

# ***THE BLACK ROSE***

**CARDIFF BOOLAROO  
DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB INC  
SEASON 2020-21**



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**CARDIFF R.S.L.**

## President's Report



I would like to start by saying that unfortunately our name change of Lake Macquarie DCC was rejected at our formal hearing of Club Delegates. I would like to thank my Committee for the time and effort that went into this proposal it has been a very long drawn out process and at times very draining We have decided to let the dust settle a little bit not make any knee jerk decisions and wait until after our AGM before looking at our options.

I would also like to thank the contribution of Jeff Williams and his Committee at Lake Macquarie juniors our relationship with the Juniors is growing stronger each year and gives a great platform

For our Juniors to either come through our grade system via our S&D League or they can go across to the Warners bay seniors to have a game.

We are catering for each junior player depending on what they wish to do.

To our Major Sponsors Cardiff RSL, Multirail (Cameron Park service centre),Richo Pivotal ,Cardiff Bowling Club

A huge thank You for your ongoing support ,your financial contribution to our club is enormous

Season 2020/2021 was in many ways a very challenging season in all grades ,whilst our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teams had some good wins and at different times in the season looked as though we could be in contention for a semi final spot but we fell away at vital times.

Number of reasons for this but the main one for me is the unavailability throughout the season of players which created a lot of pressure to fill competitive grades, especially at the start of the season having to forfeit 4<sup>TH</sup> grade and a number of S&D games was really a blight on our club.

Whilst on the topic of unavailability I would really like to praise the efforts of Kyle Taylor who would see that were going to be short in 4<sup>th</sup> Grade and S&DS then would chase players to fill in. This happened just about every week.

For us to get better as a club and to be more competitive we need to really show greater commitment to our Club and the players we are playing with.

We are playing Grade Cricket and whilst we have a young Club there needs to be more ownership from everyone to improve our results from more intense Training ,commitment to playing & socially Etc.

I always hear we are a young club we can't expect to much yet, but we say this year in year out which I think ends up being the accepted thing.

I believe we have a talented club and should be getting better results consistently then we are.

I would like to give a massive thanks to Mark Curry for his continued and constant work as our Club Coach the amount of time he puts into his role both on and off the field is enormous and I know he gets frustrated at times but this is because he is so passionate about the Club and wants to see us have success.

Our grade captains do a great job throughout the season and when the wins are few and far between it becomes an even harder role.

A special thanks to Matt Willett. Being first grade captain is a big job but when you have a young team with not a lot of experience and not winning any games it becomes a very lonely role ,and at times he would have felt isolated.

A big thank you to Jeff ,Glenda and Paul for the very large contribution for not only Scoring each week but the many other jobs you perform throughout the year.

To all our volunteers thank you for your time and effort that you put in throughout the season.

To Ian and Steve for their work preparing NO 1 AND NO 2 every week. The way the wickets presented were outstanding and a reward for their hard work.

They also prepare and put in a lot of time so that our Juniors can get on turf each and every week.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and hours spent by Graeme as our secretary throughout the season.

Outstanding work and very much appreciated.

To Mark Hickey our Treasurer for his work on our budget this year, which was made even harder with the uncertainty surrounding Covid19.

He kept a tight reign on our spending which was required which saw us with a surplus at years end, also all the other behind the scenes work Mark performs .Thank You.

With Covid 19 this year we never had many social events but this will change for the upcoming season.

We will be aiming to get the after match presentations back on track after each match in the new season.

We did manage to have a belated presentation night at our Xmas night which was a huge success and very well attended as well as an end of season get together at Cardiff NO 1 after our last match which is fast becoming a tradition and again plenty of CBS ,Partners ,Wives, Girlfriends, Mums ,Dads in attendance.

To our Committee a big thank you for your support and continued hard work to keep our club functioning throughout the year.

We have a very strong team and we are always looking at ways to improve our club.

Congratulation to all our award winners for season 2020/2021, enjoy the night and lets move into the new season with clear goals, objectives, and an understanding of what is required to have a successful season both on and off the field.

President

Matthew Maher.



## SECRETARY'S REPORT

I suppose the lack of cricket has dominated everything.

It not only rained, it rained at the end of each week. Lake Mac Lords learned the hard way about the pros and cons of playing on turf as did we all.

On the paddock, only 3rds and the Lords had a 50% win rate or better. We cannot blame the weather for that.

