

Wandering about... Edition 9 2007/2008

The Newsletter of the Woden Wanderers Cricket Club

The Phantom Speaks

Greetings fellow Wanderers,

A relatively sparse Edition this week. Only the two match reports from the Major Alan Hughes, and they arrived last week! Looks like the mid-season (or Xmas season) publishing drought is upon us. Or it could be that all the Match Reporters are exhausted after their recent efforts. Ahhh, or it could just be the downpour from last weekend! Good thinking Phanto.

Speaking of the Festive Season it is now time to update your availability (see below), it would make the selection job much easier for those involved.

No *Prez Says* this week, the Chad may still be frantically chasing numbers for the Movember Gala, but as far as I know it is planned to go ahead.

Good luck to all on the weekend.

Cheers,

The Phantom

Selections- Call for Player Availability

This season to make life a little easier for the Skippers we have set up a central email address for you to keep us updated with changes in your availability. selections@wodenwandererscc.com

At this stage we are asking for you to advise us of your availability for December and the first few weeks of January (1st and 3rd Grades start back on the 5th of January, and everyone else the following week).

PM'S XI Tickets

Tickets are now for sale please see Caitlin or Marcus back at the Bowlo on Saturdays. Tickets are \$32.00 each. More details of the days' activities closer to the event.

Membership Fees

A gentle reminder that membership fees are now due.
These can be paid to your skippers or see Marcus back at the club on Saturdays.

Wandering about... Edition 9 2007/2008
The Newsletter of the Woden Wanderers Cricket Club

MOVEMBER JUDGING AND BBQ.

Who will be judged this year's prestigious best MO on ground???

Can we have our first ever dual winner???

For a fun day of MOs, beers and Bowls be at the BOWLO on :

Sunday the 9th December from 11.00am.

**Prizes for Best Mo
 Best Costume
 Encouragement award.**

Cost \$10 per head (\$5 for Kids), covers Bowls and BBQ with any profits being donated straight to Movember.

Please RSVP to president@wodenwandererscc.com by Tuesday the 4th December 4th



November 2006

Wandering about... Edition 9 2007/2008

The Newsletter of the Woden Wanderers Cricket Club

Match Reports

Round 7 – 3rd Grade

WWCC v ANU @ Deakin West

Our batting was strengthened for this match by the inclusion of a couple from last year's Grand Final team returning from injury (Paul Martin and Lee Butcher), plus the return from 1s of Zak, plus Mojo was back from one week away. But Jacko, Blake and Texas had been moved to 1s, and Macca and Dalts were unavailable so John Gale and Adam Stewart came up from 4s to help us out. Still, there was no doubt what to do when I won the toss (not that there ever is any doubt anyway..): we batted.

It was quite hot, so I decided we'd have a batting order based on keeping a left hand/right hand combination at the crease as much as possible. In went Zak and Mojo to open. Greg and I were to be either three or four depending on who got out. (And PM and John Gale would be the next two.) The opening pair were very solid, and punished the bad balls. By over 17 they'd taken us to 77 without a chance offered, when Mojo was trapped lbw. (And, given Mojo's usual reaction to being given lbw, a brave decision by Hotpants! But, in a minor miracle, Mojo returned declaring "I nearly walked, that must have been plumb".) (*Phantom's Note:* That's not a minor miracle, that's a Major Miracle...err, Major). So out went Greg to join Zak. Greg had played his first game for the season the previous week, and, as always, had felt his batting form "scratchy". The pair of them took us to 1/104 off 24 overs at drinks with Zak having reached his first 50 for the Wanderers.

Their instructions after drinks were "just keep batting and hit the bad balls - no need to slog". And boy did they bat. Suffice to say that by the end of the 45th over we were 1/295! In 21 overs they had put on 191 in a superb display of batting. Zak ended on 135no - including 12 fours and 4 sixes. Greg made 112 not out (11 fours and 4 sixes). A partnership of 218, and both batsmen making 100s. Is this a WWCC record? (*Phantom's Note:* Good question Major, seems like it should be a record...most Wanderers tend to know their own stats extremely well, but are shakier on everything else...c'mon stats people...) Whatever, it was an absolutely superb display. So we took the field with some confidence.

And for the first 25 overs we bowled and fielded solidly. Hotpants was tidy as always - he dismissed their opener with a perfect little outswinger which was edged to slip. (And caught at slip - that was the remarkable bit. Two in two weeks - I'm never leaving slip now!). He finished with 1/28 from six. At the other end, the previous week's hero Ben Stark bowled well but without luck, and after his opening 6 overs had 0/24. On came Westy, who needed to bowl before he had to leave at 5pm. A tidy spell from him: 7 overs 0/26. In the middle there somewhere a typical Condon piece of fielding at cover: dived to stop one, flicked it at the bowlers end and hit the one stump showing to dismiss the other opener. On came Butch to see how his broken arm had recovered. There number 3 was looking very dangerous, but Butch cleaned up his middle stump with a very good off cutter. Unfortunately, though his arm might have been OK, he seemed to have modelled his fitness on the skipper and ran out of steam after about 2 overs! Still ended up with 5 overs 1/27, so not too bad at all for his first game since the GF.

