CCNSW MASTERS MATCH REPORTS 2025-2026 SEASON

WEEK ONE: SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2025

MASTERS ROUND 1 v MACARTHUR CC AT RABY No.4, CAMPBELLTOWN ON SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2025: REPORT BY TIM CROFT

New season, a couple of new players and a new skipper. What, Me worry? Well, in the end there was nothing to worry about as most of it went to plan. As with many grounds lacking preparation at this time of season we were moved a couple of days out from Macarthur's usual home ground to Raby No 4.

The (new) skipper, Croft, had no hesitation in choosing to bowl first when the coin fell our way. We wanted to give our side a chance to move in the field, maybe even wake up with the early start, and hoped the wicket had no major challenge in it which might expose any rusty batting techniques. Yes, most of us were a bit rusty with ball in hand and in the field (skipper speaking for himself only) which is to be expected in Rd 1. Our off-spinner Andrew Dadswell ("Tex") showed no signs of this as the obvious pick of the bowlers and was helped by the occasional low bounce and some spin on what we all thought was a wicket which held occasionally on a good length. But it sat up to be smacked if you bowled anything shorter than that. Tex bowled beautifully and will be hoping for more wickets like that on his way to a miserly 1-7(8). Michael Emmanuel brought about the first dismissal: in dealing with Tex's tight lines, one of the openers thought they should take his arm on at mid-on. He regretted that after Michael threw a blistering direct return to demolish the stumps.

Ryan Miller got some turn as well after the medium pacers Emmanuel, Ben Stanic, Mick Tarrant and Tim Croft all found some good lines to go with the odd loose delivery. Croft will work out when he's going to use all the bowlers on offer as Dan Turner and Jason Kenn were not required. Then an obviously patient Dave Abreu finally got the ball in the last 10 overs and put in some good deliveries while the batting side were trying to put a competitive total on the board. We were not overly confident but thought 177 may be 20 short on that wicket.

The run chase was prefaced with some typical comments about getting the job done early, not losing consecutive wickets in the early overs and aiming for red inks. Croft was not sure if this worked or not, but apart from Michael Emmanuel getting a howler first ball, caught down leg off pad and not bat, the run chase started well.

Tom Robertson and Ryan Miller saw off the swing bowling openers and eventually found their batting rhythm and the boundary. Tom did not quite get to retirement, but had done a job asked of him. Ryan found some great on-side shots and his cuts off the medium slow bowlers were impressive too. While there was a bit of a double stutter at 92 and 4 down, Scott Wells and Croft picked off the bad balls on the way to an unbroken 80 odd run partnership to almost see us home when both retired. Mick Tarrant came on and got us home with a drive and a pull.

Importantly the game was played in great spirit apart from a couple of mumbles (no guesses) about umpire missing things. But that's cricket. Bring on the Presidents Cup game… and round 2.

(I don't write War and Peace, nor crime noir but look forward to reading some good reports from others this season).

The Team was (playing 12): - Tom Robertson 37, Michael Emmanuel 0, Ryan Miller 41* ret not out, Jason Kenn (v/c) 3, Scott Wells (w) 42* ret not out, Dan Turner 0, Tim Croft (c) 40* ret not out, Mike Tarrant 6*, Andrew Dadswell 0*, Luke Holman dnb, Ben Stanic dnb, David Abreu (v/c) dnb

The Result was: -

Macarthur CC: 5-177 (40 Overs)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: - 4-178 (34.5 Overs) (S. Wells 42* ret not out; R. Miller 41* ret not out; T. Croft 40* ret not out)

By 6 wickets

FoW: - 1-4 (M. Emmanuel); 2-74 (T. Robertson); 3-92 (J. Kenn); 4-92 (D. Turner)

The Bowling was: - B. Stanic 3-0-15-0; T. Croft 7-0-31-1; M. Tarrant 5-0-24-1; M. Emmanuel 4-0-27-0; A. Dadswell 8-5-7-1; R. Miller 8-0-33-1; L. Holman 3-0-24-0; D. Abreu 2-0-15-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to R. Miller; One to T. Croft

Run outs: -One to M. Emmanuel

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/sydney-masters-cricket-season-202526-summer-202526/masters-foxs/game-centre/a734fda2**

Player points: -R. Miller 3; A. Dadswell 2; S. Wells one

WEEK FOUR: SATURDAY 18-SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER 2025

MASTERS ROUND 2 v AUBURN AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER 2025: REPORT BY ANDREW DADSWELL

Our Masters team returned to Camperdown Oval, a ground as picturesque as a postcard but unforgiving for anyone not playing straight. We were there to face Auburn, and while the sun shone brightly, our cricketing fortunes were somewhat less radiant.

Auburn, batting first, put on a respectable 7-214. The highlight was undoubtedly the spell by Michael Emmanuel, who, in a display of bowling so potent it could fell small trees, claimed four wickets. Unfortunately, those trees were mostly our own batsmen later in the day. Our fielding was a mixed bag, with Tim Croft, Ryan

Miller, and Tom Robertson each taking a catch. Ben Stanic and Mick Tarrant chipped in with a wicket each, preventing Auburn from truly running riot, though they did manage a brisk trot.

Then came our turn to bat. Chasing 215 felt possible with the outfield running nicely. Tom Robertson departed for 13, followed by Michael Emmanuel (26) who is due some serious luck, Ryan Miller (13), and Dan Turner (0) in quick succession. At 4-52, the scoreboard looked like a telephone number you wouldn't want to call.

