

CCNSW CLASSICS MATCH REPORTS 2023-2024 SEASON

CLASSICS ROUND 1: CCNSW vs MOSMAN AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER 2023: REPORT BY SCOTT WELLS

A beautiful Spring-like day awaited us at our first day at Camperdown vs Mosman – mid 20s partly cloudy. The outfield looked as good as it ever has for this time of the year and the centre square on the dry side. We had beaten Mosman the previous two seasons so were quietly confident of keeping that going.

Scott Wells won the toss and elected to bat – knowing that the pitch does get lower later in the day. We had a very strong batting line-up for the day and as usual the bowling resources were plentiful as well. Mosman had found a couple of pretty useful opening bowlers with their normal openers put back to change bowlers.

Sherville (“Wes”) Hall and Tom Robertson made their debut for Classics. Tom opened up the batting with Mike Pinter in the hope of getting Tom off to a flier with Michael Weaver parked in at number 3 – just in case. Just as well as no sooner did Tom bludgeon their opener back over his head, he copped one that didn’t bounce as much as expected – in front lbw. “Weaves” on a golden run of form started solidly but soon punched one to cover to leave us at 2 for 17. Paul Nash copped a beautiful outswinger first ball and fell to a full stretch catch to the keeper (former CCNSW player Ash Perrot). Oh S***!

Wells came to the crease in hope of settling things down in a solid partnership with Pinter but the other opener bowled a very full length ball that rattled Pinter’s leg stump – 4 for 19 – oh double S***!

Andrew Dawson and Wells set about business as usual with watchful innings sprinkled with some cracking boundaries – putting away any loose ones particularly short. That was until Dawson copped one that kept low – and other lbw. Next ball – Andy Davis was rapped in front with one that cut back and kept low. 6 for 52 Holy S***!

But still with the batters remaining, there was hope – double cross your fingers and toes type hope. Ed Cross came to the crease but no sooner did he come than Wells spooned a mistimed drive to cover point. He was soon followed by Cross who fell to a spectacular caught and bowled – tie for catch of the season so far. So it was up to the bowlers to get us into a decent position.

Andy Bachelard sent balls to the boundary and Mick Tarrant middled everything except the one that bowled him after Bach retired at 40*. David Craig looked solid with one particular sweep (conventional) shot sent to the boundary. ‘Bach’ returned and continued playing them like a symphony but alas DC was bowled bringing the batting to an end at 123 – probably about 100 or so short of where we planned and probably should have got to. Well batted Andy Bachelard who chanced his arm but all the others barely troubled the scorers

With not much in the bank, a lot depended on the opening spell. Their opener Rose played the pitch well and quickly retired 30* off 30. The other opener was trapped lbw from a classic Tarrant in cutter.

None of the bowlers could seem to settle into a good line and length consistently with boundaries leaking at regular intervals – some due to some less than desperate fielding. David Craig was the pick of the bowlers dropping his ‘leggies’ and making them play every ball and was rewarded with two wickets. ‘Wes’

Hall also bowled a good line and length and got his wicket probably off his worst ball (full toss). Another batter retired and we were passed 4 down

Mosman were by far the better side on the day – they came to play well – performing much better with the ball, bat and their fielding was exceptional. The final result showed this – Here's hoping for a better performance in all three facets next game. Much improvement and commitment is required if we are to remain a top 4 side in this comp.

The Team was (playing 12): - Tom Robertson 8, Mike Pinter 5, Mike Weaver 3, Paul Nash 0, Scott Wells (c) and (w) 15, Andrew Dawson 19, Andrew Davis 0, Ed Cross 9, Andrew Bachelard, 42* Mike Tarrant 4, David Craig 8, and Sherville Hall dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-123 (29.2 Overs) (A. Bachelard 42*)

Lost to

Mosman CC.: - 4-125 (23.3 Overs)

By 6 wickets

FoWs: - 1-12 (T. Robertson); 2-17 (M. Weaver); 3-17 (P. Nash); 4-19 (M. Pinter); 5- 52 (A. Dawson); 6- 52 (A. Davis); 7-56 (S. Wells); 8- 94 (E. Cross); 9-103 (M. Tarrant); 10-123 (D. Craig).

The Bowling was: - M. Tarrant 6-0-29-1; A. Bachelard 3-0-15-0; P. Nash 4-1-20-0; E. Cross 2-0-15-0; D. Craig 4.3-1-22-2; S. Hall 4-0-18-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - One to S. Wells (w)

Catches: - One to A. Davis and one to E. Cross

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by umpire): 3 points to A. Bachelard; 2 points to D. Craig; one point to A. Dawson

Scorecard: <https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/classics-summer-202324/classics-foxs/game-centre/69107eaa>

CLASSICS ROUND 2: CCNSW vs STRATHFIELD AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL. CAMPERDOWN, ON SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER 2023: REPORT BY ED CROSS

Camperdown Park was a sight to behold as we turned up for the second Classics match of the year after a disappointing loss in the first game. Due to the recent good weather, the outfield was green with a good grass covering, and we were pleased to see a new wicket had been prepared that was hard with a nice covering of grass ensuring a more consistent bounce. The team was aware that a much-improved performance in all areas was required to see us home against a Strathfield side also coming off a close loss after scoring in excess of 200 runs in the first game.

Skipper Scott Wells duly won the toss and had no hesitation in batting first. Mike (Punter) Pinter and Ed Cross were given the task to get us off to a good start and Mike took full advantage with a cover drive to the boundary first ball of the day. The scene was set for a bright batting performance. Mike and Ed continued to bat well, but watchfully, and the score ticked over at just under 4 an over early on.

By the 12th over the score had moved on to 57 without loss when Ed suffered a calf tear and was forced to retire on 28*. This brought Paul Nash to the crease, who looked determined to play well. He and Punter kept the scoreboard moving along with Punter soon retiring on 30* after some lovely cover drives. Andrew Dawson replaced Punter and the scoreboard continued to tick over as both batters played some beautiful shots. At the twenty over break, CCNSW were 0 for 101 and looking good.

Unfortunately Andrew Dawson was adjudged lbw when on 20 and CCNSW lost its first wicket with the score on 111 in the 23rd over. A big score was still on the cards when Scott Wells joined Paul and the boundaries started to flow. Both Paul and Scott played some glorious strokes and soon both retired after reaching 30* runs in quick time. 4 retirees by the 27th over.

Craig Kitson and Andrew Davis were the next pair to bat, and both looked good trying to lift the scoring rate further. Unfortunately Andrew Davis departed for a well-made 15 trying to accelerate. He was replaced by Andrew Bachelard, who despite a big hitting innings last game, soon departed trying to hit a straight ball to the boundary. Craig Kitson continued to look good with a flurry of boundaries that saw him retire on 30* in the 35th over. The last 3 batters, Mick Tarrant, Sherville ('Wes') Hall and David Craig continued the run accumulation in style, hitting numerous boundaries before the retirees returned to finish off the innings. CCNSW compiled 7 for 258 in 40 overs. Our first task – to improve our batting performance – had been achieved.

