CCNSW C&S MATCH REPORTS 2025-2026 SEASON

WEEK THREE: SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER 2025

C&S JACK PACE ROUND 1 v COLLEAGUES AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER 2025: REPORT BY ADAM KHAMIS

The official start of the season had arrived and our C&S team was feeling confident going into our first game of the season off the back of a strong performance in the President's Cup the week before. The skipper had been recruiting heavily over the winter and the team taking the field looked decidedly younger than in seasons past, which bodes well for the long-term future of the side.

Captain Soren Hughes lost the toss and we were bowling first on a hot morning in full sunshine, more on the weather later. Left-arm pacer Theo Joy-Page took the new ball for his first spell for the club. After finding his line, Theo bowled well against batsmen who clearly liked pace bowling. He managed to break the opening partnership which had been scoring at a bit under a run a ball; a valuable contribution. Theo was partnered at the other end by Ezekial ("Zeke") Hughes, who found some bounce in the ever-flat Camperdown pitch but struggled to keep the runs in check. The first change came in the tenth over with the score at 1-55 when Adam Khamis, member of the rejuvenated spin cartel, came into the attack. After also having early problems with his length, Adam was able to remove the other opener in his second over; another lbw to the wrong-un'. At 2-62, we thought the contest was looking pretty balanced and we were a chance of wresting control of the game. However, Colleagues are a strong batting side (which we knew going in) and the nos. 3 and 4 batters made good use of the hard and fast outfield, one short boundary and some pretty ordinary fielding all round (notwithstanding Sam Millar, who was a steel trap in the covers as usual). Tom Barrett and Yagya Giri toiled hard with the ball as the skipper cycled through bowlers in short spells. Tom looked dangerous with his off-spin, ripping the ball and keeping the batsmen honest. Yagya found consistent line and length but was unfortunate not to get a wicket for his efforts. Sriram Ramani and Aleksandr Yap were brought on for short spells but were unable to staunch the flow of runs. Meanwhile the weather was changing. While the strong cooling wind was a welcome development, the fluff it brought from the nearby flame trees was not, as we were all coughing like asthmatics. Great song, shit tree. With both batsmen set and on their way to three figures, Josh Heldarskard came in to spoil the party. His darting spin broke through the defences of the no. 3, ending a 158 run partnership in the 34th over, leaving Colleagues on a measly looking 3-220. Tom Barrett got in on the act soon after, taking a well-earned wicket with a great catch from Yagya. Hopefully this went some way to easing the pain Tom experienced earlier as he learnt a valuable lesson about the uneven bounce of the Camperdown outfield that will probably live long in his memory; but if it doesn't, he'll have the photo taken of him in this low moment to remind him. Josh finished off the innings with three more wickets, first a caught and bowled followed by two stumpings as Colleagues 'collapsed' to 7-259 to end the innings.

We knew we would need to keep up with the run rate to have any hope of chasing down such a large total, but we were confident we had the batting depth and firepower to do it. Our openers Josh Heldarskard and Roman Hughes started confidently with some good shots around the ground. That was before Josh was run out after being called through for a single that wasn't there. Perhaps

sensing that running out your partner warranted a good score to make up for it, Roman remained at the crease and batted fluently, partnering Karthick Subramaniam and Sam Millar. Karthick couldn't add many to the score before being trapped in front for 6. Roman's innings came to a close when he was caught for 35. We were well behind the run rate at 3-79 at drinks with the windy weather now downright cold, but were still in a position to turn it around with big hitters Sam Millar and Ezekiel Hughes at the crease. Unfortunately the pattern of 30-odd run partnerships continued when Sam got bowled on 21. Yagya Giri joined Zeke in the middle and helped turn the strike over well, allowing Zeke to build a good innings. Zeke was eventually bowled for 36, another good start that we needed to be got on with but it was looking like it wasn't going to be our day. Tom Barrett wasn't at the crease long, bowled for 2. Yagya too was bowled as we were now 7-152 with 7 overs to go. Our need to score big was forcing batsmen to take more risks, meaning the bowlers just had to keep it on the stumps and wait for a mistake, which is what they did. At the crease now were Soren Hughes, who could definitely hit the boundaries we needed, and Adam Khamis, who definitely couldn't. Soren got a few big hits in over the short boundary before mishitting one and getting caught. The rest was just a formality as Adam and Theo Joy-Page were both bowled to leave CCNSW all out for 175, our first lost to Colleagues for a few years but the better team on the day. A run chase of that size was always going to be difficult, despite it certainly being a batter's pitch.

The Team was (playing 12): - Joshua Heldarskard 12, Roman Hughes 30, Karthick Subramaniam 6, Sam Millar 21, Ezekiel Hughes 36, Yagya Giri 17, Thomas Barrett 2, Soren Hughes (c) 33, Adam Khamis (v/c) 1, Sriram Rhamani 2, Theo Joy-Page 2 and Aleksandr Yap dnb

The Result was: -

Colleagues CC: 7- 259 (40 Overs) (J. Heldarskard 4-34)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: 10-175 (38.4 Overs) (Ezekiel Hughes 36)

By 84 runs

FoW: - 1-24 (J. Heldarskard); 2-47 (K. Subramaniam); 3-63 (R. Hughes); 4-99 (S. Millar); 5-133 (Ezekiel Hughes); 6-138 (T. Barrett); 7-152 (Y. Giri); 8-172 (A Khamis); 9-172 (S. Hughes); 10-175 (T. Joy-Page).

The Bowling was: - T. Joy-Page 8-0-38-1; Ezekiel Hughes 4-0-22-0; A. Khamis 7-0-49-1; T. Barrett 6-0-35-1; Y. Giri 6-0-39-0; S. Ramani 2-0-14-0; A. Yap 2-0-20-0; J. Heldarskard 5-0-34-4

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: -One to Y. Giri

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to J. Heldarskard ; 2 points to Ezekiel Hughes ; one point to Roman Hughes

Scorecard: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/city-and-suburban-cricket-association-1903-inc/summer-202526/jack-pace-shield/game-centre/3a8cf4cd

WEEK FOUR: SATURDAY 18-SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER 2025

C&S JACK PACE ROUND 2 v YARALLA AT GODDARD OVAL, CONCORD ON SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER 2025: REPORT BY TOM ROBERTSON

A picture perfect Goddard oval greeted us on a sunny Saturday. You know the season is underway when playing at Goddard. Historically it has been C&S first game for many years.

The game got underway thanks to the work of Jamie Murtha and Gerry O'Shea who made sure the covers were down even though it was an away game. Extra pressure on the lads to win this one.

Jamie won the toss and elected to bat. It was a steady start by our top four batters keeping the run rate up at a good clip. It was all done under the relentless chat of a particular Yaralla fielder. His role appeared to be to get under the skin of the opposition and I'd have to say he was good at his job. Soren Hughes was run out, barbecued to a crisp by his eldest son Ezekiel. No ice cream for the big Zeke for a while I'd say. Zeke then tried not to get out and stay in the middle to avoid father. He (40*) and Tom Barrett (42) with a late partnership of 61, did a sterling job of getting us over 200 and post a very respectable total.

Jason Keane and Theo Joy-Page got us underway with the ball. The Yaralla openers proved hard to remove but the run rate was under control. Jason bowled the best spell that I've seen from him considering these were two good batters. We knew that the openers were the main threat and it took a screamer from "Mr Everywhere" (Jamie Murtha) to get the first wicket. He made incredible ground to get to the ball in the outfield. That triggered a bit of to and fro with the outgoing batter. The dust settled and the runs dried up. Nathan Austen bowled some tricky leg spin and Rhys Longbottom sent down some 5 step thunderbolts to keep the screws on. Soon after drinks the other opener was well bowled by Theo and things were looking up. The game was taken out of reach by the bowling of Zeke Hughes and Rhys Longbottom and they fell 27 runs short.

A few beers were had in the upstairs facilities of Goddard Oval: - a great spot and a tribute to Yaralla and Brian Breakspear's efforts for it to become a museum of great cricket memorabilia. We enjoyed beers with their Captain Craig Hilton who has been a stalwart at Yaralla and a great bloke to play against. Never a shortage of laughs.

Special mentions to Harry Walsh (aged 17) for stepping up into the adult league and looking solid. And again to Jamie for getting them covers down!

The Team was: - Tom Robertson 21, Harry Walsh 22, Jamie Murtha (c) 32, Soren Hughes 25, Ezekiel Hughes 40*, Karthick Subramaniam 4, Rhys Longbottom 9, Nathan Austen 7, Thomas Barrett (w) 42, Jason Keane 3*, Theo Joy-Page dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 8-220 (35 Overs) (Ezekiel Hughes 40*)

Defeated

Yaralla CC: - 7-193 (35 Overs)

By 27 runs

FoW: - 1-44 (T. Robertson); 2-76 (H. Walsh); 3-97 (J. Murtha); 4-118 (S. Hughes); 5-125 (K. Subramaniam); 6-136 (R. Longbottom); 7-154 (N. Austen); 8-215 (Thomas Barrett).

The Bowling was: - J. Keane 6-1-25-1; T. Joy-Page 6-0-32-1; T. Barrett 3-0-20-0; N. Austen 7-0-34-1; R. Longbottom 7-1-38-2; Ezekiel Hughes 6-1-31-2

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: -One to each of Soren Hughes and J. Murtha

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to Ezekiel Hughes ; 2 points to T. Barrett ; one point to Soren Hughes

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/city-and-suburban-cricket-association-1903-inc/summer-202526/jack-pace-shield/game-centre/f4295b67**

WEEK FIVE: SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER 2025

C&S JACK PACE ROUND 3 v OLD ALOYSIANS AT ST ALOYSIUS OVAL, WILLOUGHBY ON SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER 2025: REPORT BY DECLAN THOMAS

Despite a grey and drizzly afternoon, CCNSW gathered at St Aloysius' Oval in good cheer. A grand unveiling of the pitch revealed a classic Aloysius track, green but firm and it seemed to whisper of runs. Despite the miserable rain, it was a day to bat.

Without further ado the toss was held and CCNSW lost, but frowns quickly turned to smiles when we were sent in. The Jack Pace shield holders, Old Aloysians were immediately on a good line and length but our openers Gerard O'Shea and Max Sardelic showed poise and initially kept them out. Unfortunately the stoicism of the side was short lived, with Saerdelic falling early. In fact, three wickets fell early. Our captain Jamie Murtha promoted himself up the order, keen to get his lean run at Aloysius' Oval out of the way but fell early, fourth ball, caught behind, trying to nudge square a ball that rose more than expected in the ever thickening drizzle.

O'Shea fell shortly after, prodding forward to a good ball that moved away enough to take an edge.

Slumping to 3-5, CCNSW needed a hero, and at No. 4, in walked strapping Sam Millar. Ably aided by Soren Hughes, the pair went about repairing the damage wreaked on the top order, with short balls disdainfully dispatched over the ridiculously short square boundaries of the ground.

Unfortunately S. Hughes (15 with one six and two fours) fell on the long–on boundary, not quite latching onto a delivery. Luckily for CCNSW, with Karthick entering, stability was assured. Millar quickly passed 50 and then steadied with Karthick Subramaniam as Old Aloysians found their length.

After drinks, the rain wept as Sam finally fell lbw for 69 (five sixes/seven fours/56 balls for a strike rate of 123), spelling the death knell for the side.

Despite noble efforts no one else was able to emulate Sam's hitting (probably as he is a foot taller than anyone else in the side) although Subramaniam tried, before being caught for 30 on the deep mid wicket boundary, attempting his fourth six, and the lower order crumpled, all out for 146 in the 31st over, with CCNSW losing its last four wickets for seven runs.

Emerging for the second innings, Ezekiel Hughes ("Zeke") bowling medium pace, had the ball singing, moving with irregularity and spooking the opening Old Aloysian batters. With faith in the crumbling pitch (and due to the lack of any other known pace options!) Murtha opened from the other end with Tom Barrett's off-spin. He bamboozled the batsmen and it seemed we were in for a humdinger. Zeke spoiled their chances at a rhythm, goading one of the openers into spooning a catch to Richard Clark at long on. However, there was little to cheer from this point on despite good areas from most of the Cricketers' Club bowling attack (special mention to O'Shea for his spell, an ode to the beauty of line, length, and a bit of away movement).