Bram Tulloch (2), Avinash Bhandari (5) and David Potts (7) made brief appearances but as the required run rate kept increasing they showed a team-first mentality and pursued quick runs; that approach ultimately causing their downfall. Jason Kenn (37) showed great resistance, looking like a lone lighthouse in a stormy sea during this period and kept the chase alive.

The star of our batting was Tim Croft, who remained 41*. He ran out of partners faster than a wallflower at a disco, leaving him stranded at the end.

In the end, we were all out for 153 in 36.3 overs, falling short by a rather comprehensive 61 runs. The result was a stark reminder that cricket, much like life, can be a cruel mistress. However, we did get to enjoy a lovely day out, proving that even in defeat, there's always a silver lining (and usually a decent post-match beverage).

The Team was (playing 12): - Tom Robertson 13, Michael Emmanuel 26, Ryan Miller 13, Jason Kenn 37, Dan Turner 0, Tim Croft 41*, Bram Tulloch 2, Avinash Bhandari 5, David Potts (w) 7, Andrew Dadswell 2, Mick Tarrant 0, Ben Stanic dnb

The Result was: -

Auburn CC: 7-214 (40 Overs) (M. Emmanuel 4-24)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: 10- 153 (36.3 Overs) (T. Croft 41*)

By 61 runs.

FoW: - 1-21 (T. Robertson); 2-48 (M. Emmanuel); 3-52 (R. Miller); 4-52 (D. Turner); 5-127 (B. Tulloch); 6-132 (A. Bhandari); 7-143 (D. Potts); 8-152 (J. Kenn); 9-152 (A. Dadswell); 10-153 (M. Tarrant).

The Bowling was: - B. Stanic 5-0-31-1; M. Tarrant 7-1-26-1; T. Croft 6-0-28-0; M. Emmanuel 6-1-24-4; A. Dadswell 7-0-35-0; R. Miller 4-0-24-0; A. Bhandari 3-0-18-0; B. Tulloch 2-0-11-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to each of T. Croft, R. Miller and T. Robertson

Run outs: - Nil

CCNSW Player points: - 3 points to M. Emmanuel; 2 points to T. Croft; one point to J. Kenn

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/sydney-masters-cricket-season-202526-summer-202526/masters-foxs/game-centre/a08ef5a2**

WEEK SIX: SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2025

MASTERS ROUND 3 v WARRINGAH CC AT WELDON OVAL, DEE WHY ON SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2025: REPORT BY JOHN MUNDEN

Cricket is a cruel mistress. She flirts with hope, seduces with momentum, and then, without warning, turns cold and indifferent. On a warm afternoon in Dee Why, the Masters found themselves once again under her spell, chasing a modest total that felt well within reach, only to watch opportunity slip, until the final reckoning told of gallant failure. There was no shame in the effort, only that familiar ache that comes when the game reminds you it owes you nothing.

Losing the toss, and asked to field first, captain Tim Croft and Mike Tarrant opened the bowling together (and were later to end the batting together); they toiled manfully on a pitch that offered nothing of consequence for the bowlers, just the faintest whisper of movement to tease, never to tempt. The skipper shuffled his pack early, and a breakthrough finally came courtesy of sharp glove work from stand in keeper for the first twenty overs, Dan Turner, whose reflexes were as quick as his wit.

The introduction of the spin twins, both off-spinners, Bram Tulloch (2–40) and Andrew Dadswell, after drinks restored order and control. Warringah, who had begun brightly, found themselves bogged in the mire of flight and guile. The run rate sagged; frustration mounted. Croft, juggling his options like a circus ringmaster, somehow managed to give eight bowlers a trundle, no small feat of diplomacy. Andy Bachelard (1–28) bowled with purpose, while Jason Keane (1–30) bowling medium pace, never shy of a third person reference mid spell, deserved far greater reward for his persistence. Warringah's 210 felt a fair tally, neither daunting nor derisory, a total shaped more by perspiration than inspiration.

Tea, alas, was less than inspiring. A modest spread, scones with jam and cream but no utensils to apply them, a test of character more exacting than anything faced in the middle. To compound matters, the hosts committed the cardinal sin of not allowing the visiting side first dibs. Etiquette, like swing, has clearly gone out of fashion.

The chase began with quiet confidence, but it ebbed rapidly as wickets tumbled, five down for just 35. Munden, in his final innings for CCNSW, was again adjudged lbw for the third consecutive outing, the kind of cruel symmetry that only cricket can script. There is something unnerving about umpires paid at tea and seemingly keen to clock off early.

(Editor's note: Playing conditions require payment to umpire(s) ***before game commences****! See R4.1.1 "****4.4.1…*** *Each team will bear 50% of the cost for the umpires match payment which is one hundred and eighty dollars ($180). This match payment is to be made to the umpire* ***before play commences, and preferably at the toss****.")*

CCNSW needed a hero, and in Croft (73) they found one. Channelling the spirit of Ben Stokes, he cut, pulled, and drove with authority, finding the rope nine times in his first 40*ret and a further five boundaries on his return at he fall of the ninth wicket, an innings of defiance and flair. Ably supported by Tulloch (38), Bachelard (16), victim to another curious lbw decision, and the ever stoic Tarrant (25*), Croft returned to the crease and reignited faint hopes with a series of lusty blows and a last wicket stand of 54. But as the light dimmed, the game drifted beyond reach, 23 runs too far with 4.2 overs left, but never short on fight.

And so it ended, not with fireworks, but with that quiet handshake that binds our fraternity together. As I walked from the field for the final time, I was reminded that cricket, at this age, is less about runs and wickets and more about endurance, camaraderie, and memory. It keeps the body honest and the spirit young. We limp between overs, laugh at dropped catches, and still believe, that one more cover drive will come sweet from the middle. The cruel mistress may tease and betray, but she never truly leaves us. For those still lacing up their boots each Sunday, she remains the most faithful of companions.

