

Wandering about... Edition 11 2007/2008

The Newsletter of the Woden Wanderers Cricket Club

The Phantom Speaks

Hello all,

And welcome to the 3rd Grade Special Edition! It wasn't designed that way but with 5 match reports from the Major Alan Hughes and no others (alas I haven't had time to write about the Rest of the World experience yet), this Edition is dominated by 3rd Grade (as is the 3rd Grade competition apparently...keep up the good work lads).

Please note the change of date for the Travelling Picnic, it is now on the 16th of February, full details are on page 3.

The PMs XI is getting closer too, it's a great day (from what I can remember of last years). Be in it!

Good luck to all on the weekend.

Cheers,

The Phantom

Inaugural Caption Competition

Very slow response so far to the caption competition, so entries will still be accepted. As punishment for the lack of interest the photo stays up!

If you'd like to suggest some words for the picture on the right please send entries to ken.dale1@ga.gov.au (remove the 1)...



Selections - Player Availability in January

Could you please advise selectors of your availability for January and February by email on selections@wodenwandererscc.com

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PM'S XI Tickets – Wednesday 30 January 2008

Don't forget to get your PM's XI Ticket. Only \$32 each for prime seating *

As the Woden Wanderers Cricket Club are responsible facilitators of vast amounts of alcohol, a booking has been made for brekky at Caph's in Manuka at 8am where you can line your stomach with bacon and eggs prior to the game.

This is a WWCC formal shirt event.

Contact Caitlin at caitlin@jaseandcaitlin.com or on 0412 737 851 to purchase your ticket. Or see you at the club after the Xmas break.

* If you call having a grandstand over your head prime seating, this isn't it. But if you call sitting in the first two rows back from the oval and close to the bar prime seating – this is it!



PMs XI 2006

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IT'S BACK!!

Ladies Travelling Picnic

16 February 2008

The Woden Wanderers 3rd Annual Ladies Travelling Picnic

A day full of fun, watching your partner play cricket, having a few champers and great food and being chauffer driven in the cheapest bus we could find in Canberra

Order of the Day

Pick up from West Deakin Hellenic Bowling Club at 12:15pm.

Rivett Oval at 12:30pm

1sts play Lanka Lions

Chicken platter, salad, wine and champagne

Garran at 1:45pm

3rds play Baaaaaarton

Champagne and wine

Kambah at 3:00pm

4ths play Panthers

Pastries are served and more wine and champagne

Gordon at 4:00pm

6ths play AKS Jets

Cheese platter and even more wine and champagne

Drop off at West Deakin Hellenic Bowling Club at end of 6ths game

\$20/head provides mini bus hire, 3 course picnic and wine/champagne/soft drinks.

Only 11 seats available - so book quickly!

RSVP: by Wednesday 13 February to caitlin@jaseandcaitlin.com

Please advise of any dietary requirements and organise to make payment prior to the day to secure your seat.

Queries to Caitlin Hammick by email or on 0412 737 851

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Match Reports

Round 9 – 3rd Grade

WWCC vs Baaarton @ Melba

Finally the Grand Final rematch, also a top-of-the-table clash with us sitting first and Barton second. Won the toss, unfortunately. In wet conditions I actually thought twice before electing to bat. So out we went hoping it wouldn't be a repeat of Round 4 when we also won the toss batted first in wet conditions and ended up getting flogged.

Mojo and I opened: both returned to the pavilion quickly for little score. Greg and CC settled in nicely until CC mistimed one: 3/33. In came Westy at 5: bowled for a duck. PM started to look comfortable - then nicked one behind, out for 6. Dalts looked shaky initially, Then just as he started to time them well got out for 8. Jacko and Dom made cameo appearances for 0 and 6 respectively, and we're 8/81 off about 26 overs. Fortunately Greg was scoring nicely to reach around 30, but who was going to stick with him? Out went Macca, batting at 10. By this stage it was starting to drizzle more and more heavily. Macca faces about 6 balls, and hits a 4 and two 6s. After the second six, they'd had enough - the rain had set in and it looked like there was lots more to come.