Our second task for the day was to serve a much-improved afternoon tea, as prompted by Punter midweek. While celery was nowhere to be seen, the spread prepared was a big improvement on previous efforts and was enjoyed by all. The home-made marinated chicken wings were a big hit.

We knew the next step for us was to bowl and field well. Stuart Ridge got us away and was rewarded with a wicket in the first over with Strathfield's opener having his castle disturbed without troubling the scorers. 'You beaut' - 1 for 0. Mick Tarrant started strongly with the new ball from the southern end without the same immediate success. Strathfield's batters obviously thought the best form of defence was attack and during the subsequent overs started to hit the boundary and get the score moving.

Persistent good lines and lengths led to success for Mick Tarrant when he bowled Strathfield's number 3 in the 8th over leaving the score 2 for 45. The fightback in the field had commenced and the ground fielding was excellent, further restricting the Strathfield batters. Success again for Stuart Ridge in his 5th over saw Strathfield in a bit of trouble at 3 for 51, still more than 200 runs short. However, their opener, Stanley Sebastien, was still travelling well and retired on 31* which included 7 fours.

A double bowling change by skipper Wells saw Andrew Bachelard and 'Wes' Hall into the attack. Both bowled strongly and were rewarded with a wicket each just before drinks. David Craig was brought into the attack for some leg spin in the last over before the break and removed the dangerous Bob Egerton who had scored 23 solid runs. 6 for 87 at the break, with batters 8 and 9 at the crease.

After the break, Wes and David continued the attack. David, in particular, was landing them well and got a further reward with a wicket in the 25th over. Andy Davis was brought into the attack to replace Wes and picked up a wicket in his first over with Strathfield now 8 for 112. However, Strathfield's number 8, Greg John, was batting well with little support and retired after reaching 30* allowing Stanley to return to the crease. He wasn't there long, becoming David's third wicket with the score at 9 for 116. Greg returned to

the crease and continued his fine batting until he became David's fourth victim when on 46. Strathfield all out 136.

A comprehensive win by CCNSW with a much-improved overall performance. Paul Nash and Scott Wells were the pick of the batters, with David Craig the pick of the bowlers returning the figures of 7.4–0–26. All that was left to do was to crack a few “winners” ales and finish off the chicken wings and cheese and crackers. All agreed we had achieved our goal of improving in the 4 aspects of the game – batting, bowling, fielding and catering.

The Team was (playing 12): - Mike Pinter 34, Ed Cross 28* (ret hurt), Paul Nash 37* , Andrew Dawson 20, Scott Wells (c) and (w) 37*, Craig Kitson 30*, Andrew Davis 15, Andrew Bachelard 0, Mike Tarrant 13, Sherville Hall 12, David Craig 15, and Stuart Ridge dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: 7 - 258 (40 Overs) (P. Nash 37*; S. Wells 37*; C. Kitson 30*)

Defeated

Strathfield CC: - 10-136 (33 Overs) (D. Craig 4-26)

By 122 runs

FoWs: - 1-111 (A. Dawson); 2-196 (A. Davis); 3-196 (A. Bachelard); 4-218 (M. Tarrant); 5-232 (S. Hall); 6-249 (M. Pinter); 7-253 (D. Craig).

The Bowling was: - S. Ridge 7-0-35-2; M. Tarrant 7-0-26-1; A. Bachelard 2-0-16-1; S. Hall 5-1-19-1; D. Craig 8-0-26-4; A. Davis 4-0-12-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - one to each of A. Davis and M. Pinter

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by umpire): 3 points to P. Nash; 2 points to S. Wells; one point to D. Craig

Scorecard: <https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/classics-summer-202324/classics-foxs/game-centre/b9fb3aff>

CLASSICS ROUND 3: CCNSW vs ROSEVILLE AT ROSEVILLE CHASE OVAL. EAST LINDFIELD , ON SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2023:

Cancelled by rain

CLASSICS ROUND 4: CCNSW vs MACARTHUR CC AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN, ON SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2023: REPORT BY MIKE WEAVER

Tom Robertson was a key player for this fixture at Camperdown. As he turned up with the key which led to accessing the change rooms at 12:07pm (start time is 12:15pm)

The weather was cloudy and humid and the pitch was patchy with several unrolled green spots. MacArthur sent us in to bat, bowled accurately and recorded a comfortable win against an underperforming CCNSW

Personally, I'm smarting from the loss

We started reasonably well. Opening stand was looking sound between 'The Two Mikes', Pinter and Weaver. I think maybe the flick I tried was a little ambitious, in the six over, to have me adjudged lbw. The ball was full and straightened up in the air, from leg to off. Following me into the sheds was Paul Nash with a first ball duck. A ball that just took off from a length, was edged off the splice to gully. From a pretty confident start, we are 2-21.

Then there was quite a good partnership between 'Punter' and Andrew Dawson. Punter had already slashed a nice boundary over point and was picking up his ones and twos. Andrew was stroking the ball around with ease and sending the rare loose ball to the fence.

"Very disappointed is an understatement, at a loss to how this keeps happening" - Michael Tarrant - WhatsApp chat post from the CCNSW opening bowler and allrounder, afterwards.

Now, to answer Mick. A reason could have been that CCNSW just didn't battle through the tough overs and take the time to set a platform. That's what the team plan used to be. Get to 30 overs with two in the shed. Then smash it for the last 10 overs, with wickets in hand. It was the old fashioned style and it normally always meant we scored 180-200 minimum. The top order simply left too much for the lower order to do, and did not seize the day.

I'm guilty as anyone. I hit a full toss straight to the field as well for no run, and needed to hit gaps better, missed a couple on my pads down leg side. Andy Davis batted very well, in contrast to this. Two nice cuts for four and knocking it around nicely. Was done over by the pitch, caught behind

Not putting the loose ball away with authority, leading to dismissal, was a theme. Scott Wells, the skipper, probably looked the best of all. But he, Pinter and Dawson and later Mick Tarrant, all got out caught to a full ball or full toss. To be fair, Scott was caught on the fence, which isn't the worst way to be dismissed. The others each bunted back a catch to the bowler. David Kent, in at 8, was showing the team the way with Andy Davis (in at 7). This pair had got us to drinks and afterwards. Then an lbw decision sent Dave back. It seemed the ball must have been sliding across off stump and/or pitched off the stumps. Left arm over, spinning away from him and Dave was well forward, sweeping. The ball had 2-3 metres to travel after striking him. Admittedly, height was probably not an issue. And the umpire had no doubt and he's in the best position to see.

Dave Craig said: *'The top order all looked great at the crease. Until ...'*

Earlier, Tom Robertson, in at 5, was looking very good with the bat in hand, dealing in two boundaries as part of his brief stay, one a crunching square cut, textbook style. Then he was out lbw, a front stool stride well down the pitch.

Nobody got going enough and we were all-out for 141, when Sherville ("Wes") Hall was bowled. Both he and Mick Tarrant had each cracked a straight drive to the fence and tried hard. And with the score posted, CCNSW held some hope of being able to defend it. A decent afternoon tea was consumed at the break. CCNSW have lifted in this area, this season.

