

THE BLACK ROSE

***CARDIFF BOOLAROO
DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB INC
SEASON 2019-2020***



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CARDIFF R.S.L.

President's Report



Firstly I would like to thank our major sponsors Cardiff RSL, Multirail, Ricoh Pivotal, Cardiff Bowling Club. Without your support this club would not function and allow us to make ongoing improvements to our Club.

To all our Life Members thank you for your ongoing support that you give to our Club. The season 2019/2020 was successful as our club continues to strive and work hard each year to be better than the previous year and finishing 5th on the Club Championship with our 2nd grade and 4th grade making the semi finals was testimony to this and shows that the club is heading in the right direction.

Our 2nd Grade were unlucky again making the semi finals but with the COVID-19 never got a chance to play and if you remember, missed out on the Semi final last year because of wet weather in the last round.

The success of our after match presentations at the RSL with fantastic attendances each and every time not only helps with the support we are giving the Cardiff RSL but also is a very big contributor to any success that comes our way because it builds a very good culture and creates a very good atmosphere within the club which is vitally important moving forward.

I would like to thank our Captains of all grades for not only the work they do on the field but also the countless hours and extra work that comes with the job throughout the week.

I would like to thank Mark Curry as our head coach. There is none better. He is always thinking of ways that we can be better as a club both on and off the field. This creates a very good atmosphere with all the players. His dedication and work ethic I am sure is rubbing off on all our players which is one of the reasons we are moving in the right direction.

Also Thanks again to Mark and Julie for opening up their house to Dan. Really appreciated by the club.

I would like to thank Matthew Forrester for his role as practice captain as this is a very important position within the club to make sure that our sessions run as smooth as possible. Thanks for your valuable contribution Didge.

To all our Volunteers who are very important to the running of our Club and without your dedication our club would struggle.

As a club we are still in discussions with the NDCA regards our name change. We are still fighting to have our club re named lake Macquarie Cricket Club At this stage there will be a formal ballot at the NDCA headquarters which will involve all clubs having a vote which will

decide our outcome and what our next steps will be. When this meeting will happen will depend on when the restrictions will be lifted with COVID-19. We will keep you updated with any news but we will continue to fight for what we believe in.

I would like to give special mention to Paul and Glenda Hillier. The work you guys do is incredible and really appreciated by all. From the canteen to scoring preparing afternoon teas the work that was involved in the Over 60's one day International Aust vs England at Pasterfield last November, the list goes on. THANK YOU.

To our Juniors and special mention to Jeff Williams Andrew Hiskens and Ian Creer for the coordination in helping our Juniors move into our grade System which is vitally important for the long term survival of any club and to see the talent coming through from our S&D League through to our Grade teams is very encouraging.

I would like to thank Sudha and Mat for the contribution they made to our club this year both on and off the Field. It was fantastic to have them around the club they added plenty and we will welcome them back anytime.

I would like to thank first of all Arnie for playing a huge part in getting Sudha out here and then putting him up in accommodation for the first couple of months: really appreciated by the Club Arnie.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution that Gerard and Mary provided by welcoming Sudha into their home from before Xmas to Sudha's departure in March. This is always a big ask but really appreciated.

To Ian Hancock and the continual service you give our club is really appreciated. I know you haven't been that well over the past Couple of years but you continue to put your hand up and deliver first class wickets. We had a new Curator this year in Steve Cox who not only helped out Ian when required but looked after Cardiff No 1 after Xmas and did a sterling Job. Thanks Steve for putting your hand up. Really appreciated.

I would like to also thank Justin Worries for the job he did in preparing fantastic practice and centre wickets at Pasterfield oval. Whilst there is still a lot of work to do getting the square to where it needs to be, the short time Justin has been involved has seen a really good improvement and this will continue moving forward.

I would like to thank Graeme for the endless work that is involved with being Secretary he does an outstanding job. He, Paul, Glenda and our volunteers did a great job in the hosting of the Over 60's One day International and make it such a huge success was outstanding.

Finally to our committee thank you for all your help and support throughout the year it has been outstanding. As a club we are very lucky to have such a large and proactive group of people that have the best interests of the club at heart. Obviously due to COVID-19 there is no Presentation this year but will look at handing out awards before our season starts in 2020. Keep well in the off season hope to see everyone back in 2020/2021 to keep building on what we have.

Mathew Maher



Secretary's Report

Firstly, let me thank a few notables.-The club captains, not only for their work all season, but also for their thoughtful reports in the BR. A special thanks to Corro for his reflections on the 2009 Grand Final. Also to Paul Hillier, always full of ideas, insights and reflections, for his excellent "Ordinary Heroes" piece.

Thanks to the volunteers, Ian and Coxy, Glenda and Paul, and all the others. Our wealth of excellent people putting in the hours means that the club will always be in a good place, regardless of on field success or disappointments. We must especially acknowledge Ian Hancock, who has not had the best of years in terms of health and injury, but has kept on fine tuning number 2 oval, at all hours, in all weather.

Thanks to the committee, a great blend of players, long standing members and new boys. Committees are about bringing a mixture of ideas and opinions to the table, and they do that every meeting. With new boys Andrew Hiskens and Jeff Williams, we have a couple of blokes with strong views and a good deal of expertise in dealing with some of our more challenging issues. Great job, men.

Lastly to President Maher, as dedicated as a president could possibly be. Thew always has a plan and is very ambitious for the club. That is as it should be.

As a club, we are always looking to the future. A couple of years ago we were planning how to win the stewardship at Pasterfield and what we would do once we got there:- "selling" the club to the locals, making the best use of the great facilities, finding the right curator (we did, two in two seasons), rebooting junior cricket out west, etc. More recently our focus is very much on juniors.

We have some terrific talent moving through our grades. Names like Williams, Hiskens, Creer, Hillier etc are making a big impression. But its now to the younger kids that we are turning our attention. Our feeder club, Lake Mac Junior CC is now one of the strongest, and best managed junior club in the district. The talent and desire are there, and the committee is innovative and forward thinking. With the right support from us, the future for both clubs looks very good.

Below LMJCC on the cricket pyramid is the Blasters programs run at both Warners Bay and Pasterfield. Junor Blasters and Master Blasters cater for 5 to 10 year olds of both sexes and has been a fantastic success with the help of th people at Cricket NSW. The numbers have gone from zero to around 75 in the last two seasons. A strong pathway towards CBDCC is

developing for those from 5 to 15. A big thanks to Nathan Hillier, assisted by Sudha, Dan Carter, Mat Bennison and Jacob Maher at Pasterfield, and Dan Williams, Bailey Creer, Flynn Guest, Matt Gilmour and Ellen Williams at Warners Bay.

Our recent overseas players, Sudha, Dan, Mat B, have boosted our playing roster. Not only very good players, but very fine young men who we would dearly love to have back at Pasterfield next season. However, the present state of the globe and damaged club finances suggest that this is very difficult indeed. We will see.

