

Wandering about... Edition 13 2007/2008

The Newsletter of the Woden Wanderers Cricket Club

The Phantom Speaks

Hello all, and welcome to Finals Fever,

Yes, in the immortal words of N-Trance “get raw with the fever on the dance floor”...well, do that after a Finals Fever victory anyway.

For those not in the know both First and Third Grades will be playing Finals this weekend. Both sides are taking on Traditional eheats Rivals, Bartongate.

First Grade vs Barton @ Frances O’Conner 1

Sab Ellis ©
Damien Whitelum
Tom McGaw
Troy Takanen
Peter Bowman
Michael Holdom
David Douglas (wk)
Ben Pipe
Josh Crase
Paul Smith
Gareth McAlister

Third Grade vs Barton @ Melba Toast

Al Hughes ©
David Zakharoff (wk)
Greg Condon
Matthew Morrison
Paul Martin
Craig Collins
Fred Nortje
Dominik Oosterloo
Shaun McNamara
Blake Wilson
Steven OBrien
Tim Rhodes (12th man)
Scott Burrows (13th man)

Many thanks to Knuckles and Dubya for the match reports. None from the Major Alan Hughes for a few weeks now, he’s probably been stuck in the war room devising tactics for the finals campaign and not willing to give anything away, either that or he’s worried Freo’s season has already been given the heave-ho with the loss of Hazleby.

I’m still waiting on a PM XI’s report if anyone can remember it and/or feels like contributing. Ditto for a Ladies Day wrap-up...unless the girls are going by the old footy trip motto, ‘what happens on the trip stays on the trip.’

Good luck to both teams on the weekend!

Here’s hoping for a couple of wins and plenty of support.

Cheers,

The Phantom

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Match Reports

Round 13 – 1st Grade

WWCC vs Workers @ Garran

Toss won by Workers.

Second game back after Christmas and we were certainly hoping for a more positive result than the previous round when we'd snuck out of gaol on the back of Macca's 7fa. Despite losing the toss early signs were good for us with wickets falling regularly and at drinks we had them 6/117. From there we let them get away a bit with their 5-10 scoring 138 of their final tally of 188 from 36.3 overs.

Bowling

McAlister, G 1/26 off 5
Pipe, B 3/20 off 7
Smith, P 3/68 off 9
Cruse, J 1/31 off 5
McNamara, S 1/17 off 5
Bowman, P.J 1/26 off 5.3

As with every game this season we have the batting line up that goes all the way. One hundred plenty of fifties, a 90no... unfortunately that's where it ends for this game. Unlike the Harman game there was only 1 duck, but only 2 players got into double figures. Top score for our innings was sundries with 24 of the 92 we scored.

Batting

Wides 18

We will rise like the Wanderer (sic) from the Ashes!!!

Round 14 – 1st Grade

WWCC vs Queanbeyan/Teachers @ The Mint

While this was well and truly a washout it was interesting that their Captain made us all stay until he turned up at 1220pm to agree to it being called off. I D I O T!!!!

Round 15 – 1st Grade

WWCC vs Tuggers @ Garran

With a win, a shellacking and a washout to our names after Christmas we were really looking for a strong turnout against Tuggeranong Valley Cricket Club. They have played strong cricket post Christmas and needed to knock us off if they were going to have a chance of making the finals.

Seb grabbed the lucky coin* from The Pres and proceeded to send us in. Seb and Damo strode to the wicket and put on the strongest opening partnership of the year putting on 53 before Damo was caught

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well inside his google earth measured 6 from earlier in the innings. Most pundits say it was the biggest six ever googled in cricket... Damo loves Google and loves being reminded of that six. Ask him next time you see him... anyway I digress. Sparkles McGaw strode to the wicket and picked up where Damo had left off and Seb and Sparkles put on 30 before Seb also holed out for 38. Given the previous week we'd only tallied 92 it was great to see the boys batting with confidence. The hard work put in from the top three meant Knuckles came out to face the second and third string bowlers. When Tom was caught and bowled for 32 in the 33rd over he and Knuckles had put on 98 and the score was 183. Unfortunately knuckles couldn't keep up with the whippet like running of matt Morrison and completely missed one and was plumb LBW for 70. In an appalling display of sportsmanship I had a big dig at The Chad for giving me out. I apologised on the day and I'll use this tome to apologise again for being disgraceful on the field. Play strong but when it comes to decisions from your own players you have to support their decisions cos one day it could be you in the same position. Sorry Gareth, OUT OF LINE. Anyway I digress again....