As the rain finally eased to nil, the heavens opened for Aloys and they piled on the runs in quick succession. A nice diving grab by our keeper Declan Thomas off an inside edge sent the other opener packing *(Or as our captain Jamie Murtha saw it: "D. Thomas took a screamer of a catch diving well to his left to a ball that clipped the inside edge pretty well".)*

But the damage continued, and an unbroken partnership of 108 with two measured but aggressive not out fifties from their numbers 3 and 4 (J Daly 66* with six sixes and four fours off 52 balls and H. Sekzekian 53* with two sixes and five fours off 41 balls) sealed a win for Old Aloysians with over 13 overs to spare.

(Ed note: By agreement the 40 over fixture/12.15 start had been reduced to 35 overs because of anticipated rain delays. In practice the game was over by 4-10pm with no delays!)

The Team was (playing 12): - Gerard O'Shea 2, Max Sardelic 1, Jamie Murtha (c) 0, Sam Miller 69, Soren Hughes 15, Karthick Subramaniam 30, Richard Clark 7, Ezekiel Hughes 10, Declan Thomas (w) 1 , Thomas Barrett 0*, Nathan Austen 0 and Adam Khamis dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-146 (30.3 Overs) (S. Millar 69)

Lost to

Old Aloysians CC: 2-148 (21.3 Overs)

By 8 wickets

FoW: - 1-3 (M. Sardelic); 2-4 (J. Murtha); 3-5 (G. O'Shea); 4-64 (S. Hughes); 5-124 (S. Millar); 6-126 (R. Clark) 7-139 (E. Hughes); 8-145 (D. Thomas); 9-146 (K. Subramaniam); 10-146 (N. Austen).

The Bowling was: - Ezekiel Hughes 6.3-1-40-2; T. Barrett 4-0-27-0; A. Khamis 8-0-38-0; N. Austen 1-0-21-0; G. O'Shea 4-0-22-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: -Two to D. Thomas (w)

Run outs: - Nil

Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to S. Millar; 2 points to E. Hughes; one point to K. Subramaniam

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/city-and-suburban-cricket-association-1903-inc/summer-202526/jack-pace-shield/game-centre/f1eefc30**

WEEK SIX: SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2025

C&S JACK PACE ROUND 4 v CRANBROOK OLD BOYS AT DANGAR OVAL , ROSE BAY ON SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2025: REPORT BY JAMIE MURTHA

It was one of those gloomy Sydney Sundays — grey skies, a dodgy forecast, and a pitch that looked like it had been rolled straight out of a golf course fairway. A confident Cranbrook cheekily suggested we collectively take the covers off, and in a true show of sportsmanship (or mild gullibility), we helped. What lay beneath was a wicket greener than the outfield, with one lonely bald patch right on a good length attracting much attention. Without a second thought, Jamie Murtha won the toss and — for possibly the first time in living memory — chose to bowl first. Once the banter died down, it turned out to be a great call. Theo Joy-Page bowling left arm medium fast, steamed in from the start, hitting the perfect line and length, and clean-bowled their opener first ball… only for it to be called a no-ball. Still, Theo and Jamie bowled superbly as a pair, beating the bat regularly. As Theo collected poles, the opposition's confidence disappeared about as quickly as their top order.

The fielding backed our bowlers up in style. Declan Thomas was sharp behind the stumps, nailing a long distance stumping with a smart throw while the batter admired his “play and miss.” Tom Barrett at mid-on took an absolute bullet of a catch that would’ve taken the hands off most people. It was so good, in fact, that Tom looked visibly shocked for the next two overs — pale, wide-eyed, and quite possibly in need of a change of pants. Debutant Lachlan Murphy had a rollercoaster day in the slips, putting a few uncatchable chances down before finally holding onto one with relief written all over his face, then followed it up by taking his first wicket for the club with some fiery seam bowling. Adam Khamis bowled well, turning it square and picking up the wicket of their in-form batter thanks to a composed grab by Nathan Austen out at deep mid-wicket. Nathan then chipped in with a wicket of his own, landing a lovely leggie that drew an edge. Tom Barrett came back to finish things off, grabbing the final wicket with a dolly to Jamie — Cranbrook all out for 115 in 30.5 overs. Theo was the pick with 4-17, and the rest all chipped in with class and control.

Our batting reply was steady and confident. Karthick Subramanian set the tone early, hooking anything short on his way to 26 before being trapped in front lbw. Richard Clark looked smooth as ever, punishing the short stuff and rotating the strike nicely for his 27, before picking out the one bloke in the opposition who could actually catch. Fill-in Dan Kwon played some lovely strokes, including a splendid cover drive, before being bowled for 16. At 3-75, the damage was done but things could have got tricky. Sam Millar and Tom Barrett steadied things perfectly, Tom middling everything, while Sam was watchful and composed — until the time came to finish it. Jamie turned to his fellow scorer Adam and said, *“Next ball, six runs, lost ball into the houses,”* and Sam delivered exactly that, sending the ultimate waist high pie sailing into Rose Bay real estate to win by seven wickets. Cranbrook did plenty of talking that day — but unfortunately for them, the scoreboard doesn’t listen.

A proper team performance — disciplined with the ball, sharp in the field, and confident with the bat. Theo Joy-Page’s four-wicket haul rightly earned him 3 points, Tom Barrett’s all-round effort 2 points, and Richard Clark’s tidy innings and unwavering encouragement 1 point. A great day out for CCNSW; everyone contributed, and we levelled the season at 2-2 — proving to the skipper once and for all that maybe, choosing to bowl first isn’t the end of the world!

The Team was: - Karthick Subramanian 26; Richard Clark 27, Dan Kwon 16, Sam Millar 13*, Thomas Barrett 26*, Nathan Austen dnb, Theo Joy-Page dnb, Adam Khamis dnb, Lachlan Murphy dnb, Jamie Murtha dnb (c), Declan Thomas (w) dnb

The Result was: -

Old Cranbrookians: - 10*-115 (30.5 Overs) (T. Joy-Page 4-17)

(* OCs only had 10 players)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 3-117 (22.5 Overs)

By 7 wickets

FoW: - 1-47 (K. Subramaniam); 2-73 (D. Kwon); 3-75 (R. Clark).

The Bowling was: - T. Joy-Page 7-2-17-4; J. Murtha 7-0-38-1; L. Murphy 3-0-19-1; A. Khamis 5-1-18-1; T. Barrett 5.5-3-5-1; N. Austen 3-0-13-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - One to D. Thomas

Catches: - One to D. Thomas (w); and one each to N. Austen, T. Barrett, L. Murphy and J. Murtha

Run outs: - Nil

CCNSW Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to T. Joy-Page; 2 points to T. Barrett; one point to R. Clark

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/city-and-suburban-cricket-association-1903-inc/summer-202526/jack-pace-shield/game-centre/06a6acf1**

WEEK SEVEN: SATURDAY 8 - SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2025

C&S JACK PACE ROUND 5 v YARALLA AT GODDARD OVAL, CONCORD ON SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2025: REPORT BY JAMIE MURTHA

After a humid week under covers, the wicket at Goddard Oval presented a tacky surface on match morning — not unplayable, but certainly one that demanded patience and discipline from the batters. There wasn't a lot of value for shots, and runs had to be earned. Losing the toss, we were asked to field first, a challenge our side accepted with quiet confidence despite the warm and humid weather.

Gerry O'Shea and Theo Joy-Page opened the bowling and set an excellent tone. Both were consistently threatening, beating the bat and drawing plays and misses, but luck wasn't on their side — several edges and half-chances over in-fielders just wouldn't go to hand. Their efforts, however, built the early pressure that would soon pay dividends.

That platform was seized upon by Tom Barrett and Soren Hughes, whose combined spells turned the game. Barrett was outstanding, relentless in his accuracy and aggression, claiming top honours with 4 for 19 from 7 overs. Hughes wound back the clock and looked as good as ever, bowling his heavy ball, Soren also showed

tremendous athleticism in the field with three sharp reaction catches — all the more impressive considering he was feeling the after effects of a big Friday night. He later explained that the ball's shape and weight was comparable to the previous night's schooners. Whatever the preparation, it worked!

Adam Khamis joined in with a crucial spell, removing their key batter with a beautiful wrong'un that spun sharply from off and clattered into leg-stump! Nathan Austen, and Roman Hughes supported the cause, keeping the pressure on the attacking batters. Every bowler played their role and the fielding was exceptional — sharp, vocal, and composed. Every chance was seized, even the most unlikely of grabs from Tom Barrett, one running and diving low to his left from long on and another back peddling and taking it clean one handed from well behind his body! The result was a disciplined team performance that restricted Yaralla to 9–134 from their 35 overs, not the easiest chase, but definitely 50 or so below par!

A short shower during the innings break added a damp heaviness to the air and made conditions even more challenging when we came out to bat. Under gloomy skies and significant pressure, we lost Roman Hughes (0) and Richard Clark (12) early. At 2-25, the innings required calm heads, and Jamie Murtha (15) and Sam Millar provided just that, weathering a very difficult period from a hostile bowling and fielding opposition; credit to our umpires too who kept their cool and made excellent decisions under enormous pressure from the opposition.

Millar then took command in a display of absolute power and contempt. His unbeaten 75* was a superb innings — measured early, then authoritative as the sun started to shine through. One enormous six cleared the boundary and sailed out of the ground, a moment that briefly silenced the atmosphere and shifted all pressure away from us (because they had to spend 5 minutes looking for the ball). Tom Barrett (20)* capped his outstanding all-round day by guiding the chase home with Sam, taking us to 3–135 in only the 27th over and a 7-wicket win.

Throughout the match, our side displayed integrity, resilience, and confidence — handling every challenge with composure. Nathan Austen and Gerry O'Shea, who stood as umpires for most of our innings, showed tremendous judgement and professionalism in difficult circumstances.

It was a performance that spoke volumes — a collective effort built on teamwork, strength under pressure, and total commitment to the standards we set for ourselves. In the end, the scoreboard told one story, and our behaviour told another — both of them good reading for us!

The Team was: - Roman Hughes 0, Richard Clark 12, Jamie Murtha (c) 15, Sam Millar 75*, Tom Barrett 20*, Soren Hughes (dnb), Declan Thomas (w) (dnb), Nathan Austen (dnb), Adam Khamis (dnb), Gerard O'Shea (dnb), Theo Joy-Page (dnb)

The Result was: -

Yaralla CC: - 9-134 (35 Overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 3-135 (26.5 Overs) (S. Millar 75*)

By 7 wickets

FoW: - 1-18 (Roman Hughes); 2-25 (R. Clark); 3-84 (J. Murtha).

The Bowling was: - T. Joy Page 5-0-19-0; G. O'Shea 6-0-28-0; Soren Hughes 4-1-7-1; A. Khamis 7-1-17-3; T. Barrett 7-1-19-4, N. Austen 3-0-27-1 Roman Hughes 2-0-15-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: -Three each to T. Barrett and Soren Hughes

Run outs: - Nil

CCNSW Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to T. Barrett; 2 points to S. Millar; one point to Soren Hughes

Scorecard: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/city-and-suburban-cricket-association-1903-inc/city-and-suburban-summer-202526/jack-pace-shield/game-centre/45ab265f

WEEK EIGHT: SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2025

C&S JACK PACE ROUND 6 v MARRICKVILLE SOLDIERS AT BLICK OVAL, CANTERBURY ON SUNDAY15 NOVEMBER 2025: REPORT BYJAMIE MURTHA

After a week of rain and a pitch still showing a soft green tinge, the Sunday sunshine provided a perfect day for cricket — blue skies, light breeze, and enough warmth to dry the pitch quickly. Marrickville won the toss and optimistically chose to bat first.

From the outset our bowlers hit disciplined areas and refused to give Marrickville an inch. Theo Joy-Page and Rhys Longbottom set the tone both claiming early wickets with tight opening spells that immediately put the batters under pressure. The pitch offered plenty and rewarded good bowling, which we exploited superbly.

The Marrickville batters never settled, Adam Khamis and Tom Reaney picked up wickets as the batters looked to attack them, and once away Tom *'everywhere'* Barrett was taking two more magnificent catches; he produced another master class in fielding that shifted momentum firmly in CCNSW's favour.

