

Wandering about... Edition 14 2007/2008
The Newsletter of the Woden Wanderers Cricket Club

The Phantom Speaks

Greetings all, and welcome to Finals Fever Part II,

One win and one loss in the first week of the finals last week and it seems there is something afoot regarding the cheats cricketers from Barton. The first grade opponent and venue remains up in the air and there will be news from The Prez as soon as something is sorted out. Assume First Grade are playing at Rivett until you hear otherwise seems to be the message..

Thanks to Knuckles and the Major for the match reports this week.

Contratulations to Third Grade on a berth in the GF and good luck to First Grade this weekend.
The more support for the lads the better...

Go you good things!

Cheers,

The Phantom

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Match Reports

Preliminary Final – 1st Grade

WWCC vs Bartongate @ O'Conner 1

After finishing third, our best finish to a regular season, 1s were lining up against Barton for a chance to play Northside the following week.

Players arrived at the ground at 1145 for our pre game hit and as we were warming up crowd support swelled into the teens with partners and children and supporters arriving to wish our boys well.

Sab won the toss and elected to bat on a lush ground that was marked at least ten metres further out than our previous encounter with Barton before Christmas. This was truly a ground set up for people to play shots and not just hit over the top.

As Jeremy “Jez” Marples settled into position behind the score book to ensure that every dot and run was scored correctly Damien “Damo” Whitelum and Sebastian “Sab” Ellis strode to the crease looking to set a solid platform for the side.

Credit to Barton (stop being shocked you lot) they bowled tight lines and proved difficult to get away. Damo and Sab worked hard to tick the score along before Damo was caught off a great catch at midwicket for 11 with the score on 17.

Tom “Sparkles” McGaw was looking to continue the form that saw him put together 44 against the Lanka Lions the previous week. Tom and Sab put on another 19 before Sab was dismissed for 17 (off 57 balls).

Troy “Taka” Takanen joined sparkles and the boys really put the pressure on Barton taking us through to drinks. After 24 overs we were 2/59. While this doesn't look like much the added size to this ground and Barton really throwing themselves around in defence (*Phantom's Note*: it was called ‘in the field’ in my day) made this a solid total with plenty of batting to come. After drinks the boys accelerated the run rate adding 64 for the partnership before Taka (25) holed out to a shortish one from Simon Smith.

Peter J “Knuckles” Bowman (8) David “Dougy” Douglas (1) and Michael “Texas” Holdom (5) joined Sparkles but departed soon after.

Ben “Pipey” Pipe joined Sparkles and pushed him past 50. Tom once again showed his patience and skills with the bat. Tom (57) was run out in a close one as he and Pipey were pushing the runs along. 7/151.

Pipes (17no) showing maturity again in the tail batted out the innings with Paul “Smithy” Smith (0), Josh “Crazy” “Cartman” “Woolies” Crase (2) and Gareth “The Chad” “The Pres” McAlister (2no) putting us 9/160 at the end of 45 overs.

160 on a ground this size was a defensible score.

T McGaw 57, T Takanen 25, B Pipe 17no

Pipes and The Chad opened the innings and things were certainly falling in our favour with wickets falling at 5, 15, 28 and 38. Pipes, The Chad, Smithy and Crasey (with a groin) bowled sensationally

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before drinks proving once again that if you bowl tight lines wickets will come. At drinks we had Barton 4/60 after 23 overs with the game well and truly in our grasp.

After drinks Barton put pressure on us in the field pushing the run rate along and drawing one or two dropped catches from us. During this 5-8 over period it would be fair to say we dropped off a bit. Dropped catches, dropped heads and not supporting each other in the field lead to Barton taking a slight end heading into the last 15 overs. We managed to arrest the slide by coming back to our plan and taking a few more wickets with Smithy taking a sensational running catch in the outfield to put us back in the game. Damo and Knuckles bowled at the death to pick up an extra couple of wickets.

The long and the short of it is in the 43.3 over Barton got over the line 7 down. One that got away in a 5-8 over period but one that was still full of positives and I know that our guys will bounce back and beat Workers this week in the Elimination final (*Phantom's Note*: pending some appeal apparently).