Let's talk for a moment about about the NDCA first grade competition that has just finished and relate it to the future at CBDCC.

Merewether's veteran spinner, Tim O'Neil was number 2 for wickets taken in first grade (33 at 11.4 per wicket). Number 3 was another spinner, Nathan Hudson (31 at 15) number 4 was leggy Isaac Wallace, number 5 was Aaron Bills (29 at 13.7). Our own spinner, Kallum Garbutt has moved from lower grades in previous seasons to take 20 wickets at 21.9, ahead of some well known quicks in the NDCA like Max Webber, Brad Aldous and Josh Geary.

The question is, does Newcastle have a brace of terrific spinners, or are our local bats poor at playing spin? A bit of both I suspect, but I lean a bit towards the latter. Spinners are bowling a lot of overs, so if you want to be a run getter in this competition, you need to play spin well. Opportunities to play spin at practice and in matches need to be taken.

Playing spin might not require courage, but it does require confidence in your own judgement and that can only come with experience. Good spin bowlers know how to come back from a belting. Good players of spin know how to learn from errors of judgement.

The present wave ride by spinners means that captains are willing to back them. Kallum has worked hard this year, Abbey is getting plenty of cricket in, the likes of Jack Hillier and others are getting opportunities. Spin bowling at CBDCC is looking good!!

Whilst looking at stats recently, I was wondering what the indicators of success are in first grade. Often stats don't tell the whole story, but one that stands out is wickets lost.

Wallsend and Uni came 1st and 3rd and had the least wickets lost. Toronto came 12th and had the most wickets lost (129 to Wallsend's 71). Cardiff was mid field on the table and wickets lost.

Same old adage, you can't score runs from the grandstand.

We don't know what season 2020-21 is going to look like -when it will start, the state of the club's budget with major sponsors like the RSL and Bowlo closed, how work will effect player availability etc. What we do know is that across all NDCA clubs there will be a new rego payment system that will make it mandatory to pay a sizable percentage of fees to mycricket before you are electronically registered.

A special heads up to those who want to play in the new season, try to save a few bickies for that time. Easier said than done at present, I know.

Thanks to all in this fine club, stay positive, turn up next time around.

Graeme Knowles



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Sponsorship Thankyou

We greatly appreciate all our sponsors and the many businesses within our cricketing community for their assistance throughout the season.

The CB's major sponsor is [Cardiff RSL Club](#) and to the President & Board we offer our sincere thanks.

[Cardiff Bowling Club](#) also provide us with their support & we hope to remain associated with them for many years to come.

[Cellarbrations at Cameron Park](#) have come on board recently and have been great supporters of club and members. Thanks to Ian Smith at Cellarbrations

Also a huge thank you to [Gerard Maher at Pivotal Business Systems](#) without whose continuing support we would struggle to stay competitive.

We at Cardiff Boolaroo DCC are very much appreciative of the support we receive from all the sponsors and community and take this opportunity to thank them sincerely for their assistance throughout the season. We hope that their contribution to our club is as beneficial to them as they are to us and that they continue their valued support. So please support them.



COACH'S REPORT

The season just gone was one where the club showed overall improvement. We finished with both 2nd grade and 4th grade in the semi-finals. Unfortunately, as we all know they were unable to progress due to the competition's suspension. This was unfortunate but does not undo the good work done to get to that point.

We are very fortunate to have arguably the best practice and training facility of any district club in our area. Our curator Justin Woweries has done a terrific job in preparing practice and playing wickets each week. These were getting better and better each week and should improve further next season. While we did have good numbers at practice, often the same faces were there. If there is one thing we need to do it is to practice hard and work on our technique because it is through this hard work we will improve. We have an excellent role model in our captain Matt Willett who leads by example and is supportive of our younger players. In his first season of captain, I believe he has done an excellent job and had the first grade team in contention up until the last 2 rounds of the competition. This represents a vast improvement in previous seasons however, we did have a lapse in the match against Merewether where we lost outright only having to bat for 30 odd overs to avoid outright defeat. For a first grade team this is unacceptable and is something that we need to ensure does not happen again.

Though we have a large number of players on our books it is often disappointing to have people pull out for a myriad of reasons sometimes late in the week. While some of these issues are unavoidable some are discretionary choices. The best teams are the ones who commit to each other through time at training and playing. I would hope that in the future players consider the effect their absence will have on their team rather than their own personal needs.

On a positive note, we did have some players who had excellent seasons. Our Indian import Sudha fitted in very well and had excellent results on the field. Rahul also had some good performances though not quite as consistent as before. We are very fortunate to have these players with us as they provide a lot of positive modelling for their players. I hope that we can have them back next season Adam Winchester provided us with another genuine first grader, which added to our depth. Our bowling was always a strength with Matt Willett, Dan Carter and Nathan Hillier all having good moments and Kal Garbutt had a great finish to the season and looks to be a legitimate first grader. His work ethic certainly paid off and he has developed consistency through hard work. We have a number of young players coming through the grades who show great promise. People like Dan Williams, Ayden and Bailey Creer Jack Hillier Abbey Taylor and Austen Hiskens are all players with bright futures.

I would like to thank the committee or their continued support. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers to steer the club, and work well together as a group. I would

also like to thank Matt Maher for his untiring work with the job of organising teams and assistance with selections. With his help and assistance, we were generally to have full teams in most grades each week. Jeff Williams, Paul and Glenda Hillier were always on hand to assist where necessary. The club particularly has Jeff to thanks for the number of cricket balls we now have due to his design and installation of the roof net at practice nets. Matt Forrester was also a great help with the organisation of the practice sessions he enables me to be able to work more closely with individual players which I feel is important.

We have developed a very productive partnership with Parramatta DCC in Sydney. We were very fortunate to have them play preseason fixtures but they also provided us with marquee players for the T20 competition, which was held this year. We did finish 5th in the competition and unfortunately

didn't progress because of weather. The opportunity to play with Sydney first grade players and players on the fringe of first class cricket s wonderful exposure for our players.

Additionally we have been invited to attend training sessions in Sydney, which we did do, and this helps to cement the partnership.

I would like to thank our sponsors we had excellent numbers at the RSL for post-match functions. I know that many are currently reeling at the now imposed restrictions on clubs and pubs. Another sponsor to come on board was Ian Smith from the Cameron Park local service centre who provided most of the food and drinks for the canteen. Also supplied were beverages for after training on Thursdays, which were very popular, though may require some contribution from players in the coming season if we are to continue this service. I would also like to acknowledge the work of Ian Hancock and Steve Cox who looked after the playing facilities at Cardiff No1 and 2. They have also supported the Lake Macquarie Junior Cricket as well as Cardiff HS and Hunter Sport High School.