As we know, a few experienced and accomplished new faces in firsts would make a huge difference to all grades, but when we run last in the club championship, its hard to attract those sorts of people. As a matter of policy we do not pay players (except maybe first grade captains) to come to the club. Other means have to be used to win strong players over. We have a big geographical footprint, and we are also close to the lower Hunter, and that is where we have an advantage that we have to get better at .

In the mean time, we have a core group of 20 somethings who are putting in a lot of work to improve their performances, and a very promising bunch of teenagers who are developing into outstanding higher graders. Coach Curry will tell you that club spirit and work ethic are both strong points at Cardiff Boolaroo.

From the committee's perspective, the main focus in this season was concerning a change of club name. The NDCA committee was not keen on our choice of "Lake Macquarie District Cricket Club". They informed us that they felt it did not accurately reflect out true drawing area. There was also vague claims that other clubs would be disadvantaged but this was never properly explained to us. Our argument was in FOUR parts- i Our junior club is "Lake Macquarie Junior CC" and changed their name a few years ago without anyone batting an eyebrow.

ii Our business name has been "Lake Macquarie District Cricket Club Incorporated" for about ten years. Again, no one objected to that.

iii There are many sporting codes that have recently changed their name to include "Lake Macquarie". No objections from within their ranks.

Iv Some NDCA clubs have recently changed their names to their advantage, for commercial reasons. For example, does "West's" accurately describe their footprint?

So where do we go to from here?

The CBs committee has decided to revisit this issue when the the new committee is elected in July. That discussion will consider a broad spectrum of ideas and logos from names like Macquarie North Cricket or Macquarie Dolphins to keeping the old name, colours and logos. It is hard to imagine a unanimous point of view on this, but the final solution will probably fall somewhere in the middle. We have to keep in mind that we are trying to bring a fresh "brand" to areas like Cameron Park and Westy where the promotion of cricket has been sorely neglected. Its in the growth areas that the medium to long term development of the club into a cricket power house lies. In Sydney grade cricket it is the clubs from the "far west" (Penrith, Campbelltown-Camden, Hawkesbury etc) that are making big impacts. Campelltown-Camden ran last in 2016 and first a season later. That can happen here, but we need a brand, logos and sponsors that will attract everyone from Speers Point to West Wallsend. The process has turned out to be a lot more complicated than we first thought, but I guess nothing worthwhile is ever simple. The quality of the foundations are great in terms of the quality of coach, facility, club spirit, willing helpers, junior club etc.

A brief but big thanks to all those club volunteers who go above and beyond, especially all the Hilliers, our curators, Jeff Williams and ..... Well you know who you are.

G Knowles

## 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 been with us for a couple of years now, 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



This year was a difficult coming out of COVID 219 and the disruption it caused to our playing and training schedule. As a result, it was not an easy task to get practice and matches prior to the season. We were lucky to have a game with the Wine country cricket club at their ground which was very much appreciated at short notice. We did again have good numbers at practice prior to the season but we were not able to get onto the turf practice wickets prior to the season which compromised our preparation.

The practice facilities at Pasterfield were below par for much of the first two months of the season. This was a real hindrance to our preparation particularly with our batting. It is important to have good wickets to practice on so that batsmen can gain confidence and go into matches feeling like they are in good form. Often, I felt that our batting at practice was more of a survival mode and while at times in matches players have to do this it isn't the best preparation. The wickets to be fair did improve as the season progressed but in order to attract and to keep players this issue must be foremost in the mind of the new committee. The ground at Pasterfield is a great venue and the centre wicket was slow but generally pretty flat so it didn't hold too many demons for our players.

Our performances over the season were disappointing. I think losing four players from the first-grade side over the change of seasons certainly affected our playing strength. From the previous season where we did improve we seem to have gone a step back. This meant the we had blood players who in each grade who were probably not ready. In saying that they have all gained experience and hopefully will be better for the experience. I think that in the first-grade team we have the makings of a good side however, we are still inconsistent. Batting really needs to be a focus next season with players needing to unlock the key to consistency and to enact a game plan that is successful for them.

I would like to thank the captains for their work. There are a lot of duties which go unseen and they are much appreciated. Selections each week were difficult and were given a lot of time and thought. In some ways, selections have an aspect of perceptions that one person could be better than another at a particular time. However, the best way to get selected in a team is to put forward performances that demand inclusion. If you have not done that then players should not look to apportion blame anywhere else then with themselves. Next season we will unveil a selection policy which will give everyone more clarity.