The runs continued to flow with Mick Holdom knocking up 21 not out and Pipey and Smithy rounding out our overs with 21 & 2 No respectively for us to finish on 256 from 45 overs.

We walked out with a lot of confidence knowing we had Pipes and the Chad opening up for us. After 4 overs we had Tuggeranong 2/9 and confidence was swelling.

Pipey proved once again why he's one of the best opening bowlers in 1st grade bowling straight through finishing with Pipeyesque figures of 9 overs 2 maidens 0/9. His foil at the other end ended with the spoils of the opening partnership ending with 5 overs 2/19. At drinks we had Tuggeranong 4/73 and the feeling in the group was the game was over. That was our first mistake. IN the 27th over we took the 5th wicket for 96 bringing Peter Henderson to the crease. After taking 3 wickets in his bowling spell hendo decided to show us his skills with the bat and proceeded to hit us around the park and putting Tuggeranong right back in the game. Seb kept the pressure on and rotated the bowling around giving smithy, Damo, Macca and Knuckles over to try and mix it up. These guys toiled and got tonked a bit but worked bloody hard and when Hendo fell for 82 in the 39th over at 191 we restored our control on this game and rolled Tuggeranong 3 runs later for 194.

After the post Christmas blues we really showed what we could do when we concentrated and built partnerships and supported each other in the field. This was a win that showed we deserved our spot at third on the ladder.

Round 16 – 1st Grade

WWCC vs Northside Lightning

Fresh off a volatile victory over the Tuggeranong Valley Cricket Club 1st grade were set to take on the undefeated Northside Lightning. 1s hadn't beaten Northside in almost three seasons and had lost a number of close games including two finals in the last two years in the last over of the match. I for one was confident of our ability to work as a team and give Northside their first loss of the year.

Sab one the toss and with the Northside captain checking his pregnant wife into hospital for the birth of their daughter we had a bat and were confident of setting a 200+ total again.

Sab and Damo opened us up and were looking comfortable against the wily John Gladwin until Sab fell in the 5th over with the score on 22. From there a string of silly shots we found ourselves at drinks 7/80 with Paul Bunn, making his debut for the season, leading the run chase with 19.

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Some would say that this put us under the pump given the strength of Lightning's batting but this didn't seem to bother Dougie and Pipes who launched into the Lightning attack taking us from 7/80 to 8/180. Proving once again that we bat all the way to 11 Pipey smashed 38 and Dougie knocked up his highest score for the Wanderers with 86no. This partnership took us to 206 at the close of our innings in the 44th over.

200+ totals are always going to be competitive and our bowling this year has shown that we can defend both small and large totals.

The Chad and Pipes opened up the attack again and bowled great lines again with everyone giving their all in the field we had Lightning seemingly on the ropes at 6/68 at drinks. The Chad taking 3/29 in his 9 overs edging closer to the 100 wicket milestone for the Club and Officer Pipes continuing his great run with the ball finished with 2/17 off his 9 overs. The ball was well and truly in our court, but Lightning still had John Gladwin in theirs.

After drinks John Gladwin showed the skills that he has dispatching us to all parts of the ground, despite the call from one of the younger Wanderers "He's only got one shot!!!" just after he'd dispatched us 30 metres over the boundary. Google Earth didn't show just how far that was though.

While our bowlers weren't bowling bad lines John was making them look like they were bowling half trackers. Wickets continued to fall while JG was carving it up. As long as JG was in Lightning thought they had a chance. And with a bit of onfield conflict from the Wanderers it was pushing the momentum in Lightning's favour.

It took batting hero Dougie to bowl one over to wrap the game. His over looked promising with three dot balls and then a massive straight six. Out-thinking JG Dougie set him up again for the same shot and Tom McGaw took a catch right on the boundary which seemed to stay up there for an eternity to dismiss John Gladwin for 131. The next top scorer for Lightning was byes with 7.

A sensational win for the Wanderers keeping us well and truly in the hunt for 2nd or third spot and a second chance in finals.

Compuware MOTM was Dougie Douglas
Wanderers 206 defeated Northside Lightning 178
D Douglas 86NO, Ben Pipe 38
G McAlister 3/29, B Pipe 2/17.

