# CCNSW MASTERS MATCH REPORTS 2023-2024 SEASON

## MASTERS ROUND 1 v LINDFIELD AT LINDFIELD OVAL TRYON WAY ON SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2023: REPORT BY MIKE WEAVER

'Next man up 'mentality is definitely part of the CCNSW Masters 'DNA 'this season. When late withdrawals due to injury or other unforeseen events beset a team, whoever comes in must 'step up to the plate 'to 'do a job'. There can be no excuses while ever the Blues field a full team of 12 this summer.

All this rhetoric seems very much justified. As CCNSW travelled to a far off field with a foreign pitch last Sunday at the Soldier's Memorial Park on the North Shore. And then walked away in the late afternoon having met all challenges, perceived and real, recording a comfortable victory, in terms of the scorebook data. The plucky and very sporting home side did not get to experience the best of the conditions, and the luck, after stand-in skipper Andrew 'Tex 'Dadswell correctly sent Lindfield in to face the music. The weather to start the day was cool and cloudy.

The two or three loose balls delivered in the first few overs were put away well by the Lindfield openers, who otherwise struggled to get runs ticking over against the very capable Ben Stanic and Mick Tarrant. Mick was thanking Jose Poothokaren for the first wicket of the day, judging a very high 'skier 'nicely, for a fine catch at backward square leg off the Lindfield No 2 batter. Lindfield had no luck in the two quick wickets that followed. The Lindfield first drop tore his calf on just his second ball faced. He duly retired hurt on naught and took no further part in the match. Then Ben produced a brute of a ball which reared off a length at Lindfield's gun bat, David Kelly. The ball deflected from the bat, which was protecting the neck, and lobbed to Matt Johnson in the gully. Matt gleefully accepted the opportunity for the first of three catches he was to take during the day. Arguably Lindfield's most highly rated batter gone for a golden duck.

To make things much worse for Lindfield, in the next over Mick knocked the other opener's castle down, then followed up next ball to dismantle the woodwork again, leaving him on a hat trick and Lindfield rocking at 5-28. No bad luck was involved here. Six batters were now sitting on the sideline, though, their lot done for the day.

The hat trick ball survived, Lindfield saw off Mick and Ben, each spent after six over spells. Dave Abreu and Andrew Dadswell took over as Lindfield desperately sought to get a partnership going. Both bowlers kept up the pressure, although notably at least three more catching chances were missed.

Eventually the score scrambled to 51 before Dave cut one back to trap Mandhir Marang lbw, the batter's intentions not bearing much fruit for his team. And 'Tex' picked up a deserved wicket, Lindfield's Eldon Wessels out caught, again by the reliable Jose at square leg. 7-68.

As the sun came out, a fighting partnership between Lindfield's Paul Sproules and his mate 'Benny 'ensued. Further bowling changes (Jose Poothokaren and Matt Johnston) were instigated and CCNSW never let up on their overall effort. Although at one stage the 'lefty 'Sproules looked to be well on top, with his partner defending stoutly in support. It had become noticeable that the batting surface was very indifferent in pace and bounce, difficult to become accustomed to, even after considerable time spent at the crease. Yet Sproules fought hard and batted intelligently. He looked for gaps while constantly encouraging his batting ally, striking three or four handsome drives to the fence.

Just when it looked like Sproules would reach mandatory retirement , the stand in CCNSW skipper, perhaps given the tip from his injured off field captain, Dan Turner, made the right final switch of the attack. 'Next man up', Ed Cross, operating across the left hander from the northern end, enticed a catch to Matt Johnston at gully and then knocked over the no. 11 in quick time. Lindfield's innings wrapped up - all out for116 (with one retired hurt), in just 34 overs.

So CCNSW had a small target and the advantage of being able to 'go to school 'on how the pitch had played and how it would play. As everyone thought, runs were hard to come by from the outset for Tom Robertson and Ed Cross. Both batters' natural attacking instincts were curbed by the irregularities of the pitch which

required considerable watchfulness. The sharp, accurate opening bowling of Matt Daly from Lindfield, supported by 'off the pace bowling from Sproules, proved testing. An opening stand of 24 runs, solid on an 'up and down 'track.

Tom was adjudged to be caught at the wicket to bring 'Next Man Up no.3 'Mike Weaver into the game for CCNSW. After surviving a confident shout for lbw, (which was a clear inside edge into the pads), 'Weaves ' set about not giving anyone else much of a chance. 'Anyone else' being inclusive of the umpire, the Lindfield players and the next up batters in his team.

Mike and Ed scrapped together another 18 runs before Ed was caught at mid on for a handy 27 runs. This saw the entrance of the 'consummate English club professional' Paul Nash. For CCNSW, this proved to effectively 'all she wrote' in terms of deciding the match outcome.

Paul showed all his class and experience to thump the spin bowling to the fence and using very soft hands against the medium pacers to nudge into gaps. He and 'Weaves' ran very well between wickets to take all runs on offer. As the Lindfield effort began to tire, Mike was good enough to put most of the loose balls away safely and firmly to the boundary.

A number of late sundries helped the partnership to reach 75 unbeaten, with four wides marking the end of the match. CCNSW were able to get the required runs just within 28 overs and secure maximum winning bonus points in doing so.

A good start to the season and a well deserved win for Cricketers' Club, although if wise, the players will recognise that it was a good toss to win and that Lindfield maybe could have posted more runs, given their bad luck. And at the same time, CCNSW will know that some good chances were missed in the field.