The ball moved around and found the edge regularly as Declan Thomas quietly went about his business behind the wicket, taking four excellent catches throughout the innings.

As the innings went on, Marrickville's resistance thinned and Jamie "*The Janitor"* Murtha was out for blood after being sledged from the sidelines for dropping a catch, he mopped up the tail with his "offensive off-spin." taking 4–10 in just three overs, knocking over the last pockets of defiance and closing the innings at 10–116 in 29 overs.

With a modest chase ahead and a pitch that had flattened out significantly we approached the target with calm authority. Lenny Volkov fell early for a duck, despite looking solid and having taken the shine off the ball. His loss only brought together the dominant partnership of the day.

Ezekiel Hughes (57)* and Declan Thomas (54)* took complete control. Their stroke play was assured, patient early, and punishing whenever Marrickville missed their lengths. The pair worked seamlessly, rotating strike, dispatching anything loose, and keeping the run rate well above what was needed. The chase was never in doubt.

The winning runs came in the nineteenth over, sealing a commanding 9-wicket victory and maintaining our strong momentum in the Jack Pace Shield!

The Team was: - Declan Thomas (w) 54*, Leonard Volkov 0, Ezekiel Hughes 57*, Nathan Austen dnb, Thomas Barrett dnb, Soren Hughes dnb, Theo Joy-Page dnb, Adam Khamis dnb, Rhys Longbottom dnb, Jamie Murtha (c) dnb, Thomas Reaney dnb

The Result was: -

Marrickville Soldiers: - 10-116 (29 Overs) (J. Murtha 4-10)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 1-119 (19 Overs) (Ezekiel Hughes 57*; D. Thomas 54*)

By 9 wickets

FoW: - 1- 22 (L. Volkov).

The Bowling was: - R. Longbottom 7-1-24-1; T. Joy-Page 7-2-13-2; A. Khamis 5-0-25-2; T. Reaney 4-1-22-1; T. Barrett 3-0-16-0; J. Murtha 3-0-10-4

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - Four to D. Thomas (w); Two to T. Barrett ; one each to S. Hughes, A. Khamis and R. Longbottom.

Run outs: - Nil

CCNSW Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to D. Thomas; 2 points to Ezekiel Hughes; one point to T. Joy-Page.

Scorecard: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/city-and-suburban-cricket-association-1903-inc/summer-202526/jack-pace-shield/game-centre/28ed71d3

WEEK NINE: SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2025

C&S JACK PACE ROUND 7 v SACHIN TENDULKAR XI AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2025: REPORT BY NATHAN AUSTEN

We were welcomed to our first home game in 5 weeks by gloomy grey English style weather brought over by the overly excited 'Pommie' contingent after day one of the Test match in the west in Perth. Once the covers were peeled off a relatively green top awaited us to bat on after SRT called yesterday, won the toss and chose to field (much to our surprise!)

Max Sardelic and Gerry O'Shea waded their way out to open up for CCNSW, providing far more security than the English or Australian opening pair. Taking a watchful tone on a nibbling green deck, the opening pair made an impressive 70 before with Gerry departed for a well made 34. Max departed as the second member of the '34 Club', 2 runs later to leave us with a platform of 2-72 on which to work.

Overseas English import number 1 Tom Barrett strode out at 3 and Sam Millar the ever present at number 4 took to the crease as the SRT XI spinners came into the attack. The tacky nature of deck meant grip wasn't hard to come by and the pair made their way to 99 before Sam fell to the off spinner off a ball that would usually end up 30 yards over the rope but unfortunately picked out square leg.

Scott Williams joined Tom Barrett at the crease and the pair upped the gears to bring the attack back to the SRT XI bowlers, both striking at over 100 with some massive sixes along the way possibly killing the local

birds in the trees and taking us to 4-154 with 10 overs to go before Tom chipped one back to the bowler for a powerful and well made 47 off 36 balls.

Overseas English import number 2 Nathan Austen scratched around for 8 before nicking off while Scott Williams kept going after the bowlers before holing out to the long boundary for 23. Soren Hughes was hidden down the order to take us to a good score becoming the third member of the '34 Club' with a sight screen clearing six along the way. Lower order contributions from Jamie Murtha and some scoops from Adam Khamis at the death took us to a competitive score of 8-214 off the 40 overs.

Striding out to bowl in gloomy conditions that would have Jimmy Anderson licking his lips, our opening seamers were in good spirits. Jason Keane and Valmik Ahire opened up the bowling beating the bat consistently and taking wickets along the way. The first wicket fell via Valmik after some pressure build up with the batter trying to take on the field but finding the ever faithful Tom Barrett at mid on to snaffle the chance. Tom repeated the trick with another catch for a similar dismissal for Jason not long after. The third wicket for the opening pair went to Valmik once again and after a shout of 'easy catch' Tom took his third in the game, diving to his left to take his mandatory screamer for the game and giving Valmik figures of 2-3 off his 5 overs. Jason wouldn't be left behind though trapping the number three lbw to leave SRT XI 4-12. The following batters decided to throw caution to wind running down the track hitting some boundaries on the way leaving Jason with figures of 2-29 off 5 overs with an economy higher than the bowling quality warranted.

Jamie Murtha and Adam Khamis then came into the attack continuing in impressive fashion from our openers and both taking one wicket each. Jamie drew an outside edge from the number 5 taken by Max Sardelic behind the stumps. And Adam turned one back on the tacky track to trap the lefty number 6 lbw after some friendly encouragement from the skipper to bowl on the off side after running many yards fielding at square leg. Jamie finished his 5 overs with 1-16 and Adam his 3 overs 1-25.

Scott Williams came into the attack as the drizzle started to fall again taking 1-11 off an impressive 4 overs bowling the number 7 after challenging the batters consistently. Nathan Austen joined him at the other end bowling flat leg breaks and taking his mandatory wicket with a drag down in the over after drinks leaving SRT XI 8-91 with the win within our grasp.

Following Scott Williams, Soren Hughes joined Nathan, and bowled 3 overs of medium pace for 1-15 and giving Tom his fourth catch of the game and tenth of the season , taking a simple one at mid on once again, as the SRT XI tail failed to wag. The win was secured with Nathan's second, leaving him with 2-12 of 5.1 overs after Jamie Murtha took a sharp low one hander at mid wicket to leave SRT 114 all out.

An impressive all round team performance gives us our fourth win on the trot with another outstanding day in the field for the 'Blues' which is quickly becoming a standard to continue, hopefully for long to come.

The Team was: - Gerard O'Shea 34, Max Sardelic (w) 34, Thomas Barrett 47, Sam Millar 7, Scott Williams 23, Nathan Austen 8, Soren Hughes 34, Jamie Murtha (c) 2, Adam Khamis 10*, Valmik Ahire 0*, Jason Keane dnb.

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 8-214 (40 Overs) (T. Barrett 47)

Defeated

Sachin Tendulkar XI: - 10-114 (29.1 Overs)

By 100 runs

FoW: - 1-70 (G. O'Shea); 2-72 (M. Sardelic,); 3-99 (S. Millar); 4-154 (T. Barrett); 5-158 (S. Williams); 6-192 (N. Austen); 7-199 (J. Murtha); 8-206 (S. Hughes).

The Bowling was: - J. Keane 5-0-29-2: V. Ahire 4-2-3-2; J. Murtha 5-1-16-1; A. Khamis 3-0-25-1; S. Williams 4-0-11-1; N. Austen 5.1-2-12-2; S. Hughes 3-0-15-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: -4 catches to T. Barrett; one to M. Sardelic (w) and one to J. Murtha

Run outs: - Nil

CCNSW Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to T. Barrett; 2 points to M. Sardelic; one point to N. Austen

Scorecard: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/city-and-suburban-cricket-association-1903-inc/summer-202526/jack-pace-shield/game-centre/6a8d9fb6

WEEK TEN: SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2025

C&S JACK PACE ROUND 8 v KNOX OLD BOYS AT GILLESPIE FIELD, ON SUNDAY30 NOVEMBER 2025: REPORT BY TOM BARRETT

We were welcomed to an away fixture on a bright and sunny afternoon, the perfect conditions for cricket if not always for our nerves. Winning the toss, we elected to bat first, hoping to set a competitive total on a firm but green wicket.

The start, however, quickly became a lesson in caution. The Knox opening bowlers were steady and accurate on a wicket where the ball stopped a little. They waited for our batters to lose patience and were successful. Early wickets fell at 1-8, 2-20, 3-25, 4-25, and then 5-30, as some interesting, injudicious, perhaps even careless shot selections from the top order let us down. They had clearly been watching England bat! Even when timing was on, the ball seemed determined to keep us honest and generally went straight to their one saving umbrella fielders – with only one slip, and the opposition made the most of our lapses.

Into the chaos stepped our solidly built left handed batter, Rhys Longbottom at No 7, who anchored the innings with an extremely aggressive 61, showing patience and skill on a tricky deck combined with superb timing. He scored mainly in sixes! Off the first over he was in, CCNSW took 28 off a slow left armer! Soren Hughes cruised serenely in his wake and the score quickly advanced to 125 before Soren was caught for a well made 24. The lower order chipped in and CCNSW finished at 151 all out in the 32nd over. Jamie Murtha's unbeaten 16* (batting at No.10!) demonstrating calm under pressure and clever placement at the end of our innings, was potentially match winning.

Our opening bowling combination of the medium fast left arm over of Theo Joy-Page and the right hand medium fast of Rhys Longbottom, surprisingly quick off a very short run up, contained their opening batters, and bowled very few bad balls. At the end of 14 overs, Knox had only scored just over 40 runs and needed a run rate of over 5 an over. However the experienced Knox Nos. 1 (Surendra 78* with 10x4 and 2x6) and No3 (Bijanwela 34 with 3x 4 and 2 x6) first consolidated and then increased the run rate. The bowling effort was tidy and disciplined and the team fought hard in the field but a few dropped catches allowed the Knox batters to remain on track and they won by 8 wickets with 11 balls to spare

It wasn't a perfect day, but the highlights were clear: Rhys' extraordinary batting and all-round heroics, the lower order's resilience, and the side's determination to keep going despite early setbacks and a knee injury to Zeke Hughes in the field. Had all the chances been held, the story could have been different — but for an away game in bright conditions, there was plenty to be proud of.

The Team was (playing 12): - Ryan Lynch 0, Roman Hughes 12, Ezekiel Hughes 11, Sam Miller 3, Thomas Barrett 0, Soren Hughes 24, Rhys Longbottom 61, Declan Thomas 0, Nathan Austen 9, James Murtha 16*, Adam Khamis 0 and Theo Joy-Page dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.:- 10–151 (31.4 Overs) (R. Longbottom 61)

Lost to

Knox Old Boys: - 2-152 (33.1 Overs)

By 8 wickets

FoW: - 1-8 (R. Lynch); 2-20 (Roman Hughes); 3-25 (Ezekiel Hughes); 4-25 (T. Barrett); 5-30 (S. Millar); 6-125 (R. Longbottom); 7-126 (D. Thomas); 8-126 (Soren Hughes); 9-151 (N. Austen); 10-151 (A. Khamis)

The Bowling was: - T. Joy-Page 7-1-21-0; R. Longbottom 7-0-18-1; J. Murtha 7-0-40-0; A. Khamis 6-1-26-0 ; T. Barrett 2.1-0-17-0; N. Austen 4-0-23-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: -One each to D. Thomas (w) and S. Hughes

Run outs: - Nil

CCNSW Player points: - 3 points to R. Longbottom; 2 points to Soren Hughes; one point to Nathan Austen

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/city-and-suburban-cricket-association-1903-inc/summer-202526/jack-pace-shield/game-centre/574532be**

WEEK ELEVEN: SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER 2025

C&S JACK PACE ROUND 9 v SYDNEY UNIVERSITY LIONS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY7 DECEMBER 2025: REPORT BY JAMIE MURTHA

It was a beautiful day for cricket, sunny with not a cloud in the sky. Despite the inviting conditions, the pitch looked very green and fluffy on the surface but the skipper Jamie Murtha assessed it was hard on the surface and would get easier to bat on. Winning the toss, CCNSW elected to bat first, fully aware that the new ball would pose a challenge.