The Team was (playing 12): - Michael Emmanuel (wk 2nd 20 overs) 3, John Munden 0, Jason Kenn 10, Dan Turner (wk 1st 20 overs) 3, Tim Croft (c) 73, T. McMahon 5, Bram Tulloch 38, Andrew Dadswell 9, Andrew Bachelard 16, Jason Keane 0, Michael Tarrant 25 and Luke Holman (dnb)

The Result was: -

Warringah CC: - 6-210 (40 Overs)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-187 (35.4 Overs) (T. Croft 73)

By 23 runs.

FoW: - 1-2 (J. Munden); 2-3 (M. Emmanuel); 3-17 (D. Turner); 4-25 (J. Kenn); 5-39 (T. McMahon); 6-96 (A. Dadswell); 7-122 (A. Bachelard); 8-127 (J. Keane); 9-133 (B. Tulloch); 10-187 (T. Croft).

The Bowling was: - T. Croft 5-0-18-0; M. Tarrant 5-0-30-0 ; M. Emmanuel 3-0-16-0; A. Bachelard 6-0-28-1; J. Keane 5-0-30-1; A. Dadswell 5-0-22-0; L. Holman 3-0-15-1; B. Tulloch 8-1-40-2

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - Two to A. Dadswell; One to each of T. Croft, M. Emmanuel (w) and L. Holman

Run outs: - One to J. Keane

CCNSW Player points: - 3 points to T. Croft; 2 points to B. Tulloch; one point to A. Bachelard

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/sydney-masters-cricket-season-202526-summer-202526/masters-foxs/game-centre/6f2f8325**

WEEK EIGHT: WEDNESDAY 12-SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2025

MASTERS ROUND 4 v CASTLE HILL AT KENTHURST OVAL, KENTHURST ON SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2025: REPORT BY LUKE HOLMAN

A lush outfield framed a centre square that had seen enough cricket to qualify for long service leave. The wicket wore a neat coat of grass down the middle, but the ends were cooked, dry, tired, and offering just enough to punish anything half-hearted. A textbook 25-degree day made a classic Masters contest. Kenthurst Park brought its best. CCNSW brought… something else entirely.

Captain Tim Croft won the toss and decided to bowled first. A decision that felt intentional, a bold choice.

Bowling First; Imperfect, With Intervals of Promise

Ben Stanic opened with shape and movement, enough to keep the batters thinking and the slips interested. He picked up two top order wickets, but never quite got into the groove. Then, the most Masters thing imaginable, a rogue return throw clipped his finger mid-stroll back to his mark. No dive, no drama, just walking. Quick fix from the medic, bandaged up, then straight back on the field. Finished with 2-for-35 and a decent story to tell.

At the Clubhouse end, Captain Croft's opening spell asked questions. Sharpish, testing, the kind that gets behind square chirping. He beat the bat, found edges, and watched one hit to deep point, where the fielder

gave it a juggle… then dropped it. Performance art, of sorts. Crofty's second spell? Redemption. Three late wickets, including a feather through to Dan Turner, who took it like a man born in keeping gloves.

Jason Keane '*The Great Man*' delivered the ball of the day. Maybe the season. A real seed to remove Hungerford, one that moved in the air, seamed late and clipped the top of middle. The kind you can still recall a decade later.

David Abreu offered some deceptive left-arm mediums. Wicketless, but a few moments that made you take notice. Kieren Purnell rolled three overs of tricky seamers that ranged from unplayable to extremely scoreable. He removed Stanley, who looked increasingly keen to take over proceedings.

The real riddle? CCNSW's spin trio (Andrew Dadswell ("Tex"), Ryan Miller, and Luke Holman) worked through sixteen overs together on a mischievous surface and walked away with just a single scalp. There were half-chances, close calls, and one surreal moment: Miller pitching one just short of a length, watching it rip and fly over the batter's lid (a spinning bouncer). A reminder that the pitch had its own ideas and wasn't sharing them.

Castle Hill cashed in and kept the foot down. They knew once chances hit the grass, and line and length started drifting, the scoreboard takes over. When that happens, it rarely tells a happy tale for the side doing the chasing.

Castle Hill RSL finished with 8-204 off their 40 overs.

Batting; A Short Story Featuring Kieren Purnell

The chase began with something resembling a plan. Or at least some intent. Chasing 205 meant CCNSW needed poise, partnerships, an element of patience. Instead, we got cameos. Purnell carried the story. The rest flickered briefly in and out.

CCNSW's spiritual protagonist Tom Robertson opened with expected authority, scoring 14 quickly (with three clean boundary strikes) then chopped on.

Kieren Purnell. 34 runs, 24 of them in boundaries:- calm, clinical, batting like he'd dropped a Division for fun. At the other end though it was a different game. Castle Hill's attack wasn't explosive, but they read the wicket, held their lines, and let the pitch do the talking.

Ryan Miller (5) hung around briefly. Andrew 'Tex' Dadswell (4), Dan Turner (6), Tim Croft (7), and Layton Gould (2) all made appearances, like influencers at a launch event. David Abreu added a handy 10 and Luke Holman chipped in with his own 10 late. But no one stayed around long enough to rewrite the script.

Castle Hill's Joel Bond closed out the innings with minimal fuss, having already done damage with the bat and some athletic catching. By the time he took the final wicket, it was just paperwork.

