

MASTERS ROUND 1 v BURWOOD AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN, ON SUNDAY 23 SEPTEMBER, 2018: REPORT BY TERRY PONTIKOS

C.C.N.S.W. Masters Unveil 'Blue Steel' on Burwood Briars

A 'new look' Cricketers' Club Masters outfit has triumphed in a first round cliff hanger over the visiting Burwood Briars at Camperdown Oval. With a revamped brains trust of Mike 'Thunderbird' Weaver and Brett Favell leading a core of old hands with a new age attitude, the Blues overpowered a gritty Burwood side who looked set to conjure a miracle come-from-nowhere win.

Burwood asked the Blue Caps to bat after winning the toss, a decision clearly based on the hue of a green-tinted wicket. But they were bereft of early joy as Blues openers Mick Weaver (18) and Jim Hadley (47* ret. n.o.) trowelled a sturdy platform early in a magnificently built 70 run partnership

Watchful early on a two-faced strip that alternatively kept low and popped but never quite came on for the batsmen, the pair dabbed away at a two, then three run rate in the first half dozen. Hadley cut loose in trademark style in the 9th over, punctuating his innings with three consecutive boundaries, including one which almost brought rain.

It wasn't long before Weaves popped up a catch from first-change bowler, Degeura. 'Hads' notched a superb retirement, resting on 42 from fewer balls faced. 'The Wizard' looked imperious with the blade and was watched on by his trusty canine sidekick. So confident he wouldn't see a chest-rub from Jim for the interim, the pooch took an opportunity to steal some lazy shuteye.

Scott Wells' (13) entry to the fray brought a brisk cameo and the diminutive mountain man looked comfortably set for a score until Degeura trapped him in front. The Blues were cruising at 2-84 after 16. Mike Pinter (9) and Terry Pontikos (5) saw the side to drinks, adding 15 runs before 'Tez' chipped Degeura to mid on and 'Punter' lost his middle peg to the same bowler without a run being added. The Blues innings was stalling on 4-97.

As much as a change in approach from the Masters' new regime has brought innovation and a sharpened attitude, a few old traits were still on show with an ugly collapse that would re-write Mick Weaver's fantasy script. Only vice-captain Brett Favell (19) stood out with the plank in the lower half of the Blues card. Teaming with Mick McCormick (6), 'Favs' thumped a couple of boundaries in a valuable partnership of 25 runs for the fifth wicket until his castle was laid siege to by the bowling of Menzies.

Mick called Lee Witherden (4) for a single more dubious than a long-term Tinder subscriber which was swiftly pooh-poohed by Lee, who didn't fancy going into the book with 'insanity' next to his name as mode of dismissal. Instead, McCormick fell on his sword to self-destruct.

Lee, Craig Fletcher (2) and Dave Benson (5) all fell to the orthodoxy of Shamatov who cleaned up the tail after Degeura had winded the Blues middle. Mick Tarrant (3) was the unluckiest on the day after a direct hit from side on by Mahoney snuffed out his innings before it got started. Hadley was the stranded batsman, remaining defiant on 47 as C.C.N.S.W. scratched out an underwhelming total of 147 whilst committing the cardinal sin of wasting their last seven overs.

At lunch, most of the discussion was positive for Cricketers' Club. Though most dismissals came through injudicious shots, these were exacerbated by a wicket that was hard to navigate, with scoring made more difficult by the sluggish outfield.

Early wickets would be the lotion to soothe a wounded Blues team and Lee Witherden (9-1-27-5) struck with devastating effect twice in the first over of Burwood's innings. 'Leeroy' saw Briars' skipper Abood chip his fourth delivery to 'Fletch' at short mid wicket before sending the dangerous Shamatov packing L.B.W. on the last rock of his first salvo. Briars were in deep shock at 2-1.

Jono Shaw (3-1-8-1) wasn't about to be outdone, cleaning Brennan's stumps up with the last marble of his first over to cause Burwood all kinds of conniptions at 3-5 after two overs. Turner and Mackey staved off the Cricketers' Club openers to stabilise somewhat in the face of a blizzard of Blues pressure.

And along came a spider! Mick 'the Tarantula' Tarrant (6-0-23-3) wove a web of deceit around the Briar's middle order to leave Burwood wrapped in a cocoon of horror.

In what was virtually an unplayable opening three overs, Tarrant yorked Turner on 12, tickled Mackey's edge behind to Favell for 7 and destroyed Grimson's day (and the top of his off pole) with an astounding delivery that swung down the line before cutting away. He worked from the Mallett Street end as he posted the figures of 3 for 5 from his first two overs. The Blues' tails were up with Burwood's decimated innings a train wreck at 6-33 after 10 overs.

And the carnage continued in the next over with Witherden storming through Mahoney's defence, rattling the woodwork. Briars were now 7-34!

Cricket's a funny old game or so they say. With C.C.N.S.W. intent on wrapping up the game before the second drinks break, Briars' bowling hero Degeura along with Menzies, rode some early fortune to dig in. At drinks Burwood had consolidated to 7-72. What was a desperate partnership of survival had morphed into an audacious bid for victory as the pair applied the blowtorch back on the bowlers with a mixture of streaky strokes, daring running and ten damaging boundaries.

Craig Fletcher (7-0-35-0) toiled valiantly in a fine but luckless spell that deserved some joy. Dave Benson (4-0-22-0) was tried to no avail as his usual trusty seam up bowling couldn't win the day with a breakthrough.

Degeura and Menzies added 79 hard-earned runs before Menzies retired with the score on 7/113 and the Blues, who had probably phoned in the five overs either side of drinks, were feeling the pressure and needing to capitalise on a change in partnership. Lee Witherden would prove the circuit-breaker, resuming from the Church Street end. He sent Sutton packing after wobbling the stumps again.

Briar's number 11 Reaney was no bunny, keen to hang around in support of Burwood's retirees in what was firming as an unlikely and incredible slow march to victory. Degeura retired at 8/129 with the visitors in tantalising touching distance of the 147 run target. But Witherden refused to be denied in a gutsy second spell, smashing down the stumps of Burwood's first returning retiree, Menzies, kicking off his season with a Herculean 5-wicket haul.

9-130. DeGuara barely had time to neck a cup of red cordial before resuming his innings. Jim Hadley (2.5-0-11-1) was called in to steer the Blues out of choppy waters. He fooled a tired Degeura with a fizzing leggie which caught the leading edge and was pouched safely by Mick Weaver at Mid Off.

Burwood's fighting rearguard had fallen short by 14 runs to be all out for 133. The Blues finished off a pulsating contest, chalking up win number one in a great day's play.

The 'Blue Spirit' Award.

In an unofficial newly-designated post-game ceremony, Lee Witherden was awarded the inaugural 'Blue Spirit' award for his stoic bowling effort in bagging five wickets. 'Leeroy' was presented with the match ball and was a worthy first recipient, beating out a string of notable performers in Mick Tarrant, Jim Hadley, Brett Favell and Craig Fletcher. The award is reserved for the 'players' player' whose effort best embodies the Cricketers' Club Masters team 'spirit' of hard and fair play, positive approach and never-say-die attitude in the field. The recipient will be selected each week by a Masters 'elder' in an award specifically designed to recognise fielding efforts as well as inspirational performances with the bat and ball.

