CCNSW VINTAGE MATCH REPORTS 2024-2025 SEASON

WEEK TWO: SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2024

VINTAGE ROUND 1 v SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2024

Cancelled by rain

WEEK FIVE: SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER 2024

VINTAGE ROUND 2 v SRI LANKA LIONS AT WOODLANDS OVAL, WILBERFORCE ON SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER 2024: REPORT BY STUART RIDGE

Back: Garry James, Gerard O'Shea, Mick McCormick, Stuart Ridge (c), David Craig, Greg Brooks
Front: Peter Rolls, David Glen, Ed Cross, John Finucane (w), Sittampalam Ragavan

With the first round being washed out, our first hit out of the new season was a long trip to Wilberforce to take on Sri Lanka Lions.

The Sri Lankans won the toss and put us in on a slow track. Vintage debutant Ed Cross joined Gerry O'Shea at the top of the order and runs were hard to come by against a tight opening attack. The change bowlers provided a few more scoring opportunities but a solid opening partnership of 46 was broken when Gerry was bowled for 16 in the 16th over.

President Greg Brooks was sent in to pick up the run rate and looked to be getting into gear when his innings was cut short by a direct hit run out leaving us 2-58 at drinks with a good second half required.

Ed Cross retired shortly after for a well-made 30 and Mick McCormick joined Peter Rolls. They both made starts but fell looking for the needed acceleration with Sittampalam Ragavan ('Raga') then bowled taking us into the last 10 overs at 3-92.

David Craig joined Garry James and they started to up the tempo of the innings before Garry was stumped for 16. David Glen then expertly rotated the strike and David Craig struck a couple of timely boundaries until being undone by another smart run out.

The Sri Lankans protected the boundaries well as the innings ended in a flurry of singles to eke out a total of 148 (later topped up by a 5 run penalty for a Lions batter running on the wicket).

It was a familiar scenario where we successfully defended a number of middling totals last season. Greg Brooks got an early breakthrough swinging one back through the gate and skipper Stuart Ridge bowled tightly passing the bat a number of times with no luck. David Craig then threw down the stumps for a run out as the Lions reached 2-33 after 10.

Garry James battling a painful shoulder put in his usual miserly shift and Ed Cross suffered a couple of dropped catches before making a couple of vital breakthroughs to prevent two set bats reaching retirement.

Sri Lanka were 4-70 after 22 overs and we were still very much in the game but two Cricketers' Club alumni, Richie De Silva and Wasantha Hettiarachchi ('Wasa'), with a 50 run partnership in the next 12 overs, tipped the match in their favour.

A tidy spell from Raga including the wicket of good mate Wasa helped maintain some pressure and Richie's retirement brought two new bats to the crease with 33 needed off 8 overs.

The skipper and The President returned to the attack but after a tight couple of overs the Lions were able to break the shackles and pass our total with a couple of overs to spare.

A tough start against a very good side but definitely a missed opportunity to get our title defence off to a good start. A below par total, some rustiness in the bowling, uncharacteristic misfields and dropped catches not helped by a number of niggles and injuries – room for improvement in all departments.

The Team was: - Gerard O'Shea 16; Ed Cross 30* ret not out, Greg Brooks 8, Peter Rolls 13, Mick McCormick 15, Garry James 16, Sittampalam Ragavan 2, David Craig 22, David Glen 8*, John Finucane (w) 5* and Stuart Ridge (c) dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 7-153 (40 Overs) (E. Cross 30*)

Lost to

Sri Lanka Lions CC: - 5-156 (37.4 Overs)

By 5 wickets.

FoW: - 1-46 (G. O'Shea); 2-56 (G. Brooks); 3-82 (P. Rolls); 4-90 (M. McCormick); 5-92 (S. Ragavan); 6-118 (G. James); 7-136 (D. Craig).

The Bowling was: - S. Ridge 7-1-25-0; G. Brooks 5.4-0-27-1; G. James 7-2-20-0; E. Cross 7-1-25-2; D. Craig 4-0-23-0; S. Ragavan 6-0-21-1; M. McCormick 1-0-11-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to D. Craig

Run outs: - One to D. Craig

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

Scorecard: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/vintage-summer-202425/vintage/game-centre/489faec5

WEEK SEVEN: SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2024

VINTAGE ROUND 3 v BURWOOD/STRATHFIELD AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2024: REPORT BY STUART RIDGE

Skipper Stuart Ridge won the toss and sent Burwood in on a warm and muggy day at Camperdown which didn't quite hit the forecast 30C degrees.

Runs were hard to come by on a slow low wicket with little to excite either team. Stuart Ridge, Sittampalam Ragavan ("Raga") and Joe Scarcella all had a turn with the new ball giving little away. The score had moved uneventfully to 22 in the 8th over when the Burwood openers chose the wrong person to chance a quick single to - Dan Pellen picking up where he left off as last season's star fielder, with a smart stop and sharp return on his knees to leave the Burwood batter stranded.

Garry James replaced Raga getting into his rhythm after a couple of overs to pick up the Burwood skipper lbw. Next over Dan Pellen was in the game again taking a diving catch off Joe at short cover to leave them 3-43 after 14 with only another 10 added before drinks.

David Craig and David Glen resumed after the break but with a couple of catches going down, we were unable to break the next partnership. However, despite having batters set and wickets in hand, Burwood struggled to pick up the pace - still only 3-89 going into the last 10 overs. With the two set batters retiring, Stuart ridge returned to the attack, picked up the 4th wicket and tied up one end while Gerry O'Shea and Raga bowled tidily to close things out at the other for a final Burwood total of 4-131.

Raga, promoted to give the innings some early impetus and Gerry O'Shea were quickly out the blocks in reply with some early boundaries but both fell inside 5 overs to leave us at 2-21.