CCNSW all out for 104 in 32.2 overs. A 100-run margin that felt like cricket doing what it does best, humbling with grace, and reminding with silence

Match Wrap

Castle Hill RSL

- 204 runs off 40 overs

- 18 fours, 2 sixes
- Clean, patient, 1x retirement
- No easy dropped catches
- Extracted max value for their score

CCNSW

- A quality second spell from Captain Croft
- One proper knock from Kieren Purnell
- One busted finger for Ben Stanic
- Magic ball from 'The Great Man' Jason Keane
- Fistful of dropped catches
- Inconsistent line & length
- 12 boundaries, and plenty of what-ifs

The Team was: - Tom Robertson 14, Kieren Purnell 34, Ryan Miller 5, Andrew Dadswell 4, Dan Turner (w) 6, Tim Croft (c) 7, Layton Gould 2, David Abreu 10, Jason Keane 0, Luke Holman 10, Benjamin Stanic 0*

The Result was: -

Castle Hill C.C.: - 8-204 (40 Overs)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-104 (32.2 Overs) (K. Purnell 34)

By 100 runs.

FoW: - 1-22 (T. Robertson); 2-40 (R. Miller); 3-64 (A. Dadswell); 4-66 (K. Purnell); 5-73 (T. Croft); 6-82 (L. Gould); 7-82 (D. Turner); 8-82 (J. Keane); 9-100 (L. Holman); 10-104 (D. Abreu).

The Bowling was: - B. Stanic 7-0-35-2; T. Croft 7-1-30-3; D. Abreu 4-0-18-0; J. Keane 3-0-15-1; K. Purnell 3-0-15-1; A. Dadswell 4-0-25-0; R. Miller 6-0-27-1; L. Holman 6-0-26-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to each of D. Turner (w); and A. Dadswell, L. Holman, R. Miller and K. Purnell

Run outs: - Nil

CCNSW Player points: - 3 points to K. Purnell; 2 points to T. Croft; one point to R. Miller

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/sydney-masters-cricket-season-202526-summer-202526/masters-foxs/game-centre/e2c02ad1**

WEEK TEN: WEDNESDAY 26 - SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2025

MASTERS ROUND 5 v ROSEVILLE C.C. AT SPRINGWOOD OVAL, LOMATIA PARK, SPRINGWOOD, ON SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2025: REPORT BY JASON KENN

Due to the Roseville home ground being double booked, we had a very late shift of venue to Lomatia Park in the lower Blue Mountains. There are few better places to spend a Sunday than the picturesque surrounds of Lomatia Park in Springwood. The ground was looking a treat as the Cricketers' Club of NSW arrived for their hit-out against Roseville, and all eyes were on debutant skipper Jason Kenn as he strode out for the toss. From the sidelines, his body language told the story before he even returned – the shoulders slightly slumped, the knowing half-smile – and sure enough, we were bowling first.

Roseville's Classy Middle Order

We knew Roseville (premiers from last season) had a powerful batting line-up, but they were without a few big guns today so our mood was relatively optimistic. The opening combination, after a bit of a slow start, got off and running. A combination of good leaves, quick singles, punishing boundaries and the odd slice of luck was the result. After a retirement, Jason Keane and Ryan Miller both picked up a wicket each - both bowling a good line and were rightly rewarded. That brought in the two middle order powers for Roseville, and they produced a master class through the middle overs. Solid contributions across the board kept the scoreboard ticking. While our bowlers created chances, we were guilty of offering a few too many *charitable* full tosses.

I don't want to single anyone out so I won't mention that Sherville ("Wes") Hall bowled an eventful over. He was left ruing what a second over might have produced (just quietly, Dan Turner did also go for a few in his third over). It is rumored that Wes was suffering from the Springwood altitude, as he was heard to say *"Are we at the top of the hill"* when arriving at the ground.

Despite the challenges, it was largely a committed fielding effort from the Cricketers' Club. Ash Perrott came on and bowled well for 3 overs. Jason Kenn took a beautiful wicket, clean bowling another run machine from Roseville for a golden duck. Mick Tarrant and Ben Stanic kept charging in, and it has to be said '*The Great Maaan*' Jason Keane, bowled well without much luck. But the pick of the bowlers was Ryan Miller - off his sick bed it should be noted - with 2-43 from 8 overs of off-spin. All in all, the innings was kept as controlled as possible against a well-drilled Roseville batting unit. Scott Wells kept up the standards behind the stumps with two catches, and Ben Stanic made some quick work on the last ball of the innings with a run out.

Roseville closed at **6–244**, with several of their batters retiring not out after handy contributions.

Cricketers Club Reply

In what required a strong start, we had to balance keeping out some good bowling, with taking a few risks to keep our run rate at a semi decent level. Early wickets fell and our run rate required kept growing. Dan turner (26) started to show a glimpse of form, finding the rope four times, before falling to 'The Talented Mr Wood' - one of his 5 wickets for the day. At 5-55, it was a tall order and we needed someone to produce something. Welcome back to the team - Ash Perrott **-** who answered the call. His unbeaten 55* off 63 balls, featuring seven fours and a cracking six, was the standout batting performance of the day. Composed, positive, and classy.

Wickets fell at steady intervals around Ash until Jason Keane (11)* joined Ash for what became a very handy unbeaten last-wicket stand – roughly 30 runs that added some respectability to the total and showed the fight that runs through this side. Jason proved there are runs in that new bat.

Cricketers Club finished at **9–142**, short of the target but far from discouraged.

Still A Good Day Out
When stumps were pulled and the sun began to dip behind the gum trees, the team found themselves with a cold beer in hand, unwinding in the Lomatia surrounds. These are the moments that make a loss feel a little less painful, talking a bit of nonsense among teammates and having a laugh. Plenty of satisfying passages of play, plenty learned, and more than enough positives to take into the next match in two weeks' time.

