CCNSW CLASSICS MATCH REPORTS 2024-2025 SEASON

WEEK FOUR: SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER 2024

CLASSICS ROUND 1 v MOSMAN AT RAWSON OVAL, MOSMAN ON SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER 2024: REPORT BY MIKE PINTER

Back Row: Andrew Davis, Paul Nash, Andrew Bachelard, David Craig, Michael Tarrant, Craig Kitson

Front Row: Andrew Dawson (w), Scott Wells (c), Sherville Hall, Mike Pinter, Dan Turner

This game isn't played on paper

We knew coming into this game that it wasn't going to be easy, because in the corresponding fixture last season Mosman well and truly 'toweled us' up on our home turf. Our scars still weren't fully healed from last year (CCNSW limping to 123 all out in just under 30 overs, with Mosman mowing down our target in under 24 overs) and it was time for us to get some revenge. Scott Wells compiled a pretty decent looking line-up for this fixture, ready to take up the challenge.

Unfortunately Scott lost the toss and Mosman elected to bat. Things were looking promising for us early with Sherville ("Wes") Hall taking a sharp catch at gully off Andrew Bachelard off his second ball of the new season (1-7 off 1.2 overs). The dangerous Moss strode to the crease, and before too long, Bachelard took his second nabbing Moss adjudged lbw off the second ball of his third over (2-17 off 6 overs). This would be the first of seven lbws to be given on the day, with four in their innings and three in ours.

With the departure of Moss, our very own Ash Perrott (who also plays in our CCNSW Masters team) joined Watkins at the crease. As usual Mick Tarrant (our male model in Michael Weaver's absence) was toiling hard

at the other end from Bachelard and in his fifth over Watkins skied one near Craig Kitson at deep mid-wicket – it looked out of reach; however Kitson took a great catch (3-33 off 9 overs).

Perrott got to work pretty much straight away and played with a level of confidence that we had not seen before. He was defending the good balls and smashing the bad balls to the boundary and in no time he retired on a well made 30* off 21 balls.

Soon after their skipper Varasdi (1) arrived at the crease; he departed as the second lbw victim to a dart on the pegs from Sherville ("Wes") Hall (4-62 off 13 overs). At this stage of the innings the Mosman batters had already hit 9 boundaries.

There were a couple more quick wickets with our o50s debutant Dan Turner (8-0-45-1) claiming his first scalp, the third lbw. Then David Craig ("Dutchy") (8-1-31-2) clean bowled another batter for us to have Mosman teetering at 6-94 at the half way mark of their innings. At that point we were feeling confident to be able to restrict Mosman to less than 150 – game on!

After the break there was some good bowing from all bowlers and by the 30th over we were in a commanding position to have them reeling at 8-122. We huddled in a group after the 8th wicket fell, with a plan to restrict them to no more than 20 more runs for the last two wickets – well it isn't so grand when a plan doesn't come together. Let's just say things got away from us with some really good batting from their lower order, to have Steptoe get a quick 20, another retiree in Harvey-Parker 30* then a decent cameo by Greenwood with Perrott returning to the crease to bludgeon another 20 runs to finish on a potentially match-winning 50*. Their final score was 8-181 after the allotted 40 overs.

We had a good chat in the sheds at the half way mark and we all believed that this was a target that we could chase down. They managed to get 23 boundaries in their innings, and there was no reason that we couldn't do the same, given the line-up we had.

Mike Pinter ("Punter") and Scott Wells opened the batting, and Mosman started to show why they finished fourth place last year with some very tight bowling and excellent field placements by their captain. We were being squeezed from the outset and it was working. In the ninth over Punter (13) was the first to fall when trying to accelerate the run rate to a mistimed lofted on-drive off Greenwood (8-1-20-2) which was very well caught by Frost running across from long off.

Paul Nash then joined Wells at the crease, and again the squeeze was on with Perrott and Rose restricting several boundaries as the sweepers on either side of the pitch. It was Ash Perrott's day, because when batting nothing got through his defence and again this was the case for him in the field. This pair enjoyed a 22 run partnership before Scott Wells (11) became Greenwood's second victim and the fifth lbw for the day.

Classics debutant Dan Turner (9) had a brief stint at the crease to become the sixth lbw casualty, with Nash ticking along in singles and twos – as he also, was being restricted from being able to dominate with his usual picket rattling shots that we have been accustomed to seeing over the past couple of seasons. At the drinks break we were restricted to 3-60 requiring a further 122 runs at a gettable 6.1 runs per over.

Andrew Dawson joined Nash before Nash was called back to the sheds after reaching yet another 30* for the Classics team. Craig Kitson (5) then joined Dawson (who had grafted out 16 by that stage) for a brief stint at the crease before … you guessed it … Kitson became the final lbw fatality of the day (4-93 off 27 overs).

Their wonderful field placements and solid fielding had really restricted our ability to get boundaries with five men out for as many overs as was possible by Mosman. We had only managed to hit 7 boundaries to this point, and unfortunately there would only be one more struck by us in our innings this day.

Andrew Davis (4) was bowled again trying to accelerate the run rate (5-106 off 31 overs). Dawson and Bachelard joined forces to keep the scoreboard ticking over before Dawson also walked from the field unscathed with his 30*. It is always a pleasure to watch batters that really know how to work the ball around the field, as well as being able to punish a bad ball. If you get the chance to watch Dawson in full flight you won't be disappointed.

Mike Tarrant joined Bachelard for a decent partnership of 30 odd runs before Bachelard (13) was out caught trying to hit one to Cremorne (6-141 in the 38th over). Soon after, Tarrant (10) was stumped with some lightning fast glove work by their keeper (7-143 at the end of the 38th over).

Sherville Hall (2) also did the right thing trying to get the 39 runs required in the last two overs, only to be bowled, then David Craig (5) was the last victim of the day on the last ball of the fourtieth over to be adjudged caught behind (he swears that he got nowhere near the ball).

So the final score was a well deserved win to Mosman with Perrott definitely being the man of the match with his 50* and brilliant fielding. Whilst we fell 31 runs short of the target, this was a significant improvement on our performance against Mosman from last year.

We agreed that the performance by Perrott and their 23 boundaries compared to our 8 boundaries for the innings were the most significant points of difference.

I am (like most of us who played yesterday) disappointed - however I am also encouraged by the potential of our team this year. We learnt the hard way that this game is definitely not played on paper and so it's back to the drawing board for us to figure out how we can translate that form from paper to the pitch!

The Team was: - Mike Pinter 13, Scott Wells (c) 11, Paul Nash 34* not out, Dan Turner 9, Andrew Dawson (w) 30* ret not out, Craig Kitson 5, Andrew Davis 4, Andrew Bachelard 13, Mike Tarrant 9 , David Craig 5 and Sherville Hall 2

The Result was: -

Mosman CC: - 8-181 (40 Overs)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 9-150 (40 Overs) (P. Nash 34*; A. Dawson 30*)

By 31 runs.

FoW: - 1-19 (M. Pinter); 2-41 (S. Wells); 3-57 (D. Turner); 4-93 (C. Kitson); 5-106 (A. Davis); 6-141 (A. Bachelard); 7-142 (M. Tarrant); 8-146 (S. Hall); 9-150 (D. Craig).

The Bowling was: - M. Tarrant 8-1-35-1; A. Bachelard 8-0-36-2; S. Hall 2-0-16-1; D. Turner 8-0-45-1; D. Craig 8-1-31-2; P. Nash 4-0-8-1; C. Kitson 1-0-1-0; A. Davis 1-0-5-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to each of D. Craig, S. Hall and C. Kitson

Run outs: - Nil

CCNSW Player points (awarded by umpire): - 4 points to Mosman**;** 3 points to Mosman; 2 points to P. Nash; one point to A. Dawson

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/sydney-masters-cricket-season-2425-summer-202425/classics-foxs/game-centre/0fc1c269**

WEEK SIX: SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER 2024

CLASSICS ROUND 2 v MACARTHUR AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER 2024: REPORT BY MIKE WEAVER

To use Kiwi cricket commentator Ian Smith's most used lines: *"Can you believe it?? Remarkable!!"* The CCNSW Classics have now lost two on the trot. Yes, you read correctly. CCNSW took on Macarthur last Sunday at 'The Fortress', Camperdown Park and… failed to get the 20 plus competition points. Long serving members such as President Greg Brooks, Secretary Adrian Hawkes or legendary spinners Garry James and Jim Hadley, may not recall the last time CCNSW lost to the Macarthur Classics two seasons in a row.