The Team was (playing 12): - Mike Weaver (c); Jim Hadley 47*; Scott Wells 13, Mike Pinter 9; Terry Pontikos 5 ; Brett Favell (w) 19, Mick McCormick 6; Lee Witherden 4; Craig Fletcher 2 ; Mike Tarrant 3; David Benson 5 and Jonathon Shaw dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.:10- 147 (33.5 overs) (J. Hadley 47*)

Defeated

Burwood C.C.: - 10-133 (31.5 overs) (L Witherden 5-27)

By 14 runs

FoW: - 1-70 (M. Weaver); 2-82 (S. Wells); 3-97 (M. Pinter); 4-97 (T. Pontikos); 5-122 (B. Favell); 6-127 (M. McCormick); 7-131 (L. Witherden); 8-137 (C. Fletcher) 9-137 (M. Tarrant); 10-147 (D. Benson)

The Bowling was: - L. Witherden 9-2-27-5; J. Shaw 3-0-6-1; M. Tarrant 6-0-23-3; C. Fletcher 7-0-35-0; D. Benson 4-0-22-0; J. Hadley 3-0-11-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One catch to each of B. Favell (w); C. Fletcher and M Weaver

Run outs: - Nil

Player Points (awarded by Umpires): 3 - Lee Witherden; 2 - Jim Hadley; 1 - Mick Tarrant

MASTERS ROUND 2 v ROSEVILLE WHITE AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 14 OCTOBER 2018.

Cancelled by rain and rescheduled

MASTERS ROUND 3 v OLD IGNATIANS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 28 OCTOBER 2018:

Game cancelled because of wet pitch. Apparently SUCC failed to relay the covers on Saturday night after their game. An artificial wicket was available but Old Ignatians (as the Rules allow) refused to play.

MASTERS ROUND 4 v GEORGES RIVER AT BLAND OVAL, RIVERWOOD ON SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2018: REPORT BY CRAIG FLETCHER

Sunday the 11th of the 11th, 2018 marked the Remembrance Day centenary as we remembered those who had sacrificed so much so for the ultimate benefit of others. On Sunday, before our game kicked off against Georges River, both teams took the opportunity to reflect on this occasion. Michael Weaver solemnly read the Ode, followed by a moment of silence. With the Australian Air League Riverwood Hornets base in the background, it was a very poignant and moving start to the day and set the tone for what was to be an exciting and close fought match, played in excellent spirit.

The Georges River home ground is a little piece of paradise, neatly hidden away in a primarily grungy and drab industrial area. We were to play on Oval 2, a smallish field with a lightning fast outfield and as it was a great seeing day with a fresh breeze blowing across from the west providing some relief from the sun's heat we were looking forward to batting first. The toss was held, 'Weaves' called... we're fielding!

We go and get ourselves organised, warm up with a few fielding drills and hit the park ready to go. We opened the bowling with the ever reliable Stuart Ridge and Jon Shaw, but despite some good tight bowling, the flat deck, fast outfield and some good aggressive batting saw us leaking 4 – 5 runs an over. Mike Weaver made some changes, bringing on Craig Fletcher and Jim Hadley. The bowling continued to be fairly tight, but one bad ball an over was regularly punished, seeing the run rate continue at nearly five runs an over with the openers scoring freely. Finally a breakthrough... though be it a retirement with one of the openers racking up his 40 runs in quick time and heading back to the comfort of the shade in front of the clubhouse.

Just as we were approaching the drinks break, looking like we would be in the painful position of no wickets for nearly 100, 'Hads' snares a double in the one over. Both batsmen were excellently caught by 'Ridgey' at a shortish mid wicket, with the first one low down to his right barely sticking in his split fingered crawl. The second a far more orthodox catch, though the ball did come at him very quickly.

Drinks and Georges River are 2 out for 95, with one retired. We were looking at a potentially big score, but took the time during the break to hydrate, gather our thoughts and get revved up for the final 20 overs. We knew if we kept fielding well and applied some rigour with the ball, we were still right in this match.

Craig Fletcher subbed off and Mick Thomson came on and immediately took the ball from the freeway end. Thommo took a bit to warm up, going for plenty in his first over, but dragging it back with a maiden in his following over. All the while 'Hads' tightened the screws from the Hornets end, bowling with great accuracy and it wasn't long before he had another scalp, clean bowling the number 5 batsman.

Shortly after 'Weaves' swept in more bowling changes, bringing on Ed Smith and David Benson. It was a genius move with both bowlers severely tying down the batsman and it wasn't long before this continued pressure resulted in a procession of wickets. 'Smithy' first clean bowling the number 6 and then in the next over 'Benno' routs the number 3 who had been anchoring the innings for some time. From there the wickets came in regular intervals with 'Smithy' picking up another four (including the previously retired opener) in a superb spell and 'Benno' continuing to threaten with every ball.

In amongst the mayhem, Tom Robertson who had been lounging up against the picket fence at deep something, barely moving for the last 8 or so overs gets a shout to field the ball. He peels himself off the fence, clumsily collects the ball, foxing the batsmen as they start on a second. Tommy then suddenly springs to life and rifles the ball directly over the stumps, where replacement keeper Mick Pinter quickly whipped off the bails to see the number 8 sent back to the sheds. Tommy, feeling very smug, then sauntered back to his favourite section of the fence to reconvene his leisurely conversation with "Hads" who had subbed off after his spell.

Georges River all out for 184 in the 37th over. A fantastic effort by the team, with 'Smithy' finishing with the best figures of the innings, 5 for 27 off 6.2 overs.' Hads' 3 for 16 off 6 overs and 'Benno' 1 for 11 off 4 overs. Two catches for "Ridgey", 1 for 'Smithy' and 'Punter' and a run out to Tommy.

With the small boundaries and quick outfield we were pleased with the result and felt quietly confident that our strong batting order could chase down the total.

After a great lunch from our hosts, our opening batsmen donned their gear and headed out to begin the run chase. 'Weaves' chose to open with himself and the ever unpredictable Tommy, who by now had managed to move off the deep boundary fence. We made a circumspect start, scoring a considered 7 runs in the first two overs, before disaster struck in the third. Tommy out LBW for just 2 on the fourth ball of the over. Out comes Scott Wells, who had been in fine form so far this season, only to head back after bunting his very first ball back to the bowler. Out for a golden duck and all of a sudden we are 2 for 8 and looking a little shaky.

In a time of crisis, who else would you like to see stride out to the crease, but the ever reliable 'Punter'. For the next 12 overs he and 'Weaves' steadied the ship, though 'Weaves' regular maniacal calling of runs was increasingly worrying and 'Punter' gave him a stern talking to on several occasions. Alas Punter's words were not well heeded and just as we were starting to get back on top, 'Weaves' runs out Punter for 30. A great partnership of 50 is stopped in its tracks and we see Ed Smith heading out to take up the gauntlet.

Unfortunately for 'Smithy' the gauntlet turns out to be too heavy a burden to bear and after just 5 deliveries and only 2 more added to our total, 'Smithy' is rather harshly adjudged LBW for 0. A cruel decision with 'Smithy' a long way down the wicket when struck and after an interminable time looking at where he was standing, he begins the long, lonely walk back to the sheds.