The innings began cautiously as the ball moved around as expected. Jamie Murtha and Harry Walsh were required to apply themselves against disciplined bowling, ensuring wickets were preserved during a slow start. As the pitch settled Harry accelerated nicely and the middle order took control. Sam Millar, Tom Barrett, Jonathan Seifman and Lachlan Murphy all built momentum with positive intent, turning an under par platform

into a competitive total. Tom Barrett anchored the innings superbly, top-scoring with a composed 40 as per usual, helping us post 9 for 194 from our 35 overs.

Sydney University came out firing in reply and quickly put CCNSW under pressure. Breakthroughs from Jamie and Adam Khamis provided some relief, but the Lions surged forward and at drinks were very well placed at 2 for 114, appearing firmly in control of the chase. The team got a passionate rev up at the break particularly around needing to improve fielding as the skies started to turn grey.

What followed was a remarkable turnaround. With well placed fielders in boundary and catching positions, the bowlers found a way to lift collectively. Our spin cartel consisting of Adam Khamis (wrist spin), Thomas Barrett (off-breaks) and Nathan Austen (wrist spin) bowled with discipline and turned the ball sharply with decent accuracy. Declan Thomas also had lightning hands behind the stumps and took the crucial wicket of Josh Heldarskard for 49, caught off Tom Barrett's bowling, to open the game up and as a result wickets began to tumble as we seized momentum; we took an incredible 8 wickets for just 60 runs to wrap up the match and win by 21 runs.

Tom Barrett led the way with a brilliant spell of 3 for 37, well supported by Nathan Austen's economical 2 for 24 and Adam Khamis' crucial 2 wickets. The fielding effort matched the bowling, with sharp work in the ring and strong support in the deep ensuring no easy runs were conceded. Sydney University were eventually bowled out for 173 in 32.2 overs, handing us a memorable 21-run victory in the final overs of the match with sixteen balls remaining. It was a resilient performance and a true team effort, showcasing how good this team is becoming/

Following the game players both teams retired to the Forest Lodge hotel and shared a few pints and stories after a closely fought match!

The Team was: - Karthick Subramaniam 1, Jamie Murtha (c) 12, Harry Walsh 37, Sam Millar 22, Thomas Barrett 40, Jonathan Seifman 27, Lachlan Murphy 16, Declan Thomas (w) 3, Nathan Austen 3, Adam Khamis 3* and Jason Keane 4*.

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 9-194 (35 Overs) (T. Barrett 40)

Defeated

Sydney University Lions: - 10-173 (32.2 Overs)

By 21 runs

FoW: - 1-2 (K. Subramaniam); 2-15 (J. Murtha); 3-55 (S. Millar); 4-109 (H. Walsh); 5-136 (T. Barrett); 6-174 (J. Seifman); 7-181 (L. Murphy); 8-185 (D. Thomas); 9-188 (N. Austen).

The Bowling was: - J. Keane 7-0-36-0; J. Murtha 7-0-35-2; A. Khamis 7-0-39-2; T. Barrett 6.2-1-37-3; N. Austen 5-1-24-2:

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One each to D. Thomas (w), N. Austen, S. Millar and K. Subramaniam

Run outs: - One to L. Murphy

CCNSW Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to T. Barrett; 2 points to H. Walsh; one point to N. Austen.

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/city-and-suburban-cricket-association-1903-inc/summer-202526/jack-pace-shield/game-centre/b5eeeda8**

WEEK TWELVE: SATURDAY 13 - SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER 2025

C&S JACK PACE ROUND 10 v ST. GEORGE VETERANS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY13 DECEMBER 2025: REPORT BY DECLAN THOMAS

RECORD SCORE SOREN HUGHES 204* AND RECORD CCNSW TOTAL 4-397 AND RECORD VICTORY BY 300 RUNS

4, 4, 3, dot, 4, dot.

CCNSW 0-15 after 1.

Soren Hughes 8*

Jamie Murtha 4*

What a way to start a record-breaking game.

But I get ahead of myself.

It was a warm and pleasant day at Camperdown Park. Despite early forecasts of rain, doom and gloom, the skies had parted and sunshine was the only thing raining down upon the ground. The Cricketers' Club brought together their whole team to remove the heavy covers from off of the ground, the only time that day the entire team was needed. St George generously had some of their early arrivals help too, no doubt in an attempt to conjure some goodwill between the teams. If the final scorecard is anything to go by, they may as well have put holes in the tarp.

A review of the pitch brought some surprise. It was patchy, and had a smattering of cracks across its surface, similar to the head of a reluctantly balding man who hasn't realised yet he needs to apply sunscreen up top. Pushing away any qualms about the pitch, when the toss came there were only milliseconds between the sad look crossing the face of the St George captain and the word 'bat' bursting from the lips of a grinning Jamie.

It wasn't long until Jamie and Soren took the field. And there we were, 0-15. In that first over, the intent was clear, especially from Soren, that if a bad ball was bowled, it was going to deposited to the boundary fence.

Unfortunately for St George, they bowled many, many, bad balls.

Over the next twelve overs, Soren Hughes showed Roman Hughes what he is ,no doubt, in for at the annual Christmas backyard cricket match, racing to his 50 off 26 deliveries. Playing the stalwart opener, Jamie Murtha eventually crawled his way to 50 (off only 38 deliveries).

St George had showed little resistance to the onslaught brought by the CCNSW openers. There was no chat. Their bowlers couldn't hit a consistent line nor length. Some balls were hit straight to fielders who seemed to momentarily de-materialize. There seems no other explanation short of a team of ghosts, for how time after time the ball appeared on the other side of a fielder, allowing for a single, a two or even a boundary.

But suddenly, without warning, calamity struck. Jamie eagerly pounced on yet another 'lollipop', having already dispatched the same bowler for two sixes and a four the same over. But the connection wasn't quite the same, and (surprisingly to most of the team) the St George Vets held the catch.

CCNSW 1-124 after 13.

The story of Declan Thomas is short and one of woe. Striding out into the middle, Soren had few words to say. *"Just watch the ball. Also at that end there's a bit of a dead spot so watch the bounce."*

"Yeah mate no worries" said the number 3.

Taking strike after a couple of overs, Declan saw the ball land short. It was perfect, he thought for a pull into the stand. But alas, like Icarus before him, he flew too close to the sun, failing to heed the warnings of those wiser and on many more runs than him. *"There is a bit of a dead spot."* The ball did not bounce up off of its short length. It stayed low and leisurely connected with middle and off.

CCNSW 2 -149 after 16.

If you were to ask Declan later, he'd have told you (and still will) that the failed pull shot was a moment driven not by poor shot selection and impatience, but out of the goodness of his heart, wishing to see a tender family moment. This is as at number four walked in - Roman Hughes, with his Dad 24 away from a ton.

For a moment, St George had their tails up. A couple of quick wickets does that. But Roman and Soren just kept tapping it around and dispatching the bad balls. It took no time to see the heads begin to hang. This was never more prominent than the following 13 overs. Soren stamped his authority, reaching his 100. Clearly he had more to prove yet as he refused to remove his helmet upon reaching the milestone.

At the other end Roman got tired of the pleasantries. After 18 balls to get his eye in, he decided to live up to his name and declared war on St George. Mid-on, cow corner, square leg, fine leg. You name the area and the ball raced through it for four. It was during this one man mission that off the field, a bargain was struck. If CCNSW posted a total of over 400, Declan (having never bowled for the club and having not bowled competitively for over 5 years) would open the bowling.

The run mountain piled ever higher. As Roman Hughes passed fifty, Soren Hughes passed his 150 and began eyeing up the club's record score of 174 by Ian Allmey. But Roman was not to be there for another of his dad's milestones, skying one shot that was safely taken.

CCNSW 3-297 after 29.

Out strode Tom Barrett.

If Soren is the old guard, a tried and true crusader with battle experience that never faltered, then Tom is a mini-gun. He may take a little bit of time to get spinning, but once he does, he is nigh unstoppable. That analogy is not to take anything away from Soren, who had long decided that he'd done enough running and was now dealing almost exclusively in boundaries. In fact it is only fitting that off the final ball of the second last over it was with a glorious six that Soren reached the magical 200 and finally, the helmet came off, a job done. But by the time the 35th over came about, Tommy Barrett was firing on all cylinders.

29 runs were needed to reach 400. 30 were needed to have a wicket-keeper open the bowling. And Tom was going to give reaching 400 a crack. After an early miscued 2 off a no ball, Tom proceeded to launch four consecutive sixes. With a ball to go in the innings and 397 on the board, Jamie signaled to Declan that it was time to warm up. But it was not to be, with one final hefty swing of the willow this time meeting nothing but the warm summer's breeze. Barrett bowled for 39.

CCNSW 4-397 off 35 overs. A new record for highest individual score, 204* (110 balls; 24 x 4; 10 x 6; SR 185) and team total. *(Ed note: the CCNSW innings in total contained 17 x 6 and 47 x 4)*

But the job was not over yet.

Not technically.

The same pitch that Soren Hughes drove on like a road looked like a highway to hell under Theo Joy-Page's pacy spell. An effort to put pressure back on to Theo by the opener only resulting in an absolute lollipop being ballooned to Tom Barrett at mid-on. At the other end '*the great man'*, Jason Keane, also put the clamps on any hopes St George had of scoring, moving the ball through the air side to side like the hips of a belly dancer. The opening duo had the game almost over early, having St George 4-31 after 9 overs.

St George found no relief in the change of bowlers. Rather the opening spell set them up and Adam Khamis and Yogesh Giri's leg spin simply knocked them down. *(Ed note: Yogesh Giri is a medium fast bowler but because the St George batter had no helmet and the game was virtually won, he switched to wrist spin)* Both bowled unrelenting lines that targeted the stumps, St George continued their capitulation, giving Adam figures of 2-12 and 'Yogi', the pick of the bowlers, 3-7.

Following a drinks break that served more as a funeral reception for St George, there was just enough time for Declan to get a bowl with Tom Barrett taking over as keeper (and take a catch!). Declan did his best (which isn't saying much) and ensured that his role in the team remains wicketkeeper. After getting hit for four by a guy who had clearly never held a bat before in his life, the same man chipped a simple catch to mid-on. After six years with the club, Declan had his first club wicket.

Oh and CCNSW had bowled out St George's for 97, securing a 300 run win.

The Team was: - Soren Hughes 204* (110 balls/SR 185), Jamie Murtha (c) 56 (39 balls/SR 143), Declan Thomas (w) 13 (11 balls/SR 118), Roman Hughes 68 (36 balls/SR 189), Tom Barrett 39 (17 balls/SR 229), Nathan Austen dnb, Yogesh Giri dnb, Theo Joy-Page dnb, Jason Keane dnb, Adam Khamis dnb, Gerard O'Shea dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 4-397 (35 Overs) (Soren Hughes 204*; Roman Hughes 68; J. Murtha 56)

Defeated

St. George Veterans: - 10-97 (25 Overs)

By 300 runs

FoW: - 1-124 (J. Murtha); 2-149 (D. Thomas); 3-297 (R. Hughes); 4-397 (T. Barrett)

The Bowling was: - T. Joy-Page 7-0-21-2, J. Keane 5-1-19-2, A. Khamis 4-2-12-2, Y. Giri 4-1-7-3, N. Austen 3-0-21-0, D. Thomas 2-0-14-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: -2 to D. Thomas (w); 2 to T. Barrett (one as w); Two to N. Austen and One to J. Keane

Run outs: - Nil

CCNSW Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to Soren Hughes; 2 points to Roman Hughes; one point to T. Barrett

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/city-and-suburban-cricket-association-1903-inc/summer-202526/jack-pace-shield/game-centre/f0e928fe**

Reminiscences

- **Soren Hughes:** I recall thinking all week that I should be in good shape after playing five T20 matches for Port Jackson and having scored 20-30 in most games all year yet hadn't scored more. Jamie suggested we should open the batting and historically we have had 100 run

partnerships batting together so it was good to click over that milestone, up to 50 quite quickly. I did miss a ball early outside off and afterwards I told myself to keep a compact shape, watch the ball into the bat and protect the stumps for most of the innings. Clicking past 100, it did seem that the bowling attack had weakened and I was now hitting most balls out of the middle, although was somewhat fatigued. Thankfully my son Roman had joined me in the middle and was hitting almost everything for four and that provided me the chance to catch my breath and reconsider how many runs I could score. Jamie, by then player umpire, suggested that I might get past Ian Allmey's club record [of 174] for the largest individual score. As we had less than 10 overs left, I did what I could to pass 150 before deciding to aggress. By that stage, it felt like I was hitting ripe tomatoes with a shovel in the backyard and I must have hit almost everything for four or six, scoring the last 50 from 17 balls before handing over to Tom Barrett who promptly dispatched almost every ball of the last over for six (except the last).