A Final Call Out
We were reliant on our wider club player pool today so a very large THANK YOU to all players who stepped up and made themselves available, '**Wes' Hall** coming all the way from Wollongong, Mike Weaver from the Central Coast, Valmik Ahire, Ash Perrott, Jason Keane. Without you we would have forfeited so let's take some perspective on the game, and thank you.

A loss on paper — but a good day of cricket (and yes that's right, we will call it a moral victory!!).

The Team was: - Mike Weaver 2, Scot Wells (w) 12, Jason Kenn (c) 4, Dan Turner 26, Ryan Miller 6, Ash Perrott 55*, Mike Tarrant 1, Sherville Hall 0, Valmik Ahire 7, Benjamin Stanic 4, Jason Keane 11*

The Result was: -

Roseville CC: - 6- 244 (40 Overs)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 9-142 (40 Overs) (A. Perrott 55*)

By 102 runs.

FoW: - 1-14 (S. Wells); 2-14 (M. Weaver); 3-30 (J. Kenn); 4-54 (R. Miller); 5-55 (D. Turner); 6-63 (M. Tarrant); 7-67 (S. Hall); 8-89 (V. Ahire); 9-113 (B. Stanic).

The Bowling was: - B. Stanic 7-1-44-1; M. Tarrant 6-0-28-0; J. Keane 4-0-24-1; R. Miller 8-0-43-2; J. Kenn 6-0-32-1; D. Turner 3-0-30-0; A. Perrott 3-0-12-0; S. Hall 1-0-17-0; V. Ahire 2-0-12-0.

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - Two to S. Wells (w)

Run outs: - one to B. Stanic

CCNSW Player points: - 3 points to A. Perrott; 2 points to D. Turner; one point to R. Miller

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/sydney-masters-cricket-season-202526-summer-202526/masters-foxs/game-centre/8ca3d56b**

WEEK TWELVE: SATURDAY 13 - SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER 2025

MASTERS ROUND 6 v HAWKESBURY CC AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER 2025: REPORT BY MICHAEL EMMANUEL

The Sunday Saga: Jason Ascendant, Ice Cream Distractions, and the Run-Out of the Century

CCNSW MASTERS TEAM vs HAWKESBURY CC

Back row: Andrew Dadswell, Soren Hughes, David Abreu (c), Tom Robertson, Michael Emmanuel, Michael Tarrant

Front Row: Dan Turner, Scott Wells (w), Ben Stanic, Jason Kenn and Mike Tarrant

The match kicked off with a seismic shift in leadership. With Tim Croft mysteriously absent (local rumour suggests he was in intense negotiations with his duvet), vice-captain Jason Kenn stepped into the captain's void. His first triumph? Winning the toss. The opponents, Hawkesbury, calling incorrectly and losing the toss visibly deflated, having clearly based their entire strategy on their winning the coin flip. Jason elected to bat, instantly earning the gratitude of his fielders, who were keen to avoid heatstroke until at least the afternoon.

The Batting Bonanza: From Sixes to Starfish

The innings opened with the dynamic duo of Tom Robertson and Soren Hughes ("Soz"). Soz, fresh off a record-breaking spree (204*) the day before, continued his glorious rampage, launching a couple of towering sixes before succumbing to what the official scorebook politely called a "*sharp catch in the gully*" for a classy 23. It was a fine innings, brutally truncated.

Tom, however, decided that the only record he was interested in breaking was the one for '*Most Thoughtful Leave of an Off-Stump Ball*'. His innings of 4 ended bowled - a disappointing decision that will be debated in the pavilion until next season.

Order, and runs, were restored by Wells and 'Captain Jase' , who put on a solid 66-run partnership, navigating the pitch's '*Variable Bounce'*—a condition where the ball occasionally remembers it's supposed to be made of leather, not rubber. Wells banked his mandatory 40*, reserving further aggression for a later date (or a more stable pitch). Jase eventually chipped one off a ball that had kicked up violently, proving that even a triumphant captain can be undone by an angry patch of turf.

At drinks, we were a respectable 4 for 110, poised to accelerate. And accelerate we did, piling on 152 runs in the last 20 overs as the Hawks began to tire (possibly because they hadn't brought enough emergency hydration).

The middle order was a showcase of controlled aggression:

- Bram Tulloch finished imperiously on 49*. His innings included several glorious back-foot drives, and one monster six into the trees which, according to Bram himself, he *"didn't quite get all of it."* *(The rest of us agreed that if that wasn't 'all of it', the next one might require air traffic control.)*
- In a stroke of tactical genius, 'Captain Jase' exploited the short boundary (which we can confirm was only barely suitable for a junior game) by promoting Ben Stanic. Stanic repaid the faith, finishing on a thrilling 31 with runs scored in all 360 degrees of the ground.
- Andrew Dadswell contributed a technical 34, including a couple of sixes over a miniature cow corner that seemed designed purely for his enjoyment.

But the real drama came late on. Wells returned to the crease to pad his stats, but was ultimately undone by his own determination, being stumped what felt like three separate times in one over. His final attempt to regain ground was so desperate and futile that he finished flat on his back, eyes fixed skyward, contemplating the geometry of the clouds in what can only be described as a perfect starfish maneuver.

We finished with a comprehensive 262 all out, setting Hawkesbury a daunting target of 263.

The Bowling: Yorkers, 3-Fa's, and the Run-Out of Shame

Hawkesbury began their chase with reckless abandon, maintaining a run rate of 6.7 for the first seven overs. But the steady hand of the attack soon prevailed.