If so, probably that's because they did not realise that the Macarthur club have only been in existence for two seasons. And so, to the story of the match. Conditions were mild and sunny. CCNSW Skipper Scott Wells won the right to elect to bat first, on a hard pitch that would prove to play at a good pace with an irregular low bounce, with deliveries regularly alternating between low and 'ultra-low'. The outfield was somewhat lush and medium fast. Openers for CCNSW were the retained man from Round 1, Mike Pinter and Mike Weaver, in for his first CCNSW Classics match of the season. There are several options for the opening position available for the 'Blues'. What an embarrassment of riches it is to have so many available for this coveted, obviously easy and high-level, tactically discussed position. And with so many offering their point of view with regards to the role, such debate only adds to this abundance.

After the innings began with a maiden, 'Punter' managed to take a quick single from the third ball in the second over, narrowly missing a collision with 'Weaves' after driving firmly to mid-off. It's possibly a record twenty five times that these two men have been involved in run outs or 'near-misses' of run out while batting together for CCNSW (Apologies Adrian, we may not have sufficient historical data available to substantiate this claim). A mid-wicket conference immediately after the incident was tactfully avoided by Weaver, he having not been made aware pre-match of his partner's intended change of habit, that of running on the same side of the wicket to which the ball is struck. Prior to this, Pinter had executed an excellent late leave to the pacey Macarthur left arm bowler Neich, which fooled both 'keeper and first slip to result in four byes. 'Punter' has made many, many good leaves over his time, although this one was undoubtedly one of the best of his cricket career. A boundary was then struck to get Weaves away, to bring nine off the over.

Unfortunately, what might have been almost just a promising start, was undone first ball of the next, with Punter being the first of five CCNSW batters dismissed bowled – a late out swinging yorker from Boothe taking out his middle stump. Then followed a period of consolidation in which CCNSW No. 3, Dan Turner, played confidentially from the outset, striking Neich for two lofted on-drives for four in his next over, which led to a switch to left arm orthodox, around the wicket, by the bowler. He followed with a cut to the close boundary off Boothe. Unfortunately, 'Weaves' could not exert more pressure, missing out on three or four loose deliveries which should have been sent to the fence, plus a couple off his pads that only produced single leg byes. After persevering for a total of 24 deliveries, a Boothe leg cutter dismantled the off bail, negating further opportunity for this batter to find his timing.

Bad bat swing timing was not apparent, at least not initially, for the next two CCNSW batters to come and go. Scott Wells sliced two boundaries and cracked a brilliant lofted off drive to assist a quick move to 14, before a bowling change brought about his dismissal, the CCNSW captain unable to negotiate a very good yorker delivered by Newman. Craig Kitson had quickly got his favoured cut shot going just before and just after drinks, then walked across the stumps to be trapped lbw by O'Rourke, for ten runs. Dan Turner had meanwhile continued in a dominant display over the bowling retiring on 32* to help CCNSW get to a fair position of 3-89 at the halfway mark.

With Andrew Dawson not out and looking very comfortable, a score of 220 was a hopeful team target. It was not to be. Although 'Dawso' duly reached his retirement. some slow-medium, full and straight bowing by the opposition, to deep, straight fields, contained him extremely well. This combined with the pitch playing so low, meant Andrew was rarely able to dispatch balls square as much as he would have liked. As such, he was restricted to chiseling out just four sweetly timed boundaries. Michael Tarrant batted some good time; then looked to unleash but could not get enough on a slog sweep to be safely caught by Whittall at cow corner.

This left CCNSW at 5-121 with Dawson back in the sheds retired, without any possibility to return to the crease (as CCNSW were playing 12, only one retiree could return). In the event, CCNSW were only able to scramble a further 60 runs. Ed Cross ran hard while smacking a good straight boundary, to contribute nine runs before striking another straight back into the bowler's safe hands. Andy Bachelard, with 14 runs off the

same number of deliveries, had threatened to accelerate the scoring much more than this, in smiting a mighty six over long on off O'Rourke with the ball landing on the top of the bank nearest the tennis club. 'Batch' later explained his technique in executing this shot intricately to this masthead, which was much contrary to the expectations of all who listened. Since it was witnessed that the big (and noticeably fit) all-rounder was comprehensively bowled attempting the same shot, to possibly land the ball just outside the 'Gather on the Green' café, the alleged successful technique he had afterwards quoted seemed rather questionable.

Sherville Hall was unfortunately trapped lbw for a golden duck but later was able to get his own back with the ball, delivering to the same Rotunda end some deliveries much like the ball he had received. And David Craig never got going in this one - his innings of two runs naturally included one reverse sweep shot, for two runs. Sundries were contributing nicely (15 byes out of 28 total extras for the innings) and Dan Turner returned to add 15 runs to his score and for the team, in a last wicket partnership of 24 with Stuart Ridge. 'Stu' in his attempt to at least emulate 'Batch', if not wanting to hit the ball further than he, was to be the final CCNSW batter to have his woodwork dismantled. This off the third last ball, finalised Macarthur opening bowler Boothe's excellent figures of 6-32. CCNSW were left having only added 92 runs in the second stanza, to be all out for 181.

Such a score seemed completive, although CCNSW, overall, were not able to match their opponents' deeds with the ball in hand, not bowling straight and full consistently enough or perhaps just a little two straight at times in angling to leg stump. Mick Tarrant was unlucky though, not to have one of the Macarthur openers bowled on two occasions. Stuart Ridge bowled his usually good lines in a commendable opening spell, operating just outside off angling in, although distinct lack of bounce in the wicket just did not suit the tall Over 60s Australian Representative bowler. The Macarthur opener Neich drove powerfully, covering Tarrant's outswing intelligently and cutting Ridge on occasion into gaps. Not giving a chance, he was to reach retirement at considerable speed.

This had quickly forced CCNSW into deep defensive fields which perhaps, in retrospect, should not have been extended so much to the other Macarthur batters. Spin, off- pace and off-pace or 'off- the- pace' bowling was correctly reverted to by Skipper Wells. He opted for regular David Craig from the café end, with Craig Kitson to operate in tandem. Medium bowlers Andy Bachelard and Ed Cross had been dispensed with, due to them delivering just one expensive over each, prior to the introduction of David Craig ('Dutchie'). Macarthur were 0-83 off thirteen overs at the time. The Macarthur batters though, were not drawn into trying to slog at the 'leggie', electing to be patient and knock the slow looping balls into gaps and then in frustration, or in a case of the bowler trying too hard perhaps, quite a few loose deliveries ensued, mostly all of which were punished. Never a guy to give up though, 'Kitso' revived the Cricketer's spirits substantially, delivering an inspired full eight over spell of mixed flight off spin, to take five quick wickets from the Rotunda end. Sherville 'Wes' Hall then grabbed his deserved wicket after replacing 'Dutchie' which brought the situation to 6 wickets for 155 with CCNSW still some outside chance, albeit Macarthur having three batters retired at this point.

CCNSW were to endure notable heckling from their own supporters' group at the ground during the afternoon session. It is quite debatable as to whether this was of much assistance or indeed a psychological hindrance to their efforts. Regardless of either, in the closing stages of the game, the 'Blues' rallied in the field and began to restrict the run flow from incoming batters. Unfortunately, two difficult outfield chances were not accepted, to put the final '*nail in the coffin'*. Macarthur lost no further wickets, attaining victory in the 33rd over to finish deserved winners.

CCNSW congratulate Macarthur on their win and should reflect and review how they have played this match under their home conditions, with the wicket seemingly a little different to that of past seasons.