Peter Rolls (21) and Dan Pellen (27) then built a steady partnership of 48 but both were dismissed short of retirement either side of drinks to give Burwood some hope of applying some pressure at 4-80 after 21 overs. We were lucky it wasn't 3 quick wickets as Greg Brooks chipped his first ball straight down the throat of a deepish mid-off only for him to spill a regulation catch. The Burwood body language showed they knew it was a critical moment. Sure enough a typical muscular knock from the President, with four 4s and a towering six to take him to 33* retired off 26 balls, pretty much ended the game as a contest, leaving 21 required off 13 overs.

David Glen, ably supported from the other end, finished 21* but David Craig was bowled trying to finish things off with a boundary, leaving Joe Scarcella to complete a comfortable chase in the 35th over.

A low key win with the depleted bowling attack lacking its usual penetration but containing Burwood to a below par total and the chase made a lot easier with the first ball reprieve to the President.

The Team was: - Sittampalam Ragavan 8, Gerard O'Shea 13, Peter Rolls 21, David Pellen 27**,** Greg Brooks 33* ret not out, David Glen 21*, David Craig 6, Joe Scarcella 4, Garry James dnb, Bala Vickneswaran (w) dnb and Stuart Ridge (c) dnb,

The Result was: -

Burwood/Strathfield CC: - 4-131 (40 Overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 5-134 (34.4 Overs) (G. Brooks 33* ret not out)

By 5 wickets.

FoW: - 1-16 (S. Ragavan); 2-21 (G. O'Shea); 3-69 (D. Pellen); 4-80 (P. Rolls); 5-129 (D. Craig).

The Bowling was: - S. Ridge 7-0-12-1; S. Ragavan 6-1-18-0; J. Scarcella 7-2-17-1; G. James 7-1-19-1; D. Craig 4-0-21-0; D. Glen 4-1-12-0; G. O'Shea 5-0-23-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to D. Pellen

Run outs: - One to D. Pellen

Player points (awarded by umpire): - 4 points to G. Brooks**;** 3 points to D. Pellen; 2 points to Burwood; one point to Burwood

Scorecard: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/vintage-summer-202425/vintage/game-centre/12cdbd7a

WEEK NINE: SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2024

VINTAGE ROUND 4 v ASHFIELD DE LA SALLE OLD BOYS AT RON ROUTLEY OVAL, CONCORD ON SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2024: REPORT BY MICK McCORMICK

Rep tournaments were cutting a swathe of injury through the Cricketers' Club Vintage ranks as they lined up to take on the De La Salle Old Boys at Ron Routley Oval in Concord. A large squabble of seagulls occupied most of the ground.

Captain Stuart Ridge back from 'Bris Vegas had extra recruiting duties prior to the clash. President Brooks took on the captaincy and it fitted like an old shoe. The stand in captain won the toss deciding to bat despite the prospect of afternoon thunderstorms that will generally favour the side batting second.

Established opener Gerry O'Shea strode to the crease with a confident Ajoy Roy who had sweetly timed many a ball in his extensive pre batting routine. The sweet timing however deserted Ajoy like a Pennsylvanian democrat voter, resulting in a second ball capitulation.

Enter Joe Scarcella controlling his innings whilst playing some delightfully timed leg side shots to the boundary. The running between wickets however resembled a group of highly myxomatosed rabbits under a shooter's spotlight…. taking off in a panic one way…. before reversing in a similar panic the other way. Finally, Joe in an effort to increase the run rate lifted the head far beyond the horizontal resulting in a stump splattering.

Captain Brooks joined O'Shea, and both were looking as comfortable as a T shirt and trackies until a well fielded ball by the bowler had Captain Brooks bounding down the wicket for a single unable to reverse, resulting in a wasteful run out.

Mick McCormick joined Gerry and making it to drinks became a mantra. After drinks Mick got a ball that would not have registered on any speed gun as it mullygrubbed onto his right heel. It looked so pathetic the umpire was obliged to raise the finger for lbw.

All eyes were then on Gerry after he had got through his "*highway to the danger zone*" scores of 14-19. He played well to put the first brick in the wall retiring on 30*.

David Craig and John Finucane then put the match winning partnership together with deft touch and timely aggression upping the run rate to over 5 an over. The marriage ended with Finucane going for 28 and Captain Stu's dual scoring project collapsing into chaos in sideline frustration. Channeling Marcus Stoinis a few balls later David Craig over reversed a reverse sweep flailing the stumps and bails in all directions…out for 27…Captain Stu's scoring pencil broke…the laptop flickered in disbelief and solids turned to gas.

Mel Lucas accustomed to avalanches and other mountainous tumult headed out to calm the proceedings. However firstly there was the ignominious welcome granted to debutant Rathesh Siva …..run out without facing a ball …Mel then pushed the calm button building an invaluable innings with the required timely aggression. Paul Georgiadis added some valuable runs resulting in a final score of 9-154. An excellent second 20 overs putting on 100 on a large and slow outfield.

With the 'three musketeer' main bowlers Stuart Ridge, Garry James and Greg Brooks carrying injuries, Mick McCormick and Paul Georgiadis opened up and kept the score relatively tight with a number of lbw appeals failing to get the desired result. Paul then picked up the captain at backward square.

Joe Scarcella bowled some good balls. The aggressive De la Salle number 3 got some boundaries early but then had a senior's moment running himself out in a sacrificial offering.

Rathesh Siva got into a rhythm bowling a very solid 7 overs picking up a wicket with Paul Georgiadis taking a one-handed screamer ala Aussie rules player Josh Daicos; he was looking all at sea at deep mid-off until his golden arm hoisted skywards to pluck the ball from obscurity. The feat couldn't be repeated later when the dark trees, age and a well struck shot evaded the same magic limb.

David Craig got straight on a length and frustrated the bejesus out of the batsman. It was a fantastic spell ably supported by Sittampalam Ragavan at the other end once the expunging of the vin rouge from his family lunch had occurred. There was a memorable bowling of one of his victims. The awkwardness of the shot led some to surmise that the batsman may also have been partaking in Raga's lunch.

Joe Scarcella took a very well-judged high ball catch at a longish mid-wicket off David Craig, very valuable in the circumstances. Ajoy Roy threw down his leggie /wrongun combination to continue the spin work of David Craig and last but not least Gerry O'Shea bowled the last over grabbing a wicket as a bonus. Successfully defending the 154 runs by 15 runs.