Ben Stanic opened with a glorious maiden before his 31-run innings caught up with him, gassing him out, though his effort with the ball remained commendably 100%.

Mick Tarrant and yours truly each picked up a pole, largely by taking the pitch out of the equation entirely and delivering accurate yorkers that went directly from hand to boot to stump, with minimal fuss.

Then ‘Captain Jase’ decided it was time for some chaos, bringing on Andrew Dadswell for his usual tight lines and variable pace (a subtle term for "*sometimes fast, sometimes slow, always confusing"*). The batters struggled, setting the stage for Tulloch, who replaced Dadswell and promptly bagged a 3-fa, confirming he is as deadly with the cherry as he is with the willow.

However, the fielding effort was somewhat hampered. We leaked a few preventable runs down to long-on where Tom Robertson appeared to be fielding with one eye on the ball and the other glued to the ice cream truck circling the perimeter. What should have been one run became two, thanks to the allure of a nearby Cornetto.

The match concluded with a moment of absolute, unadulterated village cricket. With the Hawks innings fizzling, a top edge floated gently between bowler Dan Turner and fielder Stanic. Both men, with the ball dropping one short meter between them, decided that neither of them was responsible for catching it, allowing it to plop harmlessly to the ground.

Disaster averted? Not quite. Eagle-eyed Stanic noticed the striker, convinced the game was over, had wandered down the wicket to shake hands. Stanic, refusing to let the moment of shame ruin his day, swiftly picked up the ball and threw the stumps down to claim a run-out for himself.

The umpire raised the finger. The batter looked perplexed. We laughed until we cried.

Hawkesbury were all out for 135 in the 28th over.

A comprehensive victory to end the calendar year. A perfect Christmas present for ‘Captain Jase’, and hopefully a sign that 2026 will be the year of more wins and ladder elevation.

The Team was (playing 12): - Tom Robertson 4, Soren Hughes 23, Scott Wells (w) 48, Jason Kenn (c) 22, Dan Turner 6, Michael Emmanuel 0, Bram Tulloch 49*, Benjamin Stanic 31, Andrew Dadswell 34, Michael Tarrant 13, David Abreu (v/c) 6.

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-262 (39.1 Overs) (B. Tulloch 49*, S. Wells 48)

Defeated

Hawkesbury CC: - 10-135 (38.3 Overs)

By 127 runs.

FoW: - 1-13 (T. Robertson); 2-36 (S. Hughes); 3-102 (J. Kenn); 4-102 (M. Emmanuel); 5-144 (D. Turner); 6-202 (B. Stanic); 7-222 (M. Tarrant); 8-239 (D. Abreu); 9-252 (S. Wells); 10-262 (A. Dadswell).

The Bowling was: - B. Stanic 4-1-27-0; M. Tarrant 5-1-27-1; M. Emmanuel 5-0-26-1; A. Dadswell 4-0-13-1; D. Abreu 4-0-12-2, B. Tulloch 5-0-22-3, D. Turner 1.3-0-5-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to each of D. Abreu, A. Dadswell and D. Turner

Run outs: - Two: one to B. Stanic and one to S. Wells

CCNSW Player points: - 3 points to B. Tulloch; 2 points to B. Stanic; one point to S. Wells

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/sydney-masters-cricket-season-202526-summer-202526/masters-foxs/game-centre/825cc38d**

WEEK SIXTEEN: SUNDAY 11 JANUARY 2026

MASTERS ROUND 7 v OLD IGNATIANS AT RYDE OVAL, RYDE ON SUNDAY 11 JANUARY 2025: REPORT BY KIEREN PURNELL

After a week of heat wave conditions culminating in temperatures that forced the cancellation of all Saturday cricket across Sydney, a Southerly change late on Saturday brought welcome relief and far friendlier cricket conditions.

In surprisingly cold and drizzly conditions, the CCNSW Masters headed to Ryde Oval to play Old Ignatians. The deck looked very good, hard with an even covering of grass. The outfield appeared slow with a uneven covering of clippings.

Skipper Tim Croft lost the toss and indicated we were to bowl. It was an important toss to win if you like batting.

The 'Iggies' openers took a couple of overs to get a feel for the pitch; then showed a predilection for the ball coming on to the bat. Despite bowling good lines, opening bowlers Brett James and Tim Croft went for regular boundaries. First change Mick Tarrant showed that the pitch would be a little more testing with varied pace. Mick took the first wicket with a cleverly disguised slower ball that hit the tip of middle. After a short, tight spell from Ben Stanic, Dave Abreu bowled well in tandem with Mick, regularly finding the inside edge and creating half chances. Tom Robertson eventually took a well judged catch off Abreu on the boundary, taking the ball just close enough to the boundary line to make the departing batter ask questions. The next chance that came Tom's way was attacked with the gusto of a soccer defender who is now a step too slow. The result was similar, with Tom sliding into the catch feet first.

A change to spin bowling brought about a steady flow of wickets. Ryan Millar and Bram Tulloch, both bowling off-spin, used guile to draw a number of false strokes. The batters went from 0-74 to 8-166, as tight fielding and increasingly drizzle made run scoring difficult. Changes in pace and flight brought about regular catches around the ground. Millar took a sharp caught and bowled. As the ball became increasingly slippery from the wet outfield, a few catches burst through the hands of the fielders. Tim Croft brought himself back on to close out the innings with his leg spin, cleaning up the tail and taking the key wicket of the Old Ignatians top scorer B. Frawley to bring the innings to a close at 10-191.