The Team was (playing 12): - Mike Weaver 5, Mike Pinter 1, Dan Turner 47*, Scott Wells (c) 14, Andrew Dawson (w) 32* ret not out, Craig Kitson 10, Mike Tarrant 11, Ed Cross 9, Andrew Bachelard 14, David Craig 2, Sherville Hall 0 and Stuart Ridge 9

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-181 (39.4 Overs) (D. Turner 47*; A. Dawson 32* ret not out)

Lost to

Macarthur CC: - 6-182 (32.3 Overs) (C. Kitson 5-26)

By 4 wickets

FoW: - 1-9 (M. Pinter); 2-32 (M. Weaver); 3-55 (S. Wells); 4-95 (C. Kitson); 5-121 (M. Tarrant); 6-143 (E. Cross); 7-156 (A. Bachelard); 8-156 (S. Hall); 9-157 (D. Craig); 10-181 (S. Ridge).

The Bowling was: - M. Tarrant 5-0-35-0; S. Ridge 5-0-27-0; A. Bachelard 1-0-8-0; E. Cross 1-0-11-0; D. Craig 7-0-49-0; C. Kitson 8-0-26-5; S. Hall 5.3-0-19-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to A. Dawson (w) and one each to C. Kitson and S. Ridge

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by umpire): - 4 points to t b a**:** 3 points to t b a ; 2 points to t b a ; one point to t b a

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/sydney-masters-cricket-season-2425-summer-202425/classics-foxs/game-centre/4b74f0ed**

WEEK EIGHT: SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2024

CLASSICS ROUND 3 v HAWKESBURY CC AT BENSON'S LANE NORTH RICHMOND ON SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2024: REPORT BY SCOTT WELLS.

After two losses against good sides in the opening two rounds, the Classics were keen to get some points on the board against the Hawks. We comprehensively beat them last year and so went into the match as favorites

A call to arms was put out – with quite a few "*sorry can't make it this week",* injuries ,etc. Three major injuries: - to Ian Allmey, Tom Robertson and Mike Tarrant ruled them out. The skipper Scott Wells was coming off 4 games in 5 games at the State titles as were two other potential fill-ins. In all, an unbelievable 22 potential fill-ins were unavailable for this game. Perhaps word got out about the gang of swooping magpies from the game earlier in the year.

Thankfully, John Munden who has not laced a boot for the club for some nine years rearranged his schedule to be available and Sherville ("Wes") Hall had a mate, Jose Villa that he could bring along from the south coast. Councilor David Kent also dropped the robe and mace for cricket duties. In all we had a solid team of 11 with 7 regulars

The deck was the hardest I have seen for a few seasons (glass like) with a mosaic of cracks some 10mm wide – in desperate need of some moisture. But it had been used on Saturday and according to their captain had no real demons.

Wells lost the toss and CCNSW were sent to field. Hawk's opening bat Kropman came out blazing and our bowling, albeit slightly unlucky, didn't have an answer for him apart from two missed run outs by Dan Turner. He retired in the 6thover. At the other end it was the opposite with their other opener very watchful. A change of batter and bowlers bought in a tight tense period of play with CCNSW wrangling the advantage – both Paul Nash and Dan Turner bowling very tight lines and bringing the run rate back to around 4.5. The Hawks were 1 for 81 at drinks – quite a respectful fight tback given their start. A wicket to Turner – clean bowled – bought in a more aggressive left hander who once settled in, took about taking us apart again. Straight after drinks they blazed about 35 runs off 4 overs to get back the advantage. David Craig didn't appreciate bowling into the wind and Councilman Kent although getting an early wicket broke down after one over. Andy Bachelard came

back on and bowled a much better spell to once again tie them up. The lefty retired so they had a pretty handy pairing to re-enter at the end.

David Craig swapped ends and it was like he swapped bowling arms – much better spell with flight and guise picking up 2 wickets. Turner had a second spell and was the pick of the bowlers – 1 for 18 off 8. With Kent down and president Brooks unable to roll the royal arm over, Nash came back for a second spell and John Munden tied up one end with some offies. Sherville Hall returned to close out the innings with a much better spell picking up a couple which saw Hawks finish on 7 for 181 off their allotment. A great effort from the bowlers and fielders cutting off runs in the slowish outfield.

Wells and Munden opened up starting very solidly picking off runs much to John's despise (the cricket fitness will come Johnny!). With tight lines and a slow outfield every run was gold – very difficult to drive on and if you went back ran the risk of a shooter – which happened to John – bowled for a well compiled 19. It was all business for Wells, Nash and Turner from there – picking off ones and twos and boundaries very hard to come by with Hawks bowling good lines pace off. At drinks we were 1 for 80 with Nash and Wells in the bank 30* each. Turner and Andy Dawson continued the gap picking and running hard post drinks to keep the required run rate respectful challenging the fielders. This was "as business like" and innings we had compiled for a while with very little risk and continual turning over of the strike.

Dawson ended up being bowled for 18 and Dan retired on 30* leaving the likes of Jose Villa (Wes's mate), Greg Brooks, David Kent and Andy Bachelard to ice the cake. Set up perfectly, until Jose Villa (6) Kent (0) Brooks (6) and Craig (4) all fell – but importantly still with a RRR of 5 still to get from the last few overs. But with three in the bank we could afford to accelerate comfortably – Andy Bachelard (23*) swiped at anything red that moved and eventually got some away and he and Wes steadied to get the final runs with a few balls to spare.

Only 7 boundaries were hit in the innings and when you consider who we had in the batting lineup it tells you a bit about our innings. It was a very sensible, professional batting effort and an excellent win in the end. A very good team effort.

The Team was: – John Munden 19, Scott Wells (c) 30*, Paul Nash 30*, Dan Turner 30*, Andrew Dawson (w) 18, Jose Villa.6, David Kent 0, Andrew Bachelard 23*, Greg Brooks 0, Sherville Hall 4*, David Craig 4,

The Result was: –

Hawkesbury CC: – 7-181 (40 Overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: – 6-183 (39.2 Overs) (S. Wells 30*, P. Nash 30*,D. Turner 30*)

By 4 wickets

FoW: – 1- 27 (J. Munden); 2- 126 (A. Dawson); 3- 137 (J Villa); 4-139 (D. Kent); 5-153 (G. Brooks); 6-164 (D. Craig).

The Bowling was: – A. Bachelard 8-0-36-1, S. Hall 8-0-35-2, P. Nash 5-0-22-0, D. Turner 8-3-18-1, D. Craig 8-0-39-2, D. Kent 1-0-9-1, J. Munden 2-0-14-0.

The Fielding was: –

Stumpings: – Nil
Catches: – A**.** Dawson (w) 3, S. Hall 1
Run outs: – Nil

Player points (awarded by umpire): – 4 points to**;** 3 points to; 2 points to; one point to

Scorecard: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/summer-202425/classics-foxs/game-centre/5aa5423c

WEEK TEN: SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2024

CLASSICS ROUND 4 v WARRINGAH CC AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2024: REPORT BY DAN TURNER

Warringah were coming to Camperdown as ladder leaders of the Classics competition and as always, Camperdown looked a treat with the sun out and family's and park goers filling the area.

Warringah called correctly and had no hesitation to bat first. They were greeted by two demons opening the bowling in Sherville ("Wes") Hall and Dan Turner. Dan lasted two overs before being dragged by the captain, good decision. But Wes had a decent, albeit wicket less spell, bowling some threatening deliveries. Meanwhile, Warringah got some early boundaries away to get the opener Trewartha in the bank early.

The introduction of debutant Jason Keane as first change brought immediate reward taking the edge of the opener Waddington. At 1-42 and a fast start, Jason and Craig Kitson started applying some pressure with the ball and tightening it up. Kitson was rewarded with a c & b, dismissing one of one of three co-co-captains.

At drinks, Warringah were 2-86 (approx.) and the middle order were settling in. Looking a little shaky early, the 4/5 combination were pushing the ball around. David Craig was on and bowling his leggies, and Luke Holman was brought on applying some off/leg/top spinning variations keeping it tight. Luke was rewarded with 3 very good wickets off 7 overs, as he was able to start turning through the Warringah batting order.