With that in mind I think it is important to commit to each other and it is often disappointing to see players miss games for what can only be described as social events. We need to improve this aspect to move forward. It is really difficult for the committee to find players at late notice and it does reflect poorly on the club when we can't fill teams in all grades.

While so far this report may come across as a little negative I would like to say that there were some bright signs for the future.

It was good to see Dan Williams step up this year. With Dan we also had Bailey Creer and Bayley Borrow have their first full season and they will be better for the run. Also, it was great to have Jonty Dicks back and he showed that he has the ability to be a successful first grade player. Also, it was good to have our juniors in Lachlan Williams and Austen Hiskens selected in the state challenge. This is validation for the talent they possess and hopefully they will continue to work hard and push up the grades in the following seasons.

It was great to work with Matt Willett. He has led by example and has the club's best interests at heart. We are fortunate to have a player like him to lead the younger brigade. Also, I would like to thank the committee particularly Paul Hillier, Matt Maher and Mark Hickey for their ongoing work and support throughout the year. Also, the work of Stephen Cox and Ian Hancock cannot be underestimated and we are very fortunate to have these two who support the club with their efforts at the Cardiff precinct. With this being my fifth year, I will be having discussions with the committee about the future direction and my role. I have put out a survey and the responses therein will provide the club with some important player feedback going forward. The suggestions there in will be acted upon where possible. What is pleasing is the general commitment of the players and club supporters in such challenging circumstances. We will look to put together a weekly training session over the winter to keep people engaged with most people opting for Pasterfield as the preferred venue. Let's hope for an improved season in 21/22.

Mark Curry.



# VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## What's In A Number - Batting Holds The Key

Coach Curry's end of season reflection where he extolled the virtues of 'batting time' and 'making it count' in order to be successful as a club made me wonder - are these sage words supported by the stats? Before you reach for the oft quoted "78.7% of statistics are made up on the spot" - of course Prawns has it spot on - the stats do not lie!

I promise I won't take long to get to the point.....here goes...

This season we alas finish bottom of the Club Championship: P77, W10 and D29 across the grades. The previous season (2019/20) we were 5<sup>th</sup>, our best result for some time: P83, W27 and D20.

During this season the difference between our average runs per wicket batting to bowling was 8.2 runs, which in simpler terms over a 10wkt innings means we were on average 82 runs down on our opponents.

Compare that to the previous season when that all important difference was 1.4, i.e. we were on average only 14 runs down.

This anomaly is highly significant as it equates to being in the arm wrestle in every game!!

I then looked at other years and there was a striking correlation! Wet, disrupted season, heatwave etc, means squat - the message is the same - score the runs and you'll be highly competitive.

Begs the question though - how do we make up that 82 runs with the bat on our opponents? - well, back to Coach Curry I think.....'making big contributions / making it count when in' eats up a big chunk of it. But so does everyone clawing out at least another 4 or 5 on their average - which can be achieved by hard work at training and determination at the crease. Back that up with discipline in the bowling (which we are typically good at) and a red-hot commitment in the field. The backing of the committee is also important in providing the best facilities we can and instilling a culture. Add a bit of CBs spirit, and hey presto, we are there. And dare I say it looking a bit more like the perennial heavy weights in the NDCA competition.

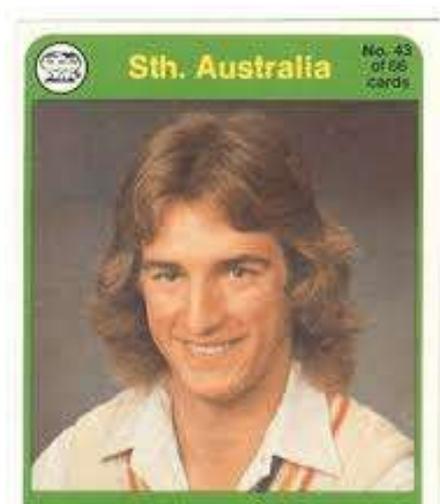
So that's the plan isn't it? - let's enjoy recharging the batteries over the winter, as it's been a long testing season, but be ready for an energised pre -season and set ourselves a much improved position in the club championship table in 2021/22. It is achievable, as we are the mighty CBs.....