All in all a very good team effort in view of the absentees.

The Team was: – Gerard O'Shea (30*), Ajoy Roy (0), Joe Scarcella (18), Greg Brooks (c) (5), Mick McCormick (5), David Craig (27), John Finucane (w) (28), Mel Lucas (26), Rathesh Siva (0), Sittampalam Ragavan (1), Paul Georgiadis (4*).

The Result was: –

C.C.N.S.W.: – 9-154 (40 Overs) (G. O'Shea 30*)

Defeated

DLSOB CC: – 8-139 (40 Overs) (S. Ragavan 3-33)

By15 runs.

FoW: – 1-0 (A. Roy); 2-42 (J. Scarcella); 3-50 (G. Brooks); 4-61 (M. McCormick); 5-122 (J. Finucane); 6- 122 (D. Craig); 7-125 (S. Ragavan); 8-127 (R. Siva); 9-154 (M. Lucas).

The Bowling was: – M. McCormick 7-1-20-0,P. Georgiadis 5-0-22-1, R. Siva 7-2-18-1, J. Scarcella 3-0-9-0, D. Craig 7-2-20-1, S. Ragavan 7-2-33-3, A. Roy 3-0-11-0, G. O'Shea 1-0-3-1

The Fielding was: –

Stumpings: – Nil
Catches: – M. McCormick 1, P. Georgiadis 1, J.Scarcella 1.
Run outs: – One-O'Shea / Finucane
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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/vintage-summer-202425/vintage/game-centre/2a20ffbe**

WEEK TWELVE: SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 2024

VINTAGE ROUND 5 – vs INGLEBURN AT MEMORIAL PARK, INGLEBURN ON SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 2024 – REPORT BY PETER ROLLS

We arrived at Memorial Park with the sun blazing at 28°C ambient and enough humidity to fester a jockstrap. Luckily by the time we started play the wind had come up to give us some relief like the air released from a bloated belly.

Stuart Ridge lost the toss and Ingleburn sent us in on a dry but well grassed pitch. Amazing that the pitch was dry considering the 20mm of rain we had the day before. Credit to the ground staff for doing a great job with the covers. However, after a couple of overs it was as obvious as a bad haircut that the pitch was two paced with some balls flying high to the keeper and others keeping low.

Sittampalam Ragavan ("Raga") and Gerry O'Shea got us off to a steady start negotiating the variability until the 7th over where their main opening bowler trapped Raga lbw with one that shot through low (1/16). Gerry and Peter Rolls saw through the difficult spell from the opening bowlers and were gradually ramping up the runs until the 16th over where Gerry opening up his shoulders was well caught at mid-wicket. (2/42).

Peter Rolls and Greg Brooks found their loopy bowler Kesara harder to judge than a wet T shirt competition with the variable speed of the ball off the pitch with Greg succumbing in the first over after drinks (21st) to a magnificent diving forward catch at deep mid-on by Ashok Pieris (who played keeper a couple of times for us in our early Vintage competition days). (3/60).

Peter and Dan Pellen started to take some risks to try and step up the run rate which paid off with Peter retiring at 30.* Dan and Mick McCormick combined with Mick getting the first boundary of the day on the slow and big outfield thick with well-kept Kikuyu. Mick fell soon after (26th over) to an easy caught and bowled with the ball hitting high on his bat. (4/83).

Dan Pellen and Garry James continued to pressure the fielders. Garry tried valiantly to keep up with Dan's running but holed out in the 30th over to take a breather. (5/109). Dan and David Glen were like rabbits scurrying anytime the ball hit the bat and Dan retired at 31* for a well struck innings and using his feet to the slow bowlers.

With two in the shed and the 32nd over, Joe Scarcella was instructed to go out to the centre with all guns blazing. So much so that somehow the ball looked like it burnt through his swinging bat to be bowled first ball. (6/119). David Glen and John Finucane continued the fast running between wickets which was miraculous considering John has two relatively new knees. David departed lbw in the 36th over giving us a respectable score. (7/134).

Finucane and Stuart Ridge made it even more respectable getting us to 150 in the 38th over before Stuart was caught at deep mid-wicket. (8/151). John and returning Peter Rolls slapped 10 off the last over to get us a total of 163 which would have been worth over 200 at Camperdown.

Ingleburn put on a very healthy afternoon tea but Garry James was "not happy Jan" as no donuts (like he was used to bringing to Camperdown) or tea. Also he was just back from a 2 week cruise and judging by his extra few kilos there must have been plenty of donuts on that boat.

Stuart Ridge got us off to a flyer nipping the ball back on his third ball to bowl their opener and doing it again on the last ball of his second over to have 2 for 0 to remove their number 3. Mick McCormick at the other end, chimed in on his 3rd over to remove the other opener with an easy catch to John behind the stumps.(3/7).

Then Ridge struck again in his 4th over knocking over their number 5. All three batters dismissed with the ball hitting the top of off stump. (4/8). Mick on his second ball in his 5th and final over had assistance from Sittampalam Ragavan with his second wicket caught at mid-wicket after his first ball wide was stopped by Greg Brooks at first slip! (5/16)

Joe Scarcella replaced Stuart to instant effect on his second delivery with David Glen taking an easy catch at point. (6/25).

Garry James replaced Mick and in his 4th over their batter Ashok, who was looking comfortable smashed a short ball outside off stump straight to Peter Rolls at short cover at head high which deflected off his raised right hand and then rebounded off his melon to then grab it one handed as it was about to fall to the ground. The perfect Falcon! (7/29).

Garry hungry for more wickets in his 6th over had a slog sweep go straight down David Glen's throat at deep mid-wicket but still a very well judged and devoured catch. After his 7th and final over Garry was again hungry but this time would have given anything for a donut. (8/42).

David Glen replaced Garry and was straight away he was on line and rewarded second ball with an lbw. (9/46).In David's next over Glen and Finucane put the cream on top with a slick run out with the batter trying for a second on Dan's arm…a blob of a mistake! (10/47).