The team will be looking at this area for improvement, in their upcoming intra club 'grudge 'match v C and S, on Sunday 1st October at Camperdown Park. And for those coming back in to the side, they must again provide a 'next man up' mentality

**The Team was (playing 12): -** Ed Cross 27; Tom Robertson 6, Mike Weaver 39*, Paul Nash 24*, Jason Kenn dnb, Andrew Dadswell (c) dnb, Ash Perrott (w) dnb, Matt Johnston dnb, Michael Tarrant dnb, Jose Poothokaren dnb, Ben Stanic dnb and D. Abreu dnb

**The Result was: -**

**Lindfield: - 10-116** (34.4 Overs) (M. Tarrant 3-19)

**Lost to**

**C.C.N.S.W.: - 2-117** (27.3 Overs) (M. Weaver 39*)

**By 8 wicket**

**FoW: -** 1-24 (T. Robertson); 2-42 (E. Cross).

**The Bowling was: -** B. Stanic 6-2-13-2; M. Tarrant 6-1-19-3; D. Abreu 6-0-23-1; A. Dadswell 6-2-13-1, J. Poothokaren 3-0-11-0; M. Johnston 5-0-19-0; E. Cross 2.4-0-7-2,

**The Fielding was: -**

**Stumpings**: - Nil

**Catches**: - 3 catches to M. Johnston; 2 catches to J. Poothokaren; one to A. Perrott (w);

**Run outs:** - Nil

**Player points (awarded by umpire): -** 3 points to M Tarrant; 2 points to B. Stanic ; one point to M. Weaver

**Scorecard:** **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/masters-summer-202324/masters-foxs/game-centre/002c7d71**

## MASTERS ROUND 2: CCNSW vs ROSEVILLE AT TURRAMURRA MEMORIAL PARK, TURRAMURRA, ON SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER 2023: REPORT BY BEN STANIC

Round 2 for the 2023-2024 season saw the CCNSW Masters team venture out to Turramurra to take on a strong Roseville team. Captain Dan Turner on seeing a questionable pitch on arrival elected to bowl first after successfully winning the toss in the hope that the pitch could provide some assistance to the bowlers.

From the outset it was clear the pitch would play fine, and the Roseville batsmen were keen to play aggressively and not let the CCNSW attack settle into a groove. Despite runs flowing freely, CCNSW were able to get an early breakthrough in the third over when one of the Roseville openers played a false shot with the ball popping up to short mid-wicket where for the second match running Jose Poothokaren made good ground to take a tricky catch to earn our first wicket.

From that point on however, the Roseville batsmen were well on top with their other opener as well as batsmen 3 and 4 retiring and taking their team to an imposing 1-123 after 20 overs at drinks. Things were looking a little dire at drinks with a score in the 300s even a possibility the way the Roseville batsmen were striking the ball.

Thankfully, Paul Nash and Jose Poothokaren were able to pick up a middle order wicket each and Ben Stanic was able to bowl the number 9 late in the innings to stem the flow of runs a little, but not before another of the Roseville middle order (their 4th for the innings) managed to get to retirement and take their total to 4-260 after their allotted 40 overs. CCNSW were happy to get out of the sun and off a challenging Turramurra outfield which provided some awkward fielding moments including the need to avoid swarms of insects (that appeared to be bees) constantly flying into us in the last 5 to 10 overs of the Roseville innings!

In the innings break, the Roseville team provided barbecued sausage sandwiches for all to enjoy, perhaps hoping this would cause the CCNSW batsmen to be a little sluggish on the return to play. CCNSW Masters knew we had to bat well to chase down the challenging total of 261 and perhaps the barbecue sausages played their part, as it was noticeable that our innings consisted of a lot of boundaries and less running between the wickets when compared to other games we have been involved in.

At the start of the innings Tom Robertson and Jason Kenn got us off to a good start, approaching things in the same attacking manner that the Roseville batsmen did, before the Roseville opening bowler settled into his rhythm and managed to sneak one through Jason's defences to take their first wicket in the 5th over. Following that early setback, Paul Nash, Andrew Dadswell and Scott Wells all came and went relatively quickly and all for the identical score of 4 to leave CCNSW at the precarious position of 4-86 after 17 overs.

However, despite the wickets falling at the other end, Tom kept going with his usual swashbuckling style, never letting the Roseville bowlers dictate terms to him and quickly moved to 41* and a well- earned retirement. This left Dan and Jose to form a great partnership which took us to 4-110 at drinks and onto 133 in the 24th over before Dan was unfortunately undone for a well-made 31 whilst trying to keep the run rate ticking over.

Soon after, Jose fell agonisingly short of his own retirement milestone on 37 when going for one last hefty blow he was unfortunately bowled. After that, debutant Chinmay Trivedi, Ben Stanic and David Abreu all came and went quickly, all caught off the Roseville spinner, whilst trying to keep the runs flowing. This brought Tom back to the crease to join Mick Tarrant who had been watching the carnage unfold from the non-striker's end. Mick and Tom then went on to push our score from 164 to 201 with a great last wicket partnership before Tom

was ultimately dismissed on 62, caught on the straight boundary looking to keep our faint hopes of an unlikely victory alive, leaving Micky stranded on a quality 22*.

Our innings was also highlighted by a local kid deciding that running through a live cricket match to get to the other side of Turramurra oval was the quickest way to get to the other side, despite the obvious dangers of getting hit by a leather cricket ball. This was complimented by another Turramurra local (perhaps the kid's mum) attempting to stroll out into the outfield to commence her regular Sunday afternoon laps despite the live game of cricket going on at the time. She at least provided some comic relief when informed she could not enter the oval while a live cricket game was in play for her own safety, when she with a straight face responded that the oval was a public place and clearly the cricket game had to end immediately so that her and other residents could use the oval. Thankfully, Tom was around and able to use his extensive diplomatic skills and inform the lady that the game would not be finished for quite some time, and she could run around the outside of the oval and call the local council if she was not happy with the outcome. The whole episode making us grateful for the fact that at Camperdown we simply need to shoo away several families having picnics on the oval before we start our home games!

But back to the cricket; overall, this game was a reminder that we are in Division 1 of the Masters competition this season and there will be no easy matches as we will be facing quality opposition every match. Although it was a tough day out for the bowling attack with us only managing to snare 4 Roseville wickets and leaking 260 runs, it was encouraging that our batting line up was able to score over 200 runs in the chase (spearheaded by a great innings from Tom).