## 2020/21 Lookalikes

The Black Rose has traditionally included a few lookalikes – Willo and Chris Martin of Coldplay, Sid and Oscar the Grouch! But we had a few new faces this year which made me think of their alter egos.....  
How about Joel Van Haren and a young Alan Shearer?



Archie Backus and Wayne Phillips??



I'll leave you with those, but who's got any better? What about Birksy or the dynamic twins Austen and Lachie W.....look forward to a few suggestions on the players FB page!  
Winter well - Paul Hillier (or is it John Goodman?)



## FIRST GRADE CAPTAIN'S REPORT



"A season to forget"

I'm sure a few of us would be saying about CB's 2020/21 and can be forgiven to do so.... a season riddled with disruption from the get go.. Covid, injuries, other events or commitments put first, all led to never having a full-strength side, to blooding some of our young guns earlier than probably preferred, and not to sugar coat anything here, but overall having sub-par performances and at times for players or even others around the club falling short of club 1st mentality. It had it all. Amid all that, it was a very challenging painful season but one with plenty of positives. And for one I'm very excited for what the future holds for Cardiff-Boolaroo DCC.

Firstly I would like to talk about that glorious 2-3 week period in January, a turning point for the side.

We played our T20 against the Rebels. Although they were a representative XI from a lower grade competition, they played some pretty good cricket at times but we were far better on paper and it showed, from the top 5 who layed the platform right through to Adam Winchester ripping the heart right out of them at the end, we set ourselves up in a winning position. 5/170 after 20. Then it was up to the bowlers to get the job done, which they did. Dan Williams snaring 3 early wickets and Kal Garbutt and Nathan Hillier finishing them off at the end to keep them to 28 all out... Yep thats right we pumped them! A team lacking confidence and belief showed some!!

Then a few days later we stood up for the challenge of Wallsend in our 2 day game and once again showed what we can do and that we can take on even the big guys of the competition. I was so impressed how much patience we showed with the stick on this day. We had partnerships and every guy did their job. We weren't flashy and for some reason on this day it all clicked. It is seriously what 2 day cricket is about!! The boys

put us in a winning position for this game but alas, the weather (and poor umpiring) prevented us getting the result we deserved..

Well as for the rest of the season, I wont delve into it, we all know how it went.. But still there was some good quality cricket by all who donned the baggy blue in 1st grade in 20/21. Some guys I would personally like to mention are:

Rahul - even though he suffered with his wrist injury for the whole season, when he was out in the middle he was all class. He went about his business like a professional and to think if he had a full season fully fit his stats would be scary huge.

Jonty Dicks was another one with injury and illness hitting him hard this year, but with still a lot of cricket in front of him he will be a handy top to middle order bat.

Tom Maher was a surprise packet of the year. To think that he was dropped to 3rd when I picked him back into 1s, he went on to score a gritty 65 against City just before Christmas and he didnt look back.. After that he showed the character of a guy that belongs on 1st grade, the confidence of knowing he can dominate given any situation.

Kieran Hickey was another good pick, started his 1st few games being tough putting his body on the line against the new ball and making every bowler earn his wicket.

Then there was the young brigade.

Bailey Creer and Baylee Borrow showed great potential with the stick. As I mentioned in the Wallsend game these guys showed patience way above their age and it paid off both scoring 50's, and at 16 and 17 years of age respectively its a huge achievement.

efforts. I may be a hard man but I'm a fair man and if I upset or offended in anyway I apologise, but i will always put this great club first, and I will be happy to go into battle with all of you again next year. And last but certainly not least.. Dan Williams was the standout player of the whole squad, played his debut season like he has been there for years, very serious cricketer who dominated with the ball and even though didnt get much chance to go up the order he can hold a stick too....

Well done lads and thanks for your efforts this year. A lot of exciting positives for the coming years ahead.

I would also like to touch on one more thing before i conclude, in last seasons Black Rose I requested for us to stick to a motto of: Club-Team-Individual.

For some it hit home, but I think for others they totally missed the mark. I feel signing up to a club in any sport and playing in any grade, you agree to show commitment and dedication to that club and you will make the sacrifice for the club from start of season to finish. So it was a bit disappointing to see players putting playing for Cardiff second to something else. A lot of us talk about how we want to get a hold of a trophy, having it as your fb profile pic etc.. but this can't happen without a bit of commitment and sacrifice...Otherwise its just putting the club second.