Brett Favell now enters the fray and starts off solidly, providing good support to 'Weaves'. If only 'Weaves' had hung about. But with yet just another 2 to the score, 'Weaves' is gunned LBW to a ball probably going over the stumps by about a foot. A good innings by 'Weaves' all told, with some crisp scoring shots and no sign of that terrible cut shot he likes to drag onto his stumps. Gone for 20 and we are now 5 for 62.

This brings Jim Hadley out into the middle, and with strong hitting combined with a considered defence, 'Hads' very quickly finds himself on 20. 'Favs' has coasted along to 13 off just 10 deliveries during this time and a partnership of 31 runs has us looking good to chase down the target again. It was at this point that 'Favs' found the thought of launching the ball over the deep extra cover boundary all too enticing. The execution, however falls a little short of the expectation and 'Favs' is caught out on the boundary.

Jon Show, known for his strong straight hitting, comes and goes in just two balls as he attempts to drive his second delivery into the Hornet's training ground and is caught at deep long on for a duck. 'Weaves' is going spare on the side lines, mumbling and swearing about taking our time and creating partnerships, while the score is updated to 7 out for 93 in over 23.

There is still plenty of time to get the runs and with 'Hads' at the crease looking very comfortable we still felt we were in with a shot. David Benson heads out to join 'Hads' and sticks around, picking up a few runs while 'Hads', with a flurry of boundaries moves quickly to 40 and retirement. The score is now 7 for 115 in over 25, with one retired.

Craig Fletcher is then given some advice from 'Weaves' before heading out. Something about plenty of time, we can still get these Fletch, and so on. Fletch wasn't really listening. After meeting 'Benno' in the middle, 'Benno' displays some amazing maths. tricks explaining that as we only needed 60 runs (should have been 70) off 15 overs, we only needed 2 an over from here. Fletch looked confused and 'Benno' upped his assessment to 3 runs an over. Not wanting to get to caught up in the Matholympics, Fletch suggested they face up.

Fletch started very nervously, French cutting just the third ball for a streaky single and to hog the strike for the next over. For the next two overs, Fletch and 'Benno' kept the runs ticking over, adding another 8 to the total, when 'Benno' flashed at a slightly wide delivery and was caught at first slip. Out for 7.

Stuart Ridge, our very capable number 11 enters the field and is looking solid. Fletch and 'Ridgey' add another 5 runs each to increase the team total by 10 runs in as many balls, when in an almost exact copy of 'Benno', 'Ridgey' flashes at a slightly wide delivery and was caught by the keeper. Out for 5 and we still need 51 off 12 overs to win the game with the number 10, Fletch at the crease joined by 'Hads' after a short break on the side.

Georges River make a bowling change, brining on the off spinner. Fletch thought he was doomed. His last four times out had been to a spinner. Not good and made worse when 'Hads' says that this bloke is probably their best bowler. Thankfully Fletch was at the non-striker's end and 'Hads' was happy to face him. "He's really good this bloke, we should watch him very carefully". were the words of advice 'Hads' shared, just before he launched the offies' third ball deep into the freeway embankment.

40 odd runs left, 10 overs.

'Hads' was in fine form with the bat, so the pressure was on Fletch to stay in there, and wherever possible hand over the strike. For the next two overs Fletch mixed up strong defence, watching the ball like a hawk onto the bat, with rotating the strike and putting the odd bad ball away to the boundary. 'Hads' was scoring easily. Nine more runs added.

Over 33 and 'Hads' scores a double before an easy single to put Fletch back on strike. The bowler has feeling confident of picking up Fletch's wicket and pitched one up looking for another edge behind. It was the ball Fletch had been sweating on and duly pummeled it straight back over the bowlers head and into the Hornet's training grounds. The bowler, not to be outdone, comes around the wicket looking to exaggerate the angle towards the slips. Unfortunately for him, this opened up the offside and Fletch happily cut the ball for four forward of point.

13 runs off the over and suddenly the target was well within reach. 18 needed from 7 overs. The C.C.N.S.W. boys were clearly getting excited with the ever increasing prospect of still winning the game and 'Hads' and Fletch were thriving off their encouraging cheers. The Georges River boys seemed despondent and you could feel the whole mood swing in favour of C.C.N.S.W.

Over 34 and 'Hads' again flays the offie way over the boundary for another huge 6. This time losing the ball in the freeway embankment. With plenty of time left in the game, 'Hads' swings hard again next ball and is almost bowled.... A quick reminder from Fletch not to throw it away and 'Hads' comfortably blocks out the remainder of the over. Just 12 runs now needed.

Over 35 and Georges River bring back on their opener bowler. Not minding the quicker bowlers Fletch just pushes the first ball into a gap on the off side and calls 'Hads' through for an easy single. 'Hads' smacks his first ball of the over for four. 7 left to win. A couple of good balls from the opener and 'Hads' sensibly blocks them out. Next ball over pitched and hit hard and very long over deep mid on, landing in the Hornet's parade

ground, somehow managing to miss every one of the 40 odd people standing around after their Remembrance service.

Scores are tied, with just one run required to win the match.

Last ball of the over, straighter but again over pitched and 'Hads' feeling that it was important to make sure we reached the total without any doubt, swings hard through the line of the ball. It is heading almost straight down deep long on's throat. Everyone held their breath, but there was never any doubt. The ball sailed over the boundary just to the side of the sight screen and C.C.N.S.W. has secured an unlikely but very well achieved victory.

It would be an understatement to say that the C.C.N.S.W. boys were just over the moon with the victory and it is certainly one that will be talked about for quite some time to come. The final wicket stand was 56 unbeaten. Jim Hadley finishing on 77*. (57 deliveries) and Craig Fletcher 268. (21 deliveries).

C.C.N.S.W. 9 for 190 (35 overs), defeating Georges River all out 184 (36.2 overs).

The Team was (playing 12): - Mike Weaver (c) 20, Tom Robertson 2, Scott Wells 0, Mike Pinter (w) 30, Ed Smith 0, Brett Favell (w) 13, Jim Hadley 77*, Jonathon Shaw 0, David Benson 7, Craig Fletcher 26*, Stuart Ridge 5, and Michael Thomson dnb

The Result was:-

Georges River: - 10-184 (E. Smith 5-27; J. Hadley 3-16) (37.2 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 9-190 (J. Hadley 77*; M. Pinter 30) (35 overs)

By 1 wicket

FoW: - 1-8 (S. Wells); 2-8 (T. Robertson); 3-58 (M. Pinter); 4-60 (E. Smith); 5- 62 (M. Weaver); 6-93 (.J Shaw); 7-93 (B. Favell); 8-124 (D. Benson); 9-134 (S. Ridge).

The Bowling was: - S. Ridge 8-2-35-0, J. Shaw 6-1-33-0, J. Hadley 6-2-16-3, C. Fletcher 4-0-28-0, M. Thomson 3-1-22-0, E. Smith 6.2-0-27-5 and D. Benson 4-0-11-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumping: - Nil

Catches: - 2 to S. Ridge; one to M Pinter (w) and one to E. Smith

Run outs: - One to T. Robertson

Player Points: - 3 points to J. Hadley; 2 points to E. Smith; One point to C. Fletcher

MASTERS ROUND 5 v ST CLAIR UNITED AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2018: REPORT BY BRETT FAVELL

Arriving at the ground on Sunday, it was clear it was going to be a great day to play cricket with comfortable temperatures and gentle winds lasting the entire day. It was a game of mixed emotion for the lads in the C.C.N.S.W. Masters side but I am sure we will regroup and continue to grow with the form that we have displayed in the earlier rounds of this season.