David Craig picked up a wicket, as did Dan Turner, on for a second spell. Keane was re-introduced and aptly took two wickets and finish the innings with fine figures (3-19) in his comeback match.

Notable moments in the 2nd twenty overs was another debutant, David Potts as keeper, having prolonged discussion with a co-co-captain about smacking the cover off a caught behind and not walking.

The other notable was Luke Holman's fantastic 7 over spell being split by the skipper Scott Wells injecting himself for one eventful over. There was a key strategy at play here. I think the skipper could see Luke was tiring and wanted to give him an over to rest up. I could see the thinking, and it worked a treat as Luke came back on and bowled well taking more wickets.

Warringah, 9-189 off 40 overs. A great effort by the team to restrict Warringah to that score, and present CCNSW a huge opportunity to get a win against the competition leaders.

Mike Pinter and Mike Weaver opened the batting and immediately the Warringah opening bowlers settled into a restrictive line and length which made scoring freely difficult. We were 0-35 off 10 overs after Weaves found the boundary a few times.

We needed to lift the tempo though and Pinter was dismissed in the process, 1-44 in the 14th over. Weaves retired soon after and the skipper Wells was in with Turner. The team were looking at 6 an over required from here and Wells succumbed trying to force a drive, caught at short mid-wicket.

From there a constant flow of wickets was the case as the batting order felt the scoreboard pressure from the start of each of our innings. Add a run out between Turner and Potts, the latter losing his wicket from a close range direct hit, and things were difficult.

CCNSW were restricted to 9-168, falling short by 21 runs. In the end, it was definitely a missed opportunity to take a big scalp, and I think the feeling was one of disappointment all round. BUT onwards and upwards, next week provides a new opportunity.

The Team was (playing 12):- Mike Pinter 12, Mike Weaver 35, Scott Wells (c) 15, Dan Turner 33*, Andy Dawson 4, Craig Kitson 4, David Potts (w) 10, Greg Brooks 9, Jason Keane 13, David Craig 2, Sherville Hall 10*, Luke Holman dnb.

The Result was: –

Warringah: - 9-189 (40 Overs)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: -9-168 (40 Overs) (M. Weaver 35, D. Turner 33*)

By 21 runs

FoWs: – 1-44 (M. Pinter), 2-80 (S. Wells), 3-92 (A. Dawson), 4-102 (C. Kitson), 5-123 (D. Potts), 6-136 (G. Brooks), 7-143 (D. Craig), 8-157 (J. Keane), 9-163 (M. Weaver)

The Bowling was: – S. Hall 4-0-20-0; D. Turner 5-0-24-1; J. Keane 7-2-19-3; C. Kitson 8-0-36-1; D. Craig 8-1-42-1; L. Holman 7-1-30-3; S. Wells 1-0-16-0

The Fielding was: –

Stumpings: – One to D. Potts

Catches: – Two to L. Holman; one to each of D. Potts (w/), C. Kitson, M. Weaver

Run outs: – Nil

Scorecard: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/summer-202425/classics-foxs/game-centre/4149029b

WEEK ELEVEN: SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2024

CLASSICS ROUND 5 v NEPEAN AT GIPPS STREETRECREATIONAL PRECINCT, CADDENS ON SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 2024: REPORT BY SCOTT WELLS

Our highly anticipated (for culinary reasons) annual trip out west along the M4 was originally slated for Dukes Oval Emu Plains. Unfortunately, the three day lead in wet weather prevented any work on the pitch so the game was transferred to the brand new facilities of Gipps Street Recreational Precinct near Orchard Hills. This also had the added benefit of taking 10 minutes off the westward trip for city folk but added 10 minutes to the journey for the mountain folk.

This new facility is amazing, built on the old tip site but with 360 degree views of the mountains and western Sydney. Hundreds of families greeted us with a party atmosphere with cakes bikes and water park. All here to watch CCNSW vs Nepean in our annual clash.

The couch outfield was damp without being unplayable and a brand new artificial grass pitch – wider and shorter than any other I have seen was in great condition. Wells lost the toss (again) and CCNSW were sent to field. Not a bad result given the pitch wasn't going to change and showers were expected during the afternoon.

The dramatic skies made for a spectacular backdrop wherever you looked. Sheets of rain could be seen making its way south east bound over and down the Blue Mountains during the afternoon. Stuart Ridge and Sherville ("Wes") Hall opened up for CCNSW. Nepean's intent was clear with a few boundaries off the first few overs with some good swipes. With Stuart Ridge back to circa 2023 form he was hitting great lengths and swinging the ball with some cutters thrown in earning respect from the opening pair. At the other end Hall was bowling his trademark dibbly dobblers with subtle movement – enough to getting their opener and # three swiping across the line to pick them both up clean bowled and their No. 4 nicking off to Wells – 3 for 27.

Great start from the opening two with Ridge very unlucky. First and second change were "***** fill in" aka Jason Keane extending his comeback with the club and Andy Bachelard keen to make an impression after missing the previous game. Two wickets a piece saw Nepean plunge to 7 for 42. CCNSW keenly anticipating an early innings break and get stuck into the select meats and cheeses of the charcuterie board (Italian skipper), subway rolls and watermelons.

Nepean's 8, 9 and 10 had other ideas and batted quite sensibly in the conditions getting their total to 8 for 97 off their allotted 40 overs. The only other wicket fell to Dan Turner bowling their solid No. 8. There was a brief mini cyclone around the 30th over which you could see coming from half way up the Blue Mountains – plenty of wind, thunder and lightning making a mess of the gazebos set up all around for the kids parties – the place cleared out very rapidly. However, even though we came off for maybe 20 minutes, a full game was still expected.

CCNSW set with 2.5 an over to take the game – but with a very slow outfield, singles and doubles were very crucial to get the scoreboard ticking over. John Munden and Mike Pinter opened with Munden looking solid until being adjudged adjacent and Pinter spooning a full toss leading edge to mid-wicket – both falling to Roser who was settling on a great line and length. 2 for 5. Both opening bowlers loving the over cast conditions managing to get good nip and swing away from the bat. Enter Turner, exit Turner again flashing early outside off 3 for 5. Craig Kitson and "***** fill in" Jose Villa settling in to get the score to 21 before Kitson was clean bowled by a peach from Roser. Wells coming in at 6 and Jose continued the push for victory until Roser was bought back into the attack nicking off Wells to first slip with the score on 43. Half the wickets had fallen but we weren't half way in the runs.

Jose continued to score with some solid batting mixed in with the occasional streaky shot with Greg Brooks but fell shortly after on a well made top match score of 23. Brooks fell soon after with CCNSW flailing at 7 for 55 still needing 40 odd runs with only 3 wickets in hand. But then – probably the match winning partnership with Keane and Andy Bachelard putting on 29 runs for the 8th wicket – Jason needing the assistance of a runner with a hamstring niggle. 'Bach' was unfortunately stumped by a fumble down leg by their keeper for a great 20 playing well within himself and scoring only the second boundary of our innings. Keane walked soon after adjudging himself adjacent lbw for 7 – not waiting for the umpire's decision – Spirit of Cricket or embarrassment I'm not sure what happened there.

A dramatic finish to come as dramatic as the weather had been all afternoon 10 runs one wicket with Hall and Ridge at the crease.

Of course they saw us home with 'Wes' Hall finishing on 11* and Ridge 3* fittingly hitting the winning runs with 5 overs to spare.

Thanks to Nepean for a great day's cricket feast with a BBQ and beers following the match

That puts us with 2 wins after 5 games and into the top 8. But still with plenty of work to do if we want to finish near the top sides this year.

The Team was: – John Munden 4, Mike Pinter 0, Daniel Turner 1, Craig Kitson 8, Jose Villa 23, Scott Wells 7, Greg Brooks 7, Andrew Bachelard 20, Jason Keane 7, Sherville Hall 11*, Stuart Ridge 3*

The Result was: –

Nepean: - 8-97 (40 Overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: – 9-98 (26.2 Overs)

By one wicket.