For others who were unhappy with where they were selected throughout the season whether being dropped or not being where they think they should be, its great that you were mad, and be mad. But dont give up, earn your spot be accountable for where you are and where you want to be and dont put the blame on selectors putting best club interest 1st.. I was sometimes disappointing that felt that they didnt need to earn their spots... That should have been their opportunity to get into the nets and work harder. Get out there and dominate the grade that youre playing. Everyone should be making it hard not to pick yxou where you think you should be. Dont go in to the nets every Tuesday/Thursday just rolling your arm over or belting the ball out of the net, train with purpose, train with a plan and EARN WHERE YOU THINK YOU SHOULD BE !! If we concentrate on this then we're moving forward in the right direction.

I would like to conclude by giving my thanks to Matthew Maher, Paul Hillier, Mark Hickey, Graeme Knowles and everyone in the committee for their support and assistance throughout. I could not have made it to the last round without you. To the coach Mark Curry, as with the committee, your support in a challenging summer is appreciated and thanks for giving me the opportunity to learn so much week in week out every year. Corro and Nems as fellow captains, I feel we made a great team in making this club improve moving into next year. Lastly having Howie by my side out in the middle and on the sidelines- you were my rock and so proud to call you one of my best mates, thanks so much. And to all the boys who played alongside me this year, thank you for your

Enjoy the offseason everyone and see you all pumped to go in 21/22

Regards

Matthew Willett (willo)



## SECOND GRADE CAPTAIN'S REPORT



The key on reflection was everyone worked together *building partnerships and rotating the strike*. Kieran Hickey, Coopah Hyslop, Brady Conlan, Adam Haworth, Howey and Jack Hillier all built solid partnerships with one another and supported our stalwart Pete Nielson with his quick fire 63. Pete didn't feel like running that day as the innings included 10 fours and 2 sixes for his troubles. This amassed us a healthy 204, a very competitive total in a 40 over game.

Alas, despite some quality bowling spells from Don Birks, Howey and Jack Hillier throughout, some small errors in fielding and bowling two sides of the wicket gave Stockton a sniff, and with their experience they were able to pass our total with 4 balls to spare, 8 wickets down with a tense and exciting run chase.

Unfortunate to lose the game with such a close finish, for me this game embodied the excitement and enjoyment of why we give our Saturday's up for cricket each week. Also, given some of the results from earlier rounds where we'd collapsed with the bat, or failed to penetrate with the ball, it was terrific to see how much improvement this new team had shown so quickly, only to be beaten by the better team on the day. To push the Premiers, with a very experienced second grade side right down to the wire shows how strong the depth is in our club and the potential for improvement that will continue to grow.

This game gave us good momentum leading into the two day matches shortly after. Traditionally, Second grade seem to perform their best cricket in this format and this season was no exception.

On a hot day out to Passmore to take on Hamwicks, I strategically lost the toss for us to bowl first. Hamwicks must've had the goal of reaching 500 by tea, as their innings from start to finish was T20 levels of aggressive strokeplay that thankfully lacked execution. Wahl, fresh back from his time in First Grade expertly dismissed most of the top 6 to take a healthy 4 fa

not many, before Dave Taubman cleaned up the tail to take 5 for 77 and see Hamwicks all out for 77. A steady and composed batting from us led to 138 for our first innings, unfortunately with no-one converting their start into a larger score but still giving us a lead for our second bowling effort.

To their credit, Hamwicks saved us from chasing leather all afternoon by making a sporting declaration after reaching 206 from 30 overs in the second innings. Unfortunately the second innings of this game was indicative of a problem we had a few times through the season, where we consistently bowled two sides of the wicket and not to plan, combined with dropped catches at bad times of the match. Nonetheless, it left us with 146 required for outright victory from 39 overs.

Adam Haworth had decided to tear his hamstring through the week, leaving us with 10 batsmen that thankfully proved enough to get us over the line with 2 wickets and 7 balls to spare. This fourth innings showed what CBs can do as a group, where everyone stepped up to contribute to this chase- from the experience of Betsy and Pete to start us off, Dave overcoming nosebleeds quickly batting 4 with a valuable 27, down to Jack Hillier with a quick fire 21 including a massive bomb off Tom Dwyer to nullify their late surge to bowl us out.