Bowling

Bowler	Overs	Maidens	Wickets	Runs	Wides	No Balls
Pipe, B	9	1	1	22	0	0
McAlister, G	9	0	2	26	0	0
Smith, P	9	9	1	34	1	0
Cruse, J	9	1	1	40	0	0
Whitelum, D	3.3	0	0	19	0	0
Bowman, P	4	0	2	20	0	0

I'd like to thank everyone who came out and supported 1s on the weekend. Every extra person there supporting certainly helps. Thanks to Jeremy who scored all day and a huge thanks for 3rds who after winning their way to the Grand Final by beating Barton made their way from South Goulburn to support us in the dying stages of our match.

As 1s will be the only team playing this coming weekend I would encourage all players and partners to get along to the 1st Grade match to support our guys. Bring your blankets, BBQs and Beers along and Support your Wanderers as we try to get two teams into the Grand Final this year.

Pete.

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Pipes delivering the first wicket ball for the innings...



...a few seconds later....gaawwwwwwwnnnnn!



The Chad

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Paulie



Crazyhorse

Round 14 – 3rd Grade

WWCC vs Lanka Lions

Pissing down. Called off at 12.20 pm. We stay top of the ladder 1 game clear.

Round 15 – 3rd Grade

WWCC vs ANU

ANU forfeit. We stay top of the ladder 1 game clear.

Round 16 – 3rd Grade

WWCC vs Workers @ Deakin West

Back to our favourite ground. Lose the toss (what can you do when they call tails?) so they bat first. Usual suspects take the new pill for us: Scotty Burrows and Hotpants. And the usual miserly start - no runs given away. Had them at about 3/45 from 23 at drinks, with Thunderbolt and Fred having replaced the two openers.

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Fred was the standout bowler: ended up with 2/10 from his nine overs. Starkey at his favourite ground had a rare off day - but still took 1/34 from his 9. Blake comes on after drinks when they were looking for runs and ended up with 3/62. Meanwhile Scotty came back on late and took 1/33 from his 9. Which meant we headed into the final over looking like for the first time in a 45 over game this season we might actually not bowl the opposition out. But it was not to be: Hotpants took two (or was it 3?) in his final over to finish with 3/32 from 8.4, and they're all out for 176 with two balls to go.

They batted well against a very good attack. 176 was a reasonable score - but I was confident we could get them. Went out to open with Zak, who didn't stay long. Which brought Greg and I together - to show just how effectively we could hit dots. And we hit a lot of them. I was feeling good - but couldn't hit it off the square. Neither could Greg. We both got ourselves out, as did Westy, and suddenly we are 4/39 from 23 overs at drinks. Not the best platform. It was hard work from there. Dalts got 11 then holed out (no scorecard but almost positive it was mid-off or mid-on - it always is). Sent Starkey up the order but he was too hung-over to hit like he usually could. Can't remember what the shots he was drinking the night before were called - but how could I forget his comment while waiting to bat. "Jees my first spell was bad today Major. I really think I should have pulled myself off."

We were all glad he didn't.

Luckily Fred hung in there, and when joined by Blake we needed about 10 an over. And were getting them. Until Blake decided to show everyone how crap spinners are by dancing down the pitch and getting stumped. (That spinners union really works well - they always seem determined to get out to each other.) Once Fred also departed for a handy 30, we didn't have any hitters left, and were never going to get there. Was going to say that Scotty and Hotpants at this stage joined the Michael Bevan school of one-day playing, but on recent performances Mr Cricket M Hussey leaves Bevan for dead. And he doesn't just preserve his own average, he also destroys his teammates! Suffice to say both Scotty (17) and Hotpants (18) ended up not out, with Scotty managing to play out a maiden from the final over, with us 38 short of victory. Almost as good as declaring in this comp - who would do that???

A good performance by the bowlers and in the field, but unfortunately our top order struggled. And Baarton won their game, so for the first time since Round 7 we were no longer on top of the ladder. Still as many wins as Baarton, but our percentage was worse.

Kingston Butcher Man of the Match was Hotpants for his three wickets and 18no. (Fred had a bucks night....)

Round 17 – 3rd Grade

WWCC vs Crossroads @ Woop woop (North somewhere)

A must win game. Needed to bounce back from our loss, and keep up the challenge for the Minor premiership. Won the toss and batted (surprise surprise).

Out I went with Monners who was back with us for the first time in a while. And we both departed quickly for very little. Greg looked good again and seemed in for a big knock. CC smashed them briefly for 17. Hersh stuck with Greg for a while, and at drinks we were about 70 for 3 from 23. Straight after drinks Clint fell for four, PM came and went (to a brilliant and surprising catch at slip) for 16, and Greg departed for a very well made 61. So suddenly we were 6/128 with only 12 overs or so to go.