So we came off at 8/103 from 28.5 overs: Greg not out 34, Macca not out 16.

And never got back on. Game abandoned (as were all others that round).

Round 10 – 3rd Grade

WWCC vs Harman

Not one WWCC thirds player put a foot wrong this round - in "The game that never was". (Harman rang the night before to forfeit as they couldn't put a team together.)

(Phantom's Note: Who was man of the match?)

Round 11 – 3rd Grade

WWCC vs Queanbeyan @ Deakin West

A ground we had enjoyed previously - last time here both Greg and Zak scored tons. We'd beaten Queanbeyan comfortably earlier in the season, and they weren't in great form - but fortunately they did scrape a team together, albeit only nine of them. Won the toss and batted - no other choice really.

So out we went to bat feeling pretty confident. And the run rate was certainly not a problem - we'd raced up to 107 off 20 overs. Jarrod, playing his first game for the happy team this season, opened, crunched a 4 in the first over, then smashed a six over cover. Zak decided he wanted to give himself a "ground average" quickly - and was quickly dismissed for 2 (taking his batting average at Deakin West to a paltry 137.) Tex, finally back to 3s this round, was liking the look of the bowling: the book shows 4,4,4,4,6,1 - out for 23 skying one. So in I go to bat at number 6, taking with me stern instructions to

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PM (who went in at 3 and batted sensibly watching the carnage unfold) to "just bat for as long as you can - we don't need to do anything silly here". Good advice, shame I didn't apply it myself: out to a stupid shot for 14. CC's turn - huge 6 over square leg, tried to repeat it but caught right on the boundary for a score of 8. Perhaps Hersh, back into the team this round, could steady the ship: no, out for 1. So in the 20th over we were 6/99, and I was starting to worry that perhaps we were getting a bit too cocky and were about to have our winning run ended.

Shouldn't have worried - out went Macca, promoted to number 8 this week. For once Macca wasn't seeing every shot go for 6 - he actually mistimed a few and got some 1s to go with his 4s and 6s. At the other end PM was looking better and better. What a partnership! In just over 22 overs they ended up putting on 195 runs together. Macca's innings was a gem: ten 4s and seven 6s and ended up 102 not out. He picked the balls to hit - and then hit them a long way. Better still he defended solidly (on the very rare occasions he needed to, admittedly) and was happy to take singles if necessary. PM's innings was superb. He went to the wicket in the fifth over, and batted away while the rest of us got ourselves out. Then when he finally found a partner who would stick with him, he started to find his timing and hit boundaries. He smashed two 6s to go with his fourteen 4s - and ended up with a magnificent 105.

With eight balls left in the innings PM kindly allowed number 9, B Stark, to have a swing. Which he did, smashing three 4s from the final over. And then ran himself out attempting a suicidal single from the final ball - but Macca had his eyes on the red ink! (The ball was actually hit straight to the bowler, so there was zero chance of getting through for one, but it's the last ball, you might as well run just in case? Maybe - but not in this case!) So we all left the field - but just as we arrived at the boundary the scorers said "hang on, one over to go". (Unfortunately the umpires had conferred previously at about over 39 and confirmed they both had counters showing 39 - but it was actually 38...Next time we better check with the scorers Zak!) By this stage Queanbeyan were knackered - it was pretty hot and with only nine in the field they'd all done it tough. So, what the hell, time to declare. Final WWCC score 8/308 (dec) from 44 overs. (A WWCC first, apparently.)

Well, surely we could defend 308. As usual Hotpants and Macca opened for us. After 3 overs they'd reached 0/24. One shot in particular was particularly worrying: Macca drops one short in his second over and is absolutely smashed over square leg. Probably the first time this season a batsman has actually picked up Macca's bouncer early enough to punish it. Hotpants grabbed a wicket in his second over - but there wasn't much we could do to stop their opener. Decided to bring CC on while the ball was still swinging - and his first over went for 14. By the end of 12 overs they were 1/80 - and the opener had scored nearly 70 of them.