The toss was won by C.C.N.S.W., which saw the home team bat first on a deck that was obviously second hand and proved to be a mixed bag, playing differently at various stages of the day. Sitting at the scoring table it was awesome to see three batsmen, either retired in the sheds or just about to be, as we approached the drinks break.

Skipper Mick Weaver and new opening partner David Benson just clicked on the day. 'Benno' (65*) displayed great form with the bat, scoring freely on both sides of the wicket and 'Weaves' (59) fought hard, looking more and more comfortable as his innings headed towards a retirement.

At drinks, the home team were 0/107.

Scott Wells (42) then joined the run fest, playing his usual style of level-headed batting and attacking stroke play, steadily notching up his 40 retired. The home team was still wicketless and looking to be on its way to posting an insurmountable tally.

However, a mixture of suspect calls and unfortunate shot selection saw the middle order collapse. With Mick Thomson (9), Brett Favell (4) and 'Jono; Shaw (6) all going cheaply, taking the score to 3-152 by the 27th over.

Mick McCormick (8) started well with a single and a 6 over 'cow corner' and together with Lee Witherden (17) looked like arresting the collapse. Lee especially, displaying his 'Last Man Standing' skills to score quickly and showing us why he is quickly becoming the 'go to' all-rounder for C.C.N.S.W. Mick unfortunately was caught in front LBW and Lee was bowled before they could each manage to get comfortable out in the middle.

From there, unfortunately, the collapse continued with Jed Wesley-Smith (1) Jim Hadley (4) and Craig Fletcher (0) dismissed. Jimmy and Fletch unfortunately were unable to repeat their genius of the previous game. This brought 'Benno' and 'Weaves' back to the middle, where they continued to build on their retired scores, until Weaves was bowled. Scotty then helped Dave see out the remainder of the overs which in itself was great to see.

C.C.N.S.W. concluded its innings at 9-226.

Bowlers of mention for St Clair were Sisira with 4-42 after his 9 overs and Sathyan, who bagged 3-26 after 7. And credit where credit is due. After what looked like a start that St Clair would not be able to recover from, they had managed to get quick wickets and put themselves back into the game.

The second half of the report is from my perspective as wicketkeeper.

Stuart Ridge and Jono Shaw took the new nut and really made the most of what would become a back breaker of a deck. 'Ridgy' opened with a caught and bowled that can only be described as inspirational and followed up with another the very next over, finally finishing with 3040 after 8. He wasn't able to find his hooping swing that we have come to expect from him but still managed to make St Clair very nervous with his athleticism.

Jono from the other end was hitting the gloves hard. He did well but occasionally dropped them in a bit short and the batmen took advantage. However he got through one of them with a welcome wicket of Sisra who has looked like he was on his way, Jono finally finishing with 1-35

Lee didn't open this game, as per usual, as he was returning from an injury to his ribs. From my view behind the stumps, Lee did manage to get the ball to swing. He consistently managed to get the ball to swing back from leg to middle. Unfortunately, our opposition were good off their hip and on occasion seemed to have a bit of luck playing cross bat shots straight down the ground. It was great to see Lee ('Banger') back bowling and he actually was the only bowler to bowl his full nine overs, finally finishing with 0-36.

Jim Hadley unfortunately seemed to have one of those days where the deck didn't help his cause but also, he met batsmen that knew how to use their feet. Jimmy had two catches dropped off his bowling which was frustrating. He finished with 0-32

Craig Fletcher came on with his left armers and got a very welcome breakthrough using his natural angle to his advantage. Unfortunately, we did not get to see much of 'Fletch' this innings with the ball and he finally finished with 1-24. Mick McCormick had a go with his mediums next. I felt from behind the stumps Mick was having a bit of trouble finding his line and length, finally finishing with 0-19.

Finally Weaves brought 'Benno' and himself on in the twilight of the St Clair innings. From behind the stumps, the natural bowling style of these two guys suited the pitch in the condition it was in. They bowled a bit fuller

than their other bowling colleagues which seemed to me to be the way to utilise the low bouncing deck. Weaves was unlucky, I thought, but alas, he and Dave finished the innings with 0-8 and 0-20 respectively.

From a fielding point of view, it was a sound day in the field. I as wicket keeper found the deck a 'SOB' to keep on and that unfortunately led to far too many byes - something I will be addressing a.s.a.p.

As I said at the beginning of the report, this was a game of mixed emotion. We saw team mates, who were due for rewards for their work in the nets, make the most of their time with the bat and that is so encouraging for the rest of the season. With the ball, what started very well became a hard slog. I reckon it is a case of learning from the game and trust that our skipper has a plan, so that C.C.N.S.W. will soon find itself back in the winner's circle.

The Team was (playing 12): - Mike Weaver (c) 59, David Benson 65*, Scott Wells 42*, Michael Thomson 9, Jonathon Shaw 6, Brett Favell (w) & (vc) 4, Mick McCormick 8, Lee Witherden 17, Jed Wesley-Smith 1, Jim Hadley 4, Craig Fletcher 0, and Stuart Ridge dnb

The Result was:-

C.C.N.S.W.: 9-226 (D. Benson 65*; M. Weaver 59; S. Wells 42* (40 overs)

Lost to

St. Clair United: 7- 229 (S. Ridge 3-40) (38.1 overs)

By 3 wickets

FoW: - 1-132 (M. Thomson); 2-147 (B. Favell); 3-148 (J. Shaw); 4-165 (M. McCormick); 5-166 (S. Ridge); 6-170 (C. Fletcher); 7-170 (J. Hadley); 8-179 (L. Witherden); 9-211 (M. Weaver)

The Bowling was: -S. Ridge 8-3-40-3, J. Shaw 5-0-35-1, L. Witherden 9-0-36-0, J. Hadley 4-0-36-0 C. Fletcher 2-0-24-1, M. McCormick 3-0-19-0, D. Benson 4-0-20-1, M. Weaver 3-0-8-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumping: - Nil

Catches: - 2 to S. Ridge; one to C. Fletcher

Run outs: - One to D. Benson

Player Points: - 3 points to D. Benson; 2 points to M. Weaver; One point to S. Ridge

MASTERS ROUND 6 v RYDE –HUNTERS HILL AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 2 DECEMBER 2018: REPORT BY DAVID BENSON

C.C.N.S.W. Flotilla take wind from Pirates' Sails

Blustery conditions and a green tinged deck made for an interesting days play at Camperdown between a Blues Squad smarting from a loss the week before and a Pirates Team looking to right their ship.

Having won the toss, the Blues skipper, Mike Weaver chose to bowl first and opened with the returning Ed Smith and the ever reliable Lee Witherden. The pair bowled well to restrict the visitors to 2 for 30 off the first ten overs, supported well by a Blues fielding outfit on their toes.

Ed Smith bowling a fine spell, removing both openers. The first being Joseph caught behind in the second over and then upsetting the timber of Williams in the eighth. The Pirates' skipper Guazzarotto looked resolute but Ed continued to bowl the right line and length at Camperdown and was rewarded with a further wicket of Millard adjudged LBW in the twelfth over.