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Fortunately Dom chose this day to return to form. He smashed them everywhere, and ran very well between the wickets with Fred. Fred only made 10, but a partnership of 42 from not many balls. Out went Dalts to join Dom, and the hitting and running continued. And whilst putting on 47 in very quick time they showed why we are a good team. By the 44th over they were running on everything. So much so that when Crossroads managed a good return from the boundary, then next ball hit the stumps direct, both Dom(59) and Dalts(22) were run out. Was exactly the way to bat, and was a big reason why we ended up getting to 9/211 from our 45 overs. (I won't say which pair ended up not out at the end - see previous report for a guess :-)

So we walk out to defend a pretty handy total and at the last minute I decide the wind is in the wrong direction for Hotpants so I'll bowl CC. Who of course removes the opener in his first or second over. Meanwhile the wind seems to have swung around, so maybe Hotpants from the other end? Meanwhile their number 1 and 3 are looking horribly good - until they find they can't get either CC or Hotpants away. And when they're replaced (Hotpants also having a wicket by this stage) by Scotty and Dom they can't get them away either. Dom bowled really well - first two balls started a foot outside off and missed leg, the third two feet outside off and took middle. Scotty also grabbed one, and from 1/52 they slump to 4/60. Then Dom got another one and at drinks we leave the field with the score 5 for 66.

Meanwhile Fred still hasn't bowled - a bit unfair as he was our best bowler the week before. (We didn't have Blake or Starkey this match: both playing 1s.) And 1s had arrived to support us (fresh from their thumping of Harman who they bowled out for 45!). Perfect time to bring Fred on, who by this stage was champing at the bit to bowl. And he bowled quick. They were backing away, and grumbling it was unfair he was bowling as 5th bowler in third grade. Meanwhile Dom takes another two, Fred grabs three (though I see one of them has been given to P Martin on the CC&SCA website - well bowled PM, you have a bowling average now - 56 I think!) and we've rolled them for 89.

Kingston Butcher Man of the Match, for his 59 runs and 4 wickets to Dom.

Round 18 – 3rd Grade

WWCC vs Baaaaarton @ Garran

This is the one we'd been waiting for - the winner would be Minor Premiers. (Mind you, by that stage both sides were two games clear of 3rd, so we knew we'd be playing each other again next week in the second semi.)

Won the toss, and what do you know, we batted.

Not very well.

In fact we were all pretty bloody average. CC got 20, Brendan Bates 12, Blake 10, no-one else into double figures. All out 70. Fark!

Oh well, let's have a crack in the field. I decided this was the moment for the motivational speech. Like every Western Australian of my age I have fond memories of what Channel 9 dubbed "The Miracle Match" - a domestic one day semi-final between WA and Qld at the WACA. WA batted first and were all out for 71. They went out to defend it against a Qld line up including Greg Chappell and the mighty Viv Richards. DK Lillee opened the bowling and started with 4 consecutive bouncers to Vivi - before clean bowling him 5th ball (of the 8-ball over - the era is becoming clear now....) DK grabbed 4, Wayne Clarke and Mick Malone joined in - and WA rolled those feeble banana benders for 65 to win

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the game. As I related this tale someone said "When was that?" "1975" I replied. And realised hardly anyone else in the team was actually born then....Still, seemed an appropriate tale to relate. Anyhoo....

(Phantom's Note: probably the last time WA actually won anything too)

Back to 2008. We started very badly - put down three chances in the first couple of overs. Hotpants the unlucky bowler: had both openers dropped. Then he grabbed one. Fred meanwhile steamed in (with the new ball for once) and bowled very swiftly. Decided to change the bowlers around quickly, and on came Scotty and Jonty (making a welcome return to third grade). Scotty grabbed one as well, and we've got them 2/16, with their second best bat back in the pavilion. Still had the best bat in third grade at the crease (A Ryan). But he couldn't score - our bowlers were on song, and we'd picked up in the field. They struggled to 40 before the next wicket fell - but off about 18 overs. Scotty was on fire, bowling with guile and fire. Jonty decided he'd had enough after stringing three maidens together, and Dom picked up from where he left off the week before. Scotty gets Ryan out, then the opener, then another, and we go to drinks with them 5/44. Straight after drinks Fred grabs one, and with them 6/45 we're a chance.