Dom tied up one end, and CC took a wicket next over. Another couple of tight overs from Dom and CC and they're up to 2/102 from 17 overs. But it all changed next over. Their opener hits a straight drive back hard at CC - who to everyone's relief holds on. Then he takes another caught and bowled from his fifth ball, and clean bowls another last ball. So CC's got 4 wickets - time to bring Starky on. Last time he bowled at this ground his final spell of 15 balls saw him take five wickets! This time he takes two wickets in his first five balls. By this stage they're last batsman has come in. One ball to go in Starky's over. CC, on a hatrick and one wicket away from a five for, doesn't seem like he wants Starky to get another. And he doesn't, this over. So CC gets another over. But couldn't quite get the wicket. Starky's turn again, and second ball it's all over. 1.2 overs, 3/0. So he's now got 8 wickets in 23 balls at the ground. CC ended up with 4/25, so he'd taken 4/11 from his last four overs. So their innings ended at 8/105 - meaning a win for us by 203 runs.

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Kingston Butcher Man of the Match to PM - great knock.

Round 12 – 3rd Grade

WWCC vs Teachers @ Garran

First game back after the break - and a game against one of the teams only one win behind us on the ladder: Teachers. They'd had a depleted side last time, and we'd beaten them well. A win here would be very handy indeed - but Macca had been called up to 1s as had Tex and Greg, and neither PM nor Dom were available. Fortunately Blake finally returned from injury, Jonty was in, and Fred came up from 4s for his happy team debut (though he did play for 1s earlier this season). So we still had a pretty strong team.

Won the toss and, surprise surprise, decided to bat. Blake and Mojo started off for us, with Mojo spanking two hooked 4s early - before departing for 10 from seven balls. Zak went in at three, but only lasted a few overs before departing for 5. I went in at four and scratched around before trying to pull one that didn't bounce and was plumb LBW for 2. CC made a quickfire duck, and suddenly we're 4/28 and in trouble. Fred joined Blake and together they put on 15 before Blake departed for 17 leaving us at a precarious 5/43. The top five had scored 10, 17, 5, 2, and 0 - not the sort of stuff to beat Teachers!

Time for the lower half of the batting to stand up. Fred went in at 6 and batted well, hitting lustily at times but defending when necessary. Westy went in at seven, and the two of them batted well together to put on 41 before Westy departed for 14. Time for another partnership: Dalts batted sensibly and the two of them added 33 before Fred finally skied one to be out for a very handy 44. In came Starkey, promoted to number nine, and having been promised the new ball if he made a 100. (Well, if Macca can do it....) He and Dalts added a further 24 before Dalts departed for a well made and much needed 22. So out went Jonty to join Thunderbolt* and they put on another really handy partnership of 30 before Mr T was fired LBW for a very impressive 31. So out goes Hotpants for his second bat of the season - with a whole two overs to bat. And for the first 11 balls he did his job perfectly - faced I think only one ball and gave the strike back to Jonty. Meanwhile Jonty took over from Thunderbolt as the hitter, so the two of them had added 10 from 11 balls heading into the final ball of the innings.

*Note Thunderbolt was replaced by Starky when he played in a couple of games with storms threatening. When you're trying to bowl another team out before the storm arrives, shouting "C'mon Thunderbolt" just didn't seem advisable. But fine again now, so Thunderbolt returns!

Back to the final controversial ball of the innings. A Mankad! In third grade CC&SCA! Hotpants had left the crease at the bowler's end, and the bowler, having run in and pretended to bowl, removed the bails - without any prior warning - and appealed. It was given out. Their captain did have the decency to come over and apologise. (And it probably wasn't out anyway. If the bowler entered his delivery stride, then the rules no longer permit a Mankad. I'm pretty sure he had done the full delivery stride, so in fact it should have been not out.) Still, we ended up all out 181, which, having been 4/28 and 5/43 earlier, was a really good score. The lower order all batted sensibly by hitting what they could and defending the rest. With the boundaries very long and the outfield slow after all the rain, 181 was probably about par. If we bowled well, we'd be right in it.