We will no doubt be looking forward to a rematch with Roseville next season to attempt to avenge this defeat, especially given at the end of the match they decided to stay in their own dressing room with their own beers completely avoiding and ignoring the CCNSW Masters team much to the annoyance of captain Dan Turner and our team. Pretty poor form from them in our view given the game was played in highly respectful spirit without any conflict, disputes, or heckling.

**The Team was:** - Jason Kenn 8, Tom Robertson 62, Paul Nash 4, Andrew Dadswell 4, Scott Wells (w) 4, Dan Turner 31, Jose Poothokaren 37, Mick Tarrant 22*, Chinmay Trivedi 4, Ben Stanic 0 , David Abreu 2,

**The Result was: -**

**Roseville CC.: - 4-260** (40 Overs)

**Defeated**

**C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-201** (37.5 Overs) (T. Robertson 62)

**By 59 runs**

**FoWs: -** 1-18 (J. Kenn); 2-39 (P. Nash); 3-45 (A. Dadswell); 4-86 (S. Wells); 5-133 (D. Turner); 6-148 (J. Poothokaren); 7-158 (C. Trivedi); 8-158 (B. Stanic); 9-164 (D. Abreu); 10-201 T. Robertson.

**The Bowling was: -** B. Stanic 7-0-44-2; A. Dadswell 5-0-27-0; M. Tarrant 8-0-43-0; D. Abreu 4-0-26-0; C. Travedi 1-0-8-0; J. Poothokaren; 9-0-61-1 P. Nash 4-0-28-1; J. Kenn 2-0-14-0

**The Fielding was: -**

**Stumpings**: - Nil

**Catches**: - One each to J. Poothokaren and D. Turner

**Run outs:** - Nil

**Player points (awarded by umpire):** 3 points to T. Robertson; 2 points to M. Tarrant; one point to J. Poothokaren

**Scorecard:** **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/masters-summer-202324/masters-foxs/game-centre/ae2a7c81**

## MASTERS ROUND 3: CCNSW vs OLD IGNATIANS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL. CAMPERDOWN , ON SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER 2023: REPORT BY PAUL NASH

Arriving to a stunning day at Camperdown and our captain Dan Turner did the right thing and won the toss; we batted.

The deck looked good, so here we go! Sadly Tom Robertson was adjudged lbw early second ball after hitting a four to square leg first ball. Jason Kenn and Mike Weaver got down to business, until 'Weaves' pulled a ham string and retired hurt on 29*. Paul Nash joined Jason Kenn and the pair ticked along nicely, as they dispatched bad balls and took singles where they could. The pitch was clearly playing more slowly than we had had expected; forcing the pace was challenging.

At drinks we were 1-84. Kenn soon retired at 40*, and in came the skipper Dan Turner. Bang! Bang! Both Nash (40*) and Turner (42*) retired. Everyone contributed and kept the run rate ticking over and we set them a fair 220 target.

Old Ignatians had bowled well and had taken the pace off the ball and fielded well but we needed to have turned our twos in threes better.

We didn't get too excited when one of their openers was bowled second ball ….. as McCaffrey (former Grade player) had different ideas and had serious intent to finish the game before drinks.

They were scoring close to 10 an over, but by drinks we had pulled it back a little, they were 1-127.

They too had three retired not out in the shed (like us), so not panicking we kept to the plan and pinned back the run rate with the incoming new batters. Stand out in the field was wicketkeeper Ash Perrott (usually a keeper) patrolling the boundary with pace and strong arm returns, not bad for an old bugger!

Then things really got interesting! Their gun opener McCaffrey left the game early so was timed out! It was our Jason Kenn who came into the attack to stem the flow and took maybe his club best bowling figures of 4-19

At the 35 over mark with 5 overs to go, the scores of both teams were practically the same …… now 11 required off 3 overs and 2 wickets needed.. We took them to the last over and they scraped home by one wicket.

A terrific game with a lot of positives to take out from this loss. Take the tough chances, run harder, and never give up.

**The Team was (playing 12):** - Tom Robertson 4, Mike Weaver 29* ret injured, Jason Kenn 40*, Paul Nash 40*, Dan Turner 42*, Scott Wells 25, Ash Perrott 2, Jose Poothokaren 8*, Michael Tarrant 16*, David Craig dnb, David Abreu dnb and Ben Stanic dnb

**The Result was: -**

**C.C.N.S.W.: - 3-219** (40 Overs) (D. Turner 42*; J. Kenn 40*; P. Nash 40*)

L**ost to**

**Old Ignatians: - 9-223** (39.3 Overs) (J. Kenn 4-20)

**By one wicket**

**FoWs: -**1-9 (T. Robertson); 2-187 (A. Perrott); 3-196 (S. Wells).

**The Bowling was: -** B. Stanic 5.3-0-49-1; D. Craig 9-1-37-1; D. Abreu 6-0-36-0, J. Poothokaren 4-0-22-0; J. Kenn 6-1-20-4; M. Tarrant 9-0-59-2

**The Fielding was: -**

**Stumpings**: - Nil

**Catches**: - One catch to T. Robertson and one to M. Tarrant.

**Run outs:** - Nil

**Player points (awarded by umpire):** 3 points to J. Kenn; 2 points to D. Turner; one point to P. Nash

**Scorecard: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/masters-summer-202324/masters-foxs/game-centre/283b2077**

## MASTERS ROUND 4: CCNSW vs INGLEBURN CC AT MEMORIAL PARK OVAL, CAMPBELLTOWN, ON SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2023: REPORT BY DAN TURNER

After a longer than usual break between games of 3 weeks, the team gathered in the Deep South West of Sydney enthused from their last outing, a very tight loss to a traditionally powerful team. In last years encounter with Ingleburn, the game was decided on the last ball with CCNSW getting up. So we were ready for a close tight affair, always the best ones.