A comprehensive bowling and fielding display earned an early drink. Well done fellas.

The Team was (playing 11): Sittampalam Ragavan 9, Gerard O'Shea 21, Peter Rolls 33*, Greg Brooks 9, Joe Scarcella 0, Daniel Pellen 31*, Mick McCormick 4, Garry James 9, David Glen 9, John Finucane (w) 20*, Stuart Ridge (c) 6.

The Result was:-

CCNSW 8-163 (P. Rolls 33*, D. Pellen 31*) (40 overs)

Defeated

Ingleburn: – 10-47 (28 0vers) (S. Ridge 3-8)

By 116 runs

FoW: – 1-16 (S. Ragavan); 2-42 (G. O'Shea); 3-59 (G. Brooks); 4-83 (M. McCormick); 5- 109 (G. James); 6-119 (J. Scarcella); 7- 134 (D. Glen); 8- 151 (S. Ridge).

The Bowling was: –: S. Ridge 7-3-8-3; M. McCormick 5-1-10-2; J. Scarcella 5-0-12-1; G. James 7-2-15-2; S. Ragavan 2-1-1-0; D. Glen 2-2-0-1.

The Fielding was: –

Stumpings: – Nil
Catches: – 2 to D. Glen; One to each of J. Finucane (w) and P. Rolls.
Run outs: – D. Pellen to J. Finucane (w)

The player points awarded by the Umpire across both teams were: 4 – S. Ridge; 3 – D. Pellen; 2 – Ingleburn; 1 – P. Rolls

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/vintage-summer-202425/vintage/game-centre/b91d561e**

WEEK THIRTEEN: SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER 2024

VINTAGE ROUND 6 v HUNTER CC AT WATERBOARD OVAL, TORONTO ON SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER 2024: REPORT BY STUART RIDGE

With our second road trip in consecutive weeks, car pools were negotiated for the journey up the M1 to Waterboard Oval. CCNSW won the toss and chose to bat in the hot and humid conditions.

In an effort to get the right balance in the batting order, Dan Pellen joined Gerry O'Shea as his fourth different opening partner this season and they started cautiously on a slow wicket with variable bounce. The score had progressed to 32 in the 9th over when Pellen's good fortune was Gerry's misfortune as the bowler dropped a sharp return catch and deflected the ball onto the stumps for a run out.

Greg Brooks then joined Dan who was looking good for another well made 30 when he was caught in front for 21 in the 13th to leave us 2-42. Greg mixed caution with the odd lusty blow, Mick McCormick started quietly coming home with a wet sail and Joe Scarcella with a well paced innings all compiled their 30s to give us three retired batters in the bank. We had put on 107 for the 3rd wicket when Sittampalam Ragavan was run out after a run a ball 18 in the 36th over.

Garry James (18*) and David Glen (10) then joined forces to put on another 28 before Glen was run out off the last ball for a very defendable total of 4-177.

Stuart Ridge and Paul Georgiadis took the new ball for the Hunter reply and Paul was unlucky not to make his customary early breakthrough when the opener miscued to point for a tricky chance. The miss proved not to be costly as the same batsman then played on trying to force the pace to provide the initial breakthrough in the 6th over.

Paul struck again in the 10th over assisted by the first of a couple of brilliant pieces of fielding from Glen – scooping the ball up diving forward at mid-wicket. This was followed up by a full length diving stop and kneeling return for a run out. Hunter 3-25 from 12.

David Craig who had replaced Stuart was fizzing down some unplayable deliveries then picked up the 4th wicket with a sharp catch at mid-wicket from Raga. He was joined by Garry James getting good flight and turn to strangle any life left in the Hunter innings as they crawled to 34 in the 20th over.

Craig finished with 1-9 from his 7 overs and James was rewarded with a leg before and then took a smart caught and bowled for a return of 2-10 from his 7 overs and the only remaining question was whether we could bowl them out.

'Raga' joined the attack and picked up the 7th with Joe Scarcella taking a one handed catch at mid-wicket and Stuart Ridge came back for a second spell with no-luck at the other end. Mick McCormick and David Glen then closed things out. Mick collected an 8th wicket with Gerry James calm under a spiraling catch at mid-off and David looked dangerous again with no luck as the Hunter innings petered out at 8-84 off their 40 overs.

Another good win and great all round performance to give us four wins on the trot after our opening loss.

The Team was (playing 12): – Gerard O'Shea (11), Dan Pellen (21), Greg Brooks (31* ret), Mick McCormick (30* ret), Joe Scarcella (30* ret), Sittampalam Ragavan (18), Garry James (18*), David Glen (10), John Finucane (w), David Craig, Stuart Ridge (c), Paul .Georgiadis dnb.

The Result was: –

C.C.N.S.W.: – 4-177 (40 Overs) (G. Brooks 31*; M. McCormick 30*; J. Scarcella 30*)

Defeated

Hunter CC: – 8-84 (40 Overs)

By 93 runs.

FoW: – 1-32 (G. O'Shea); 2-42 (D. Pellen); 3-149 (S. Ragavan); 4- 177 (D. Glen).

The Bowling was: – S. Ridge 7-1-12-0, P. Georgiadis 7-1-15-2, D. Craig 7-1-12-1, G. James 7-2-10-2, S. Ragavan 7-0-20-1, D. Glen 3-1-3-0, M. McCormick 2-0-11-1.

The Fielding was: –

Stumpings: – Nil
Catches: – One to each of G. James, G. O'Shea , D. Pellen, S. Ragavan, and J. Scarcella,
Run outs: – D. Pellen/J. Finucane (w/).

Player points (awarded by umpire): – Not received.