The CCNSW bowling effort started off well and Mick Tarrant and 'Wes' Hall did a decent job with the new ball, mostly attacking the stumps. But because MacArthur had a small target to chase, they were able to start carefully. CCNSW had a couple of big shouts for caught behind, off Tarrant. He very nearly had one of the openers bowled. We needed an early wicket, and MacArthur did well and survived. The spinners we tried, David Craig and Luke Holman, didn't bowl as well as what they are capable of because there

was too much pressure on them. There were simply not enough runs on the board for their attacking loopy style.

Paul Nash did a good job to pick up a wicket late and Tarrant came back on from the Rotunda end to get his deserved wicket, when it was all over. Dave Kent bowled some good areas at a decent clip, coming on second change from the cafe end. He trapped the number 3, lbw, to get us on the wicket tally board finally, after both the openers had retired. He dropped short only 2-3 times and the MacArthur bats didn't miss out, each time the ball was spanked to the fence. Dave continued to bowl very well, even when it seemed a lost cause.

We dropped a couple of chances that didn't help team spirits. The ground fielding kept up well, the one exception being 'Weaves' refusing to get down to one. And we were never really in it after the openers retired and they had attacked our spinners with freedom.

So, CCNSW play Sri Lanka next game and have to be more determined. I suggest let's get to the nets.

'Wellsy' went home It seems the Skipper wasn't particularly impressed. We will all have to think about our games and rally as a team, as a response.

'Nuff said' was skipper Scott Well's only after match Whatsapp group chat post.

Mike Weaver to Dave Kent, WhatsApp chat, post match: *I see, well it seemed a decent shot (his sweep, that led to dismissal) to attempt. Where did the ball pitch do you reckon, Kenty?*

Dave Kent: *"4th stump"*

For CCNSW, it was one of those days when a few guys looked very likely to go right on and were thwarted by things out of their control. Conversely, others looked very likely and succumbed to things they were unlucky not to have controlled better. That's cricket in general I guess and it bit very hard in this match.

A few of the CCNSW were quite crestfallen today after getting out. Overall It just didn't seem normal, especially playing at Camperdown. It was a crestfallen performance.

To re-state, one guy had no luck at all. I'm referring to Nashy's first ball dismissal. Paul is normally very reliable and is often the team's top performer.

So looking back on it, CCNSW can't let this performance affect their overall confidence. There was a bit of bad luck that conspired somehow stopped getting our battling retirements as normal. And all credit to MacArthur.

It's not likely to happen again.

'Don't be thinking you might get out when you bat' (to quote Ricky Ponting)

We just have to be a bit more determined, individually. I think we should all go for a hit and a bowl and a field in the week before the Sri Lanka game

We must come together in this time of adversity

The Team was: - Mike Weaver 14, Mike Pinter 13, Paul Nash 0, Andrew Dawson 25, Tom Robertson 9, Scott Wells (c) 12, Andrew Davis 25, David Kent 10, Mike Tarrant 11, Sherville Hall, 9 David Craig 2* and Luke Holman dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-141 (37.2 Overs)

Lost to

MacArthur CC: -3-142 (23.5 Overs)

By 7 wickets

FoWs: - 1-21 (M. Weaver); 2-21 (P. Nash); 3-40 (M. Pinter) 4-57 (T. Robertson); 5-82 (A Dawson); 6-82 (S. Wells); 7-113 (D. Kent) 8-118 (A Davis); 9-130 (M. Tarrant); 10-141 (S. Hall)

The Bowling was: - M. Tarrant 6.5-0-37-1; S. Hall 4-0-19-0; D. Craig; 2-0-18-0 D. Kent 7-0-31-1; L. Holman 1-0-17-0; P. Nash 3-0-17-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to M Pinter

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by umpire): 3 points to A. Davis; 2 points to A. Dawson; one point to M. Tarrant

Scorecard: <https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/classics-summer-202324/classics-foxs/game-centre/1c0e66fd>

CLASSICS ROUND 5: CCNSW vs SRI LANKA LIONS AT KAREEELA RESERVE DOONSIDE, ON SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2023: REPORT BY SHERVILLE HALL

Because of rain the game was transferred from turf at Waterloo Oval, Zetland in the inner City- a ground with few amenities to an artificial wicket at Kareela Reserve, Doonside approximately 40 km down the M4 near Rooty Hill, a bleak Reserve with three artificial wickets. The pitch was fine but the outfield was damp and boundaries were to be hard to come by.

The Sri Lanka Lions batted first and were all out in the fortieth over for 178 with Ed Cross returning the best bowling figures with 3-32.

Our turn to bat and runs were hard to get on the slow outfield. Only Mike Weaver (44*) who opened, exceeded 20 runs. While he deserved to get a half century, he unfortunately ran out of batting partners when Sherville Hall was out for 10 in the 37th over after a tenth wicket partnership of 23. CCNSW ended up some 34 runs short to be all out for only 144, a disappointing display by a batting line up capable of doing much better

CCNSW will need to work harder on building partnerships and getting more batters in the bank to the 40* retirement stage. Something to work on in future games

The Team was (playing 12): - Mike Weaver 44*, Tom Robertson 11, Paul Nash 16, Andrew Dawson 17, Andrew Davis 2, Andrew Bachelard 11, Mike Pinter 2, Scott Wells (c) and (w) 5, David Kent 4, Mike Tarrant 14, Sherville Hall 10, Ed Cross dnb

The Result was: -

Sri Lanka Lions: - 10-178 (39.4 Overs) (E. Cross 3-31))

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-144 (36.1 Overs) (M. Weaver 44*)

By 34 runs

FoWs: - 1-14 (T. Robertson); 2-33 (P. Nash); 3-71 (A. Dawson); 4-81 (A. Davis); 5-91 (M. Pinter); 6-98 (S. Wells); 7-102 (A. Bachelard); 8-120 (M. Tarrant); 9-121 (D. Kent) 10-144 (S. Hall)

The Bowling was: - S. Hall 7.4-0-41-2; D. Kent 3-0-27-0; A. Bachelard 9-0-40-1; E. Cross 9-1-31-3; A. Davis 2-0-10-0; M. Tarrant 9-1-25-2

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One To A. Davis and one to P. Nash

Run outs: - One to E. Cross

Player points (awarded by umpire): 3 points to M. Weaver; 2 points to E. Cross; one point to S. Hall

Scorecard: <https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/classics-summer-202324/classics-foxs/game-centre/c7239e35>

CLASSICS ROUND 6: CCNSW vs NEPEAN DCA AT DUKES OVAL, EMU PLAINS ON SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER 2023: REPORT BY TOM ROBERTSON

It was off to "The Plains" for our Classics round 6 clash with Nepean. The word had spread they put on the best spread in the comp and it didn't disappoint. Aged cheddar and prosciutto at drinks with eskies full of water and sports drinks. Then came the fruit. Watermelon cut to the perfect width and size. I was starting to think I might change clubs. Only thing that was holding me back was all those sad CCNSW faces if I did. Especially that Pinter bloke. He would need years of counselling.