The wicket looked dry and hard and when captain Dan Turner called incorrectly and was told to have a bowl, there were a few forced smiles. But the Ingleburn innings got off to a great start for CCNSW with Ben Stanic (1-33) getting the prized scalp of the Ingleburn skipper on the 3rd ball of the innings, attracting a false shot and a high edge to 2nd slip, v/c Andrew Dadswell. This was the beginning of a dominating opening spell of twelve overs by both Stanic and Mick Tarrant (3-16). Both bowlers set about bowling very tight lines on a wicket that wasn't playing as freely as first thought. Mick secured two wickets in his opening spell, bowling the other opened and trapping the dangerous No.3 lbw. After twelve overs Ingleburn were 3-32 and CCNSW was producing its best fielding display of the season. Matt Johnston at cover and Ashley Perrott at mid-wicket were a constant threat to the batters. The whole team was in on it and the fielding was excellent.

A double change in the bowling brought on Matt Johnston (0-14) and David Abreu (1/-8) who both extended the CCNSW domination, bowling very well, and at drinks Ingleburn were 3-45, tracking well below a par score.

After drinks, Abreu lured a lofted shot and Ed Cross took a nice catch to make it 4/-4. Andrew Dadswell (3-28) and Ed Cross (1-25) soon came on and continued the theme of good bowling, to some middle order hitters who were keen to get going. Birriwa reserve is a massive ground and with Ingleburn needing to hit out to get a score, there were plenty of spaces. Dadswell got 3 good wickets including the biggest hitter, bowled. Cross chimed in with a bowled as well. Ingleburn was restricted to 9-141, a score that was too small for that ground. A fantastic bowling and fielding performance, one that I am sure sent golden vibes to the Aussies who were later that evening about to provide their own fantastic bowling and fielding display.

We had a solid start to our innings with Ed Cross and Jason Kenn playing a good cop, bad cop routine. Ed playing slightly more watchful, and 'Jaydos '(as Dave Craig christened him last season in a moment of

brotherly love), looking to be more forceful. The bowling tactics were obvious, stump to stump, pace off, keep it tight on a slow wicket. Cross went first bowled by the opening bowler with one that clipped the off bail in the fifth over (1-18). Paul Nash joined Kenn and was also watchful, playing a classic innings of' respect the good, punish the bad'.

Things were going along well until Jason got one that nipped back. At first glance the ball hit him on the tip of the pad/thighpad, but he was given in what was to be one of four lbw decisions (out of 6 wickets). 'Jaydos 'walked off the ground, and let's just say he wasn't happy and leave it at that. Dan Turner joined Nash and was gone soon after lbw, and Ash Perrott came out and tried to smack the leg spinner, only to get bowled. At 4-58 after 15 overs, things were still okay, but we needed a partnership.

Scott Wells strode to the wicket and after a small period of consolidation, set about changing the tempo of the game with his positive shots and running. Nash departed for a well made 32 (lbw again) and in came Dadswell, who played the Marnus innings while Wells played the aggressor. Wells went for 30 (yes, lbw) with the score on 6-106, but the momentum was with us. Mick Tarrant and Dadswell got us home with 4 overs to spare with the biggest partnership of the game (37) with excellent patience, shot making, and running.

A good win for Masters on a tough wicket.

**The Team was:** - Ed Cross 9, Jason Kenn 20, Paul Nash 32, Dan Turner (c) 4, Ash Perrott 2, Scott Wells (w) 30, Andrew Dadswell 20*, Mike Tarrant 19*, Matt Johnston dnb , Ben Stanic dnb , David Abreu dnb

**The Result was: -**

**Ingleburn CC.: - 9-141** (40 Overs)

**Lost to**

**C.C.N.S.W.: - 6-143** (35.4 Overs) (P. Nash 32; S. Wells 30)

**By 4 wickets**

**FoWs: -** 1-18 (E. Cross); 2-36 (J. Kenn); 3-53 (D. Turner); 4-58 (A. Perrott); 5-80 (P. Nash) 6-106 (S. Wells)

**The Bowling was: -** M. Johnston 6.2-2-14-0; D. Abreu 6-0-18-1, A. Dadswell 6.4-1-28-3; E. Cross 7-1-25-1; B. Stanic 7-0-33-1; M. Tarrant 7-1-16-3

**The Fielding was: -**

**Stumpings**: - Nil

**Catches**: - One catch to each of E. Cross, A. Dadswell, J. Kenn and P. Nash

**Run outs:** - Nil

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

**Scorecard**: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/masters-summer-202324/masters-foxs/game-centre/1ce48a68**

## MASTERS ROUND 5: CCNSW vs WARRINGAH CC AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER 2023

**CCNSW win by forfeit**

**MASTERS ROUND 6: CCNSW vs HAWKESBURY CC AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 2023: REPORT BY DAVID ABREU**

**Back row:** Jose Poothokaren, David Craig, Ben Stanic, Paul Nash, Shane Petersen, Scott Williams

**Front row**: Mike Weaver, Ash Perrott, Tom Robertson, David Abreu, Dan Turner (c), Scott Wells (w)

After another unusually long break due to a last game forfeit by Warringah, our Masters were back at Camperdown hosting Hawkesbury who only has ten players.

The pitch looked to have some grass on it but it looked like a bat first type wicket and when the Hawkesbury skipper called incorrectly, Dan Turner did the right thing and we were batting first.

The opening bowlers for Hawkesbury struggled to find their line and length early on and Tom Robertson and Mike Weaver took full advantage piling on the runs at 10 an over for the first few. A big shout for caught behind off 'Weaves' was turned down by the umpire; you could sense frustration was starting to creep in for Hawkesbury. (There was a noise, must have been the old creaky bat).

Eventually Tom held out for a solid 22 and Paul Nash made 11 before he also was caught. Enter the skipper Dan Turner who had good intent right from the start making a well made 41* off 38 balls. A couple of lbw decisions went the way of Hawkesbury with Weaver making a very well complied 32 and Scott Wells an unfortunate duck.