The proposed name change to Lake Macquarie cricket continues to be polarising issues in local cricket circles. As we have an existing club which bears this name I fully support the committee's intention to go forward with the change. It does provide us with the opportunity to provide a smother transition from the junior club to the senior club.

Thanks again for an enjoyable season.

Mark Curry

A great K Garbutt catch at Pasterfield



Willo at supporters after Lake Mac Attack
Plan B Bash win at the SCG

Corro's Grand Final Reflections

Questions from Paul Hillier

1 Was there a stage / time in the season when the guys started to believe that the CBs name was on the trophy or did that only come in the GF?

Leading up to the finals, our big focus as a team was more on getting to the semis rather than thinking about the finals. For CBs at the time, we'd only made the semi finals a couple of times in first grade in our history, so this alone would've been a standout achievement.

I think we focused on that because we knew anything could happen once it became the finals and we would be as strong a chance as the other teams. Keep in mind at this time too, we had what i think of as a "champion team" rather than a "team of champions". The exception to the rule being Hobbo, who not just in leadership but also his all round cricketing skill was a level above the rest of us.

His superpower though I felt was the culture he nurtured in that side, even more than his runs and wickets (though he got plenty of them too to be clear). To have a team of mostly Cardiff and Warners Bay juniors (they were separate clubs at junior level for each of us who played back then) who had all played in various combinations of sides for CBs in the past, Hobbo really was the one who brought together a unified team; a team where everyone had a clear role to play, a team where everyone contributed, and a team who worked damn hard- especially at training.

That season was the most intense training I've experienced, as Jo demanded a higher standard of us and we rose to that for him. I think CBs historically can be a bit guilty of having all the talent and potential in the world, but living up to, expecting of ourselves and executing on that potential can sometimes come up short. Not this season.

As an example, I recall one training session where he positioned us 10-15m from him in a line to simulated us fielding from extra cover around the gully. He stood there middling cut shots as hard as he could for what felt like an hour (and probably was close to) expecting us to catch every ball. Our hands were bruised AF during and after, but the outcome was that our catching went up a level, along with our concentration when fielding. We knew that we had to put in that bit more if we wanted to make it to finals, and we stepped up, i believe in large part due to his leadership.

But back to the question- our focus was always on making the finals, and then when we made the semis after a close call holding off an outright loss vs Stockton in the final round (a great 9ealized team back then too- Mark Dries in his prime, S Burley, Whittingham, Foster, Gonninan...) we 9ealized we were playing our semifinal against Hamwicks.

For us, this semi final vs Hamwicks was really our grand final at the time, in terms of how we approached things mentally.

We finished 4th on the ladder and Hamwicks were a star studded line up back then, having dominated the regular season- both Webbers in their prime (especially bowling, Sam was a level or two above where he is today), D Herbert, K Mullard, D Stephenson, S Hughes, Rhys Soper...we were written off by everyone outside of the club and the expectation was that Hamwicks would flog us in the semi and cruise through to the final.

So our focus and plan was all for the semi. If we show up, play our best cricket and beat hamwicks, then we'll have no problems the next week beating whoever won that other semi (uni or Charlestown- again, Charlestown were underdogs in their semi and beat a stronger outfit in uni to make it through to play us in the final).

In a lot of ways (and by no means to take anything from Hobbo's heroics in the final- that is still the best innings i've seen, period), the credit for our premiership falls in large part to Sid and Scooba a week earlier.

We batted first vs Hamwicks at No 1 sports ground and after losing D Robb early, these two survived (not unscathed) a relentless attack from Sam Webber and co for hours. It is still one of the best spells of bowling I've watched when Sid faced Sam and was repeatedly knocked over by bouncers expertly aimed...if i recall rightly 3 in one over Sid wound up on the deck i think at one point. This stand when the going couldn't have been any tougher and got us through the most crucial part of the innings and allowed Hobbo and Greeny to chip in later and get us to 244, where otherwise I'm sure we would've struggled to make 150.

Though Sid probably won't remember, as he was 1 or maybe 7 beers into the evening at the time, I asked Sid about that innings in the sheds after the game on Sunday when celebrating the semi final win. I asked him something to the tune of "what were you thinking during that spell from Sam Webber where he kept knocking you over" and his response was very clear I'm paraphrasing, but it's not far off verbatim)

"it's pretty F*()\$ simple young'n- I decided before i went out there to bat yesterday that i'm not getting out- they're going to have to F %&\$ kill me to get me off that field and when he was bowling like that, I figured, well played, but you still haven't F ^&*% gotten me out, i'm still out here". It shows the grit and the attitude that Sid and the other batters like Steve and Hobbo had that year.

In the same way on that Sunday of the semi final, Hamwicks were doing it pretty easy to begin with, but quick wickets in clusters stifled their run chase. I think from observation they figured 244 was easy to chase down with their batting line up and against our bowling and there was only really the Webbers that made that same sort of decision Sid did the day before and took responsibility to win the game for their side.

The highlight was by far Brinn's 2 in 2 balls of Stevenson, and then the prize scalp of Rhys Soper, who has over 2000 first grade runs and was a class batsmen knocked over cleaned bowled first ball. At that point I think is when we first allowed ourselves to start thinking that were going to win it.

I was at gully and didn't see the finer points of the delivery, but Brinn will freely tell you it was probably the best ball of his career and exactly when we needed it. He later went on to take 5-71 and help Hobbo dismiss the Webbers and the tail end with 40 runs to spare- but really, that dismissal from Brinn was the turning point mentally where we knew we had this and we were going to go the whole way.

We went from still feeling like the underdog club and team who'd scraped their way into the finals, almost like we don't belong there in some ways to suddenly being the best form side in the competition...and you could feel that momentum shift away from Hamwicks from that point on as well.

2) Do you have any recollections of the GF...No1 sportsground, the opposition ??

After playing our best cricket to date in the semi final, it was a strange paradox going into the final. It was our first first grade final I believe in 50 or so years (someone can fact check that but I think it's close), and previously Westlakes (our original club name) were beaten that year and did not take home the trophy.

So on one hand playing Charlestown, we were again viewed as the underdog, for Charlestown traditionally are a very strong club who were regulars in finals series during the early 2000's. However on the other hand we had just outplayed Hamwicks who were considered the best team in the competition, so on form, we saw ourselves very much as favourites.

Charlestown was a well balanced team, similar to ours in having experienced first grade senior players such as Macey, Diz, Macourt and Payney, but then had some talented youngsters kids in Jed Dickson, Parth Shah, Chris Connors, James Rushford. We knew how Charlestown will play- they will be patient, disciplined and relentless in doing the basics well for 180 overs, which was a contrast to Hamwicks the week before, who are probably more likened to a Caribbean side in their often aggressive and stylish style of play.