No Macca this week, so Jonty took the new ball with Hotpants. Both of them bowled very well, but without a lot of luck. We dropped their opener and captain (and big hitter) twice on zero from Jonty's bowling. Hotpants was beating the bat regularly as well, and finally we took a catch and their skipper

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was gone. very shortly afterwards Jonty grabbed a brilliant caught and bowled. Well, he made it brilliant by charging in then having to dive backwards to take it - very spectacular. But number's three and four for Teachers dug in, and by the time our opening pair were replaced we had them 2/54 from 11.

Time to get CC on - while the ball was still swinging. He started with a maiden. I'd asked Thunderbolt to warm up, and was about to bring him on from the other end, hoping he'd repeat his 3/0 bowling from the last game. At the last minute I decided Blake might be the better option, so on he came (having had no time to warm up, and not from the end he'd have preferred to bowl from). His first over was tidy, nice shape, a 2 and a couple of singles. Over to CC. 2 dot wicket dot wicket dot. Over to Blake and Mojo for the Wilsons Show. Next over is dot wicket dot wicket dot wicket: all caught M Wilson bowled B Wilson. An interesting over in other ways also. Their number three was the first of the wickets, and he's scored a lot of runs for Teachers this season. Massive edge, but he didn't walk. Same thing from their next batsman - stood there and waited until his own teammate the umpire had to give him out. Makes me glad that if we play these guys again this season we'll have neutral umpires! Blake's second wicket was also the 4th wicket in the previous eight balls. The next batsman wasn't ready. After about 3 minutes I mentioned the delay to the umpire. It ended up taking over five minutes for the batsman to get to the crease. Given they had pulled the mankad stunt earlier, and then just had two batsmen clearly out but not walk, it was very tempting to appeal and have him timed out - but in the end we decided not to. We did point out how lucky he was to be the new batsman, and he did the right thing with a second ball duck, so it worked out OK....

By this stage they'd slumped from 2/58 to 7/60 in two overs. CC and Blake finished them off. CC ended up taking 3/24 from six (including another Jonty spectacular catch), and Blake 5/15 from five. And we rolled them for 94, so a win by 87 runs in the end.

Which leaves us two games clear of Teachers now, and still one game clear on top of the ladder. Six qualifying games to go, and so far so good. But next match is Tuggers, who made 350 last game. So we have to keep playing well to keep our roll going....

Round 13 – 3rd Grade

WWCC vs Tuggeranong @ Deakin West

Back to our favourite ground. But hopes of two batsmen scoring tons as has happened the two previous times we've played here this season were dashed when tails for once did fail, and Tuggers elected to bat first. Still, we had a pretty strong team and were confident of another good game.

Hotpants took the new ball (as always), but this time with Scotty Burrows running down breeze. (Or was he? - the breeze actually seemed to swing around each over so that both bowled into it.) No matter - both bowled well, giving nothing away. In fact there was hardly a bad ball bowled all innings. Bowlers were backed up well by all in the field. Halfway through his fifth over Scotty indicated he'd had enough: it was hot out there (in fact I was knackered after running to get my hat which I'd forgotten to take onto the field with me). Taking a wicket next ball didn't change his mind (!), so he had a rest after bowling five overs, 1/5. Handy. Meanwhile after his five overs Hotpants looked like he was starting to tire but asked for one more over. Good call - a double wicket maiden. One bowled, the next plumb LBW. (And he did ask for another over.) Finally gave him a rest after seven, 2/14.

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Meanwhile, on comes Thunderbolt from his favourite end - so far this season he'd bowled 23 balls from that end and taken 8/10! Surely he couldn't keep that form going? A non-hungover Dom took over into the wind - and immediately starting swinging it in a mile, almost CCesque. Both picked up from where our opening pair had left off, and other than one wild over from Dom hit the spot perfectly.

