years. Brett Favell remained nought not out, facing just one over.

The final score of just 75 runs was a reflection of the terrible conditions that had prevailed. It was a very bad toss to lose under the sweltering, 'fire smoko' conditions and C.C.N.S.W. simply did not have the energy to mount any realistic challenge batting second, with such a large target runs required and with two players down.

With more players available to select from, the new year of 2020, for C.C.N.S.W, promises plenty.

The Team was (9 players): Mike Weaver (c) 17, Emerson Wilshier 5, Mike Dahl 0, Lee Witherden 21, Craig Fletcher 0, David Craig 1, Ben Stanic 17, Sam Skoulis 6, Brett Favell 0*.

The Result was:-

Georges River: 4-316 (40 overs)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: all out 8-75 (26.2 overs)

By 231 runs.

FoWs: – 1-22 (E. Wilshier); 2-23 (M. Dahl); 3-28 (M. Weaver), 4-28 (C. Fletcher); 5-34 (D. Craig); 6-56 (L. Witherden); 7-74 (B. Stanic); 8-75 (S. Skoulis).

The Bowling was: L. Witherden 9-0-53-0; B. Stanic 9-1-48-2; C. Fletcher 6-0-49-0; D. Craig 6-0-52-2; M. Dahl 4-0-53-0; M. Weaver 5-0-41-0; E. Wilshier 1-0-13-0.

The Fielding was:

Stumpings: Nil

Catches: Nil

Run outs: Nil

Player Points: - Three points to B. Stanic; Two points to D. Craig; One point to L. Witherden

**MASTERS ROUND 7 v PENNANT HILLS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL,
CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 19 JANUARY 2020:**

Cancelled by rain

**MASTERS ROUND 8 v ROSEVILLE WHITE AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL,
CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2020:**

Cancelled because of rain

**MASTERS ROUND 9 v BURWOOD AT GODDARD OVAL, CONCORD ON
SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2020: REPORT BY MIKE WEAVER**

The C.C.N.S.W. Masters have unfortunately lost their first game in 2020, against Burwood at Goddard Park, Concord. C.C.N.S.W. won the toss, batted first and were dismissed for just 73 runs on a slow pitch. Tom Robertson and Ian Allmey shared a useful partnership and 'Jono' Shaw made a determined 17*. Otherwise, no one else got going in what was a rusty display with the willow.

In the field, the team turned up to make Burwood work very hard for the runs. Five wickets were taken and Burwood were made to bat for 31 overs. A typically determined display with the new ball by Lee Witherden led the bowling brigade to give C.C.N.S.W. hope. He was well supported by Andrew Dadswell, both men bowling a full complement of nine overs each. Further special mention to Tim Croft who showed great bowling skill in his first match for the club and 'Jono' Shaw who also tried hard with ball in hand.

The Team was: - Mike Weaver (c) lbw 1; Tom Robertson c 20; Ian Allmey c 15; Luke Holman b 0; Lee. Witherden c 2; Tim. Croft c 1; Micheal Dahl (w) b 1; Jonathon Shaw 17*; Ben Stanic r.o. 5 ; Andrew Dadswell lbw 5; Craig Fletcher c 0.

The Result was:-

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10 - 73 (29.3 overs)

Lost to

Burwood C.C.: 5 - 74 (31 overs)

By 5 wickets

FoW: - 1- 10 (M. Weaver), 2-37 (I. Allmey), 3-37 (L. Holman), 4-38 (T. Robertson); 5-40 (L. Witherden); 6-42 (T. Croft); 7-42 (M. Dahl); 8-57 (B. Stanic); 9-72 (A. Dadswell); 10--73 (C. Fletcher)

The Bowling was: - L. Witherden 9-2-21-1; T. Croft 5-1-8-0; A. Dadswell 9-3-10-2; J. Shaw 5-0-16-1; B. Stanic 2-0-8-0; L. Holman 1-1-0-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumping: - Nil

Catches: - One to each of C. Fletcher, T. Robertson and B. Stanic

Run outs: - 2: One each to M. Dahl and L. Witherden

Player Points: - 3 points to A. Dadswell; 2 points to J. Shaw; One point to L. Witherden.

MASTERS ROUND 10 v RYDE HUNTERS HILL AT BORONIA PARK, HUNTERS HILL ON SUNDAY 8 MARCH 2020:

Game cancelled by rain

MASTERS ROUND 11 v OLD IGNATIANS AT GODDARD OVAL, CONCORD ON SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2020:

Match cancelled by Masters Association because of Covid-19 concerns