So when we came off for drinks we had them 3/106 from 25 overs - which, defending 295 was OK - but not that far behind where we'd been at drinks. Plus Westy had to leave, so we were one short in the field. And their number 4 and 5 were looking pretty handy (well, number 4 could bat, number 5 was a

Wandering about... Edition 9 2007/2008

The Newsletter of the Woden Wanderers Cricket Club

baseballer, but his luck was in.) After drinks tried John Gale. He got some nice movement but then decided to drop the odd bouncer in. Not advisable at his pace! He finished with 0/24 from 4. At the other end PM tested out his knee. Not easy bowling to two batsmen who by this stage had their eyes in and were hitting well. Once or twice an over he'd be despatched for boundaries - but he also beat the bat regularly without luck. (And had their number 4 dropped.) Still, I reckoned we had runs to play with - let's persevere. In fact, let's bring another spinner on at the other end. On came Adam Stewart for his 3rd grade debut: 21 runs taken from his first over. By this stage quite a few of the first graders had arrived to watch (and heckle). Fortunately out came Crazy to get us back up to 11 on the field again. (He pointed out afterwards he actually only fielded one ball - but it's amazing what a difference one more fielder makes...)

By this stage they were up to 3/219 off 35 overs, with two batsmen well set. Definitely time to keep the leggie going: Adam could only improve. And improve he did. 2/17 off his remaining 4 overs, including both the danger batsmen. A match turning performance - well bowled, go the leggie! Their number 4 got 100 before he hoicked one to deep square where Zak took the crucial catch. Time to show mercy on PM and give him a rest after his 5 overs 0/58. Back came Starkey to finish them off. And what can be said about his final spell other than absolutely perfect! 15 balls, 5/10! A little bit of outswing, decent pace, lots of yorkers, 3 wickets bowled, 2 caught: game over. We bowled them out for 240 in the 41st over.

An enjoyable game obviously dominated by three outstanding performances. Starkey (not to be called Thunderbolt this game as a several stages a storm threatened to snatch a win from us!) with his five wickets, and Greg and Zak with brilliant hundreds. So that took us to 6/7 wins for the season.....

Round 8 – 3rd Grade

WWCC v Crossroads @ Garran

We'd picked up in bowling strength from the week before (Macca back, CC playing, and Jonty coming from 1s) but lost our two centurions promoted, as well as Texas (again). Still I was going to bat if we won the toss - but lost it, and they asked us to bowl.

Back to the tried opening pair of Macca and Hotpants. What a start. Both bowled superbly. Macca's spell went 0/3, 1/3, 3/3, 4/7, 4/8, 4/8, 4/11, 4/12. At the other end Hotpants took 2/16 from his 8 - including a perfect late inswinger which the left hander let go only to see his off stump fly. Macca produced two sharp catches to gully, then removed their dangerous number four with a superb delivery that swung in, pitched on leg and took middle. And they were just the highlights. (I would have bowled them out, but the umpires got the number of overs wrong and I thought they were bowled out.) Fielding good all round.

After that devastating opening attack, on came Jonty and Starky - a pretty handy pair to bring on first change! Both bowled well but without luck. The former finished with 7.5 overs 1/36, and the latter 9 overs 2/42 (which makes it 12 wickets in the last three matches!) As it got humid, CC couldn't resist asking for a bowl. So on he came and bowled massive inswingers to their slogger and tied him in knots. He finished with 1/2 from his two overs (to add to his two catches at gully). We'd rolled them for 114 in the 36th over.

Sent Jacko and Chris Harpley in to open. I hadn't seen Chris bat before - and he looked bloody handy as he took 11 from the first over. Unfortunately Jacko missed one and was bowled, so out went Butch

Wandering about... Edition 9 2007/2008

The Newsletter of the Woden Wanderers Cricket Club

for his first bat of the season. But he nicked one and was out for one, so PM joined Chris. However, Chris departed shortly afterwards for 14, so we were 3/35 in the 10th over. (Sundries were making a play for top scorer at this stage.)

Clearly time for a proper batsman :-) so in went Starkey. His previous innings for 3s had been 0, 0, and (in a massive improvement) 0 not out. We told him he was on a headshave still. (Knuckles reckons a 0 not out gets you off the headshave, but logic says it surely just delays it. Suuurely!) He blocked a few very unconvincingly - including a brilliant bat throw - never seen a bat go half way down the pitch out of the batsman's hand when he's playing a defensive shot before! And then it happened - he hit one past the field and scored a 2. This produced the loudest and most prolonged cheer I've heard from a Wanderers crowd since last year's GF! (Probably helped by the carton purchased immediately after we started batting.) And he didn't stop there. He realised PM needed a bit of running practice and so hit two after two - except one where he made PM run three, only for it to be called four by Pabs who happened to be passing that part of the boundary at just the right time. By that stage PM had had enough. He'd batted very solidly and hit the ball cleanly - often straight to fieldsmen - and is hopefully gathering the sort of form he showed towards the end of last season. A well made 11 from him, and a partnership of 30 took us to a more healthy 4/65. But then Starky decided to hit his pad rather than the ball and was out for a very handy 20, Macca came and went quickly for 3, and at 6/73 I was starting to worry I might have to bat.

But luckily we'd got CC out to bat before he'd had more than 12 beers, and he and Jonty steadied the ship. CC batted as calmly as ever and ended up 39 not out (making his average from his two bats this season 101). Jonty (7 not out) held up his end, batted sensibly and ran well - and the two of them saw us home for victory in the 29th over.

That takes us to 7 wins out of 8 games - and with some upset results elsewhere we are now outright top of the ladder, one win clear of any other team. But next week is the big one - the Grand Final rematch against Baaarton. If we win, we're likely to go two games clear: if we lose, we'll be second to them on percentage - at the halfway point of the qualifying games. So, big game this Saturday.