The Bowling was: – S. Ridge 8-4-21-0, S. Hall 8-0-21-3, J. Keane 8-3-10-2, A. Bachelard 8-0-25-2, D. Turner 5-0-11-1, C. Kitson 3-0-8-0'

The Fielding was: –

Stumpings: – Nil
Catches: – S. Wells (w) 2, Craig Kitson one
Run outs: – Nil

Scorecard: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/summer-202425/classics-foxs/game-centre/28be924e

WEEK FIFTEEN: SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER 2024

CLASSICS ROUND 6 v LINDFIELD LARRIKINS AT LINDFIELD SOLDIERS MEMORIAL PARK, ON SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER 2024: REPORT BY PAUL NASH

As we wandered to Lindfield, my initial thoughts were WTF ….. the pitch looked very similar to the surface of the Moon. Never in all my years seen such an unprepared wicket. Anyhow, it was time for CCNSW to bat.

Our four batters came and went. Left up to Andy Dawson, Craig Kitson and Brett James to steady the ship. All playing when caution and keeping the score ticking over. Kitson and James nicely back in shed. Then our tail wagged, and wagged it did. All batters making solid contributions and getting to double figures. We closed our innings with very respectable 170 ……. More than enough as Lindfield have historically been very weak in any kind of run chase.

Lindfield opening bowler decided to open the batting, he went on to nick one, not walk and not given out!!! Very poor but Bret James next ball bowled a pearler and he shouldered arms and bye bye off peg …. Karma !

From then wicket fells regularly with little if no resistacet. Bret James and Sherville ("Wes") Hall bowled well together, James picking up 3 batters. Andy Davis and Paul Nash, tightened the screws even more. Andy picking up 3 wickets and Nash just bowling yorkers and more yorkers. It was left up to David Craig and Craig Kitson to polish off the tail in style. New guy David Potts was outstanding behind the stumps and a great asset to the team

They scraped 85 before we hit the bar. Such a shame as the ground is so picturesque but wicket lets the club down.

Off to enjoy Christmas and recharge for next game against Georges River.

The Result was: –

C.C.N.S.W.: – 8-170 (40 Overs) (C. Kitson 33*; B. James 30*)

Defeated

Lindfield: - 10-85 (29.1 Overs)

By 85 runs.

The Team was (playing 12): - Mike Pinter 3, Scott Wells (c) 4, Paul Nash 0, Dan Turner 7, Andrew Dawson 17, Craig Kitson 33, Brett James 30*, Jose Villa 23, David Potts (w) 12, Andrew Davis 16, David Craig 10* and Sherville Hall dnb

FoW: – 1-10 (S. Wells); 2-12 (P. Nash); 3-12 (M. Pinter); 4-22 (D. Turner); 5-43 (A. Dawson); 6-135 (J. Villa); 7-145 (D. Potts); 8-166 (A. Davis)

The Bowling was: – .B. James 4-0-11-3; S. Hall 4-0-19-0; A. Davis 6-3-11-3; P. Nash 5-1-9-0; D. Craig 5-0-23-1; C. Kitson 5.1-0-7-3

The Fielding was: –

Stumpings: – One to D. Potts
Catches: – One to each to A. Dawson, B. James, D. Potts (w), J. Villa, M. Pinter
Run outs: – Nil

Player points (awarded by umpire): –

Scorecard: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/summer-202425/classics-foxs/game-centre/dd9ed727

WEEK EIGHTEEN: SUNDAY 19 JANUARY 2025

CLASSICS ROUND 7 v GEORGES RIVER AT BEXLEY OVAL, BEXLEY ON SUNDAY 19 JANUARY 2024: REPORT BY JASON KEANE

After a week of torrential rain, hopes weren't high of getting a match in- but Bexley Oval was in excellent condition and the pitch was excellent. The pie-warmer, however, was a big disappointment and should be fined and suspended for bringing the game into disrepute.

Stand -in skipper Mike Pinter won the toss and batted first, bravely sending himself in with Tom Robertson to face the new ball. This looked like a stroke of genius as the lads rushed to 52 before the first wicket fell- Robertson on 29, just short of the retirement mark- a fact that would come back to haunt us.

Paul Nash kept up the good work at number three and by the drinks break the score was past 100. The Skipper then gave a rousing half-time speech, urging the lads on to a total of 220-plus. Alas, the burden of dreams proved too much, and the middle order fell away. The tail did the right thing- not by wagging, but by getting out quickly to allow the retirees to return for a few more swings of the bat.

In the end, we mustered 174, with Punter top-scoring (46), Andrew Dawson making 31 and Paul Nash 35*. Although short of what we had hoped for after a strong start, it was a much improved batting display and hopes were high.

CCNSW started well with the ball, with big Stuart Ridge almost unplayable from one end, and Jason Keane beating the outside edge regularly at the other. Eventually the edge was found for the breakthrough, and the run rate was under control but a further breakthrough just wouldn't come.

The bowlers were shuffled around, but on a pitch that was doing a bit and making front-foot scoring difficult, we slipped in too many short balls, the majority of which were dispatched.

Around mid-innings, Mike Tarrant found his groove and bowled a very tight spell without the wickets he deserved, and Andy Davis came into the attack and almost pulled of a remarkable escape. There were a couple of quick wickets with about 40 required, and a couple more as the target drew close, but an attack of the drops in the field cruelled our chances, with at least four going down in the final hour or so, culminating in a spectacular double-play drop and missed run out when the scores were level. The culprit will remain nameless, but I'm sure Sherville ("Wes") Hall reminded him about it on the long drive home to Wollongong.

In the end, Georges River passed our total 8-down in the 39th over, for at 2-wicket win.

Much debate ensued over the post-match beers as to whether we ought to have scored a few more runs, or whether it was the bowling or just the dropped catches that were to blame. In fairness, it was a bit of each, although the game was there for the taking in the last hour in the field ,especially if our Dudley Do-Right skipper hadn't withdrawn a controversial appeal for obstructing the field. I mean- a wicket is a wicket, and knowledge of the rule book trumps actual playing ability any day!

Onwards and upwards for our next hit-out v Castle Hill at Camperdown Oval.

The Team was: – Tom Robertson 29, Mike Pinter 46, Paul Nash 35*, Daniel Turner 10, Andrew Dawson 31*, David Potts 0, Michael Tarrant 3, Andrew Davis 7, Sherville Hall 2, Jason Keane 2, David Craig 0, Stuart Ridge 6

The Result was: –

C.C.N.S.W.: – 10-174 (39.3 Overs) (M. Pinter 46; P. Nash 35*; A. Dawson 31*)

Lost to

Georges River: - 8-175 (38.4 Overs) (A. Davis 4-18)

By 2 wickets

FoW: – 1-41 (T. Robertson); 2-88 (D. Turner); 3-114 (D. Potts); 4-122 (M. Tarrant) 5-147 (A. Davis); 6-149 (J. Keane); 7-149 (D. Craig); 8-151 (S. Hall); 9-170 (S. Ridge); 10-174 (M. Pinter)

The Bowling was: – J. Keane 8-0-36-2; S. Ridge 7-1-23-0; M. Tarrant 6.4-1-22-0,; P. Nash 3-0-16-1; D. Craig 5-0-26-0; D. Turner 3-0-12-1; S. Hall 2-0-13-0; A. Davis 4-0-16-4

The Fielding was: –

Stumpings: – Nil
Catches: – D. Potts (w) (3), one to each of M. Pinter, S. Ridge, A. Davis
Run outs: – Nil

Scorecard: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/summer-202425/classics-foxs/game-centre/0b4b54d8

WEEK TWENTY ONE: SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2025

CLASSICS ROUND 8 v CASTLE HILL AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2025: REPORT BY ANDREW BACHELARD

For the first time this season the selectors had nearly a full deck to choose from this week. With the exception of Mike 'Punter' Pinter, still enjoying his all-expenses-paid advertorial holiday in America's new 51st state, just about everyone who has turned out for the Classics this year was available. Some tough decisions had to be made and quality cricketers and club stalwarts missed out.