Following this terrific win was the beginning of the wet season. Frustratingly, there were a number of games where we were in strong positions after day one to be sealing a victory the following Saturday that rained out to a draw. It made for a very stop-start conclusion to the season, but not one without other memorable moments.

The momentum from the Hamwicks game carried on to the next game that could be completed without weather interruptions, where 2nd grade dominated against Wests to make it a second outright win for the season. The bowlers being the stars this game, all chipping in to take the 20 wickets fairly cheaply, and the experience of Greeny, Betsy and Pete in particular chasing down the totals without much threat.

For me, this Wests game highlighted one of the emerging leaders in the club. Due to unfortunate COVID restrictions that may or may not have involved alleged milkshakes in Brisbane, Mitch Hickey was called upon at the 11th hour to skipper the team, and being the high achiever he is decided to take 10 points for his efforts.

From me, a huge thank you to Mitch, and then later in the season Haydon Potter as well for both stepping up and Captaining without complaint. From feedback, they did so with wisdom and skill arguably beyond their years, but those who know these two won't be surprised by this show of character and selflessness for the team and club.

To individual achievements, overall in 2nd grade the statistics when read out of context were underwhelming compared to other seasons, with not the volume of runs and wickets you would usually expect. Equally, with how many players made themselves unavailable over the season at different times for different reasons it meant many players were moved up and down the grades and made it very hard for people to get consistency and stability in their cricket. I

would hope this is something that we can work on as a playing group moving forwards if we are serious about wanting to improve our on field performances.

That being said, it's important to remember at least 8 playing days of cricket by my quick count were washed out over the season. With the batting, it was a season of experienced players shining through, with Greeny, Betsy, Pete and Corro heading up the runs tally. Turning starts into scores will be a big focus into next season, with only a handful of 50's and one century from the playing group doesn't quite cut it if the goal is making top 4 each year in twos.

Our bowling was shared among the old and the young, with Regan "Don" Birks, Dave Taubman and Wahl leading the way with the wickets. Dave's 5 fa versus Hamwicks cleaning up the tail was the best figures and similar to the batting, one would love to see some more 5fa performances into next season to help push us back up the ladder where we believe we belong.

Typically in these reports the thankyou's and shout-outs are listed first and foremost, however I've kept them to towards the end this time as way of leaving fresh in the mind with names of those who deserve most credit for making this season happen for us. To Mitch and Potter again for stepping up into Captaincy roles when needed, Prawns for his coaching and support off the field, the numerous volunteers and helpers who have given their time selflessly in committee and otherwise- especially with things like getting covers done in such as wet season. These include the Hilliers, Hickeys, Williams, Coxy, Howey and Willo, Birks, Baccus, Mahers, Kal Garbutt, Brady Conlan, Poco, Betsy, and inevitably a few more that I will forget to name but you know who you are and my appreciation for all that you do.

In closing, despite stats and positions on the ladder not being favourable, I am very proud of the players we have had around 2nd grade this season. I've seen very clear improvements in the games of a number of players from start of the season to the end, and almost everyone is a pleasure to play with. It makes it an easy choice to spend my Saturday's with these guys for 7 months of the year.

Often with poor on field results, one can look outwards and criticise, blame and complain about where we think things are wrong and what others aren't doing right. While there may be a grain of truth in this on occasion, It doesn't fix anything and instead creates a toxic atmosphere in the club.

I would encourage everyone instead in these next couple of off-season months to first focus inwards and take responsibility for what we can control and where we can improve and do better in ourselves. If we each take ownership of our small part in this club and commit to getting our own house in order first, collectively we will flourish- for as each individual improves even a little bit at a time, the end result is your team and ultimately your club with reap the benefits. It's this way that we move onwards and upwards together.

Mick

The catch that wasn't.

Bailey and Kallum seemed quite excited didn't they. So did one or two others, just ask Willo.



BBQ Dave doing what he loves





Will and Nate, Pasterfield

Joel Van Heren in action



The CB's indoor team

## THIRD GRADE CAPTAIN'S REPORT



In possibly the most disrupted and certainly the most sanitised of seasons I have ever seen third grade again provided the setting to watch a number of potential long term first graders to start or continue their journey at CB's. It was an absolute pleasure to play alongside every individual who donned the whites in 3's this season. Thank you to each of you.