And also we played cricket. Nepean won the toss and batted. Their openers looked good but were contained by Stuart Ridge and Andrew Bachelard. Sherville ('Wes') Hall arrived late and struck straight away. Sleeping in sure does make for a fresher bowler.

David Craig set the standard in the field like he does week in and week out with a few catches and a good run out. How he does that with the rack that he is supporting I don't know.

Lots of tight bowling ensued. Boundaries were tough on a big ground with long grass. I was told post game it is as big as the SCG.

With Nepean 8-125 after 40 overs, off we went at half time to get stuck into Subways and a charcuterie board of goodies.

Scott Wells sent in Ed Cross and Tom Robertson to get us underway. Poor Ed got a cracking inswinger and was bowled for 2. Paul Nash and Tom then put Nepean to the sword and both retired on 30*. Andrew Dawson then went out there and scratched around like a chook for 2. Wells then left a ball on off stump. Trevor Whittall went big on his third ball and skied it mid off. Lucky the steady hand of Andrew Bachelard came out and limped his way to 31* ret. Andrew Davis (13*) was at the other end the whole time steadying the ship. Wells noted that his wagon wheel is a spoke that goes through gully.

With victory in sight Bachelard retired on 31* with the scores level. The trusty scorer called him in but no one moved as they saw who was scoring. After verification David Craig walked out, intending to bring about victory with a reverse sweep, the stroke that he and Maxy both play with aplomb. But Dave was then caught at slip for a duck and it was up to Sherville Hall to finish. 11 dot balls later and we sealed victory just before the end of the 32nd over to get bonus points.

Great venue and great opposition made the journey well worth it. Beers and well cooked onions and snags were served with some high quality banter.

The Team was: - Tom Robertson 30* ret not out, Ed Cross 2, Paul Nash 30* ret not out, Andrew Dawson 2, Scott Wells (c) and (w) 6, Andrew Davis 13*, Trevor Whittall 0, Andrew Bachelard 31* ret not out, David Craig 0, Sherville Hall 1*, Stuart Ridge dnb

The Result was: -

Nepean DCA: - 8-125 (40 Overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 5-126 (31.5 Overs) (A. Bachelard 31* ret not out; P. Nash 30* ret not out, T. Robertson 30* ret not out)

By 5 wickets

FoWs: - 1-14 (E. Cross), 2-78 (S. Wells); 3-81 (A. Dawson); 4-81(T. Whittall); 5-125 (D. Craig)

The Bowling was: - S. Ridge 7-1-11-0; A. Bachelard 9-0-44-1 S. Hall 8-0-28-2; A. Davis 5-0-12-1; D. Craig 8-1-21-2; T. Whittall 3-0-9-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - Two to D. Craig; One to each of T. Robertson and T. Whittall

Run outs: - One to D. Craig

Player points (awarded by umpire): 3 points to P. Nash; 2 points to T. Robertson; one point to A. Bachelard

Scorecard: <https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/classics-summer-202324/classics-foxs/game-centre/a624795d>

**CLASSICS ROUND 7: CCNSW vs WARRINGAH AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL,
CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 7 JANUARY 2024: REPORT BY ANDREW
BACHELARD**



Back row: Mike Weaver, Stuart Ridge, Greg Brooks, Andrew Bachelard, David Craig, Brett James

Front Row: Paul Nash, Sherville Hall, Andrew Davis, Scott Wells **(c)** and **(w)**, Mike Pinter, Mike Tarrant.

On a beautiful summer Sunday the Classics arrived at Camperdown Oval to play Warringah with revenge on our minds and plum pudding and mince pies in our legs. After a thoroughly dispiriting and feeble capitulation in the last game of 2022-2023 and the lure of finishing in the top 4 despite a generally disappointing season this year, there was all to play for.

Skipper Scott Wells lost the toss and Warringah elected to bat on a central Camperdown wicket with plenty of grass. After an inspiring pre match speech (I can't remember who delivered the immortal line - *"Let's win this one"*) we took the field.

After a watchful opening over from Stuart Ridge, Mike Tarrant channeled his inner Mitch Starc and struck with his first ball - plumb lbw leaving Warringah reeling at 1-4 after 2 overs. Unfortunately we were not able to capitalise on that early success. We were unable to exert pressure with either our bowling or fielding. The next 3 batters all reached 30* and the next wicket did not fall until the 19th over when the

ever reliable David Craig held on to a simple chance at mid off from the bowling of Andrew Bachelard. At this stage the score was 2-124 after 19 with 3 in the sheds and it was looking like a tough day at the office.

As we walked off for a cup of tea, skipper Wells was heard to mutter that it was as though we were all on valium. Others thought that the extensive sandy stretches on the Camperdown outfield had led to some confusion and people thought they were still down the coast at the beach. Maybe we had all just become too accustomed to our summer afternoon snoozes and the ham and turkey was catching up with us, but at 2-126 at drinks there was plenty of work to do.

We managed to pull it back a little. Bachelard continued for a couple of overs after tea with his cunning mixture of long hops and half volleys before being replaced by 'The Prez'. Greg Brooks. Sherville Hall and Craig toiled away until Tarrant returned. At this point some of the Cricketers' team seemed to rouse themselves from their naps and some better fielding ensued. There was an outstanding direct hit run out from Craig, throwing them down from the edge of the circle at backward point. Tarrant had wickets in consecutive overs with a good overhead Aussie rules mark to Andrew Davis and a confident caught and bowled. Brooks rounded out the innings picking up the last 3 wickets to fall. The first bowled, the second an absolute screamer from Hall running in from deep mid wicket (the ball after Bachelard had dropped a sitter at point to continue his forgettable day) and the last lbw.

After 40 overs Warringah had scored 8-253, but the pitch was good, the outfield fast and the batting line up strong. We were still in this.

Mike Weaver and Mike Pinter opened the batting. Weaver's first ball was a knee high full toss that was duly dispatched behind square for 4! We were away. Unfortunately his 3rd ball was a 'jaffa' that knocked back off stump. After some detailed analysis of what had happened and the discussion of a number of competing theories, 'Weaves' concluded that he had missed a straight one. Who would have thought?

Pinter was joined by Paul Nash and together they proceeded to make batting look very easy. Nash retired in the 10th over and Pinter in the 16th, at which point we were 1-88 and within touching distance of the required run rate. At this point we needed just under 7 an over with 2 in the shed and Brett James, Wells, Davis and the 'sloggers' to come. So far so good.

Unfortunately at this point Warringah's Giles Park commenced his outstanding spell of 7-1-16-3. He removed Davis (0), James (26) and Tarrant (11). He was ably supported by Simon Waddington keeping the pressure on at the other end. When Wells (15) fell in the 29th over we were 5-138. The equation was simple. 11 overs remaining, 116 to get at 10.5 an over. Brooks, Bachelard, Hall and Craig to come with Nash and Pinter in the sheds. The change bowlers had just come on - autumn leaves from one end and straight slow-stop from the other. We were definitely in with a chance.