The selected 12 keenly felt the honour of representing the Baggy Blue cap and were determined to redress the disappointment of the previous game against Georges River.Skipper Scott Wells achieved the first major KPI of the day by calling correctly on a greenish Camperdown deck that looked like it might have a bit of life in it early.

Tom Robertson and Andrew Dawson were soon out in the middle, reliving the glory days of Australian cricket when Mark Waugh and Adam Gilchrist used to open the batting in ODI's. Unfortunately Tom never really got the hang of the pitch and was soon beaten by (lack of) pace, caught for 6. This brought Paul Nash to the crease. The bowling was pedestrian, at best, and we were all looking forward to Nash brutalizing it in ways that would make Quentin Tarantino squirm. Inevitably he middled the ball immediately but unfortunately soon committed the cardinal sin at Camperdown - playing back to a straight one. Lbw for 13.

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At this point we were 2-49 after 12 and going OK, but given the calibre of the attack it felt distinctly under par. Things went from not-that-good to really-quite-bad when the in-form Dan Turner was bowled committing the cardinal sin at Camperdown - playing back to a straight one. 3-58 from 15.

This brought Craig Kitson to the crease. Dawson was on 26 and looking untroubled, although he never really timed the ball and we were staring down the barrel of not enough runs. The next 18 overs saw a massive turn around as Dawson, Wells and Kitson all got back in the sheds in quick succession. Michael Tarrant fell for 29 (from 24 balls), caught on the fence going for the glory 35*. Between them they added 115 runs with 13 boundaries and 3 sixes, playing some glorious shots. The highlight was Wells taking 18 from an over to go to 30* (21 balls), the last act of which was a massive pulled 6 that went over the sheds without touching the roof. Andy Davis played a masterful innings supporting the lower order, even adding a second spoke to his wagon wheel with some shots on the leg side. Andrew Bachelard, David Craig and Jason Keane came and went in quick succession, allowing time for the returning bats to score 21 off the last 2 overs. Kitson ended up with his fifty (51* off 44 balls) and the score, as predicted by Greg 'The Prez' Brooks, spectating, finished at 8 for Richie (222).

We were quietly confident at tea as we tucked into what Robertson described as "t*he best cheese and bacon rolls ever"*, as well as lovingly individually wrapped chicken rolls (great work whoever brought those) and a ginormous fruit platter. Not only was 223 a lot of runs, but we had no fewer than 9 genuine bowling options in the line up for the Skip to choose from. There was some concern though as the Castle Hill opening pair had very strong reputations, with Ribet averaging over 50 with a top score of 56 and Hungerford averaging 37 with a top score of 69 this season.

Mick Tarrant started proceedings and with his second ball removed the dangerous Ribet with an outrageous delivery that swung away and then seamed back in to strike the pads in front. 1-0 in the first over. Hungerford played some shots and looked pretty good until the classic Tarrant outswinger caught the edge which flew to Nashyat first slip, who took the first of a number of sharp chances behind the stumps. It more than made up for the chance a couple of overs previous that flew over his shoulder, untroubled by any significant movement of the hands. 2-30 in the 5th, both openers out. A great start.

After 10 overs, Castle Hill was 2 - 59 and travelling fairly comfortably. At this point the game changed radically. It may be coincidence, but the arrival of Tom Robertson, off the bench and onto the turf heralded a seismic shift in momentum. From his position at deep backward square, Tommy somehow orchestrated another piece of Tarrant magic. In his 6th over he extracted a regulation edge to Dawson behind the stumps. But the next delivery was unplayable. The new batter fished at an outswinger that beat the outside edge, then cut back in sharply and removed the off bail. After the match he conceded that he was untroubled by his dismissal as "*there was nothing I could possibly have done"*. Castle Hill 4 - 61 in the 11th over, with Mick Tarrant playing a lone hand, 4 - 18 after 6.

In his next over he picked up his 5th wicket, to an absolute screamer from Wells. Moving like a panther pouncing on an unsuspecting tapir in the South American jungle, Wells managed to hang onto a bullet away to his right at second slip.

By the time Mick Tarrant had finished his spell 8-0-5-21 the contest was more or less over. Castle Hill were 6-77 after 16 overs, with only the impressive Austin, batting at 3, safely in the sheds.

Bachelard and Jason Keane came on to mop up the tail, which they duly managed, sharing the last 5 wickets between them. To round out a very satisfying day, there was one more screamer behind the stumps. Andy Davis clung onto a very sharp edge at gully off the bowling of Keane, moving extremely well to his left. It is highly unusual for there to be 4 genuine edges behind at Camperdown and even more unusual for them all to be caught. A fantastic effort from the cordon.

Castle Hill dismissed in the 22nd over for 96. Of the 9 bowlers available only 4 were required, with an all seam attack doing the job. Thanks to all that played and to all that were available and missed out. A very pleasing response to a disappointing loss the week before.

A final observation. In the ten overs when Tom Robertson was off the field Castle Hill ,scored 2 - 59. The twelve with him on, 8 - 37. Not sure how he managed it from the boundary and with no obvious involvement, but the numbers don't lie.

The Team was (playing 12): – Tom Robertson 6, Andrew Dawson (w) 36*, Paul Nash 13, Dan Turner 6, Craig Kitson 51*, Scott Wells (c) 30*, Andrew Davis 29, Michael Tarrant 29, Andrew Bachelard 6, David Craig 7, Jason Keane, 1, Stuart Ridge dnb

The Result was: –

C.C.N.S.W.: – 8-222 (40 Overs) (C. Kitson 51*; A. Dawson 36*; S. Wells 30*)

Defeated

Castle Hill: - 10-96 (22 Overs) (M. Tarrant 5-21)

By 126 runs

FoW: – 1-25 (T. Robertson); 2-49 (P. Nash); 3-58 (D. Turner); 4-173 (M. Tarrant); 5-180 (A. Bachelard); 6-196 (A. Davis); 7-198 (D. Craig); 8-201 (J. Keane)

The Bowling was: – M. Tarrant 8-0-21-5; S. Ridge 5-0-38-0; A. Bachelard 6-0-21-3; J. Keane 3-0-9-2

The Fielding was: –

Stumpings: – Nil
Catches: – One catch to each of D. Craig, A. Davis, A. Dawson (w), C. Kitson, P. Nash and S. Wells
Run outs: – Nil

Player points (unofficial) -awarded by acclaim: - 3 points to M. Tarrant; 2 points to C. Kitson; 1 point to S. Wells

Scorecard: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/sydney-masters-cricket-season-2425-summer-202425/classics-foxs/game-centre/5f6be490

WEEK TWENTY TWO: SATURDAY 22–SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2025

CLASSICS ROUND 9 v OLD IGNATIANS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2025: REPORT BYANDREW DAVIES

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon Camperdown hosted the CCNSW Classics team on a four day old low and slow pitch which favoured lbws especially playing back! After Scott Wells won the toss and elected to bat, Andrew Dawson quickly raced to 10 off the first over but some gremlins started to appear very early. After a solid start the first of three lbws was given; Dawson was dismissed in the eighth over; Mike Pinter followed soon after being bowled by an in swinging yorker in the 12th over. Paul Nash and Tom Robertson started to rebuild the innings and pushed the score to 56 before the second lbw was given in the 17th over, Nash being dismissed for a hard fought 22.

Robertson and Dan Turner continued to score quickly before Turner departed just after drinks to a spectacular catch at mid-wicket with the score at 4-91. With Robertson in the nervous twenties, Craig Kitson confidently walked out to the middle after scoring 51* in his last innings at Camperdown but was dismissed for 8 when the score was on 104. Thankfully this time Tommy reached 30* and our captain Scott Wells who has been in wonderful form, continued with another fine batting display reaching his 30*, hitting a 6 into the crowd. Mick Tarrant continued to push the score to 151 before being dismissed for a quick fire 14. With the score on 156, a mini collapse:- 2 wickets in 2 balls, Andrew Bachelard clean bowled and Jason Keane who became our third

lbw, were back in the shreds. Tom Robertson returned to the cease on the hat trick, only to punch the ball to the boundary. Unfortunately, in the next over Tommy decided to lose his off stump with 4 overs left. Scott Wells returned to the middle with Andy Davis and pushed the score to 178 when our innings came to a close with two overs left. We were quietly confident but disappointed we didn't bat our 40 overs.