Enter Scott Williams on his Masters Debut *(Ed Note: he had played previous full seasons for our C&S and LMS teams)* who regained the momentum and accelerated the run rate to make an aggressive 40* off just 32 balls,

an outstanding display on debut. But the fun did stop there. Just as the pies and sausage rolls were being warmed up for tea. Ash Perrott came and went cheaply. Then entered Jose Poothokaren who made an entertaining 43* along with David Craig 26* and Shane Peterson 8 right at the end, to set up a formidable total of 6-256.

It was time to bowl, and it was important to take some early wickets to sniff out any chance the opposition had of chasing down the total. Ben Stanic delivered second ball of the innings with a clean bowled. Benny bowled with great heat with the wind behind his back to take 3-36 off 6 overs and was well supported by David Abreu at the other end with 1-20 off 5 overs.

Shane Peterson *(Ed note: also on Masters debut after having played previous seasons with our C&S team a few years ago)* and Scott Williams ensured that we stayed on top by taking a wicket each, Scott on debut backed up his batting with a great spell of tight bowling taking 1-14 off 6. A few untaken tough chances in the slips meant he was unlucky not to take more wickets.

I also should mention that Tom Robertson took two catches, the second one at full stretch. No one is sure quite how he caught it but he did only to drop an easier one later or else he would have had 3!

A plucky innings from their skipper Ryan Talbot who batted well for 58*, ensured we had to wait just a touch longer to have those beers; however Dave Craig and Jose Poothokaren, just like they had with the bat, finished the innings off well with the ball, Jose taking 2-15 off his 7 overs.

Overall a good solid win by our Masters who are sitting well with 4 wins and 2 losses as we head into the Xmas/New Year break.

**The Team was (playing 12): -** Tom Robertson 22; Mike Weaver 32, Paul Nash 11, Dan Turner (c) 41*, Scott Wells (w) 0, Scott Williams 40*, Ash Perrott 1, Jose Poothokaren 43*, David Craig 26*, Shane Peterson 8, Benjamin Stanic dnb, David Abreu dnb.

**The Result was: -**

**C.C.N.S.W.: - 6-256** (40 Overs) (J. Poothokaren 43*; D. Turner 41*ret not out; S. Williams 40*ret not out)

**Defeated**

**Hawkesbury C.C.: - 10-131** (31 Overs)

**By 125 runs**

**FoWs: -** 1-56 (T. Robertson); 2-74 (P. Nash); 3-83 (M. Weaver); 4-83 (S. Wells); 5-149 (A. Perrott); 6-256 (S. Peterson).

**The Bowling was: -** B. Stanic 6-0-36-3; D. Abreu 5-0-20-1, S. Peterson 4-0-26-1; S. Williams 6-1-14-1; J. Poothokaren 7-1-15-2; D. Craig 4-1-19-1.

**The Fielding was: -**

**Stumpings**: - Nil.

**Catches**: - Two to S. Wells (w) and 2 to T. Robertson.

**Run outs:** - Nil.

**Player points (awarded by umpire:** 3 points to J. Poothokaren; 2 points to D. Turner; one point to S. Williams.

**Scorecard:** **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/masters-summer-202324/masters-foxs/game-centre/b76efefd**

## MASTERS ROUND 7: CCNSW vs AUBURN AT GREENWAY PARK, WEST HOXTON ON SUNDAY 14 JANUARY 2024: REPORT BY DAVID CRAIG

Always a challenge taking on the Sri Lankan national side aka Auburn Masters away from home at a place called "West Hoxton" – remember to 'stop, revive, survive' every two hours please. Doubly difficult in weather conditions that were alternately hot and humid, cool and breezy, and raining. The deck looked pretty hard and flat at the start of the day, and skipper Dan Turner elected to bat first (fair enough I say).

We sent out a couple off hard hitting lefties to start proceedings, Jason Kenn joined by late inclusion Tom Robertson, fresh off the plane from Japan (must be nice to have a bit 'o bunce eh Tom?). While Tom survived a couple of early lbw shouts from the sole Auburn seamer (clearly missing leg from our vantage point 500 metres away at cow corner), Jason was not so fortunate against the offie, triggered third ball for a duck with no relief from DRS. Paul Nash and Tom batted sensibly, lifting the total to 59 in the 15th before Nash (25) missed a straight one. Dan Turner strode out to the wicket (no mean feat given the distance involved) to take on the all-finger-spin attack with Tom, and then Soren Hughes after Tom retired 40*.

A rain delay after the drinks break produced the comical sight of Matt Johnston, in batting pads, running the quarter mile with the hessian on his back while shouting *"put the hessian on".* By then the canvas was down, and nobody was interested in Matt's input despite his considerable efforts.

The rain eventually stopped (more or less) and play resumed, with both the ball and the pitch quickly getting moister than an under-cooked mud cake (thought I was going with a different analogy there, didn't you?!). Turner top edged a catch bringing Scott Wells to the crease with Soren (38), and another productive partnership pushed the score along to 130-odd when Wells twinged a quad and retired hurt. The "Auburn squeeze" had restricted the run rate to around 4 rpo throughout the innings, and with the spinners darting it in full and at the stumps, the bottom half of the order struggled to accelerate the scoring (or survive more than a few balls to be honest). A clatter of wickets ensued from 3-138 to 9-163 (from memory all 6 wickets could be described as "swung wildly across the line to the spinner and was bowled/lbw/stumped'). Tom Robertson (46*) and Scott Wells (25*) returned (with Soren running for Scott, what could possibly go wrong?) to lift us up to a respectable 9-169.

There was another minor controversy when Auburn requested a dry replacement ball, but egged on by a few of us, Dan was having none of it (balls don't get changed just for being wet do they?). A little later I think the umpire deemed the soggy pill "unplayable" and they got a replacement. I'm not saying there were any parallels to the last Ashes Test at the Oval, but 6 wickets fell pretty quickly after that, just saying.

Auburn commenced their innings under ominous grey skies, and sure enough it started to rain in the 4th over. *"Bad time to get out now*" chirped Jason in the slips as the rain got heavier, and sure enough the next ball from Mick Tarrant was lofted to Tom at mid-on, 1-15 and off we went as it bucketed down. More play was looking unlikely and a few of us were in shorts and about to drive home when a break in the rain and an overly enthusiastic home team convinced the umpire to play on. (It was pretty funny watching them all drag the covers with the odd metric ton of water on them to the outfield!). A reduced target of 145 in 34 overs was set.