Thunderbolt picked up their number three to a sharp catch by the keeper (mind you, slip had it covered :-)) then Dom got them to sky one to Hotpants at mid-off - seemed like a good time to take drinks.

At this stage we had them 5/47 from 20.3 overs - and only two boundaries hit so far. (And Tuggers made 350 the previous week, so weren't lacking confidence.) We went back out just wanting to pick up where we'd left off. Starky started us off clean bowling their number 8. Meanwhile both he and Dom had bowled beautifully to their basebatter - the only one of them who scored runs against us last time we played. Everything was full and into his toes - he just couldn't get hold of anything to hit. (And, given the chance, he can hit them - one six last match would have been six even if the boundary had been twice as far.) Finally, after facing about 30 balls for 3 singles and a two, he snicked one behind off Dom's bowling. Nice work Dom - and Starky at the other end - and all the field for keeping the pressure on: great team wicket. Dom finished with seven overs, 2/29: bowled very well indeed.

Meanwhile at the other end Thunderbolt decides time to send their skipper from last match back - unfortunately we got him this time before he had time to run two of his teammates out like last game.) Time to see how far CC will swing it this week. A long way - but no wickets. Meanwhile Thunderbolt finishes with yet another wicket - number 10 plumb LBW for a duck. I made every attempt to get a 10th over out of him, but unfortunately the scorers noticed, so he ended up not quite matching his previous strike rate from that end - but not far off: nine overs 4/15. With Tuggers not allowing him his 10th, called on Blake with no notice to bowl. First ball - wicket. And that was it - bowled them out for 66. Handy. (And a handy bowling attack when CC and Blake are bowlers 5 and 6 respectively.)

Out went Blake and Zak to open - and Zak seemed to be seeing them OK. He raced to a quickfire 21 before nicking one to the keeper. Blake, probably distracted by the car crash he had on the way to the ground which saw half of one side of his car mashed in, departed quickly for 4. Out went Greg to see if he could get an average at this ground, his previous effort having been an unbeaten hundred. And yes he could, fired LBW for a duck. (Watching from the boundary I thought "had to have pitched outside leg". It was a short ball from a right handed bowler bowling over the wicket, from pretty wide, to a left hander. Mind you, Zak at the non-strikers end reckoned it looked out to him. Certainly Umpire Stark had no doubt - but he's a bowler and they always think it's out. I just reckon Starky's lucky he picked Greg and not a certain other left hander in our team to give that decision on.)

By now those of us watching were starting to enjoy the case of quality beer. (The real stuff, VB cans. None of that poofy yuppie in glass crap!) (*Phantom's Note:* I dare you to try a block of Toohey's Red Hughesy...VB is yuppie compared to that...might not be the happy team anymore though) So out goes Scotty B at number four - with his new bat. And he looked OK but then left for 10. Time to send PM out to steady the ship - which he did effectively as always. Hotpants, having hardly had a bat all season jumped at the chance to bat at six - and by this stage there were ominous looking clouds approaching. But alas Hotpants departed for 3, and then as soon as the 20th over was completed Tuggers decided to take drinks, hoping desperately for the storm to hit. At that stage we only needed six to win - and after drinks Dom and PM saw us home finishing with 6 and 17 not out respectively.

(Actually I've just looked at the scorecard and realised it was actually only 19 overs when Tuggers took drinks - Jeess, who was umpiring? Oh, woops, that would be me.)

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So we won in the 20th over - very convincingly. We now haven't had a loss since Round 4, and have won all but the washed out round. Which leaves us still one game clear at the top of the ladder with 11 wins and five qualifying games left. Next game the only team to beat us so far this season, the Lanka Lions. I see they beat Teachers on the weekend, putting them level with Workers on nine wins, one ahead of Teachers. So they will be very keen indeed to beat us. Lets hope we play better than we did last time we played them. Certainly if we play as well as we can, we can be confident. Main thing is lets keep the happy team rolling along.