Again, we had 8 genuine bowling options in the line-up for our skipper to choose from with a deteriorating pitch. Tarrant and Bachelard started proceedings with Old Ignatians getting off to a solid start before losing two quick wickets by the ninth over, one to each bowler. Tarrant, after bowling six successive overs and pulling up with a sore elbow, was replaced by Jason Keane who bowled an eventful first over of wides, runs but more importantly a wicket. Bachelard continued to bowl out his eight overs and took the next two wickets both lbw leaving the visitors at 4-57 after 13 overs.

Andy Davis and Jason Keane bowled the remaining overs till drinks leaving Iggy's at 6-87 with one batter in the bank and the game in the balance. The clouds were slowly approaching from the west potentially bringing rain later in the afternoon which could play a part in the result. It was important for the bowlers to get through the next ten overs in quick time and slow the run rate. The wicket was now playing even lower at both ends making it even harder for Dawson who replaced Wells as the wicket keeper for the last twenty overs. Unfortunately, Tarrant didn't return to the field for the last 20 over due to soreness in his bowling arm.

Andy Davis and David Craig continued to keep things tight after drinks while a second Iggy's batter retired on 30* at the completion of the 26th overs at 6-108. Then in the blink of an eye, David Craig in the 27th over turned the game on its head with two wickets in 2 balls leaving Iggy's at 8-113, another lbw given by the umpire, 7 so far in the match.

At the 30th over, our 6th bowler Dan Turner was thrown the ball with immediate impact, trapping their skipper in front, the fifth LBW in their innings and the Cricketers' Club was in a strong position with Iggy's reeling at 9-125 with 10 overs to go and 54 runs to win. The two retired batters returned to the cease in an attempt to win the game for Iggy's in the last 60 balls.

We needed to bowl stump to stump, continue with our excellent ground fielding as the wicket now was becoming even harder to score as more balls were keeping very low. David Craig, Dan Turner and Paul Nash had the task of restricting Iggy's from scoring 54 runs with some outstanding fielding by Dan turner at point cutting off singles and 'Punter 'on the boundary. The clouds were now getting darker; the light was fading ad we were very confident of a quick victory. In the end we kept putting the squeeze on with very tight bowling but we were unable to take that last wicket restricting them to 9-169 and winning by 9 runs before the rain came.

Another great win by the team and a good all-round performance with everyone contributing.

The Team was: - Mike Pinter 8, Andrew Dawson (w) 18, Paul Nash 22, Tom Robertson 35, Dan Turner 8, Craig Kitson 8, Scott Wells (c) and (w) 39, Michael Tarrant 14, Andrew Bachelard 3, Andrew Davis 10*, David Craig 0

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-178 (38 Overs) (S. Wells 39; T. Robertson 35)

Defeated

Old Ignatians CC: - 9-169 (40 Overs)

By 9 runs.

FoW: - 1-25 (A. Dawson); 2-32 (M. Pinter); 3-56 (P. Nash); 4-91 (D. Turner); 5-104 (C. Kitson) 6-151 (M. Tarrant); 7-156 (A. Bachelard); 8-156 (J. Keane); 9-161 (T. Robertson); 10-178 (S. Wells).

The Bowling was: - M. Tarrant 6-2-21-1; A. Bachelard 8-0-28-3; J. Keane 4-0-25-1; A. Davis 6-2-16-1; D. Craig 8-0-34-2; D. Turner 6-0-20-1 ; P. Nash 2-0-13-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - One to A. Dawson

Catches: - Nil

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by umpire): - 4 points to **;** 3 points to ; 2 points to ; one point to

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/sydney-masters-cricket-season-2425-summer-202425/classics-foxs/game-centre/b7b514d1**

And an unofficial variant match report on the same game produced by observer Mile Weaver

CCNSW Classics v Old Ignatians Classics. Sunday, 23 February 2025, at Camperdown Park, Camperdown. Sydney Masters Cricket Association – Classics Over 50's. Round 9. Report by Michael Weaver.

CCNSW defend final wicket partnership to secure a close win

Tom Robertson and Scott Wells lead with the bat, Andrew Bachelard removes three of the top six batters, as CCNSW see off their very persistent opponents

CCNSW all out 178, 38 overs (Wells 39; Robertson 35, Nash 22, Dawson, 18, Inn 3-25) beat Old Ignatians 9-169, 40 overs (Toal 58*, Geyer 49* Bachelard 3-28, Craig 2-34)*

CCNSW were left somewhat relieved to secure the competition points after enduring a bold undefeated last wicket partnership of 48, hat threatened to steal the game from their grasp. After Daniel Turner had trapped Peter Thomas lbw in the 30th over, the two Ignatians batting retirees, Michael Toal and Steve Geyer, batted with determination right to the end, their team finally falling short by only 9 runs.

Electing to bat first, skipper Wells was forced to downgrade his initial expectation score of 220 plus, to one closer to 180 as being more satisfactory. Facing an accurate bowling attack that never wilted throughout, the CCNSW batters eventually scrambled to 178 all out, thanks mainly to the captain himself recording a breezy 39 runs to lift his side, after a total closer to 150 seemed more likely.

The pitch was greatly assisted full stump to stump bowling, as most balls kept low and some were indifferent in pace off the surface, making it difficult for batters to hit through the line with any confidence. Notably, fifteen of the nineteen wickets to fall on the day were either as bowled or lbw.

Earlier, openers Mike Pinter and Andrew Dawson had provided a solid start for the home side, with Paul Nash and Tom Robertson batting fluently to bring the score to 56, until Nash was out lbw sweeping. CCNSW seemed still to be in a sound position as Robertson retired on 30*, then went on a slippery slide from 3 for 91, to be 8 -156 as the run rate was stifled. Another 22 were then added in quicker fashion, although twelve balls were wasted, due to the team failure to bat out the full quota of 40 overs.

Accurate bowling that would match the opposition's effort was required and new ball pair Bachelard and Mick Tarrant did not disappoint their teammates. The score became a very favourable 5 for 57 when Bachelard took his third wicket, bowling the dangerous Nick Garling in the 14th over. David Craig and Andrew Davis then continued to tighten the screws as they combined to produce three more wickets in the middle overs. Jason Keane was initially erratic, before settling into his normal line and length, to contribute taking a vital wicket.

Thereafter, Dan Turner, who grabbed a late 'pole' and Paul Nash kept their nerve at the death, bowling diligently to expert defensive fields set by Wells, to sufficiently repel the final threat posed.

WEEK TWENTY FOUR: THURSDAY 6 MARCH–SUNDAY 9 MARCH 2025

CCNSW CLASSICS ROUND 10 v SRI LANKA LIONS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 9 MARCH 2025: REPORT BY SCOTT WELLS

After a week of predicted rain, it turned out to be a pretty good weekend with no rain at all on Sunday and only passing sprinkles on Saturday. The Saturday game produced a 110 vs 120 game so it was expected to be a pitch "with a bit in it". It did have a green tinge but seemed firm enough to not play a big part in the game.

The toss was won by Sri Lankan Lions – whom CCNSW have never beaten in a Classic match since their inception. Their regular skipper was not playing and they had been beaten in the round prior so big things were expected.

Lions sent CCNSW in with Mike Pinter and Andrew Dawson opening the batting. The first couple of overs seamed around a bit with both openers going cheaply, and bring Paul Nash and Tom Robertson in early. 'Nashy' looked ever so confident yet cautious and Tommy looked like Tommy – adjudged in front falling lbw – 3 for 13. Scott Wells came in at No. 5 starting confidently getting a few away but that bought along another wicket caught at slip – 4 for 22 but we progressed to 4 for 78 at drinks which was a good result on a difficult wicket.