For us, a key thing that Hobbo implemented over the SF and GF was mandatory team breakfast, before heading to the ground as a team together for warm ups. It's not there anymore, but in Beaumont St down the alley near Eurobar there was a tucked away little cafe that did \$5 big breakfasts. Great value, and the quality was as you'd expect for \$5- but what it did allow was for us to be together for a few hours before the match, focusing on the banter and enjoying each others company instead of sitting around in our own heads freaking out about the significance of the occasion.

Both mornings during warm up there was a relaxed feeling amongst the group, i think largely from the breakfast preceding calming nerves, but also the energy and guidance of Geoff Smith, our club coach who was the quiet "Jedi Master" behind the scenes helping to coordinate things, giving advice and tips where needed really helped for our preparation as well.

It needs to be acknowledged how instrumental Geoff was for our club and in the way he developed us as players that season. For those who aren't familiar with Geoff, maybe best comparison of his presence I can think of would be Liam Neeson's Jedi character from Star Wars- never flustered, full of knowledge and always willing to help.

Regarding the match, the general flow of play was as expected really from both innings- it was disciplined batting and bowling from both sides over both days. Captains knocks were the theme, with Macey grinding out an unbeaten 86, and of course Hobbo's 127no.

Gav won't like me mentioning it, but there is truth and lesson to be learnt from this aside. After the game, Gav came up to me at one point in the sheds with a big grin on his face (who didn't at that point, really) and said slightly hushed "you know what the best thing about winning today was Mickey? No-one is going to remember that you and I both dropped catches yesterday!!"

Which was true- in 10 years I've had countless mentions from people of my partnership with Jo, but no-one has ever remembered the absolute sitter I dropped on the Saturday- and at a really bad time of the game.

Macey was in set and Parth Shah had not long come to the crease. I can't remember who was bowling but I was at gully when Parth mishit a cut shot with a top edge that floated ever so slowly straight to me. There was no need to deviate left or right, nor have to move my feet from my set position. I think with having so much time to watch, it foiled me, as I proceeded to fumble several times before it fell to the ground- clearly a missed opportunity, especially as it would've taken Charlestown to 9-174 and Parth went on to get 24 of a 50 run partnership with Mace to post a respectable total.

The lesson from this though is why I bring it up. I was filthy with myself for dropping it as you'd expect. However, at the end of the over, Jo came over to me with this "i know you didn't mean to drop it, so i'm not upset- but if you're not the loudest f*(&&^ person on this field for the next 10 overs supporting your bowlers then i'll be ^&% angry, you understand?"

This advice still serves me today- managing my energy when i make a mistake on the field so that I don't bring down the energy of the team is such an important thing. Thankfully the drop did not cost us ultimately, but out of those errors are usually valuable lessons for improvement.

The innings that often goes unmentioned is the crucial 48 from Corey Loveday.

Our innings did not start too well. We were 5-66 when Corey came to the crease chasing 230 for victory and starting to look like things were getting away from us a bit, as the wickets fell consistently up to that point. Our energy and feelings were starting to go down a couple of gears- we knew it was far from over, but if the trend continued we were facing a very tough ask to bring it home.

It wasn't just the 48 runs that lifted us from Corey, but the way in which he went about doing it. Those who've seen Corey play knows that he thrives in those challenging scenarios on the field and if anything, it relaxes him and brings out his best cricket.

Instead of approaching things tentatively at 5-66, he instead played his natural game and took to the Charlestown bowling. The shot that encapsulated the innings was after Corey and Hobbo went back out following I believe it was lunch, first ball from Todd Disney Corey dispatched cleanly back over mid off's head landing next to the sightscreen.

Corey didn't bother with running, instead he held the pose, watched the ball sail away, then reset his stance waiting for the next one. That statement from Corey really lifted us again, and as Jo got set into his innings as well it swung that momentum back into our favour.

3) You were there in the middle at the great moment I believe - what do you recall about that?

So I went in at 6-142. Corey and Hobbo had built a good partnership of 76 to swing the momentum back in our favour. Sitting in the stands beforehand, I was quite nervous as you'd expect. I remember going through my mind was the golden duck from the week before, clean bowled by Darren Herbert (was a good ball to be fair), but I was nervous mainly because I wanted to make sure I contributed this week- especially in a final and given the match situation.

I knew following me was Ray, Greeny and then Brinn. Brinn aside (genuine tail ender- sorry mate), Ray and Greeny are both very good batsmen, but are very much on the aggressive run scoring side of the spectrum in the way they play.

When Corey fell and I was walking out, these things were clear in my mind- you're not to get out today, you have a job to do batting with Hobbo, don't give Charlestown even the slightest hint of our tail end batting today.

When I arrived at the crease, Charlestown were on. Breaking that partnership of Jo and Corey was a critical thing for them defending their total, so they were a bit chirpy and very lively to begin with. I can't remember exactly what was said, but the theme was "don't F%^& it up by getting out and let down your captain". Actually good advice on reflection. Cheers lads.

Strangely though, despite the nerves leading up to batting, once I was there, saw off the remainder of that first over on strike, I felt a bit calmer knowing I'd gotten through those first couple of balls that had worried me in the stands from the week before. First job done. Talking to Hobbo at the end of the over, he laid out the plan. I don't recall verbatim, but it was along the lines of "mate, you and I are going to do this together. We have 88 runs to get, so let's take it 10 at a time. Let's count down those 10, reassess and go again. No pressure out here today (and there wasn't when just looking at the numbers- i think we had more than 40 overs left to get 88 runs with 4 wickets in hand if memory serves me right), i'm feeling good, I just need you to stick with me and we'll get this done. You and me"

It wouldn't have been 15 minutes later and Charlestown had changed their tune very quickly. The banter went to angry lashings first, low-quality sledging out of frustration from not getting another quick wicket, to what I observed as slowly becoming an ominous feeling of dread among them. They knew that things were starting to slip away piece by piece.

And it's due to Hobbo's brilliant innings. As I see it, I had the best seat in the house to watch someone in the form of his life take apart Charlestown's attack with supreme confidence. We executed the plan perfectly. Jo would take the first 4-5 balls of the over for the most part, pick up a few runs and then I'd see out the rest of the over. Rinse and repeat.

After 10 minutes or so at the crease, all of that nervousness was gone. We both were enjoying the experience. We'd check in each over "5 to go then we chat again, keep it up, you and me", "that was 10 more to us, 40 to go, let's get another 10, you and me". We chipped away at it piece by piece. And by we, I really mean Hobbo. The form he was in was incredible. At one stage when he was probably 80-odd and SET, he was taking 3 to 4 steps down the wicket as the seamers were coming in and without overhitting, blasting it off the middle through covers without missing a stride.

There's a great photo that the photographer from the Herald captured as he brought up his hundred of him raising his bat and then looking to the sky to remember his relative. What it didn't capture was the 10 seconds beforehand.