In what became a wet ground and a slippery ball, CCNSW did well to take regular wickets after a strong opening partnership, and restricted the opposition to a seemingly achievable target of 191.

Alas it was not the target that would keep CCNSW from taking the points, the weather having the ultimate say. The covers were brought on at the innings break, as the drizzle became a more solid rain. Much discussion was given to run rates, the works of mathematicians Duckworth and Lewis *(Ed note: Duckworth/Lewis does not apply in Masters; merely average run rate)*, and how many overs might be lost. The Iggies opener provided a welcome distraction by presenting a range of willow available for purchase.

Eventually play resumed on a tricky, wet pitch. Batting conditions proving more challenging than earlier in the day. Tom Robertson showed an admirable temperament by choosing only to hit the balls on the stumps. The rest were waved through to the keeper untouched. The rain once again had its say, with CCNSW 0-5 off 3.2 overs. K. Purnell 4*, Tom Robertson 0*.

The game was played in great spirits, but the Sydney weather had the final say, finding a different way to ensure that a game of cricket could not be played to a conclusion on this weekend.

The Team was (playing 12): - Kieren Purnell 4*, Tom Robertson 0*, David Abreu dnb, Tim Croft (c) dnb, Dan Turner dnb, Scott Wells (w) dnb, Brett James dnb, Bram Tulloch dnb, Jason Kenn dnb, Ryan Miller dnb, Ben Stanic dnb and Michael Tarrant dnb.

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

Old Ignatians: - 10-191 (40 Overs)

Drew with

C.C.N.S.W.: - 0-5 (3.2 Overs)

The Bowling was: - B. James 4-0-23-0; T. Croft 7-0-37-3; B. Stanic 3-0-18-0; M. Tarrant 5-1-19-1; D. Abreu 7-1-28-1; R. Miller 8-2-21-3 ; B. Tulloch 6-0-43-2.

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to each of T. Croft, J. Kenn, R. Miller, B. Stanic and T. Robertson

Run outs: - Nil

CCNSW Player points: - 3 points to R. Miller; 2 points to D. Abreu ; one point to T. Croft

Scorecard: - https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/sydney-masters-cricket-season-202526-summer-202526/masters-foxs/game-centre/ec1f3139

WEEK TWENTY: SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2026

MASTERS ROUND 8 v SCHOFIELDS CC AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2026: REPORT BY MICHAEL WEAVER

CCNSW out enthused by their opponents

Bram Tulloch's superb batting at the top gave his team hope in an inflated run chase, CCNSW too slow out of the blocks in a reduced 25 overs affair.

Expecting rain all afternoon, skipper Jason Kenn had offered a proposal to the Schofields captain, pre- arrival to ground, that the game be abandoned. Schofields who have a chance of the Premiership were anxious to play if conditions allowed. Where captains disagree, the decision is that of the umpire.

Jason and his team generally remained relaxed, steadfast that no game would eventuate. So much so that when the skies unexpectedly cleared and covers removal was summoned by umpire Stephen Maxwell, the team barbeque had been assembled and the scorching of a fresh batch of Coles thin beef sausages, was only narrowly avoided,

CCNSW won the toss and elected to field first

CCNSW approached the start of the revised 25 overs game somewhat reluctantly, a warm-up of little enthusiasm showed, and this seemed a factor in the poor execution that prevailed once play got underway. CCNSW offered several freebie deliveries in the first stanza of the match Deliveries short and wide were the norm, and were gleefully dispatched by the Schofields batters, who benefited from an least five dropped catches. The runs leakage attributed to a score at drinks of over 110 runs, off 12 overs.

Although Andrew Dadswell and Ryan Miller did well to peg the run rate back somewhat afterwards, it was at this point of the match in retrospect from which CCNSW never really recovered and Schofields scored 7-193 off a rain reduced 25 overs.

With CCNSW chasing 194 to win in 25 overs, Bram Tulloch tore into the Schofields bowlers from the first ball to record a whirlwind 43* retired not out, which included 7 fours and two sixes, his big shots consisting of thumping straight drives and authoritative pull shots. Ryan Miller and Jason Kenn also looked very competent against a very good Schofields attack, however, were unable to convert their starts. Jason was unfortunately run out shortly after smiting his second ball for six over the rainwater tank at cow corner. Ryan was also playing his fourth game of the week, so can be excused. A feature of his short innings was some very intelligent placement behind square for two boundaries.

Craig Kitson tried hard lower down the order, but the pressure of a very high run rate required proved too much for him and the rest, a clump of 4 wickets near the end, nailing CCNSW's coffin, albeit these dismissals were handed to an opposition off spinner who generated prodigious turn and bounce, from a very unusual bowling action

The lively Schofields pace attack also took good advantage of the bouncy but overall true wicket surface, bowling the right areas from the get-go, in a far superior display to their CCNSW counterparts, after CCNSW had elected to field first

The Team was: - Bram Tulloch 44*, Andrew Loupos 17 ret, Ryan Miller 17, Jason Kenn (c) 14, Scott Wells (w) 5, Craig Kitson 17, Mike Weaver 0, Andrew Dadswell 0, Michael Tarrant 18, Ben Stanic 6, David Abreu (v/c) 1*.

The Result was: -

Schofields CC: - 7-193 (25 Overs)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 9-157 (25 Overs) (B. Tulloch 44*)

By 35 runs

FoW: - 1-95 (R. Miller); 2-97 (J. Keane); 3-107 (S. Wells); 4-108 (M. Weaver); 5-108 (A. Dadswell)' 6-131 (C. Kitson); 7-148 (M. Tarrant); 8-150 (B. Stanic)

The Bowling was: - B. Stanic 4-0-33-0; M Tarrant 5-0-36-1; D. Abreu 4-0-21-0; A. Loupos 3-0-26-1; A. Dadswell 2-0-16-1; B. Tulloch 4-0-36-1; R. Miller 3-0-18-1.