From the early setbacks it would have been easy to fall into a hole but our depth came into play batting extremely well with Nashy, Dan Turner and Craig Kitson showing what we are capable of; - taking it to the opposition, waiting for the right ball to put away and seeing off the danger – all retiring getting 3 'in the bank' with over 10 overs remaining.

It was important we capitalised from this turn around, and seek 180 or so which would have been a winning score. However, apart from Mick Tarrant, the lower order didn't quite keep the momentum going. Our retiree Nash returned with under 3 overs to go but we still made a defendable total of 162 after the allotted 40 overs.

Welcome Clinton Palmer as our debutant opening bowler. Clinton (from WA) first played for CCNSW on the West Indies tour (with Craig Kitson) back in 1996 and then again with Scott Wells in 2011. He also played in our Australia Day 2020 tour of Perth. Mick Tarrant and Clinton opened the bowling and bowled very good lines and length – Mick was rewarded early getting an opener cheaply and Clinton was very unlucky in his 5 over spell. But after 11 overs the runs were dry but we only had SLL one down so a change was required. Enter Andy Bachelard with immediate impact - first ball wicket.

That bought in the dangerous Ingram but a trap was set at deep square leg which he favours. The next 4 SLL batters were all quality who could take the game away from us. Ingram – after a few lusty blow fell to the trap – Mike Pinter hiding under the fig trees with an excellently judged catch off Bachelard. "Bach" picked up another wicket which meant their danger men were at the crease - these guys saw off to drinks to put SLL at almost the exact score at the interval.

The equation was about 5 runs an over for the last 20 overs. Both batters went well against Bachelard and David Craig, Bach (bowled one over too many) retired with plenty of time left in the innings. It looked a massive task for CCNSW to either defend the total or take wickets at this point. Their fifth wicket didn't fall until they were on 126 with around 4 an over to win. With two batters in the bank, it seemed a forgone conclusion with SLL batting sensibly and picking off the runs.

Dan Turner was bought on from the café end to dry up the runs, bowling in tandem with Craig Kitson who cashed in from the Rotunda end, taking another wicket bowled. But with Labrooy still present and two retirees coming back, SLL still were favourites. Dan Turner took a screamer caught and bowled (much to the relief of the umpire who would have worn it between the eyes) leaving SLL 30 runs 3 wickets and plenty of overs.

“Kitso” got the number 11 stumped by Dawson, which brought back retiree Matthew Turner. He returned and was sent straight back lbw to Kitson! All of a sudden they needed 27 runs with only one wicket remaining and their captain and their number 10 batter, Boyd Parsons at the crease. Fields were set to get Boyd Parsons on strike vs Kitso but both batters plugged away, getting runs all around the ground – Parsons getting Kitso away over square legs head for a boundary – only 5 runs to get.

Kitso bowled the same ball - full toss on leg stump (OMG; WTF; FMD) and a leading edge went to Mick Tarrant at square leg who juggled the straight forward catch four times in a “win for the ages”.

Kitso finishing off an absolute master class with 30* and 5 for 19.

The Team was (playing 12: - Mike Pinter 2, Andrew Dawson (w) 0, Paul Nash 38*, Tom Robertson 3, Scott Wells (c) 7, Dan Turner 32*, Craig Kitson 30* ret, Mike Tarrant 10, Andrew Bachelard 0, Andrew Davies 10, David Craig 13 and Clinton Palmer dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 8-162 (40 overs) (P. Nash 38*; D. Turner 32*; C. Kitson 30* ret not out)

Defeated

Sri Lanka Lions: - 10-157 (37.5 overs) (C. Kitson 5-19)

By 5 runs

FoW: 1-3 (A. Dawson); 2-4 (M. Pinter); 3-13 (T. Robertson); 4-22 (S. Wells); 5-116 (.M. Tarrant); 6-117 (A. Bachelard); 7-143 (A. Davis); 8-160 (D. Craig).

The Bowling was: - M. Tarrant 6-0-17-1; C. Palmer 5-1-10-0; A. Davis 4-0-20-0; D. Craig 3-0-19-0; D. Turner 6-1-19-1; C. Kitson 5.5-1-19-5

The Fielding was: –

Stumpings: – One to A. Dawson

Catches: – Nil

Run outs: – Nil

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/sydney-masters-cricket-season-2425-summer-202425/classics-foxs/game-centre/5730537d**

WEEK TWENTY SIX: SATURDAY 22 MARCH – SUNDAY 23 MARCH 2025

CCNSW CLASSICS ROUND 11 v ROSEVILLE AT ROSEVILLE CHASE , ON SUNDAY 23 MARCH 2025: REPORT BY TOM ROBERTSON

Inclement weather put the game in jeopardy but the determined Scott Wells and some good work from Roseville got us a little known small synthetic ground in the Lindfield backwaters. Ian Allmey suggested that 40m boundary may give some of us an opportunity to hit a six.

A minutes silence was kept for Adrian Schwager whom passed away during the week and was a well known and liked player amongst the over 50s.

Wells lost the toss and out we went to field on a moist but playable field and pitch. Stuart Ridge and Sherville ("Wes") Hall opened the bowling and kept it tight. They looked to get after Wes but he kept his nerve to get the first wicket. Clinton Palmer came on and was hampered by the front foot slippage. Luckily there were no torn hamstrings.

Tight bowling and defensive batting had us in a good position. Jason Keene bowled a cracking length and was the destroyer of the day claiming 3 wickets. The big opening left hander was the danger; we didn't want to give him too much airtime. He came back out and slapped a few around including one into Wells' car. Wells had deliberately moved his car into a safer position but the hit went over the high fence and trees to give the Discovery a solid whack. Testimony to the solidness of the car it showed no signs of the impact. Looks like a great car the 2025 Discovery.

Out we went for the chase with Mike Pinter and Andrew Dawson. "Punts" went for a second ball duck as he was day dreaming about the release of 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'. The opposition saw weakness in the Dawson pull shot and attacked it relentlessly. The weakness must appear after he is 30 as he retired after a spotless dig. Paul Nash hit some clean ball straight down the ground until falling short of his 30. Tom Robertson came out and enjoyed the synthetic and hit a 6 to keep Ian Allmey quiet. Dan Turner was clinical in his 30*. Jason Keene was very excited to use his new bat and show us that he is a middle order bat to be reckoned with. As David Craig said, he preserved his bat's status as brand new by not hitting the ball and was adjudged lbw for a golden duck. Still plenty of runs in that new bat. Andrew Bachelard shrugged off his bad run and got to 30* at the same time we passed the Roseville total.

Few beers shared and then off to the pub for a few yarns and fond farewells for the season.

Special thanks to Ian Allmey, David Craig and Mike Weaver for coming down and supporting the lads.

The Team was: - Andrew Dawson (w) 33* ret not out, Mike Pinter 0, Paul Nash 23, Tom Robertson 30* ret not out, Dan Turner 30* ret not out, Scott Wells (c) 5, Andrew Bachelard 30* ret not out, Jason Keene 0, Sherville Hall 8*, Stuart Ridge dnb, Clinton Palmer dnb

The Result was: -

Roseville CC : - 10-168 (39.3 overs)

Was defeated by

C.C.N.S.W.: - 4-170 (32.4 overs)

By 6 wickets

FoW: 1-10 (M. Pinter); 2-45 (P. Nash); 3-113 (S. Wells); 4-135 (J. Keane)

The Bowling was: - S. Ridge 7-0-29-1; S. Hall 7.3-0-45-3; C. Palmer 8-3-21-2; A. Bachelard 8-1-32-0; J. Keane 8-0-31-3; D. Turner 1-0-9-0

The Fielding was: –

Stumpings: – Nil

Catches: – One to A. Dawson (w) and one to each of A. Bachelard, M. Pinter and D. Turner

Run outs: – One to P. Nash

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/sydney-masters-cricket-season-2425-summer-202425/classics-foxs/game-centre/35aa2a8e**