Hobbo counted every run as he goes and always knows what score he's on. He belted a short pitched delivery (cant remember the bowler) for a perfectly executed pull shot from the netball court end. As soon as the ball left his bat, it hadn't even had the chance made the boundary for 6 at that point when he started celebrating, and a few seconds later the crowd caught up and began their applause. After a moment to cherish the milestone, it was straight back into the zone for him and finish the job.

Another thing not many people know is that I actually nicked off not long into my innings. Chris Connors was bowling and pitched one on a great length that I had to play at, cut away from me slightly and just shaved my outside edge. I felt it and my stomach dropped, but then there was nothing to follow after I heard it hit Dane Macourt's gloves.

I quickly shadow batted a bit, not daring to look back, reset my stance and kept quiet. Maybe a slight grin? It wasn't until after the game when we went to have a drink with the Charlestown boys that I went up to Chris and told him. He'd had a suspicion that I may have, he replied, but when the keeper didn't budge he just walked back to his mark. Perhaps things may have played out differently if I was out at that point? Of course we'll never know. I don't give it too much thought.

Things got hard mentally as we got closer. When we had less than 20 to get, Charlestown by then were a bit dejected, and you could feel that they knew it had slipped away from them, given we still had 4 wickets in hand and overs to spare.

For Jo and I, we were still working the same plan, but putting more focus on being the two that were out there to finish it off and not giving them a sniff of hope back by losing a wicket. The hardest bit was that we were EXCITED. We both knew that we were nearly there and what it meant, but containing this and continuing to be patient was paramount.

It was why it took us a dozen overs or so to get the last 10 runs. Given how Jo was batting, it could've been done in three balls, but it would've meant going against the plan, taking an unnecessary risk and not valuing our wickets, when everything was at stake. It wouldn't have been fair on the other 9 blokes, nor on the hundreds of CBs supporters who were there nervous AF, not understanding why were we going slowly! The temptation to slash at one when we had less than 4 to get to get the winning runs was a hard thing to resist as well, however it would've again been selfish, and really Jo was the one who deserved the winning runs to cap off such a masterful innings.

The winning runs was probably the worst shot Jo played all innings. With 2 to win, he inside edged one down to fine leg and gave us a comfortable 2. NBN has footage somewhere and you could see both of us starting to skip and celebrate on the second run. I remember having to check myself to get to the crease and complete the run- would've been the worst time ever to be run out.

We'd done it, an unbeaten 88 partnership thanks to class batting from our Captain, valuing our wickets and working the plan together, for our teammates and our club. I still have the medal and baggy framed in my office at home where I can see it and remember each day- We are the mighty CBs



Abbey after NSW U19 National Champs win



Jack n Mat

A few CBs Pics

The Over 60s ODI feed

Mr Dan Carter



Betsy at No 1 Oval



Abbey after a good bowling spell at Waratah



Hamish Maher at Pasterfield



S&Ds at work



CBs through the lens... The Unsung (ordinary) Heroes, by pth

I am often accused of being stuck in the '80s as far as music goes, to which I normally reply without hesitation 'guilty as charged'. One artist I admired was the blond spikey haired synth wizard, Howard Jones - 'Like to Get to Know You Well' etc. Yet it's one of his lesser known songs that has always resonated with me and is totally applicable to the piece I have been asked to write for this Black Rose. Called 'Ordinary Heroes' - its chorus goes: 'Ordinary Heroes You may not know their names 'Cause they don't make the headlines But they're gonna save the day'

These words serve to reinforce my observation over a few years now that the most successful amateur sporting clubs not only have a number of 'ordinary heroes', but go that extra mile to recognise them. So here goes.....

Our 'heroes' are always willing to put the team and club ahead of their personal aspirations and needs, seldom being asked and its nearly always those jobs that no one really wants to do - but they just get on with it. Although we have the Ian Hancock Award locally, there are never enough trophies to cover all of the 'heroes'. While they are never expectant or wish to court the limelight, I'd wager each and every one of them secretly appreciates a sincere nod and an occasional 'thank you', sufficient to ensure that they are 'givens' at the first working bee of the new season.

It feels fantastic as a player to make a 50, 100 or take a 'five for', but I'd challenge all of our players to ask themselves these two questions during the off season - 'what else did I do?', & 'what more could I do for the club?'

I will now go onto to recognise a selection from our many 'ordinary heroes' and the sort of things they do to go that extra mile - the things that are left, or not even thought of, by others, and always done without fanfare.....well, until now that is. Please note that for this piece, I have stopped short of recognising the official duties of the club's office holders and committee members, captains, our magnificent curators etc, as these will be covered elsewhere.

So here goes in no particular order:

- John Porcheron ('Pocco') - when you next walk into a clean, gleaming changing room on a Saturday, please take a minute to reflect that it is in a much better state than when it was left the previous week! It means that John has been in full swing, picking up wrappers, used strapping, plasters, abandoned kit and water bottles, emptying the bins, washing the floors down etc. John will also regularly carry 5 scorebooks home on a Saturday night (hard after a few schooners) & do the necessary IT admin, to ensure all are back for Tues night training. Unlocking changing rooms, delivering keys, ordering and unloading wicket soil, the list goes on. Take a bow John & thanks for all your selfless hard yakka;

• Jeff Williams - the essential link to our junior colleagues - enthusiasm deluxe and has that tenacity and resolve to 'make things happen'. Cheer squad for his talented son, 2nd grade scorer and extremely highly regarded project manager for the procurement and fitting of the Pasterfield practice roof netting. The latter, without sounding too full on, has revolutionised our practice nights and save us many a \$\$ on practice balls. Jeff was superbly assisted by Dan Carter and Coach Curry on this project. The former spent considerable time up and down ladders and tightening netting and wires until their fingers bled or became numb - well done and thank you to Dan.

Jeff's sage advice on support systems and things like the Toyota raffle was useful and he always displays that precious commodity - 'common sense'! (regrettably not all that common these days). And if that wasn't enough, also encouraging our juniors playing grade in the arvo to come back to the RSL after their games. Not to be sneezed at - it's a noticeably different culture at the RSL and long may it continue. Sincere thanks Jeff and probably apt that he won the odd CB'S meat tray!

• While on the meat tray - the tickets don't sell themselves. We all know it's not a great job, yet it is where other unsung heroes stand out from the crowd and form an inner sanctum - the 'I'll do anything for the CBs' group. It's time for Dougie, 'The Duff', Kyle and Braedon to stand up and receive our thanks. Train hard, play anywhere they are needed, take shirts, match balls and scorebooks to the game, give throw downs, help put on covers, move sightscreens, collect moneys, sell tickets.....nothing is too much trouble for these guys. You make the club what it is and are true unsung heroes!