Alas a couple of old heads got together for them, and ground their way to the runs required. But it took them until the 35th over to get the runs. (Must make mention of that 35th over - history was made as A Hughes, sensing the ladies had arrived on the final part of their tour of WWCC matches, decided to make his first appearance at the bowling crease for the Wanderers. And left us in no doubt why this was his first appearance: an economy rate of 24 was probably flattering).

(Phantom's Note: good thing they were all somewhat sloshed by then Major)

Scotty Burrows bowled superbly to end up with 4/18 from 8. Fred was also very intimidating and took 1/19 from 9. Jonty (1/10 from 4) and Dom (0/7 from 6) also bowled well. So although in the end we couldn't defend 70, I was actually confident we wouldn't bat that badly again, and had their measure.

Kingston Butcher Man of the Match Fred (Scotty being absent, and Fred being the second best bowler and grabbing the MoM he should have had in Round 16....)

Which brings us to the *Qualifying Final: WWCC versus Baarton at Melba*

But before we got there we had the selection dilemma. How do you fit 29 players into one team?

In fact, this is the point where I want to thank everyone who's played for the Happy Team this year. We are not the sort of club where everyone is available every week. I say 29 because we've had no fewer than 29 players play for 3s this season. And personally a big thank you to every single one of you. It's only because you've played that the team has been able to carry a skipper that doesn't bowl, rarely bats, and neither scores runs nor takes wickets - yet we finished second on the ladder having been on top most of the year.

I'm particularly grateful to people we dragged up from 4s when we were short, and who invariably played well for us. Hersh, Brendan, Adam, Westy, and Dalts all played crucial parts at different stages this season. Chris Harpley, Jeremy Friend (one of his ducks were for us) and Butch also did their bit. Starkey started out as a ring in from 4s - became one of our strongest players - and has ended up bowling well for 1s. Jarrod also hit a memorable six over point. And others who helped out when we were short one week. Jacko, crucial part of our team last year who's lost the passion for cricket but nevertheless helped out when asked. S Bailey who came out of retirement for one game (and whose reputation - if not skill after that long a period out - definitely helped us win that game.)

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Mojo played most of the season before succumbing to a dodgy knee - though still offered to keep if required - not the best treatment of an injured knee! And the really unlucky ones at selection time for the QF: Jonty - played in 1s sometimes, but lack of availability and fitness ended up seeing him miss out. The keeping dilemmas: Hersh played 9 times for us but couldn't get a spot in the QF. Nor could Brendan, who can bat and keep (and bowl apparently :-). Dalts also played 9 matches in 3s but missed out (never missed the fielder in that arc between mid off and mid on though!). Starkey wasn't available - but will probably be 1s from now on anyway. Tex also was snaffled by 1s. Probably most unlucky in the final selection was Scotty Burrows: takes 4/18 in the last game - and gets dropped. Who did that selection??? Woops, that was me. Oh dear. He was going to play but then the talismanic S McNamara was not picked for 1s and became available for 3s - and how could I possibly leave Macca out?

So who did we go in with? Bowlers: Macca - our best bowler until we lost him to 1s after Xmas. Hotpants: played 16 games - all but the two he was interstate for - and did the job for us all season. Fred - showed over the past month just how intimidatingly well he can bowl. Dom - who's finally left those crap short balls alone and started to bowl full inswingers, to devastating effect. And the best third change pair in the comp: Blake, our left arm spin option, taken lots of wickets; and CC, rejuvenated this season and a canny old bugger always likely to take wickets (and usually does).

And for batsmen we had Zak, Greg and PM, all of whom have scored centuries for us this season. Monners, another who'd come back from 1s and who would also keep. Plus Macca is averaging over 90 for 3s this year, Dom, Fred, Blake and CC can bat too. Sorry Hotpants, had to leave you out of that list - but you have improved. This could be the team to carry the skipper (and would need to be...)

So onto the all-important toss of the coin. Given the result the previous week, could this be the time I choose to field first? Um, no - but luckily I lost the toss and they elected to bat.

Out comes A Ryan to open with the guy who top-scored against us the previous week (M Sholtens). First over would have been a maiden from Hotpants except for the one that swung from the hand and was a wide. No problem. So it's Macca time again, first time since before Xmas for 3s. First ball very scratchy: 2 to Ryan. Same again next ball. And the next. Oh dear. Then Macca hits the groove again. Ryan pushes forward, edges, snapped up cleanly by PM at second slip. Not only is Ryan out, I've also finally worked out where to hide PM in the field!