Round 17 – 1st Grade

WWCC vs HMAS Harman @ Garran

Fresh from knocking off the undefeated Northside Lightning the previous week 1st grade got to Garran at 11:45am for the pre game hit up and warm up to play HMAS Harman. Over the last 2-3 rounds this pre game warm up really has contributed to getting the team in the right mindset for the game.

Sab lost the toss this week and Harman decided to bat first. The previous two games against Harman had been tough with the last match just after Christmas ending with us sneaking over the line when Macca took 7/13 to get us out of trouble when defending 105.

Harman also had added incentive knowing that if they lost to us they'd almost certainly fall out of the finals race for 07/08.

A vastly different Harman side turned up and they were not the free flowing bats they had been in previous encounters.

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There's not a lot to say about this game. We rolled them for 45 and Pipey took an absolute bag full of wickets. Pipey bowled probably the best spell of bowling I've seen him and in the doing so took his first 5fa for the club and finished with 9 overs 6/6 including four maidens.

The Chad pitched in for 2 wickets, and Craze and Macca with 1 each.

Given the total we were pretty confident of knocking the runs up and so out strode Sab and Rabs the combination we'd seen so much of last year. Unfortunately Rabsy holed out for 8 in the third over and we were 1/9. Sab and Tom McGaw were then seemingly handed the game by the Harman Captain who put everyone on the boundary and opened up opportunities for singles all around the ground. Unfortunately Tom Mc holed out for 16 when we needed 6 to win. I walked out and blocked one and Seb smashed two fours of the next two balls to finish with 20no and a great Captains knock.

Sab Ellis 20no

B Pipe 9o 6/6, G McAlister 8o 2/18, J Crase 5o 1/12, S McNamara 3o 1/8

Compuware MOTM Ben Pipe.

Round 18 – 1st Grade

WWCC vs Lanka Lions @ Rivett

Final round and we faced another team lower on the ladder than us who has troubled us in the past in the Lanka Lions.

Once again the team was there by 1145 and everyone got a chance to have a hit up. Big thanks again to Paul Bunn who has filled a big hole (*Phantom's Note*: in the slip cordon? snigger) over the last three rounds while others have been away. It's also timely to note all those 3rd grade players who have come up to 1s over the course of this season and really showed that they have the talent to play in the top grade and will pressure players for the rest of the season and into next year. Stocks are strong!!

Anyway Sab won the toss and after discussing the weather and the state of the pitch and previous games and their makeup tips we found out we were having a bat.

Lanka Lions bowling is always tight and they showed that again with Sab and Rabsy having to play it safe early as there were limited opportunities to lash out. It was a little frustration which led the skipper to lash at one he would normally have eaten for breakfast and we were 1/19 after 9 overs. Tom Mc strode to the crease to join Rabs and they got us to drinks at 1/47.

In an effort to move the run rate along Rabsy holed out to a very patient and well made 24 (2/51).

Tak tak Takaaaaaaah joined Sparkles at the crease and was in need of some runs after a relatively lean season by his high standards. He didn't let the side down with his second scoring shot landing well over the mid wicket boundary and not long after another one sailing over the boundary on the far side of the ground. Taka and Sparkles put on 33 before Taka holed out for 19. Signs there that he'll be back on top of his game coming into finals.

Since hitting the crease TMc was really putting in the hard yards and ticking the runs over. The next few bats let Sparkles down a bit holing out after getting starts. Knuckles 6, Mick H 10, Dougie 1, Pipey 0.

Sparkles was really working hard proving to me at least that his is technically the best bat in the side and has the ability to make big scores in this grade. When he holed out in the 38th over we were 8/121 and Sparkles had 44 well crafted runs on the board.

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Thanks for to the ladies who turned up just before the end of our innings and supported loudly for the Wanderers even if they were watching yellow spotter planes fly by more closely than the cricket.

Enter Matthew "Monners" Jim "Forrest Gump" The Running man" Morrison with the ticket to up the run rate. UP it he did and credit has to go to Starky and Crasey who put on 30 runs in 5 overs sprinting each run out and putting the fielding side under pressure. Starky got 4 before being run out, and Matty was bowled on the last ball of the innings for 20 leaving an obviously knackered Crasey 16 not out. WWCC All out 156 on a lush ground. A very defendable total.

Pipey and Rabs opened up the innings with the new pill and the run rate was none to dissimilar to our dig with Lanka Lions 1/17 after 9 overs. Pipes bowled 8 straight and ended with 8o 1 m 0/15 and Rabsy had a strong 5o 1/16.