• Also, on my short-list for this year is Ian Creer. Very close to membership of the 'I'll do anything for the CB's' group in his own right, it is the unselfish way he has filled in as sub fielder on many occasions and helped out at training with the younger guys that have really taken the eye. Ian received a few plaudits on the Facebook page earlier this year, but I wanted to pay tribute to him again - thanks Ian!

• Mr Mark Hickey also deserves a mention.....mountains of work in previous years in an official capacity, he continues to do his bit and more as a 'mere player' - too much to mention here, but stand in skipper and BBQ master lead the list. Cheers Mark.

• Finally, on my list for this season, the irrepressible 'Digit' (Mr Matthew Forrester), who fills the unenviable role of Net Captain each and every Tuesday and Thursday during the season. CBs through and through and I am sure all love having 'Didge' around, often gaining an insight into his fearless fielding prowess in past years. Thanks mate.....

There were many who so nearly received a full mention. Our English import, Matt Bennison, being one, who gave of his time freely on many occasions this season. Matt and a small crew were the heart and soul of the highly successful Grey Ashes ODI at Pasterfield. Finally, to my family, for all the time and many thankless jobs they do behind the scenes to be well and truly immersed in the CBs we all love.

I close by encouraging all of the need to do their bit, and reiterating 'well done and thanks' to all those unsung (ordinary) heroes that give of their time to keep the club marching forwards....we are the mighty CBs!

First Grade Captain's Report



Never thought this opportunity would happen, but what an absolute pleasure it has been to lead out the 2019/20 1st grade side. A season I will never forget!

Although we lost a few players just before Game 1, we welcomed Adam Winchester from Uni, Sudha Gundeti from India and Matthew Bennison from Sussex on board and the return of Dan Carter for the 19/20 season.

First game was a very gallant win to Charlestown on a slow early season Pasterfield track. Before this game and even more so after, I was thinking with this aptitude and attitude consistently every week we will surprise everyone, even ourselves.

Consistency being the key word here, we were actually inconsistent with results in the 1st half of the season. Form going WLWLWLW. A couple of those being 3 massive wins, 2 against Waratah and one at Toronto.

Apart from the inconsistency in Results we were playing some great cricket, and with that W before Chrissy break we were brimming with confidence going into the second half of the year.

There was belief we can do something special this season. Even though the weather effected the Wests and City games and training...at that position and the opportunity we had, we should have been doubling our efforts and attendance. Alas it wasn't like that at all and it showed in results with a big loss to Wallsend and outright loss to

Merewether... the wheels fell off, and our chase for finals cricket in nearly a decade was over. We finished the season with another wash out and hung onto 8th... I'm sure most would agree that it left us all wanting more, and thinking of what could have been.

Much the same can be said with our NCC Summer Bash, played, first game against the Flood and crushed them, then had our pants pulled down against the Magic the next week with poor batting.

We followed up with a very emphatic win in our last pool game against Uni, and with rain again, we bowed out of the quarters with a washout... once again thinking that one game, what might have been?

There were some fine performances throughout the year. Special mention to the triple Man of the Match performance of Nat Duggan (79), Brady Conlan (57) and Kal Garbutt (5/81) v Toronto was huge part of that result...

Kal finished with 29 wickets for the year and I could see that with his confidence and with my trust he started to grow and by the end of the season was the best bowler in our side. Adam Winchester's 78 v Waratah in our 285 really steadied our innings and set us up for a huge victory.... Adam was very handy with the ball too, switching between pace and spin. Huge asset going into next season.

Sudha was sensational, his 472 runs @ 42.91 shows how valuable he is to the side, also his unbelievable skills behind the stumps. I'm very glad he has agreed to come back next season. Rahul was classy as ever with the bat, putting in his usual outstanding efforts... 424 runs @ 30.29. You couldn't argue with that.

Dan Carter was reliable with the ball yet again, taking 19 wickets for the season and being a great opening partnership with myself. We're going to miss him next season and hopefully see him back in 21/22 season.

A disappointing finish to the season, but as a whole a successful season moving forward. There were some optimistic signs. We showed focus and a strong willingness to learn, but more importantly I saw that we are starting to play for each other as a side, we have so much pride in wearing the blue CB cap! These young guys are slowly starting to believe in their ability. It showed

in particular with the win V's Toronto and the draw V's City, where we had nothing in our favour but had the will and grit to do whatever it took so the guy either side of you could get victory, or avoid an unwanted defeat.

In conclusion it was a season we can go upwards from, learn from our mistakes, utilising our strengths and working on the weaknesses. The club is moving in the right direction. But more work needs to be done by everyone to get to be where we should be.

I want everyone to remember this mantra: The Club comes first, then the team, then the individual.

If everyone gets onboard with this it will lead us to greater success in the future.

And say to yourself, why can't we be the best? Why can't we get more out of ourselves week in week out? Because I can't see any reason why we can't.

We work hard and we will achieve what we want to achieve.

I would like to mention and congratulate our 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade teams on a great season, you

have done the club very proud, and with 2s and 4s making the semi before the pandemic, the future looks bright.

I would like to thank the guys behind the scenes, Coach Mark Curry, Matthew Maher and the whole committee for the help and support you have given me this season...you all do not get thanked enough for keeping the club viable.

Finally I would to say that being the club captain has got to be one of my proudest moments of my life, I love the CB's and do anything for it, the club doesn't owe me anything.

I'll see you all at pre season...

All the best, and remember the order:

Club - Team - Individual

Kind Regards

Matthew Willett

(Willo)

2nd Grade Captain's Report



A few thanks to lead things off- to the committee, coaching staff, friends and family who supported us this season- they're work behind the scenes made things happen as smoothly as can be, especially in a period of such turbulence with off-field events like the bushfires. Most notable thanks from 2nd grade this year goes to Jeff Williams, our official scorer and unofficial manager. Jeff went above and beyond to assist us this season- highlighted best in the match against Newcastle City in Hamilton, where he drove back to Speers Point to retrieve his leaf blowers and industrial fan to help dry the pitch out for us to commence play- perfect example of a true clubmen!

In years to come, when players and friends look back over past major premiers in Newcastle Cricket, they'll ask what the asterisk means and why no-one was awarded the title. Like the

rest of society, cricket was brought to an abrupt halt this year at the conclusion of our regular season and a few days before CBs 2nd grade were due to play their semi-final against Charlestown.

Last year in the Black Rose, I made mention of our 10th place finish in 2nd grade 2 years ago, and a great improvement to finish 7th, to this time finishing 3rd. Numbers don't lie (unless you ask Dave about the 30-odd he scored vs Toronto), and with this year on year improvement it gives me great hope for next season to go a couple of spots higher and a couple of games deeper into March.

To save giving a blow by blow of every match's results (see mycricket), I'd rather tell of a couple of games that represent the story of our successes this season and the quality of the cricketers we have and are developing.