Brooks (12) fell shortly afterwards and then began one of the most inexplicable passages of cricket since Herschelle Gibbs dropped the World Cup. The biggest brain fade since Jonny Bairstow wandered out of his crease to attend to his gardening. Bachelard, occupying a parallel universe where the Classics play 50 over games, catastrophically miscalculated the required run rate. Thinking that we needed a leisurely 6 on over, Bachelard and Hall shared a productive, but desperately inadequately paced partnership of 36 in 5 overs. Apparently at one stage on the sideline Brooks suggested running a message out to tell the batters to get a move on. Wells, incorrectly assuming that his charges understood the situation, demurred. Should always listen to 'The Prez', skip.

Bachelard was dismissed for 29 with the score on 179 and Hall fell for 10 in the next over. The run rate at this stage was 15 and proved too much even for the returning Nash (52) who hit 20 off 7 balls before holing out on the deep mid wicket fence and Pinter who didn't trouble the scorers on his return to the crease. Craig was left stranded on 7*. Simon Lyon, bowling autumn leaves, ended up with figures of 5.2-0-42-5. Not a little embarrassing.

In sum, another dispiriting and feeble capitulation to Warringah, best filed under "first game back from the Christmas break" and never spoken of again. The highlight of the day, apart from Nash's sparkling 52 from 36 balls, was definitely Punter's new cover removal technique.

The Team was (playing 12): - Michael Weaver 4, Mike Pinter 30, Paul Nash 52, Brett James 26, Andrew Davis 0, Scott Wells (c) and (w) 15, Mick Tarrant 11, Greg Brooks 12, Andrew Bachelard 29, Sherville Hall 10, David Craig 7* and Stuart Ridge dnb

The Result was: -

Warringah CC: - 8-253 (40 overs) (M. Tarrant 3-53, G. Brooks 3-53)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-207 (39.2 overs)

By 46 runs

FoW: - 1-4 (M. Weaver); 2- 90 (A. Davis); 3-99 (B. James); 4-123 (M. Tarrant); 5-138 (S. Wells); 6-143 (G. Brooks); 7-179 (A. Bachelard); 8-183 (S. Hall); 9-207 (P. Nash); 10-207 (M. Pinter).

The Bowling was: - S. Ridge 6-0-40-0; M. Tarrant 9-1-53-3; W. Hall 7-0-48-0; A. Bachelard 6-0-33-1; D. Craig 4-0-22-0; G. Brooks 8-0-53-3

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to each of D. Craig, A. Davis, S. Hall, and M. Tarrant,

Run outs: - one by D. Craig (direct hit)

Player points (awarded by umpire): - 3 points to P. Nash; 2 points to M. Pinter; 1 point to M. Tarrant

Scorecard: <https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/classics-summer-202324/classics-foxs/game-centre/404d961e>

CLASSICS ROUND 8: CCNSW vs LINDFIELD LARRIKINS AT LINDFIELD OVAL, LINDFIELD ON SUNDAY 21 JANUARY 2024: REPORT BY MIKE PINTER

The Toss was won by Lindfield who elected to bat

Early indications from the heat warnings provided suggested it was going to be an absolute stinker, and yes it was, with the temperature hovering around the 37C⁰ mark for most of the day.

Our first challenge however was simply fielding a team, with a significant number of the regular suspects unavailable due to a number of other significant matches being played including the Over 55s State Championships in Wagga, the CCNSW Tour to Adelaide and a C&S Match also being played. Fortunately however after exhausting the database of those eligible, we managed to field 11. Special thanks to Emmanuel Mougialis for changing his plans and literally diverting in transit from Camperdown to Lindfield to help us out.

Lindfield won the toss and elected to bat. Without five of our regular bowlers Scott Wells had to be creative, so he opened the bowling with David Kent (6-0-21-0) and Greg Brooks (The Prez) (9-1-30-1). *(Ed note: David Kent used to play senior Grade Shires for Lindfield as a fast bowler.... c 30 years ago!)*

It was a tidy start from the new opening bowling combination getting to the eighth over before The Prez struck with a plumb lbw (Score: 1-24).

Then soon after the fall of the first wicket Wells replaced Dave Kent with Joe Scarcella (Joe) (8-1-22-2) who immediately threatened both batters and continued to apply the pressure with The Prez.

At the first of two drinks breaks (scheduled for the end of the 13th and 26th overs due to the heat) Lindfield were 1-45. The Prez would take home no more scalps for the day; however he did bowl nine consecutive overs with the very tidy figures of 1-30.

The pressure was constantly being applied by all in the field and their opener Mark Wilson was lucky to survive (running from the non-strikers end) for a quick single that was pushed to cover, swooped upon by Mike Pinter (Punter) and rocketed back over the bails to Andrew Dawson (Dawso); however Wilson was adjudged to have made his ground. (Err ... also adjudged "lucky" to be there by David Glen fielding at point).

Scarcella bowled a magnificent double wicket maiden in his fifth over with a wonderful low catch taken just forward of square leg gobbled up by Craig Kitson (Kitso), followed up by a well adjudged lbw to have them at 3-53 at the end of the 17th Over.

Constant pressure was being applied in the field and in particular the boundary riding by Dave Glen was second to none, with at least 10 to 15 runs saved together with pinpoint throws over the stumps from the boundary.

Although it looked furry at the start of the game, the wicket was playing pretty true, so it was challenging for the bowlers to get wickets. Around the 22nd over their opening batsman Wilson retired 32*; he had batted well in tough conditions.

Kitson (8-0-22-2) came on to replace The Prez and it wasn't long before he nabbed his first victim from a miss-timed lofted drive from Taylor that fizzed and was comfortably taken by Punter at cover (Score: 4-74 after 24 overs).

Mitch Sturt bludgeoned our attack to retire 30*. in quick time as well as one of their 'underage' (i.e. 49 year old) players Flanagan with a run a ball 32*. *(Ed note: The Playing Conditions provide that so long as a player turns 50 by 1 April next he is eligible to play during the whole of the preceding season).* Paul Nash (Nashy) (5-0-32-0) and Luke Holman (3-0-18-0) were subject to some of the hefty blows. Then in the 38th over Kitson struck again when Peter Harrison attempted to sweep one behind square, only to fall to another great catch by "The Albatross" David Kent (Score: 5-147). Their innings finished about 30 to 40 runs below par at 5-155.

Our innings didn't start as we would have liked as Punter, attempting to leave an off cutter from Taylor on the fourth ball of the opening over, somehow managed to feather one which was easily taken by their keeper (Score 1-0).

In strode our top run scorer for the season in Nash to join David Glen. Nash got straight to work working the first couple of deliveries behind square for consecutive twos. Both Nash and Glen worked the ball around the field extremely well and took advantage of any and every run on offer. By the drinks break (at 13 overs) we were 1-54 and ahead of the run rate required. Note: This was important as the temperature was hovering on 37C° and we needed to be ahead on the net run rate in case the game was called off. *(Ed Note: Playing Conditions provide play shall be suspended if temperature exceeds 38C° but may be resumed once temperature drops to 38C with time added on for time lost)*

Nash retired around the drinks break for a very well made 31*; in particular he punished anything short with two magnificent sixes smashed over deep midwicket. Dawson then joined Glen to continue ticking the scoreboard over, moving with classical cricket strokes being played all around the wicket the score along to 1-94 by the 20th over. Neither of the batters seemed troubled in any way with the bowling and constant changes in the bowlers did little to change the trajectory of the game. Glen retired soon after on a very well made 32* on his debut for the Classics – well done on a great game in the field then with the bat!