- **Jamie Murtha:** Saturday 13th December was the perfect day for cricket: the day was warm and the skies blue. It was also a great toss to win. Soren and I had agreed earlier in the week that he and I would open the batting together if the coin fell our way. Together we chalked up another century partnership which I am so proud of. Soren's double century was absolutely authoritative. On multiple occasions at the non-strikers end I had to duck and weave as the ball went barreling past just inches away from my head. His presence at the crease was commanding and frankly the opposition had no answers. I recall from the sidelines one of the opposition players asking me to retire him once he scored a century. The very next ball Soren launched one directly at the cafe across the street, stopped just short by the last branch at the top of the fig tree. Soren struck 10 sixes and 24 fours in the most extraordinary innings I've ever seen outside an international game, and not once did he play a shot in anger or lose his shape. It was an incredible day for the big friendly giant and a very special moment for myself as captain to witness and be a part of.

WEEK THIRTEEN: SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER 2025

C&S JACK PACE ROUND 11 v MARRICKVILLE TURF BEARS AT BLICK OVAL, CANTERBURY ON SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER 2025: REPORT BY JAMIE MURTHA

The CCNSW C&S side wrapped up the calendar year in style with a commanding 70-run victory over the Marrickville Turf Bears in Round 11 at Blick Oval, Canterbury. It was a beautiful day for cricket, sunny and warm, with the pitch appearing a little spongy on the surface but nevertheless very good to bat on. Winning the toss, we elected to bat and immediately made the most of the conditions.

Openers Ryan Lynch and Max Sardelic provided the perfect platform, putting on an excellent 122-run partnership while the ball was still moving around. Both batters applied themselves well, rotating the strike and punishing anything loose. Lynch was the standout, playing fluently and with confidence on his way to a superb 73, while Sardelic contributed a valuable 29 before being dismissed.

As the ball softened, it proved surprisingly difficult for new batters to get going. Tom Barrett once again found himself agonisingly short of a maiden half-century, scoring yet another 49. Despite the frustration, it was a vital innings that held the middle order together. Roman Hughes and Soren Hughes both looked in good touch before both were run out, adding useful runs and maintaining momentum. Late contributions ensured we finished strongly at 6 for 232 from our 40 overs.

Defending a competitive total, we were in control from the outset. The bowling was disciplined, ensuring the Turf Bears were never truly in the contest. Stuart Ridge bowled superbly with the new ball, finishing with figures of 2 for 20 from 8 overs, consistently hitting the right areas. The spinners were equally impressive, bowling tight lines and giving little away.

The standout performance came from Josh Heldarskard, who produced a devastating spell to clean up the tail, finishing with an outstanding 6 for 35. Backed by sharp fielding and safe hands — with every chance taken — Marrickville were eventually dismissed for 162 in 34.1 overs.

Beyond the result, the match was played in excellent spirit. The Marrickville Turf Bears were outstanding hosts, providing tea at the interval and refreshments after play, rounding off an enjoyable day and a fitting way for us to close out the year. We come back on the **Saturday** 3rd of January at Camperdown *(Ed note: game moved from the Sunday to avoid conflict with first day of the Test Match at the SCG)* to play Sydney University Lions for the Brooks -Manning -Moorhouse Shield.

The Team was: - Ryan Lynch 73, Max Sardelic (w) 29, Roman Hughes 27, Joshua Heldarskard 4, Tom Barrett 49, Soren Hughes 4, Karthick Subramaniam 12*, Harry Walsh 2*, Jamie Murtha (c) dnb, Nathan Austen dnb, Stuart Ridge dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 6-232 (40 Overs) (R. Lynch 73; T. Barrett 49)

Defeated

Marrickville Turf Bears: - 10-162 (34.1 Overs) (J. Heldarskard 6-35)

By 70 runs

FoW: - 1-121 (M. Sardelic) 2-125 (R. Lynch); 3-130 (J. Heldarskard); 4-173 (R. Hughes); 5-177 (S. Hughes); 6-229 (T. Barrett).

The Bowling was: - S. Ridge 8-1-20-2; J. Murtha 8-1-35-0; Soren Hughes 3-0-17-1; N. Austen 6-1-32-1; T. Barrett 2-0-16-0; J. Heldarskard 7.1-0-31-6

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil
Catches: -Two each to M. Sardelic (w) and Soren Hughes; one each to Roman Hughes and J. Murtha
Run outs: - Nil

CCNSW Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to R. Lynch; 2 points to J. Heldarskard; one point to T. Barrett

Scorecard: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/city-and-suburban-cricket-association-1903-inc/summer-202526/jack-pace-shield/game-centre/bdf52d01

WEEK FIFTEEN: SUNDAY 4 JANUARY 2026

C&S JACK PACE ROUND 12 v SYDNEY UNIVERSITY LIONS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 3 JANUARY 2026: FOR THE BROOKS-MANNING MOORHOUSE SHIELD: REPORT BYADRIAN HAWKES

CCNSW C&S TEAM vs SYDNEY UNIVERSITY LIONS AT CAMPERDOWN

Back: Nathan Austen; Roman Hughes; Tom Robertson; Scott Williams; Sam Millar; Sebastian White (w)

Front: Tom Barrett; Adam Khamis; Jamie Murtha (c); Soren Hughes (v/c); Harry Walsh; Lachlan Murphy

A high scoring game produced a win for CCNSW by 25 runs, a margin which seemed smaller on the field than the score suggests. Our side today was a mixture of youth and experience with two players in their 50s, two in their 40s, a further 3 in their thirties, three in their twenties and two in their teens.

The game had been brought forward from the Sunday to the Saturday to allow players on both sides to go to the first day of the Sydney Test. It was the only game in the C&SCA Jack Pace Memorial Shield played over the weekend. The change of days proved fortunate as the weather on the Sunday was to be overcast and rainy, reinforcing Sydney's reputation as the '*Seattle of the South'*, whereas the Saturday was an ideal cricket day- sunny with a gentle breeze blowing from the rotunda end with temperature c $24C^0$ max and low humidity. Having won the toss Jamie Murtha had no hesitation in batting first.

The pitch appeared bright green but was dry. The colour was more the result of the new grass being sown on the recommendation of Sydney University. While there was some turn and lift for the bowlers, batters could confidently play through the line and the outfield was fast, accentuated by the fact that in accordance with Premier Grade Requirements, a white boundary line had been painted c 2 metres inside the picket fence. With the wicket on the closest strip to the pavilion, this made for a very short boundary that side of the ground which was to result during the game with a number of sixes onto and over the pavilion roof and a number of good catches - and some drops - on the boundary.

CCNSW opened with Tom Robertson in only his third appearance this season in the C&S and a first appearance this season by our keeper/batsman Sebastian White. Tom is now aged 53. He has been a formidable if slightly unorthodox aggressive left hand batter who has relied on a superb eye, strength and hand/eye coordination to score over ten thousand runs for CCNSW. At his best he could destroy Premier First Grade bowlers, showing them no respect as he drove, cut and pulled them to the boundary with the fielders seemingly motionless as the ball screamed by them. But we all age and Tom has had a poor season so far in Masters o40s and Classics o50s scoring only 104 runs in 8 innings. He no longer sees the ball as well as before and the devastating square slashes and drives on the up, off opening bowlers-whether they pitched short or full, was now resulting in more misses and edges behind.

Today was a chance for Tom to try to get back to his previous form against a reasonable quality, medium fast Lions opening attack. At first he missed regularly but after a couple of overs he began to hit the ball consistently. His timing was not perfect but the strength of the shot began regularly to take the ball to the boundary. At the other end Sebastian White looked out of sorts and was out early for 2 to a ball that rose from a length with the total on 11.

That brought in Roman Hughes, a slim tall right hand batter only aged 18 but who is developing consistently and I fear, given his ability, may be lost next season to Grade if he so chooses. His shot selection reminds me of a young Greg Chappell, especially his on driving which is played with the full face of the bat. He rarely seems hurried, hits the ball deceptively hard with immaculate timing and most importantly regularly hits the gaps, not the fielders. His stance is wide and low but as the bowler approaches, he stands slightly more upright and raises his bat to shoulder level or higher. His back foot defensive shots with the minimum of footwork leaves the ball dead at his feet. Two shots will remain in my memory:- an on drive for six down to the café end with the bat remaining straight as a pendulum, totally unlike a golf shot and a back foot drive off a fast slightly short straight ball on off stump which most players would be happy to defend . With the bat totally perpendicular- not a square slash with a horizontal bat, he caught it on the rise and a second later it hissed with a loud crack into the picket fence by the pavilion gate. No one, neither batters nor fielders, had moved.

His apparent weakness at the moment will rarely be found out in C&S. The Lions opening bowler who by now was bowling fast with his keeper some 15 metres back, suddenly bowled the perfect fast bouncer right at the grill. Roman's back foot did not move back (nor across). He was late as he swayed into the attempted hook

shot with his head turning away, and the ball steepled off the toe end of the bat to gully…. who dropped it! Laughter all round. Slightly later, maybe the same over, I forget, exactly the same ball, same shot but this time the keeper called and gully moved aside. Somehow even wearing gloves, the keeper juggled and dropped it to more astonished laughter from the pavilion. For some inexplicable reason, the bowler never tried a third bumper; maybe his seven overs were up. Apart from these two blemishes I do not even recall Roman playing and missing, let alone giving another chance.

So in their contrasting styles Tom Robertson and Roman Hughes added 90 for the second wicket in 17 overs until Tom was out for 49 (9 x 4). This brought in Sam Millar, an occasional jazz musician and a tall right handed batter whose strength lies in front foot drives. He dominated the strike for a quick fire 34 mostly in boundaries (2 x 6 and 4 x 4). He scored his first 20 runs off the first 7 balls he received before 'slowing down', scoring his final 14 runs off the next ten balls.

CCNSW were scoring at a run rate of 5 an over for the first twenty overs but then the run rate accelerated:

- 38 runs off overs 21-25
- 35 runs off overs 26-30 and
- 56 runs off overs 31-35

The fall of Sam Millar had brought in Soren Hughes to partner his son. They are developing a calling and running reputation to rival Compton and Edrich. As fellow England player Trevor Bailey once laconically commented: "*A call for a run from Compton should be treated as no more than a basis for negotiation".* I feared similarly with Soren and Roman but a run out did not happen this time.

Soren continued in the same vein of form that had brought him a not out double century two games ago driving the ball effortlessly off the front foot to the boundary while Roman approached his century. The 35th and final over of our innings was "interesting". 18 runs came from the over but Soren dominated the strike. Roman initially faced on what he and the scorers and spectators thought was a score of 98* -or maybe 99* and hit the second ball off an inside edge into his pad and Soren called him through for a sharp single off which was then signaled a leg bye!. No problem we thought –with most fielders on the boundary- Soren just needs to tap a single giving Roman two balls to make his century. But almost in a fit of absentmindedness, (and superb timing) Soren caressed the next two balls to the boundary and thus faced the final ball to boos from the boundary and Roman apparently stranded on 99*. Was it absentmindedness or had Soren put the good of the team (i.e. to score the most runs) above giving his son a chance for a century? I have no idea. Of course people who score 99* are members of a rare club not that I am sure any wish to be a member.

But then all was saved and Roman ceased to be a member of that rare society - a discrepancy between the two scorebooks meant one more run for Roman. Jamie Murtha swears this was not a deliberate fudge but a genuine mistake by our scorers- (which an examination of the scorebook confirms) the benefits of keeping two books operating so at the end Roman was 100* (12 x 4 and 1 x 6). He scored his second fifty off only 34 balls received, with only seven dot balls. Soren ended the 35th over with a six to end up 35* off only 28 balls (4 x 4 and 1 x 6).

231 in 35 overs is about 6.6 per over, difficult but not impossible on such a fast scoring ground with such a short boundary on the pavilion side.