We were always going to be up against it with a strong opposition batting line-up and the old-fashioned "run rate" method favouring the side batting second, but Jason Kenn struck first ball, knocking back off stump to make it 2-23 and game on. Tragically, the reserve keeper spilled a catch later in the same over (who was that ham-fisted old bloke with the gloves?) and they started to get on top of the run-rate after that. (On a side note, do Councils have access to surveyors or architects or generally competent tradies? Why build a sight-screen that is wide enough to cover 20 pitches, but only tall enough to be useful if the bowler is under 120cm tall? *(Ed Note for us oldies: 120 cm is approx 4 feet 10 inches)*

Soren Hughes relieved Tarrant and after almost immediately being struck for 6 with an audacious scoop-pull, got revenge by knocking over the pegs next ball (3-61 in the 14th). They managed to preserve wickets and keep the scoreboard ticking and were well on top at 3-99 when drinks were taken.

The wily leg-spin of David Craig produced a catch soon after the break, but although Dan 'wrung' (wrang? wrought?) the bowling changes, they progressed inexorably to victory, 4 down and with 28 balls to spare.

One interesting feature of the day was the contrast in bowling attacks – Auburn bowled 5 finger-spinners and one seamer, we bowled 8 seamers and one wrist spinner! There were sandwiches and beers and some pretty decent banter, and we got a game in in challenging conditions so (*cough* I hate losing!) all in all not a bad day.

**The Team was (playing 12): -** Tom Robertson 46*, Jason Kenn 0, Paul Nash 25, Dan Turner (c) 13, Soren Hughes 38, Scott Wells (w) 25*, Jose Poothokaren, 1 Matthew Johnston 2, Michael Tarrant 4, David Craig 1, David Abreu 0, Ben Stanic dnb

**The Result was: -**

**C.C.N.S.W.: - 9-169** (40 Overs) (T. Robertson 46*)

**Lost to**

**Auburn: - 4-145** (29.2 Overs) (rain)

**On run rate** (CCNSW 4.198 rpo vs Auburn 4.944 rpo)

**FoWs: -** 1-4 (J. Kenn); 2-59 (P. Nash); 3-93 (D. Turner); 4-138 (J. Poothokaren); 5-148 (M. Johnston); 6-152 (M. Tarrant); 7-158 (D. Craig); 8-161 (S. Hughes); 9-163 (D. Abreu).

**The Bowling was: -** B. Stanic 3-0-16-0; M. Tarrant 6.2-1-23-1; J. Kenn 4-0-19-1; S. Hughes 3-0-23-1; J. Poothokaren 1-0-9-0, M. Johnston 5-0-19-0, D. Turner 1-0-3-0, D. Craig 4-0-18-1, D. Abreu 2-0-13-0

**The Fielding was: -**

**Stumpings**: - Nil

**Catches**: - one to T. Robertson and one to D. Turner

**Run outs:** - Nil

**Player points (awarded by umpire):** 3 points to T. Robertson; 2 points to J. Kenn; one point to S. Hughes

**Scorecard: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/masters-summer-202324/masters-foxs/game-centre/337942ca**

## MASTERS ROUND 8: CCNSW vs STRATHFIELD CC AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2024: REPORT BY ANDREW DADSWELL

Strathfield, Strathfield, Strathfield. Known for their car radios and near flawless Masters cricket record. With only one loss in their Masters history, it was going to be a tough ask but the team was up for the challenge.

Lieutenant Dan Turner won the toss and decided to set the pace by batting first. Mike 'basket' Weaver showed great technique and shot selection early on with some trademark pull shots whilst the other opener,

Scott Williams copped a ball no one wants first up, with his off stump clipped for a golden. 'Dan the man' Turner looked to take on the bowling before edging one to the keeper.

From overs eight to twenty we looked like contenders. 'Weaves' notched up his 40 before Paul Nash and Jason Kenn set about their work hitting a number of authoritative boundaries. We were 2 for 89 at drinks and had a good platform to launch from.

After drinks Nash's stumps were disturbed by a nice off cutter and after plundering another six, Kenn fell to a cunning arm ball from current over 40s Australian spinner Ryan Snape.

Scott Wells, Andrew Dadswell and Ash Perrott all threatened to damage the bowling but couldn't turn their starts into quick fire 40s against some quality bowling.

We ended up 9 for 171 and despite it being our best half way scenario against Strathfield in recent memory, it felt about 80 short of the 250 we were hoping for.

With a top order boasting three current Australian over 40s reps about to head to the World Cup in South Africa we needed early scalps. The batting was just too good. Balls that were slightly short were pulled away to the boundary and any width was punished. The margin for error has never been so minuscule.

Both openers retired. It was the introduction of Jason Kenn with the ball that saw us get our one and only wicket, rounding out his all round game.

Strathfield chased our 171 with ease, getting it in the 19th over to secure maximum bonus points.

Despite the thrashing we copped, it was great to share some beers after the game.

Video highlights here: **https://youtu.be/W2jtEjgU4M0?si=9DPFhdU8iJC14KzI**

**The Team was (playing 12): -** Mike Weaver 41***** ret not out, Scott Williams 0, Dan Turner (c) 7, Paul Nash 35, Jason Kenn 31, Scott Wells (w) 20, Andrew Dadswell 15, Ash Perrott 10, Matt Johnston 2*, Mike Tarrant 1*, David Craig dnb, Ben Stanic dnb

**The Result was: -**

**C.C.N.S.W.: - 7-171** (40 Overs) (M. Weaver 41***** ret not out)

**Lost to**

**Strathfield CC: - 1-172** (18.5 Overs)

**By 9 wickets**

**FoWs: -** 1-6 (S. Williams); 2-30 (D. Turner); 3-114 (J. Kenn); 4-126 (P. Nash); 5-151 (A. Dadswell); 6-167 (A. Perrott); 7-170 (S. Wells).