Kitson then joined Dawson who was also approaching a retirement. Kitson did what he does best and quickly accumulated runs, in another great partnership. Then Dawson was unfortunate to have been caught and bowled for 29 by a magnificent low catch by Flanagan that nearly landed on the pitch. It was that close that Joe Scarcella mimicked a quote from the great Kerry O'Keefe when he said *"Only Bob Marley could find grass in that."* (Note: This was after Virat Kohli was caught low down for 123 by Peter Handscomb in the slips off Pat Cummins in the second test of the 2018-19 Test Series at Optus Stadium).

Kitson showed us that it is important to put the bad ball away, and no shots were more graceful than his rocking back and pulling a short ball behind square to the boundary just before he too retired on a very well made 30*

David Kent (13*) and The Prez (8*) then finished things off for us with the victory coming in the 30th Over.

Thanks for the hospitality from the Lindfield Team and we wish you all the best for the rest of the season. Thanks also to David Glen, David Kent, Joe Scarcella, Luke Holman and Emmanuel Mougialis for putting your hands up to help out this game, and it was great to get back into the winners circle!

The Team was: - Mike Pinter 0, David Glen 32* ret not out, Paul Nash 31* ret not out, Andrew Dawson (w) 29, Craig Kitson 30* ret not out, David Kent 13*, Greg Brooks 8*, Scott Wells (c) dnb, Joe Scarcella dnb, Luke Holman dnb, Emmanuel Mougialis

The Result was: -

Lindfield CC: - 5-155 (40 Overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 2-156 (29.2 Overs) (D. Glen 32*; P. Nash 31*; C. Kitson 30*)

By 8 wickets

FoWs: - 1-0 (M. Pinter); 2-131 (A. Dawson)

The Bowling was: - G. Brooks 9-1-30-1; D. Kent 6-0-21-0; J. Scarcella 8-1-22-2; C. Kitson 8-0-22-2 ; P. Nash 5-0-32-0; L. Holman 3-0-18-0, S. Wells 1-0-4-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to each of D. Kent, C. Kitson and M. Pinter

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by umpire): 3 points to P Nash; 2 points to C. Kitson; one point to D. Glen

Scorecard: <https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/classics-summer-202324/classics-foxs/game-centre/46ef1cce>

CLASSICS ROUND 9: CCNSW vs HAWKESBURY AT ON SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2024: REPORT BY DAVID CRAIG

A veritable Dad's Army XI of CCNSW turned up at Richmond for this eagerly awaited clash of the Sydney Classics Division 1 middleweights: both Hawkesbury and CCNSW were at 3 wins, 4 losses for the season and keen to square up the ledger. Captain Scott Wells had "Barnaby Joyced" a set of stairs the night before, and fielded in a batting glove to protect a skinned hand, leaving the keeping duties to Andrew Dawson. Ed Cross with multiple tears to every part of his right arm was reduced to sub fielder duties, unable to bat or bowl, and David Craig fielded in a helmet to protect his eye after recent cataract surgery, so we were an odd looking lot that took the field after Hawkesbury won the toss and batted.

Mick Tarrant opened the bowling as per usual, but uncharacteristically rolled out the pie cart to commence proceedings with a short one pulled for two and an above-the-waist full toss belted for 4, 0-7 off one legal delivery, was this going to be a long hot day in the field? Spoiler alert: NO. After the all-too-brief initial flurry it was an absolute no-run-fest for the rest of the innings, with our bowlers delivering an astonishing 170 dot balls in 33 overs.

The first wicket fell in the fourth over to a smart overhead slips catch by Paul Nash off Andrew Bachelard. Their number 3 looked solid and the score moved along to 28 without incident, when the introduction of Nash sparked a flurry of activity. Firstly, the remaining opener smashed a pull shot in the vicinity of club debutant Philip ("Pip") Wilcox aka "Dawso's mate" aka "panther", who got down low and claimed a fine catch. Opinion on the field was divided however, as to whether the ball carried, and the umpire reasonably gave the benefit of the doubt to the batter. It turned out to have minimal impact as a few balls later the same batter pushed one to Ed Cross at mid-off and took him on. Bad decision; Ed swooped on the ball and threw down the stumps. Pretty fair effort for a bloke whose throwing elbow was already hanging by a thread! Next over a lifter from Andrew Bachelard nicked the flashing blade and Dawson took a fine catch behind the sticks: 3-36 at the 14 over drinks break in the humid conditions.

After drinks Paul Nash induced a drive that skewed off the top edge and swirled its way into the safe hands of Mike Pinter at cover, and Jose Poothokaren got one through that disturbed the castle; Hawkesbury in big trouble at 5-48. Andrew Davis and Craig Kitson took over the attack as Hawkesbury took up the defence. More blocks than a Lego factory here lads! More dots than a Dalmatian! Over the course of 15 overs the pair took a combined 5 wickets for just 8 runs. Their best batter essayed an ill-advised sweep shot and lost his off peg to Kitson. The number 8 drove one hard but uppish to Wells at mid-wicket, who stylishly knocked it up in the air before snaring the rebound in a manoeuvre that was scored an 8.5 by the panel of judges. Next ball missed the bat but not the stumps, and an enthusiastic but

wildly optimistic lbw shout was denied on the hat-trick ball. The last two fell to Andrew Davis' left-arm in-duckers, one bowled and the final wicket lbw. There was a considerable delay before the bowler appealed for this last one (presumably he had to carefully analyse the trigonometry of the delivery first), but he made up for it with a full-throated insistence that ultimately was rewarded. Needless to say the batter was not happy, but sometimes the ball swings back in line and it matters not that your front pad was well forward when the ball is on a straight line from middle to middle!

Throughout the innings the Hawkesbury batters seemed unable to attack on either the front or back foot on a wicket that seemed pretty standard, a bit slow but no great demons there. 56 all out was probably 140 short on the day. Just one of those days for the home side where nothing goes right, I guess.

Mike Pinter and Andrew Davis set about the task of knocking off the small total with intent and got us well past halfway before Davis was stumped by some lightning fast glove work. Nash looked like he wanted to get home early, belting a boundary before spooning one to cover, then Dawson and Pinter knocked off the remaining runs before the drinks-waiter was required. A comfortable win away from home, well done to us all. Played in good spirit, and an enjoyable afternoon was had. Although it was perhaps symptomatic of the day Hawkesbury had when their barbecue ran out of gas before the snags were cooked!