This was a strange season in so many ways. Strange that I was able to avoid attending the Wednesday night NDCA judiciary, given the efforts from some of our more... "passionate" players to get themselves on report. Strange too being cut short for a global pandemic, but also having a season of incredible bushfires and extreme heat. For the first time in my years of playing (perhaps ever?!) we were brought off the field due to high temperature at Pasterfield vs Toronto.

This heat rule was a controversial one, Unfortunately with the way NDCA has written their by-laws, against Toronto this delay on day 2 of 1 hour and 4 minutes changed the state of play to enable Toronto to play out 27 overs for their 11th wicket partnership- achieving a draw for the match where otherwise would've been a 136 run convincing win and 4 more crucial points to our tally end of season.

To highlight our theme of progress, Toronto 2 years earlier had defeated us outright in very convincing fashion. Currently, with bat, ball and even our fielding, we outplayed them in all facets of the game and was a real milestone moment for us in the way we've climbed back from those darker periods only a few years ago to now being a winning side playing enjoyable, positive cricket.

This game included one of the best centuries I've been witness to. Pete Neilson entered the crease for CBs with our team at 4-61- an unenviable position to be the session before tea. Quickly fast forward an hour or so, and Pete has annihilated the Toronto bowling side to bring up a masterclass 110 off 105 balls. Every shot was hit clean as a whistle- if they put the fielders back on the boundary, Pete would just hit it a bit further and a bit harder over their heads and didn't give a chance. The exception being his 100th run- after playing a less than convincing inside edge/leg glance from outside off stump down to fine leg, what was initially called a two was met quickly with "F\$&* that Mick, one will do mate!" from Pete once he heard the applause from the grandstand begin.

The other game to highlight was that versus Newcastle City at Learmonth. Aside from the strange events with the weather (starting with a rain delay and later coming off for extreme heat), this match to me is perfect example of how well balanced we were as a team in 2019-20.

A lot of teams (and some clubs really) rely upon their senior players to perform each week in order to achieve a result. Indeed, we have a great mix of senior players with a lot of first grade experience, however the young up and comers were the stars for me this year, not only because of their talent and "potential", but because they step up at crucial times and win us matches! Bailey Creer's half centuries at Merewether and Waratah, or Mitch Hickey's pivotal wickets with the ball and well fought innings with the bat when we're in troubled times are prime examples.

The way that every person in our squad contributes to our team, not just one or two superstars is what gives me great pride and hope for our club.

Back to Learmonth- after I strategically lost the toss and we were sent in on a fairly moist pitch after the morning rain, every senior player in the team failed to post runs. Instead, young Dan "Daniel-San" Williams stood up to the challenge of opening the batting for the first time and scored a 72 over, changeless 88, which any other day at Learmonth would've been 120+ if not for the unmown outfield and heavy rain that previous evening. He was ably supported by Tom Maher, Wahl and Aidan Creer piece together 200 for us to bowl to.

We started our bowling innings with a lot to be desired, City being 2-122 going into tea. I've learnt now that if you need something done- throw the ball to Abbey Taylor. Abbey's 4-39, along with crucially timed wickets from Dan Williams and Aidan Creer steered us home with have City all out 183. A superb comeback, led by our rising stars.

To conclude, on a personal note I'd like to thank Luke Wahlstedt for his help and leadership as Vice-Captain this season. Even though he's known to get a bit angry from time to time, Wahl carried our bowling attack single-handedly for most of the first half of the season and really led by example for our younger bowlers who improved week in week out.

Next season I see as being even bigger and better- such a positive future we have looking forwards and I can't wait to go around again. Thanks for such an enjoyable season. **Mick Corrigan**

3rd Grade Captain's Report



As the club's fortunes rise so do those in third grade with our best result in the last decade this past season. We watched a number of last year's 3rd grade youngsters go on and play higher grades successfully this season and I'm hopeful that many of those who played threes this season will soon join them or possibly replace them if they don't keep working hard and improving. As a CB's relic it's encouraging to see the younger generation taking increased responsibility and leadership within the club and I hope they remember that us older guys are always here to help them out.

Two games to go we were still an outside chance of finals cricket which given the inconsistent team we had all year is testament to the resilience of those in the side along with the growing talent bank the club is producing. We beat the sides that came 1st and 2nd on the table who only lost twice each all season, so the potential is there. But with only three players to play double figures of games and 16 playing four or less games we aren't going to get consistent performance either individually or as a team. It's no coincidence that the more stable a side is the better they perform over a season.

I'd really like to thank players like Doug, Brayden, Kane, Kyle, Lucas, Harry, Kyle, Pete, Marto, Adam, Anis and Austin for making themselves available throughout the year when often it wasn't what they personally wanted but they did it for the club. This sort of attitude is one that may finally bring us the club championship that we never talk about and haven't ever attained. I realise in the middle of third grade report may not be the ideal place, but I really think this is both an attainable goal, and one we as a club should prioritise in the next few seasons.

I am really excited for the next couple of seasons for the club, and thirds particularly. I think we are building to finals hopefully next season, but we need to raise our game in several areas to be a real contender. So, I am hoping the younger players will see these comments as

challenges they can and will meet, and consistently, in the next season and beyond. I certainly believe they can.

In 3's this season we had 6 scores over 50, but only one from a player with their best days ahead of them. Three were from Betsy and he was the only player with over 200 runs. For us to make the step up to finals we need the younger players to start making 50's and to see this as "a score" rather than what seems to be the belief that 20 is one. Then for a player, and the club, to be successful it takes 2 or more scores close together to warrant being picked in the grade above.

David was our only bowler with more than 10 wickets for the season and the only 5fa. With the ball we need to see 4fa, 5fa and better as what we're satisfied with rather than 1s and 2s. Coupled with this is that we look at our actual performance (did we bowl well or was luck the/a big contributor?) rather than the outcome (what our figures are). Captains and selectors value the role a bowler plays as much as wickets they take but we can get caught up in our figures too easily. 20's and 2fa's always contribute, but it's big scores and true performances that take a side from solid to impressive.

The great news is that we have the talent, facilities and support available to make this happen. Not just in 3's but all the grades. In 3's Coopah was fantastic this year at the top of the order doing his job over and over and I couldn't be prouder. I look forward to him converting some of those starts into the 50s he deserves. Hamish had a tough season but I'm confident he'll bounce back. Adam, Ryan and Jack all showed that they have the ability with the bat to put up scores of substance. Hopefully they can continue to learn from established players such as Betsy and Potts going forward.

While Dave was good all year, he still has opportunities for improvement if he takes them. Geoff, Ryan, Adam and Jimmy C are very talented, and the sky is the limit if they put in the work and learn from some of the great knowledge around the club. Jack bowled the best spell of the season at Stockton and regularly delivered top line deliveries, but as we discussed all season, he has areas to work on around consistency and getting into overs and spells. Nick was improving till his knee got

the better of him and Mick confirmed how important training is even for the more established among us bowling superbly early in the season but having a tough finish to the season. I know I certainly notice the difference when I don't train versus when I do, so the message applies to all.