At the end of Rabs spell Starky stepped up for his first spell in 1st Grade and he was rewarded in the first over with an edge through to the keeper. All credit to him as well as he bowled 9 straight to end with 9o 3 maidens 2/19.

Joining in on the action was Crasey at the other end who proves time and again to be one of the best swing bowlers in this competition taking it in and out at will. Crasey bowled really tight lines to end up with 4 overs 1/10. Add a couple of runouts into the mix and e had them 5/62 at drinks.

Knuckles was given an over just before drinks and managed to pick up 1 to Taka. And strangely after drinks landed more on the spot than normal and picked up 2 in a row and was looking down the barrel of a hat trick. Thanks to the skipper putting all player around the bat and a fear that someone might be killed by a half tracker he missed the hat trick by millimetres but did manage to pick up another wicket to end the innings and have his best figures for the year with 4.2o 1m 4/9.

Catches to Mick , Monners, Taka and Dougie & Crasey.

This was again testament to the ability in this team and in this club that we could make change again to the side and come out once more with a strong win a week out from finals.

With results going our way we look like we will finish in 3rd spot and have a crack at the second chance.

This side can definitely do good things in finals and I'm confident that everyone will bring their game next week when we will play Northside Lightning (*Phantom's Note*: Barton).

Round 17 – 4th Grade

WWCC vs Baaaaarton @ Lyneham

Hello sports fans, Dubyah here again for another dud of a match report. This all happened many beers ago, so its retelling might not accurately depict the true order of events.

After having beaten Baaarton in our first match, and losing the second match this season, we were keen to knock off the most hated club in the competition and make it 2-1.

Having lost the toss, we were surprised when Barton sent us in to bat as the conditions were quite good for batting.

The Eunuch and The Tiger (JT) opened the batting and were dotting it up nicely and ticking a few runs over until the 7th over when Tiger was bowled for 10. Eunuch followed the very next over caught behind for 5. Next over Bettsy gone for a quacker. Next over Batesy gone for one..... it wasn't looking pretty at 4 for 21 off 10 overs.

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Adam and myself were at the crease, and I quickly got to 5 off 8 balls before being clean bowled by "The Angry Penguin". The Scourge came and went for 2 and Millartime, who was called up to 4ths at the last minute, went for a 4 ball quacker. 7/38 and it looked like we would soon be watching one of the other grades.

When out to the crease strode The Mighty Mighty Herrmanator. Along with Adam they dotted if up for a while, before the boys decided it was time to spank the ball to the boundaries in an excellent display of punishing the bad balls. The boys took the score from 7/38 in the 14th over to 8/122 in the 29th over. After a couple of very loud LBW appeals and some disparaging remarks to the Umpire, the Herrmanator was finally caught behind for what we thought was 45 runs. But checking at the end of the innings, it turned out to be 50. An excellent half century just when the team really needed it. Adam was on 35 at this stage.

The Sundar-nator strode to the crease and promptly smashed a couple of boundaries before being bowled. Adam managed to score another 11 runs before Will was bowled for 2, Adam stranded on 46 but an excellent Captains knock. With 147 on the board, we at least had something to defend.

After some awe inspiring words from Capt Courageous we took to the field with great enthusiasm. The Herrmanator opened the bowling with the usual venom, and clean bowled their opener knocking over all 3 stumps... but he had been called no-ball for overstepping. This was followed by a caught behind that was also thwarted due to overstepping. It took 4 overs from the Herrmanator before he bowled the opener and kept his foot behind the line. His opening 5 overs going for 1/23.

Meanwhile the Sundar-nator was bowling very tightly at the other end, getting their number 3 out LBW, and his 5 over spell going for only 1/16. After 10 overs, Baaaaaaartton were 2/41.

The Scourge was brought into the attack, and except for his first over which went for 10, he bowled tightly but without luck, 6 overs 0/25. The Eunuch bowled well, buoyed by his first wickets this season the previous game, ended up getting the crucial wicket of the bald headed bloke that spanked us previously. Millartime was brought on just before drinks, and the batsman was getting more frustrated with every ball that he failed to hit. A wicket maiden had Baaaaaaartton 4/89 at drinks.

After a great over by Millartime, he was dragged by the Capt to finish with 1 over 1/0. The Herrmanator/Sundarnator combo was brought back into the attack, and paid immediate dividends when the Herrmanator bowled the other opener who was still at the crease. Herrman bowling out his 9 overs 2/31. Big Willy and Capt Courageous also had some overs in there somewhere and ended up with 0/21 and 0/5 respectively.