The Team was (playing 12): - Mike Pinter 21*, Andrew Davis 18, Paul Nash 6, Andrew Dawson 10*, Craig Kitson dnb, Andrew Bachelard dnb, Scott Wells (c) & (w) dnb, Philip Wilcox dnb, Jose Poothokaren dnb, Mike Tarrant dnb, David Craig dnb Ed Cross dnb,

The Result was: -

Hawkesbury 10- 56: - (33 Overs) (C. Kitson 3-2)

Lost to

CCNSW: - 2-59 (17 overs)

By 8 wickets

FoWs: - 1-37 (A. Davis); 2-47 (P. Nash)

The Bowling was: - M. Tarrant 5-1-16-0; A. Bachelard 6-1-13-2; C. Kitson 7-5-2-3; P. Nash 4-0-8-1, A. Davis 8-4-6-2, J. Poothokaren 3-1-9-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to each of A. Davis, P. Nash, M. Pinter and S. Wells (w)

Run outs: - One to E. Cross

Player points (awarded by umpire): 3 points to M. Pinter; 2 points to A. Davis; one point to C. Kitson

Scorecard: <https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/classics-summer-202324/classics-foxs/game-centre/e76a4979>

CLASSICS ROUND 10: CCNSW vs CASTLE HILL AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2024: REPORT BY DAVID CRAIG

Fine weather and an excellent Camperdown deck greeted us on this late summer day for the eagerly awaited* middle of the table clash between CCNSW Classics and Castle Hill. Every time we play these guys my mind drifts back to that eventful clash at Kenthurst four years back, a match that had everything: nudity, fiery clashes, dropped bats, dropped catches, F-bombs and a get-out-of-jail last over win for CCNSW. Would we see a repeat of these levels of excitement today#?

(* not really, and # spoiler alert, no)

CCNSW skipper Scott Wells tossed correctly and elected to bat first, happy days. Mike Pinter and Michael Weaver were sent out to blunt the new-ball attack, but the left-arm in-swing of Tom Reaney accounted for Weaves in just the second over. Paul Nash and 'Punter' then put on a solid partnership that ended when Pinter pushed one wide of the bowler (Paul James), who moved quickly to his left and effected a no-look backhand-flick direct hit; Pinter unhappily adjudged to be short of his ground. The aggressive duo of Tom Robertson and Nash lifted the tempo, and both reached retirement at 30*, bracketing a brief cameo from Andrew Dawson that was ended by a neat stumping. At the 20 over break we were 3-89 with two in the shed and a score well in excess of 200 beckoned.

In the first five overs after the break Wells and Craig Kitson put on 25, looking completely untroubled by the bowlers. With wickets in hand, enterprising stroke play was the order of the day, but as I well know, there is a fine line between enterprise and stupidity, and a steady flow of wickets prevented us from really putting the hammer down. Although Kitson cruised to retirement to give us a 3rd batter in the hut, it was left to Andrew Davis and the returning batters to negotiate the death overs. In the end, wickets in successive balls left Robertson stranded on 36* with an over to go, CCNSW all out for a decent but disappointing 186.

At this point a terrific spread was laid on, well done CCNSW: frankly a spirited debate about the merits of celery in sliders is really what a day at the cricket should be all about. But there was a job to be done, and with Castle Hill known to possess a dangerous top order, we needed to be on our toes. Wistfully looking back at the uneaten sandwiches, we began to warm up for a spell in the field.

Mick Tarrant and Andrew Davis took the new ball against the Castle Hill opening duo of James and Hungerford. After a sedate maiden from Tarrant, a flurry of boundaries pushed the score to 0-25 after just 3 overs and 186 was looking about a hundred short. But little moments change a game, and when Sherville ("Wes") Hall took up the attack, James pushed one to Davis' left and called Hungerford through. Little did he know he had picked out the one left-handed thrower in the team, and a neat pick up and throw to the keeper Andrew Dawson saw Hungerford run out, victim to a brace of 'Andy Ds'. When Mick Tarrant trapped James lbw soon afterwards, we had regained the ascendancy.

New batters Austin and van Wyk were not in a mood to let us settle though, and an aggressive partnership took the score along to 2-65 after 12 overs. David Craig's leg-spin replaced 'Wes' Hall, and the introduction of Andrew Bachelard at the other end paid immediate dividends with van Wyk bowled for 15. In the next over Austin wound up to hit the spinner into Stanmore, but the ball dipped and spun past the edge of the flailing blade leaving Dawson to effect a vital stumping, 4-65. A good spell for CCNSW continued as Bachelard and Craig rattled the timbers 3 more times in the next few overs to put us in a commanding position. So commanding in fact that Wells felt safe to throw the ball to Tom Robertson, and the "wild thing" rewarded this show of blind faith by eliciting a nick to the keeper, 8-97.

Tom Reaney batted with determination for quite a while before an absolute pie from Wes Hall brought him undone, caught down the leg side by 'keeper Dawson (his fourth dismissal of the innings, sorry Wells, the

job's no longer open). At the other end Robertson returned to form by bowling a delivery to the fine leg fence for 5 wides, and was immediately hooked to our considerable relief. Andrew Davis restored some sanity to proceedings and bowled the last man to complete a comprehensive CCNSW victory. Long may we reign as Kings of Camperdown!

The Team was (playing 12): - Michael Weaver 0, Mike Pinter 13, Paul Nash 36, Tom Robertson 36*, Andrew Dawson (w) 6, Scott Wells (c) 19, Craig Kitson 33, Michael Tarrant 10, Andrew Bachelard 1, Andrew Davis 17, Sherville Hall 1, David Craig dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - **10-186** (39 Overs) (T. Robertson 36*; P. Nash 36; C. Kitson 33)

Defeated

Castle Hill: - **10-117** (30.3 Overs)

By 69 runs

FoWs: - 1-3 (M. Weaver); 2-43 (M. Pinter); 3-74 (A. Dawson); 4-114 (S. Wells); 5-135 (M. Tarrant); 6-147 (A. Bachelard); 7-169 (S. Hall); 8-178 (P. Nash); 9-186 (A. Davis); 10-186 (C. Kitson).

The Bowling was: - M. Tarrant 6-2-19-1; A. Davis 2.3-1-13-1; S. Hall 5-1-24-1; D. Craig 9-2-31-3; A. Bachelard 5-0-14-2; T. Robertson 2-0-13-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - One to A. Dawson

Catches: - Two to A. Dawson (w)

Run outs: - One to A. Davis (assist to A Dawson)

Player points (awarded by umpire): 3 points to C. Kitson; 2 points to D. Craig; one point to P. Nash

Scorecard: <https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/classics-summer-202324/classics-foxs/game-centre/fcd4d0dd>

CLASSICS ROUND 11: CCNSW vs OLD IGNATIANS AT RYDE OVAL, RYDE ON SUNDAY 10 MARCH 2024: REPORT BY ANDREW BACHELARD

On a glorious late summer / early autumn day, when the azure sky and the beaming sun looked down on Sydney with a benevolent and loving aspect, the CCNSW Classics travelled to Ryde Oval for our final game of the season. Albert Camus said that *"life is a sum of all your choices"*. Anyone who wasn't preparing to play cricket on Sunday afternoon should really look at the choices they have made, because their life was missing something genuinely magnificent.