A mid table finish was appropriate and well deserved. We were competitive most matches and just a dodgy umpiring decision, an occupational hazard without officials, away from beating the eventual comp winners in our match with them early season. Each of the teams above us had a number of ex, and probably still should be, higher grade players playing major roles with their juniors only being bit players. These players often make the difference in the comp and this year was no different.

At the start of the season the skipper put out a couple of clear expectations around effort and some clear process goals for us to achieve each game. I could not be happier with how the team constantly worked hard and achieved these regularly. It all culminated with a near perfect performance in the final game. Bowled well, took our catches, ground fielding was superb, everyone supported everyone else and when we batted, we batted time and with discipline and patience. To watch Jack and Austen put on a 90+ partnership against a definite 2<sup>nd</sup> grade quality attack under plenty of verbal pressure in a game the opposition desperately wanted to win was very satisfying.

Through the season we set the goal to bat our overs and only once in the year were we bowled out cheaply well short of the goal. Fantastic effort from the side. Betsy showed the boys the value of just hanging in there and toughing things out with his fantastic knock at Belmont early in the season. Lachie and Hammer were fantastic for their partnership vs Hamwicks. Jack found some of the runs he's been promising in the last game and looked great, couldn't be happier for you mate. Austen showed through the year that he had not only the ability but the temperament to learn and find a way to get runs in senior cricket. Two fantastic innings this season but many more to come, I'm sure.

We worked hard on bowling good consistent areas, being patient and creating chances. Again, this was well achieved and the regular bowling attack including Joel, Jack, Archie, Austen, Lachie and Matt was young, eager and full of potential. Guest stints from AJ, Taubs, Mitch, Aaron and Jackson were well received. Plus who can forget the golden arm of Duggo's 1fa not much again, congrats. Any who have played under me know I am exacting on the bowlers and these boys made me proud all year, although I'm sure there were times they weren't sure of it please know boys I am.

One of the pleasures of cricket is playing alongside not just the young but the experienced teammates. The contributions of Dan, Betsy, Mark, Anis, Marto, Aaron, Mitch, Taubs and Trev cannot be given sufficient credit, but I appreciate all your efforts and assistance.

I look forward to seeing many of this year's 3's joining those that have been through this proving ground over the past couple of years and are now filling 1sts and 2nds. I hope that all those that I played alongside return next year to continue improving not just their own cricket, but the overall performance and results for CB's. Hopefully next season is a little drier and more cricket can be played so we can reap the rewards of hard work.

Thank you to the committee, coach and other helpers around the club for the season. Special thanks to Coxy for the job at Cardiff No.1 which was superb all season, congrats mate. Big thanks to Adam and Andrew for your help around 3's all season, and to all the guest players not specifically mentioned already.

Nems.



3<sup>rd</sup> grade boys. Wicket taken

The ball that took it. Jack Hillier



## FOURTH GRADE CAPTAIN'S REPORT



It was the wettest year I can remember, with 4<sup>th</sup> grade have 6 games washed out with us in strong positions in 2 of those games. In two other games played a player short showed the struggles we had with numbers each week, with that said it was an enjoyable year with us bleeding quite a few youngsters into grade cricket, with 5 regular team members competing in the U/15 junior cricket in the mornings, and a sprinkle of other juniors coming in through the season, with a mix of well over 20 different faces representing the grade through the season.

There was some very good individual performances sprinkled through the year and a couple of really good wins, well deserved by the youngsters, most notably a 9 wicket win over Wallsend on the hottest day of the year with Shane McGowan finishing 74\* and Toby Clune 22 putting on a 91 run opening partnership with us only chasing 106. Excellent effort in the heat. In the same game helping to restrict Wallsend was the ever-green Mark Hickey with the stunning figures of 5/9 off 8 overs showing the youngsters that you only need to bowl at the stumps.

Generally our bowling was the highlight with all of the juniors putting in great spells with consistent line and length, in particular Will Presland showed great pace and consistency until injury cut his season short and Kaiden McGowan showed great skill with his spin bowling racking up a 5 for against Ham-wicks. A special mention for Ricky Pokhrel, an U/14 who came in for a couple of games at the end of the season and bowled a great 10 overs against Waratah. A few of the oldies contributed as well with Mark and Trev putting in some long spells not to mention Kane with a marathon 17 overs straight against Belmont all backed up with good fielding and catching. Besides our opening combination of Shane McGowan and Toby Clune our batting was patchy with a number of scores scattered throughout with improvement shown as the season progressed. With the experience of a year in grade cricket the consistency will come as well as the results, I am expecting big things from a talented bunch next year.