With the introduction of the left arm Craig Fletcher, who removed the Pirates number five to a fine catch by Lee Witherden, the Pirates were reeling at 4-45 in the fourteenth over. Things however got worst for the Pirates as

Fletch, again bowling the perfect line and length at Camperdown, had the Pirates' skipper caught in front in the fifteenth, 5-56.

This wicket brought to the crease the Pirates best bat, Edwards and with the assistance of Gosbell they reached the drinks break with the Pirates at 5-75. Following the break Edwards continued to play a chanceless innings but the Blues bowling was tight and restricting the Pirates run rate. Edwards retired and the breakthrough came shortly afterwards with Brett Favell showing good gloves behind the stumps to have the Pirates number 7 stumped off the bowling of Scott Wells in the twenty eighth over.

This ignited a Pirates collapse. Wells went on to capture a further two wickets, Weaver bowling late and the return of Witherden, saw the tail cleaned up, Pirates all out 141 in the thirty sixth over.

Following lunch, the Blues opened with the Skipper Weaver and Michael Thomson. Unfortunately after playing a full blooded shot through covers the ball before, Thomo was bowled by the variable bounce at Camperdown. Blues 1 for 3 in the first over. David Benson came to the crease and with Weaver, restored order until pushing too hard at the off spin of Joseph, caught and bowled for 25. Blues 2 for 56 in the eleventh over.

Scott Wells strolled to the crease and like the previous week, played some wonderful strokes all-round the park. Scott and 'Weaves', both in a rich run of form, built a match winning partnership that saw Weaves retire 41* and Scott also retiring on 40*. A cameo from John Munden (8) and winning runs from Mike Pinter (10*) completed a great win by the Blues in the twenty fifth over. 3 for 144.

The Team was: - Mike Weaver (c) 41*; Michael Thomson 2; David Benson 25; Scott Wells 40*, John Munden 8, Mike Pinter 10*; Jonathon Seifman 3*, Brett Favell (w) dnb, Lee Witherden dnb, Ed Smith dnb and Craig Fletcher dnb

The Result was:-

Ryde-Hunters Hill: 10-141 (S. Wells 3-7; E. Smith 3-27) (37.2 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: 3-144 (M Weaver 41*; S. Wells 40*) (26.1 overs)

By 7 wickets

FoW: - 1-3 (M. Thomson); 2- 56 (D. Benson); 3-113 (J. Munden).

The Bowling was: - L. Witherden 7.2-1-24-1, E. Smith 9-1-27-3, C. Fletcher 8-0-35-2, D. Benson 5-2-19-0, S. Wells 3-0-7-3, M. Weaver 2-0-3-1, J. Seifman 2-0-18-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumping: - Nil

Catches: - One to each of B. Favell (w), D. Benson, M. Weaver and L. Witherden

Run outs: - Nil

Player Points: - 3 points to S. Wells; 2 points to E. Smith; One point to M. Weaver

**MASTERS ROUND 7 v MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY AT GWILLIAM FIELD OVAL,
MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY SPORTS FIELDS ON SUNDAY 16 DECEMBER 2018:
REPORT BY MIKE WEAVER**

C.C.N.S.W. travelled to North Ryde once again in the hope of collecting winning points against the experienced Macquarie Uni The wild weather during the week had made estimated travel time to the game uncertain. To be sure to cover any possible early thunderstorms and/or traffic jams, Weaver, Favell, Witherden and Fletcher were able to arrive at Ross Gwilliam Field at approximately 10:25am. A record for this season, more than 2 hours early for the eventual delayed start of 12:30pm, which was due to a wet patch on the wicket square.

Captain Mick Weaver, hoping to lose the toss, duly won it and circumspectly sent the opposition in. Heavy localised thunderstorms had been predicted from 1-3pm yet as the afternoon unfolded no rain delays ever occurred.

C.C.N.S.W. went into this game with the luxury of two leg spinners and a quality 'offie' as Lee Witherden and Stuart Ridge opened resolutely with controlled medium pace bowling to planned fields. Opposition opener Sutton was well contained and a deserved wicket to Ridge resulted. A well held catch by the gutsy 'Jono' Shaw at mid-off saw the Macquarie captain on his way for not too many runs. Lee Witherden bowled very accurately without taking a wicket. Macquarie were 2-50 after 13 overs when spin was introduced from the southern end, as per Skipper Weaver's master plan

Unfortunately the Macquarie middle top order attacked Jim Hadley after a very promising first over from 'Hads', which put the C.C.N.S.W. trump card off his line and length and caused him to over pitch under the pressure. 'Jono' Shaw bowled 4 capable overs of slingers from the northern end and twice went within a whisker of dismissing danger man Pasupati, who french cut past his leg stump and then nicked wide of first slip.

New chum Roger James was introduced to continue the leggies at the other end and after some promising deliveries, drinks were called with Macquarie 2-110 after 20 overs. C.C.N.S.W. had held it together well and probably deserved to have had at least another two wickets at this stage.

After the break Craig Fletcher took over from Jono and had Macquarie's Griffiths-Jones caught slashing to point, a superb catch taken by Wasantha Hettiarachchi ("Wasa").

With leg spin and then off spin continuing from the southern end, C.C.N.S.W. reverted to defensive fields to contain the strong Macquarie batting line-up. Lee Witherden finished where he left off and delivered some great death bowling.

New man Roger had delivered a promising spell, if a little erratic. Not long back from resuming regular cricket, the former St Kilda grade cricket man showed loads of capability and C.C.N.S.W. hope to acquire his services again during the season. 'Wasa' was introduced in his place and proceeded to deliver his off spin so well that he could not be brought off, seeing out the remaining overs from the same end, the one that had turned out as reserved for the spin attack only.

All things considered C.C.N.S.W. did well to contain Macquarie to 6- 218 off the 40 overs. All bowlers tried hard and the fielding was keen, especially from Roger James, who demonstrated a very good arm and covered good ground regularly and swiftly to save runs

Pick of the C.C.N.S.W. bowlers were Craig Fletcher and Wasa.

With rain expected to shorten the second innings, captain Weaver opted to open with Jim Hadley as his partner to ensure a quick start. The gamble did not pay off, as after a clubbed four to mid on in the second over, Hads succumbed to the follow up slower ball and skied a catch to mid on.

Andrew Spedding then in at first drop, also started well finding the middle of the bat until he was undone by another slower ball. The lack of pace this time caused the classy WA left hander to slip over in his attempt to wallop it over midwicket. 'Speds' was left sitting on the deck as the ball clipped the stumps. The Macquarie players found it all comical, captain Weaver not so, cursing the misfortune.

Mick McCormick joined 'Weaves' and the two batted solidly to combat some confident and accurate bowling on a low bouncing pitch. After both looked set, each succumbed to slow bowling. Mick edged behind off Folkard and Mike holed out to mid on off O'Reilly. 4-68 just before drinks and from there C.C.N.S.W. never recovered. Falling behind on run rate, C.C.N.S.W. exposed their Achilles heel to the slow spin and conservative fields of Macquarie, as some panicky batting saw a quick lower order collapse. At 9-93, Craig Fletcher and 'Wasa' restored some respectability with a determined last wicket partnership to bring the final score to 125. Fletch with a well made 21*. Roger James had showed some good ability with the bat until caught at deep long on. Otherwise it was a day to forget for most.