In addition our bowling attack on the day was not the strongest with Soren unable to bowl (Achilles injury) and Roman not bowling. That left us with the gentle right arm medium pace of Scott Williams, ex representative Royal Australian Navy player and first grade shires but now well into his forties and the slower pace of Jamie Murtha-often looks innocuous but equally often gets wickets by sticking to the cardinal virtues-especially that

of bowling straight. They were supported by the steady medium pace of the bearded 32 yr old Lachlan Murphy coming back to cricket after a decade's absence.

In the spin department we had three talented spin bowlers all of different styles. The 27yr old Adam Khamis-about 6ft 2 (188cm) with a very high arm action bowling slow medium wrist spin with a good googly, and our two English imports for the summer, the 21 yr old Nathan Austen also a wrist spinner, only c 5ft 10 (178cm) but getting significant turn and bounce off the wicket and the 19 yr old Tom Barrett c 5ft 8 inches (172cm) bowling steady and accurate off breaks-also an excellent outfielder which was to prove crucial.

It is difficult to bowl accurate economical wrist spin at any age but generally it is a skill that improves with age and experience and all three are still learning. Both Khamis and Austen bowled some virtually unplayable balls that turned and bounced alarmingly but the reality was that they were so hard to hit as to lack wicket taking potential. And interspersed between the good balls were some rank long hops and full tosses that were put away.

Tom Barrett seemed from the side on view from the pavilion, to bowl all his off-spinners at the same pace and with the same flight and with a strong shoulder action. Being sideways on I could not tell if he was drifting the ball away from the batters in the breeze coming from fine leg or whether he varied his direction so as to bowl wider as the batters consistently charged down the wicket and were very close to being stumped on several occasions. Tom also suffered from the occasional dropped catch in the deep

Our fielding was a mixture-several dropped catches and several good ones. Scott Williams first dropped a difficult one on the boundary at deep mid wicket and then held one above his head running at full stretch inches inside the boundary line.

The Lions started just under the required rate putting on 38 for the first wicket off the first seven overs and were scoring consistently at over 5 per over. Probably the decisive moment came in the 26th over when Josh Heldarskard (who scored 174* against us in the same match last season) pulled a Nathan Austen 'half tracker" leg break off the back foot, flat towards the pavilion at high speed, only for Sam Millar who is c 6ft 6 (198cm), and was fielding on the boundary at deep mid-wicket, to jump and stick up one hand to catch the ball c 9 feet (275cm) off the ground.

The Lions remained aggressive and took 16 runs off the 33rd over with the new no 6 batter Gaurav Runwall hitting his first ball for 6. An outside chance perhaps with only another 31 runs needed off the final 2 overs but Tom Barrett ended the game with running catches in the deep which he made look effortless.

And so we retain the Brooks-Manning Moorhouse Shield or rather the replacement shield given that we lost the original immediately after the first game it was played for. Those who want to know more should look at the page on the Club's web site at https://ccnsw.com/index.php/brooks-manning-moorhouse-shield/

And finally my commiserations to a young Harry Walsh who was only to field in this game. It is very difficult to give everyone a go in a 35 over game, especially when the top order batting fires so spectacularly. That is partly why we always try for 40 overs (if the opposition consents). A skillful captain has to ensure equal opportunities balance out over a series of games and I suspect Harry may be up the order in the next few games he plays.

Next Sunday we play the powerful I Zingari Australia side (currently 2nd in the Jack Pace league table) at their historic ground at Camden where we have not played for c 15 seasons. A bit of a trek but well worth the effort.

The Team was (playing 12): - Tom Robertson 49 (49 balls), Sebastian White (w) 2 (7 balls), Roman Hughes 100*(102 balls), Sam Millar 34 (17 balls), Soren Hughes 35* (22 balls), Thomas Barrett dnb, Scott Williams dnb, Lachlan Murphy dnb, Harry Walsh dnb, Nathan Austen dnb, Adam Khamis dnb and Jamie Murtha (c) dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 3-230 (35 Overs) (Roman Hughes 100*)

Defeated

Sydney University Lions: - 7-205 (35 Overs)

By 25 runs

FoW: - 1-11 (S. White); 2-101 (T. Robertson); 3-147 (S. Millar).

The Bowling was: - S. Williams 7-2-38-2; J. Murtha 5-0-34-1; A. Khamis 4-1-10-1; N. Austen 6-0-53-1; L. Murphy 6-0-27-1; T. Barrett 7-0-35-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: -One to S. White (w); 3 to T. Barrett; one each to S. Millar and S. Williams

Run outs: - Nil

CCNSW Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to Roman Hughes; 2 points to Tom Robertson; one point to Lachlan Murphy

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/city-and-suburban-cricket-association-1903-inc/summer-202526/jack-pace-shield/game-centre/6db4c618**

WEEK SIXTEEN: SUNDAY 11 JANUARY 2026

C&S JACK PACE ROUND 13 v I ZINGARI AUSTRALIA AT CAMDEN OVAL, BELGENNIE ON SUNDAY 11 JANUARY 2026: REPORT BY JAMIE MURTHA

Scottish International player Pippa Kelly playing for the 'Western Storm' in Women's Scotland Regional series scoring half century vs the Eagles.

We were greeted at Camden Park by the not-so-distant sounds of cows mooing on the other side of a worn-down brown picket fence; there must have been 50 or so wandering amongst the eucalyptus trees. This was just one of the many unique features of this historic ground, coined by CCNSW as 'cow paddock'. The outfield and pitch looked like they had been dented by their fair share of hoofs and cricket boots alike, and the boundaries facing the pavilion had a very distinct upslope before the fence, which the locals call 'the 12th man', responsible for saving many a run.

It was a grey and gloomy day which threatened rain. We lost the toss and were required to field, and unfortunately, due to a miscommunication with our Club's Masters side, we were without an opening bowler in Brett James. Jamie Murtha opened the bowling and was dispatched for consecutive fours before bowling the opening batter around his legs with a slower-than-slow ball that bounced about two inches off the ground.

Henry Davis opened from the other end and his outswingers looked threatening, even producing the easiest of catches to Adam Khamis at point, who regrettably shelled it, much to the amusement of the local opposition and fauna. Dropped for something like a duck, the number three went on to make a rapid 60 with a fine display of agricultural shots, some of which were reminiscent of what you might see at the Royal Sydney Easter Show's famous wood chopping event.

Soren Hughes was brought into the attack and the conditions seemed to suit his bowling. He proved difficult to get away and produced variable bounce, picking up the important wicket of the swashbuckling number three with a skied ball out to deep cow corner, safely taken by Ryan Lynch. Adam Khamis, keen to make amends, bowled brilliantly from the other end, turning the ball square. He picked up a wicket with a delivery that bounced sharply and was mistimed straight to Tom Barrett at mid-on, who continues to add to his tally of impressive catches.

Slightly heavier-than-drizzle precipitation began to fall, but we continued on, ultimately to the detriment of the pitch later in the innings.

Max Sardelic bowled with surprising pace and accuracy on a day when the ball had begun to feel a little 'soapy', producing half a dozen aerial chances that comically sailed a metre to either side of Henry Davis at point before a running catch was finally taken by Jamie Murtha at mid-off.

The debutant, Pippa Kelly, joined us all the way from the UK to play as a guest (after being invited during a chance introduction at the SCG the week prior), kept wicket very well all day in tough conditions and manufactured a brilliant solo run-out with one stump to aim at after scurrying after a ball nudged to square leg. Henry Davis picked up a couple more wickets as they began to fall in between the odd flurry of boundaries; meanwhile, the ball became soggier and the pitch softer and slipperier.

The innings eventually came to an end with possibly one of the saddest dismissals in the Club's history. The ball slipped out of Jamie's hand and resulted in a head-high no-ball being spooned to Soren Hughes at mid-wicket. The batters ran, and Soren proceeded to throw the ball about a metre over Jamie's head, who, running backwards, managed to jump, gather the ball one-handed, and throw the stumps down whilst mid-air. The look of disgust on the skipper's face was apparent to all those who could see through what was either raindrops on their faces or tears of laughter.

Unfortunately, it was at this moment (to the surprise of no one) that the umpire decided to bring the captains together and inform them of his decision to abandon the match due to unsafe conditions.

It was a disappointing end to what would have otherwise been an excellent match at a stunning venue. However, the game was played in excellent spirits, and players from both teams stayed for a few beers afterwards, swapping stories until, inevitably, the cows came home.

The Team was: - Ryan Lynch, Pippa Kelly (w), Max Sardelic, Sam Millar, Thomas Barrett, Soren Hughes (v/c), Karthick Subramaniam, David Sirr, Jamie Murtha (c), Henry Davis, Adam Khamis.

The Result was: - No Result; abandoned as a draw: rain

I Zingari Australia: - 10-217 (39.5 Overs)

vs

C.C.N.S.W.: - Did not bat (rain)

The Bowling was: - J. Murtha 7.5-0-51-2; H. Davis 8-0-57-3; Adam Khamis 8-1-17-1; T. Barrett 4-0-25-0; M. Sardelic 6-0-25-1; S. Hughes 6-2-28-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - one to P. Kelly (w); One each to T. Barrett, H. Davis, R. Lynch and J. Murtha.

Run outs: - One to J. Murtha; one to P. Kelly

CCNSW Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to H. Davis; 2 points to S. Hughes; one point to A. Khamis

Scorecard: - https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/city-and-suburban-cricket-association-1903-inc/summer-202526/jack-pace-shield/game-centre/9b69ae42

WEEK SEVENTEEN: SUNDAY 18 JANUARY 2026

C&S JACK PACE ROUND 14 v NONDESCRIPTS AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY18 JANUARY 2026

Cancelled by rain

WEEK EIGHTTEEN: SUNDAY 25 JANUARY 2026

No fixture arranged

WEEK NINETEEN: SATURDAY 31 JANUARY 2026

C&S JACK PACE ROUND 16 v YARALLA C.C. AT GODDARD OVAL, CONCORD ON SATURDAY 31 JANUARY 2026: REPORT BY JAMIE MURTHA

Played under a relentless sun with temperatures pushing 35 degrees and not a cloud in sight, our third match this season against Yaralla delivered a full day of highlights as we completed a dominant performance. The pitch looked fairly hard and dry, if anything a touch on the dead side, and after winning the toss skipper Jamie Murtha wasted no time electing to bat, a decision that sent heads of the Yaralla camp down immediately.

Jamie got the innings underway with some sweetly timed shots before nailing one straight to cover. Roman Hughes unfortunately fell shortly after for a duck, putting us on the back foot at 2-15. Sam Millar and Max Sardelic were watchful as they steadied the ship taking us to 2-58 at drinks. Sam nailed a beautiful six down the ground but fell shortly after, bringing the in-form Soren Hughes to the crease.

What then took place can only be described as total annihilation of the opposition bowling attack. Soren batted with absolute contempt towards the Yaralla bowlers nailing 6 fours and 3 towering sixes, one of which sailed well over the height of the pavilion onto the street. Max found the gaps and rotated the strike but Soren completely halted the oppositions momentum and drained their energy leading to complete capitulation in the field. The Yaralla Captain in the heat and under pressure regularly lost his composure, taking his frustration out on his own players. Eventually Soren was dismissed for 65 off only 35 deliveries, but at 3-173 with 8 overs remaining, the damage was already done.

Max continued to work the ball around the field as he manufactured a composed and well-constructed 72, playing the role of anchor with patience and controlled the proceedings with patience. Declan Thomas kept the scoreboard moving, playing his textbook sweep to fine leg off the seamers and ensured there were no periods of relief for Yaralla. Finally to end the innings Jonathan Seifman and Nathan Austen ran a comical four thanks to some sloppy fielding, taking us to a commanding 7-218 from 35 overs, later cries of "*how the f**** did we let them score 200!?*" were heard from the home dressing room.

Our bowling began in unforgettable fashion, with Theo Joy-Page delivering what may well go down as the longest over in C&S folklore,14 balls, 0/8 including 8 wides and not a single run off the bat. Despite the false start Theo was trusted by the skipper to find this rhythm and that he did, bowling an excellent spell of 7 overs 1-21.