**The Bowling was: -** B. Stanic 4-0-23-0; M. Tarrant 2-0-15-0; M. Johnston 2-0-33-0; S. Williams 2-0-27-0; D. Craig 2-0-24-0; A. Dadswell 3.4-0-21-0; J. Kenn 3-0-21-1

**The Fielding was: -**

**Stumpings**: - Nil

**Catches**: - Nil

**Run outs:** - Nil

**Player points (awarded by umpire):** 3 points to M. Weaver; 2 points to P. Nash; one point to J. Kenn

**Scorecard:** **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/masters-summer-202324/masters-foxs/game-centre/e2d16a51**

## MASTERS ROUND 9: CCNSW vs ST. CLAIR UNITED AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2024: REPORT BY DAN TURNER

CCNSW hosted St Clair United in this Round.9 Masters clash, and we soon found ourselves bowling first after the visitors won the toss and batted. We were in a little bit of flux, as two of our players, the 140-averaging Mike Weaver, and the return of our goldilocks keeper Rob Lawther were both delayed by train problems on the Central Coast. Their estimate was to be an hour late, leaving us with 10 players. Luckily for us we had a super-sub in Ed Cross available who volunteered to field while both were absent.

We started strongly as Ben Stanic bowled with good pace and control and was rewarded immediately, trapping their opener lbw in the first over, 1-0. Mick Tarrant up the other end was swinging the ball and in the 6th over, forced a mistimed drive which Ed Cross - lucky to have him - took a neat chest mark that any Sydney Swans midfielder would have been proud of at mid-on, score 2-19.

From there, the bowling was still good but in the next few overs and into the next spell, there was to be a few charges of catch avoidance laid down. The batters started to ride their luck during this period and then started playing a few nice shots, gaining confidence.

Andrew Dadswell ('Tex') had come on with his off spinners along with Shane Peterson with his fast mediums, and both were soon on the money. In each of their second overs, they secured a wicket, Tex getting a return catch, and Shane trapping the dangerous number 4 lbw. At this stage the score was 4-61 after 15 overs. Both bowlers kept it tight, with Tex later picking up a second wicket.

Jason Kenn replaced 'Big Shane' and as is his custom, bowled a yorker first ball and spread the stumps. Jose Poothokaren was at the end bowling nice and tight. We were getting through the St Clair lineup but the middle order No.5 bat was providing solid resistance, displaying a nice style, and helping St Clair mount a reasonable score. Around him, there was chaos as we picked off two run outs, one with Ben Stanic getting a direct hit from mid-off, the other with Shane Peterson neatly fielding from point back to the keeper. Mick Tarrant (3-23) came back on in the 38th over and immediately took the last two wickets required to bowl out St Clair for 150.

Great to see Rob Lawther back playing for us again (a season regular last year), keeping for the second 20 overs after the train delays, and Arfan Haider debuting, keeping for the first 20 overs in Rob's absence.

Our innings started pretty solidly with Mike Weaver and Paul Nash facing up to, what has to be said, one of the most lively opening bowlers we have come up against in Masters, bowling left arm around the wicket from the outset. The lefty took the wickets of both 'Weaves' and Nash and we were 2-13 in the 5th over.

Dan Turner and Arfan Haider were together and started to put together a small partnership, with Arfan playing some nice cover drives to the boundary. In the 11th over, a little in swinger got though Dan's defenses and he was bowled for 13, score 3-47. Jason Kenn ('Jaydos 'as he is affectionately known) came in at 5 and was playing some dominating shots. Another small partnership was forming until 'Jaydos' tried to go big again and was caught at a deeper mid-on for 16.

With the score on 4-76 in 18th over, we were still going well and with plenty of batting to come. Arfan was playing a lovely (and important) innings on debut and was soon joined by Soren Hughes. Before long Arfan got to his 40* to retire with a big 6 over square leg, which left Soren there batting very positively with some lovely lofted shots hitting and clearing the boundary. Soren copped a lovely little off cutter to disturb his off stump at 22, and the score was on 5-115 after 24 overs.

Rob Lawther (14*) and Andrew Dadswell (26*) were in the middle now and with the finish line in sight took just five overs to knock off the remaining 36 runs required for victory. Both found the boundary regularly with some very nice shot making, capping off a good win for CCNSW.

**The Team was (playing 12): -** Mike Weaver 6, Paul Nash 6, Dan Turner (c) 13, Arfan Haider (w) 45*, Jason Kenn 16, Soren Hughes 22, Rob Lawther (w) 14*, Andrew Dadswell 26*, Mike Tarrant dnb, Jose Poothokaren dnb, Shane Peterson dnb, Benjamin Stanic dnb and Ed Cross (sub)

**The Result was: -**

**St Clair United: - 10-150** (37.3 Overs)

**Lost to**

**CCNSW: -5-151** (29.3 overs) (A. Haider 45*)

**By 5 wickets**

**FoWs: -** 1-12 (M. Weaver); 2-13 (P. Nash); 3-47 (D. Turner); 4-76 (J. Kenn); 5-115 (S. Hughes)

**The Bowling was: -** B. Stanic 6-2-25-1; M. Tarrant 5.3-1-23-3; A. Dadswell 8-2-30-2; S. Peterson 6-1-13-1; J. Kenn 5-1-27-1; J. Poothokaren 5-0-14-0; S. Hughes 2-0-10-0

**The Fielding was: -**

**Stumpings**: - Nil

**Catches**: - One to R. Lawther (w); one to Ed Cross (sub), A Dadswell and B. Stanic

**Run outs:** - One to each of B. Stanic and S. Peterson

**Player points (awarded by umpire):** 3 points to A. Haider; 2 points to M. Tarrant; one point to A. Dadswell

**Scorecard:** **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/masters-summer-202324/masters-foxs/game-centre/25a20adb**

## MASTERS ROUND 10: CCNSW vs EPPING AT EPPING OVAL, EPPING ON SUNDAY 3 MARCH 2024: REPORT BY REPORT BY DAN TURNER

Arriving at Epping Oval, there was an air of the unknown as only half our team had played Epping on their patch and that was four seasons ago. The ground had a lovely covering of soft grass (which we would later rue) and the wicket looked a good one, hard and ready to bat first on. But, after losing the toss the Skipper's initial feeling of disappointment was soon one of surprise when the Epping captain decided to bowl first. With the sun coming out, a hard deck and forecast of 31, Dan was appreciative.