Scorecard: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/summer-202425/vintage/game-centre/77565775

WEEK SIXTEEN: SUNDAY 12 JANUARY 2025

VINTAGE ROUND 7 v CASTLE HILL AT CAMPERDOWN PARK, ON SUNDAY 12 JANUARY 2024: REPORT BY GREG BROOKS

With our skipper Stuart Ridge somewhere between Heathrow and Singapore on a Qantas flight, the CCNSW Vintage team returned to Camperdown under the leadership of stand in skipper Greg Brooks. The players turned up for our first game back in the new year ready to deliver a good result for Stu to check when he landed in Singapore.

Electing to bat having won the toss, Gerry O'Shea and Daniel Pellen opened the batting on a slow wicket with occasional grip due to the torrential rain earlier in the week. We were actually very lucky as the weather improved considerably on Saturday and was fine for our game on Sunday. Dan holed out in the covers without troubling the scorers, however Joe Scarcella (19) and Gerry rebuilt the innings with a steady partnership of 38 before another one gripped and took out Joe's pegs.

Peter Rolls (32*) then joined Gerry and another run a ball partnership ensued before Gerry retired for 30*. The stand in skipper then joined Peter and was there for a good time not a long time belting 30* runs (5×4, 1×6) from 11 balls faced. As Castle Hill was a player short, we were rotating our guys for the 11th player. Next man in Mick McCormick (1) called Pete through for a single to backward square and clearly hadn't checked who was fielding there as our David Craig swooped in to run out Mick by a meter!

Garry James (20) lifted the scoring rate with a flurry of boundaries on the short side before holing out looking for another. Peter Rolls retired for a steady 30* after another partnership this time with David Glen (30*).The running between the wickets was a highlight as Peter tried to keep up with our resident whippet. This included two all run fours which Peter thoroughly enjoyed! Sittampalan Ragavan ("Raga") (30*) came in and immediately attacked the tiring bowlers, regularly hitting skyward and surviving any attempt to catch him. David Craig (30*) joined the party hitting straight down the ground and running hard. John Finucane (6*) and a returning Gerry O'Shea saw us to 4-243 from our 40 overs with more retirements than you would find at the local aged care home !

After the tea break and before the start of the Castle Hill innings we observed one minute silence for Jim Hadley who sadly passed away at Christmas. Jim would have been very proud of the way we played today.

Castle Hill came out positively and despite an early wicket to Raga (1-4) quickly raced to 1-45. Raga pulled up quickly chasing a ball with a hamstring issue and was replaced by Ed Cross who had come down from the mountains to act as 12th man. It was great to see Ed back on the field after a troubling few months with back pain. Mick McCormick (2-15) bowled a fine spell from the bowling club end and also delivered a fine misfield next to the entrance gate, an area previously labeled " *McCormick Gully"* after a spectacular tumble in the same place a couple of seasons ago.

Garry James (0-27) was less impressed ! Anyway our fielding improved, the bowlers delivered stump to stump and we soon worked our way through the Castle Hill middle order. Joe Scarcella (3-6), David Glen (1-12) and David Craig (2-0) were way too good for the batters and wrapped up proceedings in the 21st over. All out for 70 (9 wickets) and I must make special mention of John Finucane who kept superbly and took two very fine catches.

An important win with a big boost to our bonus points tally. We now have a three week break before we turn our attention to the Roseville Rogues on Sunday February 2nd. Another must win game.

The Team was (playing 12): – Gerard O'Shea (36*), Dan Pellen (0), Joe Scarcella (19), Peter Rolls (32*), Greg Brooks (c) (30*), Mick McCormick (1), Garry James (20), David Glen (30*), Sittampalam Ragavan (30*), David Craig (30*), John Finucane (w) (6*), (Twelfth man/sub) Ed Cross.

The Result was: –

C.C.N.S.W.: – 4-243 (40 Overs) (G. O'Shea 36*; P. Rolls 32*; G. Brooks 30*; S. Ragavan 30*; D. Craig 30* D. Glen 30*)

Defeated

Castle Hill CC: - all out 70 (20.1 Overs) (J. Scarcella 3-6)

By 173 runs

FoW: – 1-1 (D. Pellen); 2-39 (J. Scarcella); 3-96 (M. McCormick); 4-126 (G. James);

The Bowling was: – M. McCormick 7-1-15-2, S. Ragavan 1-0-4-1, G. James 3-0-27-0, D. Glen 5-2-12-1, J. Scarcella 3.1-1-6-3, D. Craig 1-1-0-2.

The Fielding was: –

Stumpings: – Nil
Catches: – J. Finucane (w) 2; D. Craig 2, G. Brooks 1, D. Pellen 1,.
Run outs: – Nil

Player points (awarded by umpire): – 4 points to Greg Brooks, 3 points to Gerry O'Shea ; 2 points to Joe Scarcella ; one point to David Craig

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/summer-202425/vintage/game-centre/a548467e**

WEEK NINETEEN: SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2025

CCNSW VINTAGE ROUND 8 v THE ROGUES AT THE GLADE, WAHROONGA ON SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2025: REPORT BY STUART RIDGE

CCNSW Vintage travelled to Wahroonga on a warm sunny afternoon to the picturesque Glade. A lush outfield and grassy wicket suggested scoring might be a challenge so the skipper didn't take too much convincing to put the Rogues in after winning the toss.

Captain Stuart Ridge took the new ball with a fit again Ed Cross and both hit a good line and length early. With the Rogues seemingly content just to survive with 4 runs off the first 6 overs, Stuart made an early change giving way to Joe Scarcella. The decision paid immediate dividends with Joe trapping the Gladesville Rogues opener in front with his first delivery.

Ed continued to tie things up from the other end and was finally rewarded with a sharp catch in the gully by Peter Rolls to remove the other opener leaving the Rogues at 2-10 after 10. Joe then picked up his second lbw decision in the following over to bring the competition's leading run scorer, Angus Kingsmill, to the crease.

The captain's game plan had been to come back for a head to head battle with the opposition skipper but Ed completed a tight spell and Joe and Sittampalam Ragavan ("Raga"), replacing Ed Cross, both bowled well to their fields. While the Rogues were able to consolidate through to drinks with no further losses, at 3-42 after 20, they still had a lot of work to do to set a competitive target.