Gerry O'Shea continued his dominance over the Yaralla openers, picking up two key wickets, an excellent low catch from Roman Hughes at mid-off brought us our first and then Jonathan Seifman produced a spectacular one-handed slips catch that looked certain to be catch of the season and the next. Adam Khamis was brought into the attack and absolutely bamboozled the opposition Captain with a wrong'un, left alone, bowled through the gate, enough said! And Jamie added to the highlights reel with a sharp run out, foxing the

batters into attempting a second before whipping the ball into Lachlan Murphy at the non-strikers end who took the bails off with the batter well short of his crease.

Lachlan bowled a lovely spell from the other end, hitting a line and length regularly. Batters couldn't find their timing but Lachlan found their edges regularly, Gerry O'Shea produced a screamer in the gully and Declan Thomas comfortably pouched two. Lachlan proved his value with the ball ending with figures of 4-21 off 5 and all but ending the match, leaving just one wicket which was comfortably taken by Nathan Austen with a lovely leg break.

The destruction of Yaralla CC was complete, all out for 96 in 23.2 overs, sealing a comprehensive 122-run victory and completing a 3-0 regular season sweep against them. Victory was sweet as we took a few moments to celebrate, but with the finals approaching we know the toughest challenge of our season is still ahead of us.

The Team was (playing 12): - Max Sardelic 72, Jamie Murtha (c) 9, Roman Hughes 0, Sam Millar 25¸ Soren Hughes 65, Declan Thomas (w) 22, Lachlan Murphy 0, Jonathan Seifman 4*, Nathan Austen 1*, Adam Khamis dnb, Theo Joy-Page dnb, Gerard O'Shea dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 7-218 (35 Overs) (M. Sardelic 72; S. Hughes 65)

Defeated

Yaralla CC: - 10-96 (23.2 Overs) (L. Murphy 4-21)

By 122 runs

FoW: - 1-15 (J. Murtha); 2-15 (Roman Hughes); 3-67 (S. Millar); 4-172 (Soren Hughes); 5-209 (M. Sardelic); 6-209 (L. Murphy); 7-213 (D. Thomas).

The Bowling was: - T Joy-Page 7-1-21-1; G. O'Shea 5-1-20-2; N. Austen 3.2-0-9-1; A. Khamis 3-0-19-1; L. Murphy 5-0-21-4

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: -2 to D. Thomas (w); One to each of N. Austen, R. Hughes, G. O'Shea and J. Seifman

Run outs: - One to J. Murtha

CCNSW Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to Soren Hughes; 2 points to M. Sardelic; one point to L. Murphy

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/city-and-suburban-cricket-association-1903-inc/summer-202526/jack-pace-shield/game-centre/054cbe0e**

WEEK TWENTY: SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2026

C&S JACK PACE ROUND 17 v OLD ALOYSIANS AT ST ALOYSIUS OVAL, WILLOUGHBY ON SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2026.

Cancelled by rain

WEEK TWENTYONE : SUNDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2026

C&S JACK PACE ROUND 18 v HUNTERS HILL 'PIRATES' AT BORONIA PARK, RYDE ON SUNDAY15 FEBRUARY 2026: REPORT BY ADAM KHAMIS

We arrived at the final league round of the Jack Pace Shield prior to the Finals with a top four spot and a home quarter final on the line. There may be some rust in the gears due to a couple of washouts in recent weeks, but we were confident we could get the win over Hunters Hill and take some momentum into the finals. Overnight rain caused a delayed start as we attempted to remove the covers without drenching the pitch, a successful operation that was overseen more by the visiting captain than the home skipper. We lost the toss and were sent into bat on a pitch that looked as though it had something in it for the bowlers but was generally pretty friendly for the batsmen. In contrast, the outfield was as good as a twelfth fielder; the grass would have kept a small flock of sheep happy for several days.

Gerry O'Shea (15) and Max Sardelic (10) provided some good early reconnaissance, with Max playing some good attacking, aerial shots as the only way to get your score moving on this field. Once both had departed, it was left to Jamie Murtha and Sam Millar to build our innings. The pair batted well together and laid a solid platform for our innings. It was tough going at times because they did not always get value for their shots, with the ball coming up just short of boundary on a few occasions where it would a left a dent in the fence anywhere else. From 2-47 at drinks, the pair eventually put on a 79-run partnership before Sam was out lbw for 45. This brought on a mini collapse as Soren Hughes and Rhys Longbottom were out in consecutive balls, both caught at long off. The demise of two of our biggest hitters for 1 run between them didn't deter Jamie, who batted on with the lower order and attempted several reverse sweeps, one of which was successful. He even generously suggested a solution to the opposition fielder regularly tinkering with the field, involving spray paint. Jamie was out for 55 in the final few overs, caught and bowled off a rocket return shot, after bringing up a half-century. Our final score of 8 – 147 in 35 overs was, we felt, definitely defendable.

Then the opposition batted. The sun had finally come out during the innings break and the pitch was now easier to bat on. The Hunters Hill opening batters made a fast start with our early bowlers, apart from Rhys Longbottom, struggling to stem the runs. Lachlan Murphy pulled a big shift as sweeper, fielding in the deep for much of the innings without letting his energy dip. The breakthrough finally came when skipper Jamie Murtha brought himself on, snagging two wickets with his bloody 'moon balls'. Nathan Austen bowled beautifully in his best spell of the year, picking up a wicket for his efforts. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough as the opposition had too many runs on the board already and they cruised to victory in the twenty eighth over with over 7 overs to spare. A disappointing loss, our first against Hunters Hill in a long time (*Ed Note-last CCNSW loss v Hunters Hill was in 2009)*, but one that sees us finish the Jack Pace Shield league season in 4th place and a home quarter final v The Primary Club of Australia (following the disqualification of Hunters Hill Pirates for not entering all their player match details in PlayHQ,). This was our best JP League position for several years with the new, longer league season rewarding our consistent performances. On to the quarter final in two weeks' time!

The Team was: - Gerard O'Shea 15, Max Sardelic (w) 10, Jamie Murtha (c) 55, Sam Millar 45, Soren Hughes 1, Rhys Longbottom 0, Nikolaas Warmerdam 3, Lachlan Murphy 5, Nathan Austen 9*, Adam Khamis 1*, Aleksandr Yap dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 8-147 (35 Overs) (J. Murtha 55; S. Millar 45)

Lost to

Hunters Hill CC: - 3-148 (27 Overs)

By 7 wickets

FoW: - 1-15 (M. Sardelic); 2-32 (G. O'Shea); 3-111 (S. Millar); 4-114 (S. Hughes); 5-114 (R. Longbottom); 6-115 (N. Warmerdam); 7-124 (L. Murphy); 8-144 (J. Murtha).

The Bowling was: - R. Longbottom 7-1-24-0; A. Yap 4-0-27-0; A. Khamis 3-0-19-0; L. Murphy 2-0-14-0; N. Austen 4-1-21-1; J. Murtha 7-0-43-2

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: -One each to R. Longbottom, J. Murtha and N. Warmerdam

Run outs: - Nil

CCNSW Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to S. Millar; 2 points to M. Sardelic; one point to G. O'Shea

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/city-and-suburban-cricket-association-1903-inc/summer-202526/jack-pace-shield/game-centre/fdc014c7**

WEEK TWENTY TWO : SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2026

C&S "SOCIAL" ROUND 5 v REG BARTLEY XI AT REG BARTLEY OVAL, RUSHCUTTERS BAY ON SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2026: REPORT BY NATHAN AUSTEN

A hot day greeted us at Rushcutters Bay, with all the players praying for a bat-first result from the toss. The skipper Jamie Murtha obliged, winning and sending himself and Max Sardelic in to open.

Some thick grass on the outfield made boundaries hard to come by, with the green top not helping. We found ourselves three down at the first drinks break at 12 overs, with Max, Jamie and Sam Millar the victims of the Reg Bartley XI attack. Jamie was the only one to manoeuvre himself off the mark to see off the opening attack on a seaming deck, with Max and Sam caught at slip for ducks.

Our English (over for the season) player, Tom Barrett strolled in at three and found himself at home with all of the 'Jacob Bethell' sledging, after Tom had gone on the England cricketer's holy pilgrimage to Noosa and the east coast. He batted gracefully while being the colour of a tomato after all the running required of him.

Lachlan Murphy joined him at the crease for a partnership that took us almost to the second drinks break at 24 overs. Soren Hughes came in at No. six to safely take us to the break. Incredibly, Tom finally managed to break his curse of getting out in the 40s, making his way to 55 before drinks. However, Theo Joy-Page and the fans Tom brought with him were too engrossed in the bubble show at the children's birthday party next to the dugout to take notice, clearly knowing more runs were on the cards.

Murphy departed just before drinks, with Soren Hughes holing out shortly after to the extra-long leg-side boundary. 'Jono' Seifman and Nathan Austen came in and both departed for ducks, bowled and lbw respectively, with Tom sitting on 81 not out at the other end. Adam Khamis saw out a few overs before 'finding the man' a couple of overs later. Theo Joy-Page came in at number 10 as our last batter for the day and left the ball with composure to try to help Tom to his century. But the nervous 90s struck, and he was caught on 92 by the keeper after a snick onto the thigh pad. CCNSW finished on 142 — a score we thought was very much defendable on this ground.

Part-time player and full-time Melbourne fanatic and left arm fast bowler Theo Joy-Page took the first over of our bowling innings, starting us off strongly with only a seven-ball over compared to his record-breaking 14-ball one two weeks prior. Some creative captaincy and misplaced faith led to full-time umpire and part-time leg spinner Nathan Austen opening the bowling from the other end with some right-arm mediums. With both opening bowlers hooping the new ball around, we found ourselves unlucky not to take a wicket in the opening overs — especially Theo, whose close lbw shout was turned away for "*pitching outside off*" by the opposition umpire!

Luckily, Nathan was replaced by a genuine seamer in 'Jono' Seifman, who made light work of the Reg Bartley top four, claiming all of their wickets in his first four overs. Tight lines and changes in pace gave him figures of 4–15 off his seven overs, unlucky not to claim a fifth in a game-changing spell that included a few uncharacteristic fielding blunders along the way. With the back broken of the batting side, CCNSW put the squeeze on. Adam Khamis replaced Theo, picking up a peach of a wicket in his spell before drinks at 18 overs, with the batting side well behind the run rate.

Post-drinks, we continued on our merry way, with the scoreboard too far away to read for most. The Reg Bartley XI's fourth and fifth left-handers of the day found it hard to meet the run rate off Jamie Murtha and Adam Khamis through the middle overs, with Jamie claiming his mandatory wicket caught at cow with his off-spin. After Adam bowled out, Nathan was back to bowl some leg spin, with Tom Barrett joining at the other

end with his offies to finish off the overs. With both teams having no idea what was needed off how many overs in the declining light and lightning in the backdrop, the two bowlers took us over the line for a 14-run win to get us back to winning ways before the big home quarter-final that awaits.

Just three more wins in the Jack Pace KO finals to go — come on you Blues

The Team was (playing 10): - Jamie Murtha 12, Max Sardelic (w) 0, Thomas Barrett 92, Sam Millar 0, Lachlan Murphy 6, Soren Hughes 13, Jonathan Seifman 0, Nathan Austen (c) 0, Adam Khamis 2, Theo Joy-Page 0*

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - All out 142 (32.1 Overs) (T. Barrett 92)

Defeated

Reg Bartley XI: - 5-129 (35 Overs) (J. Seifman 4-14)

By 13 runs

FoW: - 1-4 (M. Sardelic); 2-36 (J. Murtha); 3-36 (S. Millar); 4-77 (L. Murphy); 5-104 (S. Hughes); 6-118 (J. Seifman); 7-118 (N. Austen); 8-142 (A. Khamis); 9-142 (T. Barrett).

The Bowling was: - J. Murtha 7-0-35-1; T. Barrett 1-0-6-0; J. Seifman 7-1-14-4; N. Austen 6-0-31-0; A. Khamis 7-1-24-1; T. Joy-Page 7-1-14-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to M. Sardelic (w) and one each to N. Austen, S. Hughes and S. Millar.