But the Epping skipper - apparently on form on this ground on his last start - started well, opening the bowling with a very disciplined, tight line, getting an early breakthrough trapping Tom Robertson in front for a duck, 1-9. The bowling discipline carried through to the opening bowling partnership, and through to the first change bowlers. With the tight bowling start, batting was not the easiest and it required a very diligent approach from Weaver and Nash in particular to see out the early dangers, with a lot of good deliveries being held out. On top of that, a loose ball was still not the easiest to get to the fence with the boundary tough to reach with the

soft lush grass covering. Nashy (16) was caught by the Epping skipper with a very good catch overhead in a shortish cover (2-38), and Weaves was run out for 17 (3-55). Soon after Arfan Haider (18) was looking good hitting a six over square leg (pull shot) down a side street, rolling down the hill and taking about 5 minutes to retrieve. But Arfan skied a ball to mid off soon after, again after consistent line and length bowling.

We were 4-62 after 18 overs at this stage and Dan Turner and Soren Hughes were at the wicket. Both managed to tick the strike over with regular singles while still being watchful early on. The day was getting warmer, and there were more opportunities presenting themselves with a lot of twos and threes on offer. As the ball wasn't reaching the boundary too easily, the outfielders also had a hard time having to chase almost every ball and it started to take its toll on the fielding side. Sensing that, Soren started to lift the aggression and was particularly punishing, hitting 3 fours and a towering straight six to reach his 40* retirement. Dan followed a couple of overs later hitting a straight drive for 4 to make it two in the bank.

The batting kept the momentum going though. Scott Wells (4) was out caught and bowled by the crafty left arm spinner who ended up with 4 wickets (5-158), but then Andrew Dadswell (Tex) and Mick Tarrant (15) really started ramping up the run rate, putting on 28 runs until Mick copped a tough call lbw (off the bat??) and we were 6-186 off 35 overs. Tex (41*) was not in the mood to slow down and in conjunction with Dave Craig (3) and Ben Stanic (3), got to his retirement with some imperious shot making with four 4s and a lot of 2s. At 8-223 with 5 balls remaining, Dan (46*) and Soren (59*) were reunited, with Soren blasting us to 8-240 and reaching his half century in the process.

Epping started their innings trying to play shots as they needed 6 an over to reach the target. There were a few loose shots they got away before Mick Tarrant started to rein in proceedings with a nice swinging delivery, displacing the stumps (1-29). Ben Stanic was charging in (uphill?) and was on the money and soon got in on the action trapping their skipper and best player lbw for a duck (2-38). Both bowled well and Mick enticed a lovely edge from the other opener for Wells to take the catch (3-42). Tex and Shane Peterson came on in a double change and both were able to maintain the pressure on the Epping batters by bowling a tight line. Tex was getting good turn and bounce, and ‚Big Shane' was bowling downhill with a decent clip and bounce also. And the rewards started to come with Shane ripping the middle order apart, claiming the next four wickets, with good variations in dismissal. Shane got an lbw with a ball which had a bit too much pace, then took a lovely caught and bowled for his second, hitting the bat high on the splice and the ball ballooned back to him. Next up he got through the defences and rattled the stumps, and for his fourth, Big Shane came up with an extraordinary slower wider delivery which their stubborn no.4 bat hit to gully for Ben Stanic to take a nice diving catch (some might say it was a low wide rank full toss but I prefer the former description).

Epping were 7-71, but Tex then claimed a wicket in his last over before Dave Craig and Soren Hughes came on to wrap it up. There was a runout for the ninth wicket with Dan turner and Scott wells combining, before Soren got one rattled the timber of the number 10 - who incidentally looked an accomplished hitter and probably should be looking for an elevation next game.

Epping was bowled out for 90. A big win for CCNSW by 150 runs, producing a great all round team performance in the process.

**The Team was (playing 12): -** Mike Weaver 17, Tom Robertson 0, Paul Nash 16, Arfan Haider 18, Dan Turner (c) 46*, Soren Hughes 59*, Scott Wells (w) 4, Andrew Dadswell 41*, Mick Tarrant 15, David Craig 3, Benjamin Stanic 3, Shane Peterson dnb,

**The Result was: -**

**CCNSW: - 8-240** (40 overs) (S. Hughes 59*, D. Turner 46*, A. Dadswell 41*)

**Defeated**

**Epping: - 10-90** (28 Overs)

**By 150 runs**

**FoWs: -** 1-9 (T. Robertson); 2-38 (P. Nash); 3-55 (M. Weaver); 4-62 (A. Haider); 5-158 (S. Wells); 6-186 (M. Tarrant); 7-209 (D. Craig); 8-223 (B. Stanic)

**The Bowling was: -** B. Stanic 6-2-15-1; M. Tarrant 6–0-30-2; A. Dadswell 7–0-16-1; S. Peterson 7-5-14-4; D. Craig 1–0–4-0; S. Hughes 1-0-4-1

**The Fielding was: -**

**Stumpings**: - Nil

**Catches**: - One to S. Wells (w); one each to S. Peterson and B. Stanic.

**Run outs:** - One to D. Turner/S. Wells (w)

**Player points (awarded by umpire):** 3 points to S. Hughes; 2 points to D. Turner; 1 point to A. Dadswell

**Scorecard:** **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/masters-summer-202324/masters-foxs/game-centre/79660724**

## MASTERS ROUND 11: CCNSW vs RYDE AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 17 MARCH 2024

**Cancelled by rain**