After we had all celebrated the joy of being alive for a while, skipper Scott Wells called incorrectly and we were asked to field first. The Old Ignatians (Iggies) team was dangerous, with some serious power in their batting and a top 6 who on their day put passing traffic at risk. Michael Tarrant and Andrew "Bach" Bachelard opened the bowling and after a steady but not spectacular opening spell Iggies were 1-62 from 14 (caught by keeper Andrew "Dawso" Dawson off Bachelard).

Sherville "Wes" Hall replaced Tarrant at the pavilion end and immediately lived up to his nickname, removing the off stump of the dangerous Schwager for 22 in his first over. Bachelard went for 12 in his next over, superbly laying the platform for Wes to pick up his second with a very well judged catch at backward point to skipper Wells. In his next over Wes was back for his third wicket, the very dangerous McLeod superbly caught at long on by Tom Robertson. The ball had sufficient elevation that Robertson, who had completely failed to see it off the bat, had time to notice that everyone was looking at him, scan the skies, locate the ball, run in, realise his mistake, amble back and settle in to (eventually) take it comfortably. Wes Hall had 3 in 3 overs to have 3-6 and Iggies were reeling at 4-80 from 19.

At this point David Craig replaced Bachelard at the far end and reaped immediate reward. His first ball was a traditional leg spinners loosener, a hip high full toss on leg stump, which was not so traditionally clubbed straight down the throat of Tom Robertson at deep backward square. Thus was removed the extremely dangerous Garling and the much vaunted Iggies middle order had crumbled from 1-62 after 14 to 5-81 when an early tea was taken after 19.1 overs.

The collapse continued after tea with Craig completing his first over with another wicket. The Iggies batsman inexplicably charged down the pitch and then missed his defensive prod to be stranded metres out of his ground as Dawson completed a simple stumping. Iggies 6-82 after 20. Wes missed out in his next over but on the first ball of his second over Craig clean bowled Fahey to have figures of 1.1 overs, 3-1. When Wes Hall removed Lucas Parsons (the golfer) in his next over LBW Iggies were in utter disarray at 8-83. Not long after Craig had Forde comfortably caught by Wells and Iggies were 9-92, with Hall 7-2-8-4 and Craig 4-0-9-4.

At this point the retired Glasson, batting at 3, returned and joined the number 11, Callaway. Together they put on an outstanding 10th wicket partnership that involved some really smart batting combined with brutal late hitting. Despite continued good bowling from Hall and Craig, useful overs from Craig Kitson and Andrew Davis who chipped in with 2 overs each, including an outstanding final over from Davis and the returning Tarrant, the final score was 9-157.

At the break we felt that 157 was 40 odd under par on a beautiful wicket. However there were some nerves as Classics have struggled to put scores on the board at times this year.

We opened with two club legends, Michael "Punter" Pinter and Robertson. Robertson in particular has been in a rich vein of form in various formats recently and was expected to wipe away significant chunks of the deficit and any nerves in quick time. Things did not immediately go according to plan however. Punter was dropped in the first over - nicking his first ball to gully, where the fielder had time to read a book, have a cup of tea and a little lie down before eventually putting it down. Robertson was out in the next over, inexplicably spooning a catch. Michael "Weaves" Weaver joined Punter at the crease and for a while neither batsman was able to get into their innings.

Eventually Weaves, who had managed a couple of nicely timed nudges and nurdles, missed a straight one, lbw for 5, leaving CCNSW with work to do at 2-22 after 8 overs.

At this point Paul Nash strode to the crease and immediately changed the dynamic of the game. He showed the power and timing that he has displayed all year and that would this week see him achieve equal lead run scorer for the Classics comp (level with Daniel Moss of Mosman). His trademark thumping drives, pulls and hoiks also inspired Punter who started to time the ball much more sweetly, picking up a couple of lovely fours through the on side. CCNSW looked much more comfortable at drinks at 2-76.

Shortly thereafter Nash brought up his 31* retired not out (36 balls) with a massive pulled six, which brought Dawson to the crease. Dawson routinely looks imperious at the crease, but somewhat inexplicable has failed to reach 30* for the Classics. He and Punter shared a very comfortable partnership until Punter's retirement (31*ret not out, 58 balls), bringing Scott Wells to the crease.

Wells and 'Dawso' punished the bowling until Wells had trouble deciding whether to pummel a nude ball for 6 over mid wicket or straight over the bowler's head. In the end he opted to spoon it straight back to the bowler and was out for 16. This brought Craig Kitson to the crease, who prior to this game had batted three times for the Classics, for three not out retirements. (*Ed note: he was out once on his return to the crease*) By this stage we were 3-104 after 25 overs and feeling confident.

Our confidence was well placed as Dawso continued in his casual yet purposeful style whilst Kitson immediately looked completely at ease. In the last game of the season Dawso finally managed to reach his milestone and retired 30* not out from 42 balls.

Andrew Davis strode to the crease with a handful of runs left and made no mistakes helping Kitson ease us to a comfortable victory, 3-158.

A great way to finish an up and down season for the Classics. We ended up in 5th spot on the ladder, overall a disappointing position given that we had high hopes for a premiership at the start of the season. We have looked very good in patches and have disappointed in others. We dispatched teams below us on the ladder but found ways to lose, often from good positions, against all four of the teams above us. Particularly disappointing was throwing away an excellent position against the table topping undefeated Sri Lanka Lions and an inexcusable brain fade from your correspondent against Warringah.

Despite this it has been a thoroughly enjoyable season with a fantastic group of men. To spend every second Sunday of the summer with you all has been a profound pleasure and a privilege. On behalf of everyone who has played Classics this year I would also like to thank Scott Wells for his outstanding organizational skills, leadership and cat herding skills. Hopefully we can regroup next year, give a better account of ourselves against the top teams and give the title a proper nudge. Can't wait.

The Team was (playing 12): - Tom Robertson 0, Mike Pinter 31* ret not out, Mike Weaver 5, Paul Nash 31* ret not out, Andrew Dawson 31* ret not out, Scott Wells 16, Craig Kitson 27*, Andrew Davis 2*, Michael Tarrant dnb, Andrew Bachelard dnb, David Craig dnb, Sherville Hall dnb,

The Result was: -

Epping: - 9-157 (40 Overs) (S. Hall 4-15; D. Craig 4-27)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - **3-158** (37.3 Overs) (A. Dawson 31* ret not out; P. Nash 31* ret not out; M. Pinter 31* ret not out)

By 7 wickets

FoWs: - 1-2 (T Robertson); 2-18 (M Weaver); 3-104 (S Wells).

The Bowling was: - M. Tarrant 9-1-50-0; A. Bachelard 9-1-41-1; S. Hall 9-2-15-4; D. Craig 9-1-27-4; A. Davis 2-1-8-0; C. Kitson 2-0-9-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - One to A. Dawson

Catches: - One to A. Dawson (w); two to T. Robertson and two to S. Wells

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by umpire): 3 points to S. Hall; 2 points to D. Craig; one point to P. Nash

Scorecard: <https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/classics-summer-202324/classics-foxs/game-centre/f39cb0ac>