A day to forget as far as the cricket goes only! As usual, the after match good relations with Macquarie and their hospitality helped C.C.N.S.W. players quickly shed their disappointment. A good Christmas dinner and

drinks with our C & S side thereafter followed at the Empire hotel. There, all the relevant excuses for the loss were able to be conveyed to President Brooks and other significant and/or interested persons and C.C.N.S.W. look forward to resuming their Masters campaign in the New Year

Captains note: Next game is v Lane Cove, away, on January 20. It's been an eventful first half of season with many positives and considering the number of player changes from game to game, I think a 3 wins, 2 losses record at this point is not too bad. Thank you to everyone for the spirited displays. We share the highs and lows together and hope remains for the New Year, especially if the squad can all get together to practice and/or all be available for selection for remaining games. There is a lot of enjoyment still to be had.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Team was (playing 11): - Michael Weaver (c) 35, Jim Hadley 6, Andrew Spedding 2, Mick McCormick 20, Roger James 13, Brett Favell (w) 6, Lee Witherden 0, Jonathon Shaw 0, Stuart Ridge 0, Craig Fletcher 21* and Wasantha Hettiarachchi 14

The Result was:-

Macquarie University: - 6 - 218 () (40 overs)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10 - 125 (M. Weaver 35) (37.5 overs)

By 93 runs

FoW: - 1- 10 (J. Hadley); 2-15 (A. Spedding); 3-66 (M. McCormick); 4-68 (M. Weaver); 5-82 (R. James); 6-83 (L. Witherden); 7-84 (J. Shaw); 8-84 (S. Ridge); 9-91 (B. Favell); 10-125 (W. Hettiarachchi)

The Bowling was: - L. Witherden 8-0-33-0, S. Ridge 8-0-37-2, J. Shaw 4-0-20-0, J. Hadley 3-0-30-0, R. James 5-0-33-0, C. Fletcher 6-0-27-1, W. Hettiarachchi 8-0-30-2

The Fielding was: -

Stumping: - Nil

Catches: - One to each of J. Shaw and W. Hettiarachchi

Run outs: - One to R. James

Player Points: - 3 points to C. Fletcher; 2 points to M. Weaver; One point to W. Hettiarachchi

MASTERS ROUND 8 v LANE COVE AT KINGSFORD SMITH OVAL, LONGUEVILLE ON SUNDAY 20 JANUARY 2019: REPORT BY MIKE WEAVER

MASTERS ACCEPT NEW YEAR SUCCESS IN SERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

A sickening head clash in the outfield, which sent two Lane Cove players to the RNS emergency ward, marred what was otherwise a meritorious win by the C.C.N.S.W. Masters in their first hit out for 2019

Lane Cove players Neil McLeod and Keith MacLaine suffered a fractured eye socket and deep head gash respectively, and C.C.N.S.W. wishes them both a speedy recovery. Many thanks to C.C.N.S.W. player and ambulance officer Michael Thomson, who was on call with his job while able to play, for his very professional attention to the case.

Despite this unfortunate lowlight there were several highlights for C.C.N.S.W. from the match:

- Tom Robertson' audacious first ball of the day clout hit for six, which landed in the nearby tennis courts amongst startled 'racketeers'.

- Scott Wells' superb six over cover off Lane Cove's opening bowler McLeod in the early overs. Scotty was most unfortunate not to get to retirement score and is in very good nick with the bat.
- Brett Favell's welcome return to form and magical straight six (again off McLeod) that crashed onto the pavilion roof. Brett had arisen from his sick bed the previous night to play this game so he can consider this performance one of his individual best.

Excellent, persistently accurate and thoughtful bowling spells by all the C.C.N.S.W. medium pacer bowlers, most notably Lee Witherden (9-1-20-4) and Michael Thomson (6.3-2-6-3).

Commiserations to Lane Cove, who effectively lost their two best batsmen in the run chase, which brings the win into perspective somewhat. Nonetheless, I was very happy with the performance, especially after losing the toss and being sent in. It showed that some practice during the week to prepare is beneficial

Thank you very much to Peter Buruma for helping us out to play at short notice, boosting the team with a fine all round individual display. Also to club men Paul Nash and Ian Allmey for turning out in support. C.C.N.S.W. welcomes back ace cricketer Mick Tarrant to the fold after bereavement absence.

The next two games are Sunday Feb 3 and Sunday 10th against the two Roseville teams. Please can everyone make themselves available as much as possible as we also have the Classics and C&S teams engaged on February 3rd.

The Team was (playing 11): - Tom Robertson 16, Mick Tarrant 3, Scott Wells 34, Mick McCormick 5, Andrew Spedding 12, Brett Favell (w) 63*, Peter Buruma 25, Jim Hadley 0, Lee Witherden 13, Craig Fletcher 6, and Mike Weaver (c) 4*

The Result was:-

C.C.N.S.W.: 9-188 (B. Favell 63*) (40 overs)

Defeated

Lane Cove C.C.: All out 8-76 (L. Witherden 4-20; M. Thomson 3-6) (30.3 overs)

By 112 runs

FoW: - 1- 17 (T. Robertson); 2-25 (M. Tarrant); 3-58 (S. Wells); 4-59 (M. McCormick); 5-96 (A. Spedding); 6-137 (J. Hadley); 7-147 (P. Buruma); 8-156 (L. Witherden); 9-169 (C. Fletcher).

The Bowling was: - P. Buruma 5-0-19-0, L. Witherden 9-1-20-4, M. Tarrant 6-1-14-1, M. Thomson 6.3-2-6-3, J. Hadley 1-0-6-0, and C. Fletcher 3-1-10-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumping: - Nil

Catches: - Two to B. Favell (w); one to P Buruma

Run outs: - C. Fletcher/L Witherden effected 1 run out in tandem

Player Points: - 3 points to B. Favell; 2 points to L. Witherden; One point to S. Wells .

MASTERS ROUND 2 (REARRANGED) v ROSEVILLE WHITE AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2019: REPORT BY MICHAEL WEAVER

COIN TOSS DECISION OVERTURNED

Reports have filtered in during the week that a last minute change of tactic may have ultimately cost C.C.N.S.W. Masters victory, in their recent match with Roseville White at Camperdown Oval on February 3. Sources say key members of the Masters bowling consortium, just before play, persuaded acting captain Brett Favell to send 'The Whites' in to bat in the 35 degree heat.

The Masters bowlers are always excited by the sight any tinge of green on the wicket square and it has been proven in the past that if you give them an inch they will take a mile. It must be said that enthusiasm of the bowling group is highly admirable and their performances as a unit have been the consistent highlight of the Master season so far. And the decision to bowl first is certainly vindicated, at least somewhat, as Lane Cove were fully dismissed for a par score 183 – albeit perhaps being handed the initiative in the hot conditions. Regardless, the obvious effort to bowl Roseville out and get all 10 bonus points can only be applauded.

Unfortunately the C.C.N.S.W. top order started nervously and the team never fully recovered in a good effort, just falling short in the run chase -this despite valiant individual efforts by Michael Thomson, John Munden, Lee Witherden and Brett Favell. Further information received from onlookers on the day was that our batsmen were hit on the pads too much for the umpire's liking, with five lbw dismissals given against C.C.N.S.W., some contentious.