Brings Woolmer to the crease - so Baarton's 2nd and 3rd most successful batsmen this season are together. Not for long. Macca traps one of them plumb in front, then Hotpants squeezes one between bat and pad to bowl the other. 3/10 and we're on our way.

Hotpants gets through 6 overs, 1/9 - his usual steady and economical opening spell, doing the job he's done all season; and Macca 5 overs 2/10 - has he ever not taken early wickets? Time for the next pair. Fred steams in from one end, while Dom starts bowling his massive in swingers from the other. Soon Dom grabs one too - 4/20 ish the total. Then M Gainsford joins the left hander (previously dropped by the skipper off Macca's bowling in a sharp low one at first slip) and they start building a recovery of sorts. Except they can't score. The bowling is very tight. Blake is letting nothing through, having been persuaded that in 3s he's wasted at point and should field square leg - and off Dom's innies that's where all the action is. Funniest was the one which would have been a comfortable three - but Blake chased it down and they only took a single. Meanwhile Hotpants has stopped 3 or 4 in a row at cover (!) And Monners is showing that even though he's keeping he's still keen on running after the ball - and is twice the speed of the rest of us even though he's wearing pads. And, to my enormous relief, he is a very tidy keeper! Macca bowls a coupe more before drinks, and Dom finishes a spell of 6 overs 1/7 - we go to drinks with them 4/41 from 23. Handy start.

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Now was the danger period - we mustn't let them get away. CC takes over from the inswing end and immediately starts looping it at will. Blake from the other end - and they are very keen to get after him, with not much success. We keep working hard in the field. Especially Zak - the ball seems to follow him for a while, much to all of our amusement. (That's the Happy Team - always laughing at the misfortunes of each other. Who needs to sledge the opposition when your team-mates provide so many opportunities?) CC grabs one, and still we're keeping the scoring rate down. Time to give Fred another burst - and immediately he grabs the breakthrough. And then gets Gainsford as well - lbw to one off the middle of the bat missing leg (of course all the bowlers say it was out - but they would...). Meanwhile CC, threatened with not getting his 9th over takes another wicket in his 8th - and ends up with 2/23 from his 9. Fred, also told it's his last over unless he gets a wicket, gets one - and ends up with 3/16 from 8. And back comes Macca to clean bowl their last wicket - and he ends up with 3/14 from 8.4.

So in the 43rd over they're all out for 104. A very good performance by all the bowlers, and well supported in the field. Surely we'll get that target? Then again we were bowled out for 70 by the same team the week before...

Decide I'll send Blake out to open with Zak - a decision reaffirmed when it was pointed out to me that we hadn't actually lost a game all season when I hadn't batted. (Thanks Hotpants :-). And they showed they weren't going to block their way their getting to 10 quickly - before Blake dabbled at one outside off stump and was caught in a sharp catch at slip. Out went Greg to join Zak - and promptly departed for a golden duck. (Apparently his first duck for WWCC - good to see he got value with a first baller.)

So Monners went out on a hatrick ball. (Meanwhile I'm padding up quickly, having decided PM should be in next but knowing takes him at least 4 overs to get his pads on....) Fortunately Monners survived. In fact he did more than survive. He and Zak batted superbly, defending the good balls, but putting anything loose away. Particularly memorable was the one Woolmer dropped in short to Monners - which bounced about 20 metres past the boundary for a huge six. (Apparently someone on the field made the comment "If he hadn't hit that it would have hit him in the head". He did hit it - a long way.) They also ran well between the wickets, and basically their partnership took run rate out of the equation. When Zak fell LBW for 25, the total was 60ish from 18 overs (damn I wish I knew where I put that scorebook - and for some reason our innings isn't on the website!) and we were on the way.

Out went PM and quickly showed what an accomplished batsman he is - even though he can't run (dodgy ankles and knees). He made a solid 18, but then he and Monners both fell - Monners for a very good 40 - and we still needed 16 to win. "Unlucky 16" said Bailey - but he'd said that already ("Unlucky 87" started it I think) so we weren't fussed. And nor need we have been - CC and Fred finished them off in fine style, and both were not out when we passed Baarton in the 30th over.

At last. They beat us 3 times last season, including the GF. And had us in trouble earlier this season, before rain stopped play, then beat us last week. We were very happy indeed to get one back.

But that's only one back. There's actually no way to make up for last year's GF - but winning in two week's time will certainly start the process. We are a very strong team, and we all know that if we play as we can, we can beat anyone. Which is what we've done all season. One game to go. Can't wait! Go you Wanderers.