Garry James and Raga resumed the attack after the break and the 4th wicket pair had put on 44 when Raga's nagging off stump line found a thick edge to a diving Greg Brooks for a fine catch to break the partnership. Angus Kingsmill retired in the following over for a measured 30 giving us two fresh batsmen to bowl at.

At this point, the difficult bounce in the wicket and the benefit of keepers wearing helmets were both well demonstrated by John Finucane stopping a couple of rearing leg side deliveries from Raga with his head.

Things then fell away pretty quickly for the Rogues. Garry James pouched a simple return catch. Rathesh Siva, replacing Raga, rattled the stumps with his first ball and then repeated the act in his next over to start with two successive wicket maidens.

The skipper was warming up for a second spell looking to get in on the action but Garry James with some sharp turn trapped the 'godfather' of Masters cricket, Stirling Hamman, in front and Rathesh continued the carnage assisted by a stunning diving catch by David Glen at short mid-wicket.

At 9-61, Angus Kingsmill came back to the crease and Stuart Ridge returned to the attack for the belated captains' showdown. 6 dots left Rathesh to finish things off at the other end with another catch from David Glen, completing a Rogues' collapse of 6 wickets for 8 with remarkable figures of 4.1 overs 4 wickets for 2 runs.

With bonus points on offer for an early finish, President Greg Brooks was sent in with Ed Cross to chase our target of 64. After the bowling plans all clicking into place we were due a mishap and Greg lobbed up a leading edge second ball to give Rogues an early breakthrough.

Ed Cross and Gerry O'Shea moved things along briskly to 1-20 off 4 before Gerry sliced one to slip. Runs continued to flow comfortably with Ed and Peter Rolls putting on another 20 in the next 4 overs before Peter fell to a second catch in the slips to the first ball from their change bowler.

Ed, who had started to open his shoulders, then picked out long on to leave us at 4-41 in the 11th over but with plenty of time to seal the maximum bonus points on offer for a win within 20. David Glen and John Finucane were cautious before Dave cashed in on some loose deliveries with 3 boundaries to finish the game in the 16th over.

Another good all round performance with everyone contributing. Still in touch for an outside chance of a "three-peat" but will need a few results to go our way. Massive game next up against Penrith.

The Team was: - Ed Cross (21), Greg Brooks (0), Gerard O'Shea (8), Peter Rolls (7), David Glen (16*), John Finucane (7*), Joe Scarcella (dub), Garry James (dnb), Sittampalam Ragavan (dnb), Stuart Ridge (dnb), Rathesh Siva (dub)

The Result was:-

The Rogues: - 10- 63 (33.1 overs) (R. Siva 4-2)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - **4-66 (16.1 overs)**

By 6 wickets

FoW: 1-1 (G. Brooks); 2-20 (G. O'Shea); 3-40 (P. Rolls); 4-41 (E. Cross)

The Bowling was: - S. Ridge 4–3-1-0, E. Cross 7-3-5-1, J. Scarcella 6-1-20-2, S' Ragavan 5-0-14-1, G. James 7-2-21-2, R. Siva 4.1-2-2-4

The Fielding was: –

Stumpings: – Nil
Catches: – D. Glen 2, One each to G. Brooks and P. Rolls
Run outs: – Nil

Scorecard: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/summer-202425/vintage/game-centre/934f041f

WEEK TWENTY ONE: SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2025

VINTAGE ROUND 9 v PENRITH AT CAMPERDOWN PARK, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2025: REPORT BY STUART RIDGE

With CCNSW Vintage sitting fifth on the ladder (give or take a few bonus points), one win behind the clubs above including our visitors Penrith, our slim chances of a "3-peat" very much hinged on this game.

Despite some water leakage under the covers causing the abandonment of Saturday's fixture, the wicket had dried well and skipper Stuart Ridge saw no reason not to bat on winning the toss. Ed Cross and Dan Pellen opened up and we got off to a bright start with a couple of early boundaries to Ed. Unfortunately our momentum was checked when Ed played across one to be bowled followed 2 balls later by Peter Rolls injudiciously shouldering arms for the same result. 2-14 after 5 overs.

Gerry O'Shea joined Dan and they patiently accumulated against some tight Penrith bowling before Dan was stumped trying to accelerate to leave us 3-33 in the 12th over.

The change bowling didn't let up with the legendary Ken Hall coming into the attack. With runs hard to come by, Mick McCormick was yorked in the 16th over and Greg Brooks joined Gerry to steer us through to drinks at 4-55. Greg and Gerry continued watchfully with Gerry reaching his 30* to retire in the 28th over – importantly seeing off the best of the Penrith bowling.

At 4-77 and third and fourth change bowlers entering the attack, a defendable total was still possible with a good finish to the innings, the President well established and the attack minded Garry James joining him at the crease. However, it was this point we decided to deliver our traditional once in a season batting collapse. Garry O'Shea took an ugly swipe to be bowled and Greg Brooks got an unfortunate lbw decision shortly after.

Further scoreboard pressure built and the innings stalled resulting in 2 suicidal run outs and a couple of skied catches as we limped to 91 all out in the 38th over – a painful capitulation of 6-14 over 10 overs.

Stuart Ridge and Ed Cross took the new ball as Penrith started their reply but were unable to get the required early breakthroughs.

Mick McCormick took over in the 9th over and picked up a wicket straight away with a screamer of a catch by a diving Dan Pellen at extra cover. Penrith – 1-22. Mick and Joe Scarcella had short spells with no further luck as Penrith patiently ground out 1-55 at drinks with no urgency to go for bonus points.

Spin twins Garry James and David Craig continued to keep things tight but wickets were required. David finally made a deserved breakthrough and with returning Stuart Ridge made them battle for the final runs (13 off 9 overs) but with wickets in hand the result was never really in doubt and a comfortable victory was completed by Penrith in the 36th over.

A good all round bowling effort on a slow low wicket hinted that given a few more runs we may have made a game of it. With Sri Lankan Lions also losing, another close fought season looks like going to the wire with Penrith, Southern Highlands and Georges River all still in contention.