Regular Captain/Manager Mick Weaver was not listed to play due to injury and ultimately could not attend the match, having answered a last minute club call to be a token member of the Classics team, who were away at Mandalong on the Central Coast. This ensured eleven Cricketers' Club bodies on the park in their fixture. Weaver is hopeful to resume Masters duties for the next match v Roseville Navy at Camperdown.

You can be sure C.C.N.S.W. will again take up the good fight vigorously.

The Team was (playing 12): - David Benson 0, Roger James 6, Scott Wells 6, John Munden 23, J Hadley 0, Brett Favell (c) and (w) 36, Mike Tarrant 1, Lee Witherden 20, Mark Thomson 50*, Ed Smith 4, Jonathon Shaw 13, Mark Delaney (dnb)

The Result was:-

Roseville White C.C.: 10-185 (M. Thomson 3-34) (39.1 overs)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: 10-163 (M. Thomson 50*; B. Favell 38) (overs)

By 22 runs

FoW: - 1-

The Bowling was: - L. Witherden 5-0-24-2, E. Smith 9-1-42-2, M. Tarrant 5-1-19-1, J. Shaw 4-0-15-0, J. Hadley 7-0-2-41-2, M. Thomson 8-1-34-3

The Fielding was: -

Stumping: - Nil

Catches: -

Run outs: - Nil

Player Points: - 3 points to M. Thomson; 2 points to B. Favell; One point to L. Witherden .

MASTERS ROUND 9 v ROSEVILLE NAVY AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL,
CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2019: REPORT BY MIKE WEAVER

BOWLING SHINES WHILE BATTING DECLINES

A spirited display in the field could not be matched with the bat as C.C.N.S.W. Masters suffered their second successive loss on their home patch for the calendar year.

Returning captain Mike Weaver lost the toss and the Navy skipper gleefully elected to bat first. Despite an early breakthrough by Jono Shaw in the second over, C.C.N.S.W. were put under heavy pressure, fielding just 10 men plus a sub fielder borrowed from the opposition. Left hand opener Lenehan targeted the short boundary to the pavilion side with several strong cuts and pulls. With the second wicket not falling until the 11th over, Navy were well on top 2-88 after just 16 overs, with one bat in the shed.

C.C.N.S.W. is a team that never gives up, at least with the ball. Led by the ever persistent Lee Witherden, and the 'rocks or diamonds' Craig Fletcher, with good support from Michael Thomson and Andrew Spedding, Navy capitulated to be all out for 157 after just 31.3 overs.

The comeback was the result of consistent bowling to set fields, with the captain and the bowlers thinking also both being on the same page. Special mention to stand in wicket keeper Scott Wells who snared 5 catches behind the stumps, possibly a club record for one innings. (*Editor's Note Last time was when Paul Brandon took 5 catches at Bowral last season*)

Craig Fletcher put in his best spell of the season, noticeably coinciding with his new year fitness/weight loss campaign.

The C.C.N.S.W. run chase was even more dramatic than the Navy ordeal. Openers Weaver and Benson began solidly, seemingly having the game well in control for the home side before Benson was unexpectedly run out from a good throw in the deep. 1-44. Two wickets then fell on 49, Wells and Spedding holing out off the spinner, with a moody Weaver remaining in his shell.

Brett Favell came in and immediately went on the attack, taking 14 off one over from the same bowler. However in the very next over, he clipped a ball off his pads straight to square leg, who had moved significantly inwards from the deep without the batter realising. Shortly after Weaver was adjudged lbw, after surviving a previous confident shout. 5-68.

Club president Greg Brooks was looking extremely solid until succumbing to a well taken catch on the long leg boundary, again off the Navy spinner.

With Navy's spirits well up, Michael Thomson and Craig Fletcher finalised the collapse, both players unable to get going when it was all a bit too late. With Lee Witherden hardly able to hold his bat handle, C.C.N.S.W. effectively had only 9 batsmen. Jono Shaw batted defiantly and was the last wicket to fall, unfortunately bowled playing on

C.C.N.S.W. all out for just 100 runs.

Major mistakes to learn from - Batsmen either not noting field placements/ changes or being too bogged down under perceived scoreboard pressure.

Major positives - excellent bowling to set field. Scott Wells was a true revelation as a reserve wicket keeper

C.C.N.S.W. are still looking for the complete performance.

The Team was (playing 10): - Mike Weaver (c) 15, David Benson 30, Scott Wells (w) 5, Andrew Spedding 0, Brett Favell 14, Greg Brooks 8, Jonathon Shaw 15, Michael Thomson 4, Craig Fletcher 4, and Lee Witherden 0*

The Result was:-

Roseville Navy C.C.:- 10 - 185 (31.3 overs)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.:- all out 9-100 (D. Benson 30) (29 overs)

By 85 runs

FoW: - 1- 44 (D. Benson); 2-49 (S. Wells); 3-49 (A. Spedding); 4-66 (B. Favell); 5-68 (M. Weaver); 6-78 (G. Brooks); 7-94 (M. Thomson); 8-98 (C. Fletcher); 9-100 (J. Shaw.)

The Bowling was: - L. Witherden 9-1-31-3; J. Shaw 5-2-29-1; M. Thomson 5-0-39-1; C. Fletcher 6.3-0-30-4; A. Spedding 5-1-14-1; D. Benson 1-0-4-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumping: - Nil

Catches: - 5 to S. Wells (w)

Run outs: - Nil

Player Points: - 3 points to C. Fletcher; 2 points to L. Witherden; One point to D. Benson.

MASTERS ROUND 10 v AUBURN AT DAVID TRIBOLET OVAL, AUBURN ON SUNDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2019: REPORT BY MICHAEL WEAVER

SRI LANKA DOMINATE

C.C.N.S.W.'s batting woes continued in their recent match versus Auburn, being dismissed for just 95 against an excellent varied and accurate bowling attack. The side of predominantly Sri Lankan origin, current premiers and undefeated this season, showed exactly why as they provided CCNSW with a cricketing lesson.

C.C.N.S.W. lost the toss and were given first use of the willow in cool conditions. Mike Weaver and Dave Benson opened again and were both very lucky to survive early, with chances both being put down by the opposition in the slips region. Both batsmen saw off some very good deliveries before succumbing to the first change left arm orthodox spinner.

C.C.N.S.W. fought hard to bat out their overs without ever getting on top of the bowling. Mick McCormick tried very hard and compiled a fighting 25 runs to top score. Lee Witherden contributed a quick 19 near the end of the innings and was still unable to see the Blues past 100 runs.

Michael Weaver contributed 17 runs at the top with sundries the next best score at 14. 9-95 off full 40 overs. Slowest run rate by a C.C.N.S.W. team that this writer has witnessed.

As a side, C.C.N.S.W. was undone by excellent bowling and fielding from the Auburn team. And it was evident they understood their home conditions very well.

Auburn made quick work of the run chase although there were several anxious moments for them. C.C.N.S.W. bowlers dished up several very useful deliveries along with several loose ones. This resulted in two wickets, two dropped chances, a very close lbw shout not given, one or two aired shots just wide of fielders... and a flurry of boundaries amongst it all.