Run outs: - Nil

CCNSW Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to T. Barrett; 2 points to J. Seifman; one point to T. Joy-Page

Scorecard: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/city-and-suburban-cricket-association-1903-inc/summer-202526/c-and-s-club-matches/game-centre/a895743a

WEEK TWENTY THREE : SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY -SUNDAY 1 MARCH 2026

C&S JACK PACE QUARTER FINAL v THE PRIMARY CLUB OF AUSTRALIA AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2026: REPORT BYJAMIE MURTHA

The two captains Greg Stark (PCA) and Jamie Murtha (CCNSW)with the Jim Hadley Memorial bat

Editor's Note: *Jim Hadley captained the CCNSW C&S team for some years and also played for the Primary Club. He died of cancer on Boxing Day 2024. This game is held annually in his memory*

Our first home quarter final in many years arrived with anticipation and uncertainty in equal measure. Days of heavy rain had left the ground sodden and the covers holding more water than the nearby harbour, but by the time both teams arrived the sun was out and the temperature rising. What followed was a 30-minute spectacle of players from both sides attempting to remove the covers without tipping half a swimming pool onto the square, while Tom Barrett put the ‘super sopper’ to industrious use like a man who had finally found his calling.

Eventually, through persistence and teamwork, the ground was ready and the match could begin. The occasion carried extra meaning, doubling as the annual Jim Hadley Memorial Match, honouring our remarkable captain who passed away on Boxing Day 2024. PCA had taken the inaugural fixture the year before, and CCNSW were determined the trophy would change hands this time.

PCA won the toss and didn't hesitate to choose to bowl on a soft wicket that promised movement, uneven bounce, and generally unpleasant working conditions for batters. Roman Hughes and Jamie Murtha opened the innings and immediately found themselves under pressure from opening bowlers who were moving the ball in both directions with alarming enthusiasm. The ball leapt from a length repeatedly, and Jamie in particular lived a charmed life early, dropped twice on a duck and twice more in single figures. Slowly, however, the pair began to settle. Jamie clipped consecutive boundaries through mid-wicket while Roman, never entirely comfortable with timing, nudged and ‘nurdled’ effectively, the pair running hard to accumulate through twos and threes.

The opening partnership of 58 from 15 overs laid a solid foundation before Roman eventually holed out to mid-on for 20 attempting to accelerate. From there, wickets began to fall with increasing regularity. Tom Barrett chipped one straight to cover and Jamie was trapped in front shortly after, leaving the score at 3-67. Rhys Longbottom and Soren Hughes struck a few boundaries but found fielders in the deep, and when Scott Williams followed in similar fashion the momentum began to shift towards the opposition.

The innings was steadied by a crucial 45-run partnership between Declan Thomas and Nathan Austen. Nathan in particular looked composed on a pitch that was slowly improving, driving and cutting with precision on his way to a well-made 33. Just as the innings looked set for a strong finish, PCA suddenly remembered how to catch and began taking screamers across the field. The innings closed in the thirty third over for 167, a score that felt slightly above par, though everyone knew batting would likely get easier in the second innings.

The atmosphere at tea was tense. The opposition largely stayed in the sheds, presumably plotting their chase, while our side prepared for what would need to be a disciplined bowling effort. Before taking the field, skipper Murtha called a rare team huddle. The message was simple: *we deserve to be here, leave nothing out there, and if we hold our catches, we win this!*

Rhys Longbottom took the new ball from the Rotunda End and immediately set the tone. His first delivery beat the bat, the second did the same, and the third found the outside edge, flying to Jamie at second slip who completed a superb diving catch to get the breakthrough with the score at 1-0. Shortly after, Rhys struck again, spearing one through to bowl PCA captain Greg Stark and reduce them to 2-12.

At the other end Scott Williams bowled with precision and control, picking up the wicket of the number four for a duck courtesy of Lachlan Murphy, before trapping his close friend Sheakey plumb in front the following over. The PCA were suddenly 4-16 and in serious trouble. The dangerous Ben Haynes attempted to counterattack but after several swings and misses he finally connected, only to send a catch towards mid-on where Tom Barrett dived forward to take another excellent catch. 5-19, and the game was rapidly slipping away from the PCA.

Chris Corbett offered resistance and began to counterattack, punishing anything short, but once again Tom Barrett produced magic in the field, leaping and somehow taking a one-handed catch behind his head before embarking on a celebratory lap of the square. Corbett departed for 19 — fittingly Tom’s 19th catch of the season — and PCA were 6-36 and in ruins.

Only the legendary “KB” (Kris Baptista) looked capable of rescuing the innings, but Jamie turned to the wily Soren Hughes, knowing he preferred pace on the ball. The plan worked quickly, an outside edge safely taken by keeper Declan Thomas to make it 7/46. ‘Jono’ Seifman, fresh from a four-wicket haul the previous week, continued the collapse when the number nine attempted to hit him into the next postcode, only to sky a catch to mid-on where Tom Barrett calmly collected his 20th catch of the season, drawing cheers and congratulations from the entire team.

Jamie then picked up the ninth wicket with a return catch off his off-spin, David Ince drilling it straight back only for Jamie to pluck it from the air like a magician revealing a card trick, casually handing the ball to the umpire with a smile. The end came shortly after when ‘Jono’ claimed the final wicket, a ball holding in the pitch and a simple catch taken by Roman Hughes at mid-off, sealing a comprehensive victory and sending the team into the semi final while also reclaiming the Jim Hadley Memorial Trophy.

After the match, both teams gathered on the pitch for the remembrance shoes-off ceremony for Jim. Stories were shared, memories revisited, and glasses were raised as the sun set orange over the ground. Beers followed, and for a while it no longer felt like a quarter final at all — just a group of mates sharing a drink and remembering a great man.

The Team was: - Roman Hughes 20, James Murtha (c) 41, Tom Barrett 2, Rhys Longbottom 17, Soren Hughes 19, Scott Williams 2, Declan Thomas (w) 19, Jonathan Seifman 0, Nathan Austen 33, Lachlan Murphy 1, Adam Khamis 1*

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.:- 10 - 167 (33.3 Overs) (J. Murtha 41; N. Austen 33)

Defeated

The Primary Club of Australia: - 10 – 78 (22.3 Overs)

By 89 runs

FoW: - 1-58 (Roman Hughes); 2-67 (T. Barrett); 3-67 (J. Murtha); 4-96 (R. Longbottom); 5-108 (Soren Hughes); 6-112 (S. Williams); 7-116 (J. Seifman); 8-161 (N. Austen); 9-166 (L. Murphy); 10-167 (D. Thomas).

The Bowling was: - R. Longbottom 7-2-15-4; S. Williams 4-0-20-2, A. Khamis 5-1-23-0; J. Murtha 2-0-6-1, S. Hughes 2-0-3-1, J. Seifman 2.3-1-11-2

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to D. Thomas (w); 3 to T. Barrett; 2 to J. Murtha; one to Soren Hughes and L. Murphy

Run outs: - Nil

CCNSW Player points (awarded by captain): - 3 points to R. Longbottom; 2 points to N. Austen; one point to S. Williams.

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/city-and-suburban-cricket-association-1903-inc/summer-202526/jack-pace-shield/game-centre/33d0f134**

JIM HADLEY MEMORIAL BAT- CCNSW V THE PRIMARY CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

WEEK TWENTY FOUR : THURSDAY 5 - SUNDAY 8 MARCH 2026

CCNSW ROUND 7 SOCIAL C&S GAME v SACHIN TENDULKAR XI AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 7 MARCH 2026.

Game cancelled as CCNSW could not raise a side.

C&S JACK PACE SEMI FINAL v KNOX OLD BOYS AT ST LUKE's OVAL, ST LUKE's PARK, STANLEY STREET, CONCORD ON SUNDAY 8 MARCH 2026

No report received

The Team was: - Max Sardelic 2, Rhys Longbottom 9, Roman Hughes 2, Sam Millar 1, Soren Hughes 8, Thomas Barrett 43, Scott Williams 3, James Murtha 4 (c), Declan Thomas (w) 11*, Nathan Austen 0*, Adam Khamis dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 8-89 (30 Overs) (T. Barrett 43)

No result: match abandoned as draw (rain)

Knox Old Boys progress to Final owing to higher position in league table

FoW: - 1-14 (R. Longbottom); 2-16 (R. Hughes); 3-16 (M. Sardelic); 4-19 (S. Millar); 5-25 (S. Hughes); 6-35 (S. Williams); 7-57 (J. Murtha); 8-89 (T. Barrett).

CCNSW Player points (awarded by captain): - No points awarded

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/city-and-suburban-cricket-association-1903-inc/summer-202526/jack-pace-shield/game-centre/df5e9dbd**

WEEK TWENTY FIVE : SUNDAY 15 MARCH 2026

C&S ROUND 8 "SOCIAL" GAME v THE PRIMARY CLUB OF AUSTRALIA AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 15 MARCH 2026

The Primary Club forfeited being unable to raise a side.

WEEK TWENTY SIX : SATURDAY 21 - SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2026

C&S ROUND 9 "SOCIAL" GAME v PADDINGTON AT WATERLOO OVAL, ZETLAND ON SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2026.

With the cancellation by Molonglo, a C&S game was arranged v Paddington at Waterloo Oval, Zetland. Unfortunately Paddington have no covers and almost inevitably the game was cancelled by rain.

WEEK TWENTY SEVEN : SATURDAY 28 - SUNDAY 29 MARCH 2026

C&S ROUND 10 "SOCIAL" GAME v NSW FIRE & RESCUE AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SATURDAY 28 MARCH 2026: REPORT BY THOMAS BARRETT

C.C.N.S.W. unfortunately went down to NSW Fire & Rescue by 6 wickets on Saturday for the last game of the season, in a game that had a bit of everything — including one of the more memorable ducks you'll ever see.

Batting first, things never really got going. Early wickets had us in trouble at 2-17, and while Rhys Longbottom (24) and skipper Soren Hughes (21) both looked solid, neither could go on with it. Debutants Carlos Smith-Diaz (15) and 13 year old Xavier Rohanek (8) chipped in to drag the total along to something respectable, but it always felt a touch light.

The moment of the day (for all the wrong reasons) belonged to Adam Khamis. After what felt like a six-month wait to finally get a crack at number six, he didn't even face a ball — run out for a diamond duck after some… let's call it "ambitious" calling with Tom Barrett. Safe to say it'll be talked about for a while.

Defending 114 was always going to be a challenge, and NSW Fire & Rescue chased it down in 21 overs. Rhys Longbottom was the pick of the bowlers with a sharp 3-15, doing his best to keep things interesting.

In the field, Nathan Austen put on a show. One of his two catches was an absolute screamer — genuine catch-of-the-season stuff — and there are already strong rumours that his lunchtime beers may have been responsible for unlocking a new level of fielding ability.

In the end it was a tough day out for our City and Suburban team but it was filled with some unbelievable moments. And i can say from a "Pommie" perspective that this is the greatest team in the free world and that we have had an amazing season together, with lots to be proud of and to be remembered.

The Team was (playing 13): - Tom Robertson 6, Gerard O'Shea 2, Rhys Longbottom 24, Sam Millar 11, Thomas Barrett 7, Adam Khamis 0, Nathan Austen 1, Soren Hughes (c) 21, Xavier Rohanek 8; Carlos Smith-Diaz 15, David Craig (w) 7, Jamie Murtha 1*, Valmik Ahire dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 11-114 (37.3 Overs)

Lost to

NSWF&R.: - 4-115 (21 Overs)

By 6 wickets.

FoW: - 1-8 (T. Robertson); 2-17 (G. O'Shea); 3-39 (R. Longbottom); 4-48 (S. Millar); 5-48 (A. Khamis); 6-57 (T. Barrett); 7-68 (N. Austen); 8-86 (Player); 9-92 (S. Hughes); 10-111 (D. Craig); 11-114 (Player).

The Bowling was: - V. Ahire 2-0-21-0; C. Smith Diaz 2-0-19-0; X. Rohanek 3-0-18-1; R. Longbottom 5-2-15-3; J. Murtha 3-0-7-0; T. Barrett 2-0-11-0; A. Khamis 2-0-14-0; N. Austen 1-0-4-0; S. Millar 1-0-4-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - Two to N. Austen.

Run outs: - Nil

CCNSW Player points: - 3 points to R. Longbottom; 2 points to X. Rohanek; one point to C. Smith-Diaz

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/city-and-suburban-cricket-association-1903-inc/summer-202526/c-and-s-club-matches/game-centre/b22451d2**