The Number 7 for Baaaaaaartton took to us a bit, and a couple of wickets to Sundar (9 overs 3/27) couldn't stop them from reaching the total of 148 in the 41st over.

After a disastrous start with the bat, and some shenanigans involving a drunk "Buck" invading the pitch, we can damn close to knockin off Baaaaaaartton.

We won't go into Man of the Match as its award had nothing to do with actual cricket.

Round 18 – 4th Grade

WWCC vs Panthers @ Kambah 2

A beautiful sunny day started to look a bit ordinary for my debut as Capt, when I lost the toss and was sent in to bowl. I made things worse by locking my keys in the car... which is where the kit, esky and score book was. After about 20mins, with the help of the opposition opening batsmen, we broke into the car and play could get underway.

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I tossed the new ball to The Hermanator. Except for a couple of no balls for overstepping, he was in fine form, giving the batsmen no opportunity to play big shots and knocked over their first 3 batters in overs 3, 5 and 7. An exceptional spell of bowling, 5 overs 3 for 8. It was after his first wicket we realised (or it was brought to my attention) that we were 1 player short.

The Sundar-nator was bowling up a storm from the other end, and after a few looseners were dispatched to the boundary, Sundar put the clamps on the scoring and picked up an LBW and caught behind. His 5 overs went for 2/13 and Panthers were 5/30 after 10 overs.

Big Willy and the Scourge came on first change. Will bowled a few loose deliveries which were spanked but a blinder of a catch by Andrew "Spikes" Allen at midwicket dismissed their big hitting top scorer and gave Will 1/21 off 5 overs. The Scourge picked up a wicket with his first ball, caught at slips on the second grab by Dalts. A lollypop of a catch to Spikes gave the Scourge 2/19 off 4 overs. Panthers really struggling at 8/69.

The Eunuch bowled an awesome over before drinks with Chook somehow managing to jump up and pluck a catch out of the air that I thought was heading to the boundary. Dalts came on and was unlucky not to get a wicket when Big Willy grassed a sharp chance at slip. Dalts received a little stick and ended up 0/18 off 2 overs. Panthers 9/89 at drinks.

I decided to give The Eunuch another over after drinks before bringing back the Demolition Duo, but it wasn't required as Cal clean bowled the batter with his 3rd bowl to have them all out for 91 after 22.3 overs. (Although the scoresheet doesn't add up and one of the Hermanator's overs has gone AWOL... the one that he got hit for 4 I believe...)

Requiring someone that could bat out a fair few overs and not let themselves get run out by The Eunuch, Herschelle padded up. While Herschelle followed Captains orders and dotted it up, The Eunuch starting slapping the ball all over the park. The boys saw out 9 overs before Hersch fell for 3, Cal was on 37 and extras was 6. Wanderers 1/46.

Dalts was champing at the bit to get into the middle and join the slapfest, which he did scoring 2 singles and a magnificent 6 before holing out to mid off (I think).

Spikes went out and took over the dot fest, whilst Callum slapped around a few more balls before going for one to many big shots and getting cleaned bowled for a well played 44 runs.

The Hermanator fresh off a 50 against Baaaarton the previous week was sent up the order to finish off the run chase. He lookd very good in the middle picking up a couple of 2's before getting fired LBW.

Dubyah joined Spikes in the centre, and wasn't Spikes copping the sledging over the fact he was wearing spikes. (Is that allowed on synthetic pitches? Their Capt said it was ok) A few balls later he was also fired LBW.

I got off the mark first ball, and Chook took a couple before opening with a very dicey 2. A boundary each and some singles before I told Chook "Lets not get run out trying for a stupid run". Of course Chook ran himself out the very next ball attempting a very very dicey second run.

The Scourge came on to bat with us requiring 7 runs to win. In a very un-Scourge like first ball, he dotted it up. Looking very serious, he despatched the next ball over the bowlers head for 4. A single each to both batters saw us on equal runs with Panthers. With one run required I cross bat slogged the ball to the square leg boundary.

A glorious victory from the mighty 4th graders, playing a man down.

Playing the top 3 sides in the last 3 weeks we knocked off 1st and 3rd place, and almost beat 2nd placed Baaaarton. If we had qualified for Finals, we'd be a good chance at taking the Cup.

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Man of the Match would have gone to The Eunuch, but he didn't go back to the Club, so it went to The Hermanator for another top effort with the ball.