The Team was (playing 12): – Ed Cross 11, Daniel Pellen 12, Peter Rolls 0, Gerard O'Shea 31*, Mick McCormick 3, Greg Brooks 18, Garry James 0, David Glen 0, Joe Scarcella 4, David Craig 2, John Finucane (w) 0 and Stuart Ridge (c) dnb

The Result was: –

C.C.N.S.W.: – 10-91 (37.4 Overs)

Lost to

Penrith: - 2-92 (35.2 Overs)

By 8 wickets

FoW: – 1-14 (E. Cross); 2-14 (P. Rolls); 3-33 (D. Pellen); 4-42 (M. McCormick); 5-77 (G. James); 6-80 (G. Brooks); 7-83 (D. Glen); 8-89 (D. Craig); 9-89 (J. Scarcella); 10-91 (J. Finucane).

The Bowling was: – S. Ridge 7-2-18-0; E. Cross 7-0-16-0; M. McCormick 4.2-1-12-1; J. Scarcella 3-1-9-0; G. James 7-2-18-0; D. Craig 7-2-15-1.

The Fielding was: –

Stumpings: – Nil
Catches: – One each to D. Pellen and D. Glen
Run outs: – Nil

Player points (awarded by umpire): – 4 points to Penrith**;** 3 points to Penrith; 2 points to Penrith; one point to G. O'Shea

Scorecard: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/summer-202425/vintage/game-centre/3986b842

WEEK TWENTY THREE: THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY–SUNDAY 2 MARCH 2025

VINTAGE ROUND 10 v BALMAIN/SOUTH SYDNEY AT JUBILEE OVAL, GLEBE ON SUNDAY 2 MARCH 2025: REPORT BY STUART RIDGE

With the skipper sucked into the Rozelle interchange black hole and emerging in Drummoyne, stand-in Joe Scarcella lost the toss and Balmain elected to make first use of a very worn out looking wicket at Jubilee Park.

Stuart Ridge arrived in time to take the new ball with Paul Georgiadis, who maintained his uncanny knack of taking early wickets when the opening bat deftly guided his first delivery into John Finucane's gloves.

Stuart was dotting up his end and Paul's flight and length continued to bamboozle with the other opener groping forward to fall to a neat stumping by John followed by a skied catch to Joe Scarcella in the covers. Paul was very unlucky not to be awarded another stumping after another smart piece of work from John in his next over but picked up his fourth wicket two balls later with a return catch to leave Balmain reeling at 4-24 after 10. The contentious (from my viewpoint at mid-off) stumping call unfortunately was to deny both Paul and John five dismissals on the day.

Joe Scarcella replaced Stuart and continued to tie up an end with a miserly spell of 0-6 from 6 overs. Garry James picked up where Paul left off with his second ball miscued to Peter Rolls who made good ground at mid-wicket and Balmain limped through to 5-41 at drinks.

David Craig joined Garry after the break and both enjoyed significant turn and variable bounce on the worn wicket. After a number of near misses, David deservedly picked up the next wicket with a thick edge into the big hands of Greg Brooks at slip - 6-47.

Thoughts of an early tea were thwarted by a stubborn seventh wicket stand before Ed Cross induced a nick behind to break the partnership and then bowled the new batter in his next over.

John Finucane continued his fine day throwing down the stumps on an attempted leg bye for his 4th dismissal but the final Balmain pair hung on to take the final total to 9-102.

Peter Rolls and John Finucane opened our reply and had put on 22 reasonably comfortably when Peter (9) drove a return catch to the bowler in the eighth over and a change of pace brought John's downfall stumped for 11.

Gerry O'Shea (17*) and David Glen (32* retired) then put on 46 through to drinks with David in particular cashing in on some erratic change bowling. After David's retirement, Garry James and Greg Brooks both fell quickly putting paid to a quick finish but David Craig (13*) joined Gerry to close things out in the thirtieth over for comfortable win.

The Team was: – Peter Rolls 9, John Finucane (w) 14, David Glen 32* ret, Gerard O'Shea 17*, Garry James 0 , Greg Brooks 2, David Craig 13*, Ed Cross dnb, Joe Scarcella dnb, Stuart Ridge (c) dnb, Paul Georgiadis dnb

The Result was: –

Balmain: - 9-102 (40 Overs) (P. Georgiadis 4-22)

Defeated by

C.C.N.S.W.: – 4 - 103 (30 Overs) (D. Glen 32* ret)

By 6 wickets

FoW: – 1-22 (P. Rolls); 2-30 (J. Finucane); 3-77 (G. James); 4-79 (G. Brooks)/

The Bowling was: – S. Ridge 7-3-10-0; P. Georgiadis 7-1-22-4; J. Scarcella 6-3-6-0; G. James 7-1-22-1; D. Craig 7-1-24-1; E. Cross 6-1-14-2

The Fielding was: –

Stumpings: – One to J. Finucane
Catches: – 2 to J. Finucane (w); 2 to J. Scarcella; one to G. Brooks and P. Rolls.
Run outs: – One to J. Finucane

Player points (awarded by umpire): – 4 points to P. Georgiadis **;** 3 points to Balmain ; 2 points to D. Glen ; one point to Balmain

Scorecard: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/vintage-summer-202425/vintage/game-centre/e84a3e5d

WEEK TWENTY FIVE: WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH – SUNDAY 16 MARCH 2025

CCNSW VINTAGE ROUND 11 v LINDFIELD AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 16 MARCH 2025: REPORT BY DAN PELLEN

CCNSW VINTAGE ROUND 11 v LINDFIELD AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 16 MARCH 2025: REPORT BY DAN PELLEN

After the hottest March night in at least 150 years the Old Men from the Sea (and Mountains) descended slowly but surely upon the hallowed turf of Camperdown Oval for one last contest this season.

With dreams of a threepeat' gone the same way as Greg James' 'Febfast' we took on the Lindfield Lancers in a battle for fifth spot, an honorable position in an expanded league of 14.