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - Two to S. Wells (w); One to A. Loupos.

Run outs: - One to A. Loupos.

CCNSW Player points: - 3 points to B. Tulloch; 2 points to M. Tarrant; one point to R. Miller.

Scorecard: https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/sydney-masters-cricket-season-202526-summer-202526/masters-foxs/game-centre/8c97a4b0

WEEK TWENTY TWO : SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2026

MASTERS ROUND 9 v MOUNTIES AT GREENWAY PARK, CHERRYBROOK ON SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2026.

Jason Kenn (captain on the day in the absence again of the captain Tim Croft) decided the whole team played too badly to warrant a match report or award of player points. The scores speak for themselves.

The Team was: - Tom Robertson 8, Jason Keane 0, Ryan Miller 20, Jason Kenn (c) 2, Dan Turner (w) 7, Michel Emmanuel 12, Andrew Bachelard 5, Andrew Dadswell 0, Avinash Bhandari 8, David Abreu 3*, Ben Stanic 1

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-73 (28.1 Overs)

Lost to

Mounties CC: - 3-74 (9 Overs)

By 7 wickets.

FoW: - 1- 8 (T. Robertson); 2-9 (J. Keane); 3-16 (J. Kenn); 4-35 (D. Turner); 5-44 (R. Miller); 6-52 (M. Emmanuel); 7-64 (A. Bachelard); 8-66 (A, Dadswell); 9-69 (A. Bhandari); 10- 73 (B. Stanic).

The Bowling was: - A. Bachelard 2-0-8-1 A. Bhandari 1-0-16-0; A. Dadswell 2-0-24-0; R. Miller 3-0-16-1; B. Stanic 1-0-6-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to M. Emmanuel

Run outs: - One to A. Dadswell

CCNSW Player points: - No points awarded

Scorecard: - https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/sydney-masters-cricket-season-202526-summer-202526/masters-foxs/game-centre/eb6fd216

WEEK TWENTY THREE: SUNDAY 1 MARCH 2026

MASTERS ROUND 10 v ST CLAIR UNITED AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 1 MARCH 2026

Win by forfeit. St Clair could not raise a side.

WEEK TWENTY FIVE: SUNDAY 15 MARCH 2026

MASTERS ROUND 11 v STRATHFIELD AT CAMPERDOWN OVAL, CAMPERDOWN ON SUNDAY 15 MARCH 2026: REPORT BY MICHAEL TARRANT AND ADRIAN HAWKES

Strathfield entered the Masters Competition in 2020/21. In their first four seasons they won the Premiership each year without losing a game and winning 31 (with a few rained affected draws). The basic reason Strathfield have been so successful is that many of their players have represented NSW and at Veterans level-Australia. But of course all sides age and dominant reigns come to an end. Last season they lost 3 games and dropped to third place. This season they also lost 3 games but dropped to 6th place –on paper just better than CCNSW in 8th place.

Over these seasons, CCNSW has lost every game v Strathfield, most by large margins. In 2022/23, Strathfield scored 320 and won by nearly 200 runs. In 2023/24 they won by 9 wickets. So there was little reason to expect a close game this season, not helped by the fact that 7 of our side were closer to aged 60 than 40. Matters turned out predictably. A younger and stronger Strathfield side was not curtailed by our elderly bowling though Bram Tulloch (still aged under 50) demanded respect. However our batting crumbled early with only Tom Robertson (10) reaching double figures amongst the first eight batters before Ari Loupos (15) staged a minor (in context) recovery nearly doubling the score from 8-25 to take us to 47 all out.

Not the best way to end the season and probably some rebuilding will need to be done over the winter if we are to remain competitive in Division One of the Masters. In the words of Mick Tarrant: "*The worst possible way to end a fun and enjoyable year playing with all of the Masters team throughout the season.26-27, we look forward to a new season with new hopes and dreams."*

The Team was (playing 12): - Tom Robertson 10, Bram Tulloch 0, Ryan Miller 5, Scott Wells (w) 1, Dan Turner 0, Tim Croft (c) 6, Jason Kenn 0 , Mike Weaver 0, Ari Loupos 15, Andrew Dadswell 0, Michael Tarrant 3*, Sherville Hall dnb

The Result was: -

Strathfield C.C.: -7-266 (40 Overs)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10- 47 (17.2 Overs)

By 219 runs.

FoW: - 1-4 (B. Tulloch); 2-10 (R. Miller); 3-19 (T. Robertson); 4-19 (D. Turner); 5-19 (S. Wells); 6-19 (J. Kenn); 7-25 (M. Weaver); 8-25 (T. Croft); 9-33 (A. Dadswell); 10-47 (A. Loupos).

The Bowling was: - M. Tarrant 7-0-51-1; J. Kenn 4-0-34-0; A. Dadswell 5-0-26-0; T. Croft 5-0-44-2; R. Miller 5-0-22-0; B. Tulloch 7-0-31-1; A. Loupos 3-0-16-1; S. Hall 4-0-37-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to T. Croft

Run outs: - One to A. Dadswell

CCNSW Player points: - 3 points to A. Loupos; 2 points to B. Tulloch; one point to T. Croft

Scorecard: **https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/org/sydney-masters-cricket-association/sydney-masters-cricket-season-202526-summer-202526/masters-foxs/game-centre/3777db57**