### Notable Achievements -

S McGowan 74\* v Wallsend, S McGowan 72 v City, S McGowan 67 v City, D Amos 46 v Belmont, J Santarelli 43 v City, L Convery 29\* v Ham-Wicks, W Presland 29\* v Uni  
M Hickey 5/9 v Wallsend, K McGowan 5/77 v Ham-Wicks, K Taylor 4/24 v Ham-Wicks.

Gary Martin

## DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE REPORT



Despite not winning a game this season our Development League team had some great highlights such as Thomas Connolly getting his first wicket, Nata P-S getting 4 fa, and Matt Williams hitting sixes. The main highlight with the bat was Nathaniel Hearn getting 38 in our last game of the season. They were just a few of the many I could mention.

The effort of the whole team was a highlight for me. They never put their heads down, chased every ball, bowled at 100% and backed each other for every run scored, every catch taken, and every wicket their team mate got.

A big thankyou to the following:

The mums, dads and grandparents who took players to games and cheered them on. The parents who took over the scorebook. To Ian Hancock who gave us a great wicket every week.

A special thanks to Kyle Taylor, Jeff Williams and Mat Maher for getting a team together every week when sometimes it was a difficult task.

Some great things were done this season for us all to build on.

Onward and upward.

Dougie (Skipper) Petrisic



## SUBURBAN AND DISTRICT REPORT

### The Lake Macquarie Lords

2020 -2021 produced its mix of highs and lows, but every minute was worth it. The team was competitive, the games played in good spirit and the mateship better. Our team has a mix of experienced campaigners, and up and coming youth all who made important contributions to our second-place finish.

Having switched from City and Suburban to the new Suburban Districts comp, (Think City and Suburban minus fighting, cheating, and drinking) we were delighted to join Cardiff Boolaroo. We could not believe our luck, with a good support network in the club and arguably the best batting pitch north of the SCG, thanks to curator Ian. With many of us playing on synthetic pitches almost exclusively for the last 4 years, playing on turf added another dimension to our cricket experience.

At the end of the regular season Bert lead the batting with 345 runs at an average of 38, with Cam the other standout with 309 at 34. The bowling was led by Nathan with 17 wickets at 11 per wicket, with notable mentions to Joseph (12 at 11), Beno (12 at 12) and Lachie (11 at 13). Evan led the fielding with 7 catches (first in our whole comp).

Some of the standout individual contributions included:

- On a sticky wicket and soggy field Joey put in a spell of 6 overs, 5 maidens and 1/1 and Beno took 3/3 in the same innings, dismissing Kotara for 37.
- CJ almost had a hat-trick, against Warners Bay (with a sitter dropped on the hat-trick ball in front of CJ's mum).
- JA smashing 60 off 53 balls off a really good Edgeworth attack using one shot (think Matthew Wade with a belly). Simon compiling 35 in the same game, setting us up for our best win of the season against minor premiers Edgeworth.
- Multiple standout fielding performances, with several spectacular catches by Nate, Adam and Evan, and throws from anyone with a surname Ryan.
- Most digs from Bert who proved impossible to dismiss.
- Kivin and Mick who bailed us out when we were short (basically every game).
- JA's one over for the season (0/8). He constantly campaigns for a bowl and we allow it when it is mathematically impossible to lose.
- Everyone who had a crack at captaining (Simon, Cam, JA, Bert, Lachie, Joseph, Adam), confirming that none of us have any idea about how to do this.
- Nathan Ryan and sons, who basically ran things, turned up early, set up the cones, moved the covers.....basically letting the rest of us just turn up and play
- Uncle Joe, who at 104 years of age does not miss a game



- Our regular supporters Zoe, Roger and Cherry who supplied afternoon tea and drinks

Our low point was against minor premiers Edgeworth at Hillsborough oval. Playing on a wet pitch, and a paddock that had been slashed a few days prior (see adjacent image) we were all out for a well compiled 16 (YES SIXTEEN), with an honourable mention to Bert who scored 1 off about 500 balls and JA who top scored with 6 off a couple. 5 overs into their innings they passed our mighty total and we all went home sulking at about 2 pm. We play them in the GF and plan to exact our revenge then.



The outfield at Hillsborough

Thanks to everyone for a wonderful season











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