C.C.N.S.W. was missing one or two key players and a regular wicket keeper. Jono Shaw showed further improvement with the ball, rattling the stumps to clean bowl the Auburn opener with a superb delivery.

Well done to Auburn, way too good on the day. A more than reasonable effort by C.C.N.S.W. though, who can look to emulate the opposition in future. The hosts, as usual, excelled on the park and were extremely hospitable off it.

The Team was (playing 11): - Mike Weaver 17 ct (c) and (w); David Benson 5 st; Tom Robertson 2 ct; Craig Fletcher 0 b; Mick McCormick 25 c; Jim Hadley 0 c; Andrew Spedding 6 run out; Michael Thomson 2 b; Lee Witherden 19 b; Jonathon Shaw 0*; and Wasantha Hettiarachchi 0*

The Result was:-

C.C.N.S.W.:- 9- 95 (M. McCormick 25) (40 overs)

Lost to

Auburn C.C.: - 2-96 (J. Shaw 2-21) (18.2 overs)

By 8 wickets

FoW: - 1-25 (D. Benson); 2-30 (M. Weaver); 3-30 (T. Robertson); 4-34 (C. Fletcher); 5-51 (J. Hadley); 6-69 (M. McCormick); 7-69 (A. Spedding); 9-93 (M. Thomson); 9-95 (L. Witherden)

The Bowling was: - L. Witherden 5-0-23-0 J. Shaw 5-2-21-2; C. Fletcher 3-0-15-0; W. Hettiarachchi 3-0-18-0; M. Thomson 1.2-0-10-0 J. Hadley 1-0-6-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumping: - Nil

Catches: - Owe to M. Weaver (w)

Run outs: - Nil

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

MASTERS ROUND 11 v PENNANT HILLS PUMAS AT PENNANT HILLS OVAL ON SUNDAY 10 MARCH 2019: REPORT BY MIKE WEAVER

The final Masters game of the season saw C.C.N.S.W. away to Pennant Hills. These matches traditionally have been very close affairs.

But on this occasion, a very evenly balanced Cricketers' Club team delivered arguably their best performance of the season in the field. After Hills skipper Paul James elected to bat first upon winning the toss, the strong opposition batting line-up were knocked over for just 100 runs on a pacey strip, not the usual for this season, that the C.C.N.S.W. bowlers took full advantage of and with considerable glee.

The new ball swing duo of Lee Witherden and Stuart Ridge were on the spot from ball one and never allowed the Hills openers to get away, assisted by the slow outfield. Captain Mike Weaver set deep protective off side fields with the slips cordon stacked and the plan was adhered to expertly by the bowling group.

Ed Smith grabbed two excellent first slip catches. Keeper Brett Favell snared one regulation catch and shortly after. made another magnificent diving attempt for caught behind, where the ball was dislodged from his outstretched glove only after he had hit the turf. He also pulled off a cheeky stumping, sneaking up to the stumps on Lee Witherden's bowling to inflict a second ball dismissal of Pennant Hills's unfortunate Gunawardhana.

The ever improved Jono Shaw kept the pressure on as first change, with a succession of very thoughtful deliveries. Mick Tarrant looked very dangerous and was unlucky not to be more successful. He felt the full brunt of Hills batsman Jewiss after a chance from him was put down.

Evergreen spinner Jim Hadley was brought on to follow Mick at the same southern and was able to deliver the final blow. His dismissal of the aggressive Hills retiree, trapped lbw, saw C.C.N.S.W. obtain all ten wickets in just the 29th over.

Mention must go to Jono Shaw and Lee Witherden for combining very well to affect a crucial run out. Mick Thomson also demonstrated his very safe hands at mid-off.

Cricketers' Club were under pressure early in the run chase, with a season-fatigued Weaver out lbw in the first over. Dave Benson and Michael Thomson then got together and decided to play with discipline, not scoring many runs but blunting the enthusiastic attack. It was an excellent display of batting nous by both players to ensure no immediate further wickets, as there were many overs left to reach the target.

Brett Favell also played probably his smartest innings of the season, mixing watchful defence with controlled hitting to where the fielders weren't, until his first mistimed shot, in attempting to dispatch a full toss over the fence, resulted in a lobbed catch to mid-on.

Mick McCormick got a very good ball to go early; however his partners in experience, Ed Smith and Jim Hadley used every bit of it to guide the Blues to safety. Jim unselfishly sacrificed his wicket near the end which allowed Lee 'Leeroy' Witherden to hit the winning runs with an undefeated Ed.

Many thanks to Pennant Hills for the after match 'sausage sizzle' hospitality and C.C.N.S.W. look forward to another season commencing later in the year when we are all refreshed, fit and raring to go!

The Team was: - Michael Weaver (c) 0, David Benson 4, Michael Thomson 7, Mick McCormick 3, Brett Favell (w) 29, Ed Smith 15*, Jim Hadley 29, Lee Witherden 7*, Jonathon Shaw dnb, Mike Tarrant dnb and Stuart Ridge dnb

The Result was:-

Pennant Hills Pumas: - 10-100 (L. Witherden 3-21) (28.3 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 6-101 (29.1 overs)

By 4 wickets

FoW: - 1- 0 (M. Weaver); 2-12 (D. Benson); 3-17 (M. McCormick); 4-36 (M. Thomson); 5-51 (B. Favell); 6-92 (J. Hadley);

The Bowling was: - L. Witherden 9-2-21-3; S. Ridge 7-4-8-2; M. Tarrant 4-0-24-1 J. Shaw 6-0-25-2; J. Hadley 1.3-0-11-1; D. Benson 1-0-8-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumping: - One to B. Favell

Catches: - 2 to E. Smith; One each to B. Favell (w) and M. Thomson

Run outs: - One to L. Witherden

Player Points: - 3 points to J. Hadley; 2 points to L. Witherden; One point to S. Ridge

Sydney Masters Cricket Association - Sydney Masters Over 40s LEAGUE TABLE 2018-2019 SEASON

RANK	TEAM	P	W	D	L	WKTS LOST	RUNS FOR	WKTS TAKEN	RUNS AGST	POINTS
1	Auburn	11	11	0	0	67	1744	107	1263	436.20
2	Macquarie University	11	9	0	2	72	1523	100	1391	366.15
3	Warringah	11	8	1	2	79	1899	87	1426	361.95
4	Georges River	11	6	0	5	96	2072	92	1583	315.60
5	Old Ignatians	11	6	2	3	65	1360	61	1313	313.00
6	Roseville White	11	6	1	4	77	1592	87	1349	309.60

7	Cricketers' Club of New South Wales	11	5	1	5	85	1479	85	1519	281.95
8	Roseville Navy	11	5	0	6	99	1871	84	1808	279.55
9	Pennant Hills	11	4	0	7	99	1655	94	1858	259.75
10	Mosman	11	5	0	6	68	1431	77	1305	250.55
11	Lindfield	10	4	1	5	74	1241	68	1440	230.05
12	Collaroy Plateau Cricket Club	11	3	1	7	74	1123	66	1561	222.15
13	Lane Cove	11	3	1	7	81	1339	69	1589	215.95
14	St Clair United Sports Club	11	3	0	8	94	1413	83	1864	213.65
15	Burwood Briars	10	3	0	7	70	1169	68	1357	206.45
16	Hunters Hill Pirates	11	2	0	9	96	1569	68	1854	186.45