The mercury was set to hit the mid 30s with high humidity and there was a collective groan in the dressing room as Stuart ridge gave the news: "We're bowling". And no twelth player to rotate.

We'd heard the wicket was two-paced and Stu was richly rewarded early in the game with a shooter that Australian rep Peter O'Reilly tried to pull but only succeeded in edging onto his wicket. He wasn't happy. Despite bowling well as usual and beating the bat many times, Stu was not to be rewarded again. It turned out to be that sort of season. Lindfield 1-13 in the fifth over. Not to be outdone, youngster Ed Cross found the opposing skipper's edge the next over and stand in keeper Sabaratnam. Thirukumar did the rest: 2-15.

The skipper took himself off and on came our not-so-secret weapon: leading wicket taker for the season and general stirrer – Garry James. With only the occasional erring of length, James tied down one end, bowling out his 7 overs straight for an impressive 7-2-12-1. The other opener lashing out in frustration and a skier fell into the safe hands of Sittampalam Ragavan ("Raga"): 3-34. The new batter entered and shortly after exited as Ed cross again did the double: lbw, 4-36. Ed finished with an equally impressive 7-2-16-2. Raga came on to replace Ed and continued the pressure. At drinks after 20 overs Lindfield were 4-45.

A good first session but the heat was beginning to tell. A few lapses in the field and the odd stray delivery and the fifth wicket stand was slowly building with both batsmen eyeing the bank. Nevertheless, David Craig (with a broken thumb, and coming off a golden duck) replaced James to accompany Raga and continued the pressure with his nagging leggies.

Something had to give, but no-one predicted Mick McCormick bowling arguably the worst overs of this or any Vintage season making the breakthrough with a long hop flayed and well caught by the aforementioned Dave Craig: 5-74. Not to be outdone Dave hit back with an lbw next over: 6-78. With nine overs to go we should have cleaned them up, but the range of factors previously mentioned resulted in a frustrating 2-34. Final score: 8-112.

Mick and Ed couldn't keep out of it and contributed a run out, with the other wicket also a run out – a sprightly Gerry O'Shea returning to Dave Craig. Dave finished with a tidy 7-1-17-1 and Raga 7-1-20-0. Mick contributed and rather untidy 3-0-10-1 and David "Quiet achiever" Glen was unlucky not to pick up a wicket, though he did contribute by dropping a catch off his own bowling.

After the second-best afternoon tea in Vintage (first place to Hunter Taverners) Ed Cross and Dan Pellen strode out to get things underway. With a creditable bowling attack, we knew 113 wouldn't be a pushover.

Unfortunately, Ed played over one in the first over to be out for 2. Leading run scorer Gerry O'Shea joined Dan and for a while things looked good. But Dan once again played with ease and looked like he'd never get out and then he did – miscuing lazily to midwicket - out for 8: 2-20 at the end of the seventh over. Unfortunately, in the next over" the Prez", Greg Brooks put his size 14 right boot down the track and possibly outside off. The ball struck the pad, Lindfield appealed, and the Prez was on his way for a duck after 2 balls. "That just about sums up my season" was heard – a comment which could just as easily have come from Stu after yet another play and miss. 3-21 after 8 and things were looking a bit shaky.

But Mick McCormick had a determined look on his face. He wasn't going to be remembered for that first over he bowled!

And so it was. Gerry O'Shea and Mick built a beautiful partnership with dabs and cuts and a few powerful boundaries, and the Lindfield side visibly wilted in the late afternoon heat wave. 3-53 at drinks and well on target. Gerry soon walked off for a well-earned rest after a super season of consistency – 213 runs at 42.6 – you're a legend Gezza! Mick was clearly unsettled by his partner's departure and running a couple of threes in the previous over, launching himself at a delivery, missing the ball, with the keeper taking off the bails. A well-constructed 25, but third umpire not required. Thanks to Gezza and Mick, from the 26th over, at 4-73 with just 40 runs required from 14, we were well and truly on the home stretch.

Notwithstanding a nervous, pacing Stu and James asking for the score every two balls, the team was confident in the two Davids – Craig and Glen – to finish the job. Another great contribution from the Glen – 20 – taking his season tally to 146 at an average just shy of 50, and the Craig – the one with the broken thumb – was just showing off. Dave Craig added a 19* to his 1-17 from 7 and a catch and run out.

Cruising home after 37.1 overs, the CCNSW Vintage finished a solid season. No 'threepeat,' but only two losses, with a very tight table at the top. Stu worked his Excel spreadsheets into overdrive and informed us that ten of our players had played eight or more games out of the possible 11 this season – great consistency. The one other stat not mentioned yet? Despite possibly Stuart Ridge's lowest wicket haul, he finished with a remarkable economy rate of 1.94. If only we could bowl him all day from both ends, no side would get past 80.

Thanks for a great season, Vintage! See you in 2025-2026.

The Team was: - Ed Cross (2), Dan Pellen (8), Gerard .O'Shea (30* ret not out), Greg Brooks (0), M.ick McCormick (25), David Glen (20*), David Craig (19*), Garry James (dnb), Sittampalam Ragavan (dnb), Stuart Ridge (c) (dnb), Sabaratnam. Thirukumar (w) (dnb).

The Result was: -

Lindfield CC: - 8-112 (40 overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 4-113 (37.1 overs) (G. O'Shea 30* ret)

By 6 wickets

FoWs: 1-3 (E. Cross); 2-20 (D. Pellen), 3-21 (G. Brooks), 4-73 (M. McCormick).

The Bowling was: - S. Ridge 7-0-17-1; E. Cross 7-2-16-2; G. James 7-2-12-1; S. Ragavan 7-1-20-0; D. Craig 7-1-17-1; M.. McCormick 3-0-10-1; D. Glen 2-0-7-0.

The Fielding was: –

Stumpings: – Nil

Catches: – One to S. Thirukumar (w); and one each to D. Craig and S. Ragavan.

Run outs: – One to M. McCormick, one to G. O'Shea

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/vintage-summer-202425/vintage/game-centre/d190ba1f**