Finally, congrats and commiserations to 2nd's and 4th's for making the finals and not having the chance to push for premierships. Thank you to the committee and helpers for their continued work off the field. Pasterfield and training continually improve and Prawn's work with fielding and a lot of individual time paid off for many players this season. If you're not getting help at the club then look in the mirror for why not. We are lucky to have such wonderful facilities and Cardiff No.1 & No.2 are the best lower grade grounds in town hands down. Thank you, Ian, and Coxy.

I truly believe there is a premiership winning side developing here and it only takes a couple of players to have break out years, which I also believe is coming soon, along with contributions from everyone else.

So, the challenges to those in 3s, and across the club, are simple: • Get to training often - be specific on what you are working on there and help others to do the same. If you aren't sure what to work on, then ask the coach and/or your skipper because they want you to succeed • Be available and work for a team/club goal - the individual performance means more when it contributes to a winning season • Set your goals higher and don't accept mediocre as good enough.

James Kneller

Fourth Grade Report



Well this was certainly an unusual season. A very tightly contested competition saw us finish in 3rd place but were robbed of the chance to press our claims further in the final series due to the unprecedented public health crisis.

We recorded 8 wins, 4 draws & 3 losses. The losses were all only by narrow margins, proving the quality of our line-up and the effort shown throughout the season. The other thing of note was that we fielded a mind-boggling 34 players throughout the year. Well done to Mark Hickey for seemingly pulling players out of thin air to ensure we had the best chance every time we took the field. A very big thank you to players called up from S & D's and to the very part-time players who answered the call to fill in, sometimes at very short notice. We could not have had the success we achieved without you all.

We were also very accommodating when players had to step up and fill positions in higher grades, thank you to those players too.

As with last season one of the most pleasing matches was in our last outing. With the need for a win to secure our spot in the finals the match was evenly poised with Merewether slowly but steadily attempting to chase down our reasonable but not unattainable target. Two of our CB young brigade, Kyle Munns & Austen Hiskens, then formed a bowling partnership to see the last 6 wickets fall for less than 30 runs. Great to see those guys stand up with their performances but also a great team effort with Kieran Hickey & Luke Eveleigh securing the other wickets after Kieran Hickey was the backbone of our batting innings. This was just one example of the team coming together to produce a quality performance and come away with the points.

Notable achievements -

Peter Willis 85 v Uni, Adam Haworth 73 v Toronto, Jonty Dicks 68 v Charlestown, Reegan Connors 68* v Belmont, Kieran Hickey 62 v Merewether. Jonty Dicks 6/23 v Belmont, 6/82 v Waratah, 5/20 v Stockton, 4/25 v Waratah, 4/35 v Wallsend, Austen Hiskens 4/10 v Merewether.

Congratulation to Jonty Dicks who took out the Best Bowling average for the NDCA 4th Grade competition and Peter Willis with the most dismissals by a wicketkeeper.

We now look forward to next season, whatever that will look like, and the opportunity for the next group of young CB's to commence their senior careers. Till then, take care...





Social and Development Report



It was another struggling season for the youngsters of the S&Ds. Teams were scraped together each week and the kids kept on coming up against sides that should really be playing in C&S 'C' grade.

We fielded a side on many occasions which was one, two, or even three players down. That makes it really hard to be and feel competitive against any opposition. Thanks to the selectors and Dougy for putting a great effort in rounding blokes up.

Many clubs seem to think that *Social and Development* is mostly social for mature players who don't have any development left in them. Three or four of these guys supporting young ones coming through from juniors is ideal, but some clubs are not grasping this.

Not much to report on the win ledger but some outstanding individual efforts. Kyle Taylor took five wickets from just 8 overs. Tom Cover made 156 runs in 4 digs and Lach Williams made 106 from 3 with one not out. Mat Lang chipped in with 66 fro 2 innings.

Thanks to Perry and Dougy for the captaincy efforts.

With the experience gained this year, and promising guys coming through from the LMJCC, better seasons are ahead of this team

Under 21 Report

2019-20 was another exciting year for the CBs U/21s team. We had a bunch of new faces this year, the Creer brothers, Dan, Adam, Kyle, James, Cal, Ryan, young gun Hiskens and Jack. It was a lot of fun playing competitive cricket with such a new and enthusiastic group. Bowling was a strength of ours and we managed to keep some teams to respectable totals, unfortunately our batting couldn't quite back it up. Although there were a couple standouts, honourable mentions to Sneddo's 58 odd, Brady's 48 in last round and a consistent barrage from Coast recruit Cal opening up.

We only managed to win our last game this year, nonetheless there were a lot of great cricket moments within all the games from some of our men. James Carathansis and Nat Hiller securing 2-30 and 2-25 against a dominant Mereweather side in round 1. Kal Garbbet's 2-10 and Adam Winchester 2-15 against West. In the last round, Aiden Creer's 2-10. On an exciting note, most of the new faces this year have a heap of talent and another 3-4 years left in the U/21s comp. I have faith that they will be able to provide a few success stories in the near future.

Hope all the boys enjoyed the Sunday comp as much as I did. UP THE CBS ❤️

Nat

Dennis Broad Cup Report

The DB Cup didn't really get off the ground for us this year. Sunday cricket seemed to be problem for some in the club and the teams that we put on the paddock often relied on a mixture of not only seconds and thirds players, but also a fair sprinkling of fourths and S&Ds.

After a miserable 40 all out in the first round, we forfeited round two after we suffered quite a few unavailabilities and late withdrawals. Round three saw a better effort with bat and ball. We kept HamWicks to 130, with Wally taking 2 for 15 and Dan Williams 3 for 21. WE batted Ok, with Mitch hickey making a sound 21 and Adam H, Austen Hiskens and Wally all making a few.

Stats don't mean much when we only batted and bowled for 40 overs in two games.

If we get put together sides that are mostly middle graders we can give this comp a fair shake next year because our place in second grade and the club championship tells us that we have the personel in our ranks. Onward, boys!!

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CRICKET AUSTRALIA

Veterans Cricket Australia

2019 saw the CBs and Pasterfield host its first rep game. We hope the first first of many.

Australia played England in an over 60s ODI.

This English side was not a bunch of park cricketers from a small part of England but a true rep team with former first class and Prem League players from Cornwall to Yorkshire. They were on an extended tour of four states and a number of full internationals.

Similarly, OZ had some former long a serving first class players. I think the hundreds who turned up were surprised by some of the geriatric pace bowlers and the stamina of some batsmen. It was a close fought affair and very entertaining.

The English boys played on a number of top grounds on tour, including Bradman Oval, but stated that Pasterfield was as good as any wicket and outfield that they had encountered, not to mention the change facilities, viewing galleries, and food.

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