

# Wandering About

Issue 1, 2008/09

## Monners Runs (his mouth)...

Greetings all, and welcome to the first edition of the “greatest newsletter ever written”. (Bowman, 2008) Through Wandering About, Crazy (Josh Crase) and I hope to bring to you details on upcoming events and social functions relating to the club, along with match reports and results each week. Despite the new look-and-feel of the newsletter, we aim to have the same healthy doses of wit, good-natured ribbing and handy info that the Phantom provided us all in previous years. We welcome your contributions to this newsletter, whether they are photos, boring little anecdotes or anything else you wish to submit. We can be reached at [matthew.sk.morrison@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.sk.morrison@gmail.com) or [jcrazy@excite.com](mailto:jcrazy@excite.com).

There is no “Prez Says” this week as El Prez is on El Holidays in El Pertho. However, it’s worth noting that the club has got off to a fantastic start this year on and off the field, with record memberships to go along with five teams all of which looking capable of winning a premiership.

In this edition you will find Round 5 match reports from all grades except 4<sup>th</sup> Grade and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Red, along with a special 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade edition containing match reports from every week so far. There is also plenty of information about upcoming events, including the Ladies Travelling Picnic, Trivia Night and Christmas Party. To round out this edition, contact details can be found for all of the important people at the club. Enjoy!

Matthew Morrison (aka Monners)

## Training

Don't forget that training is held every Wednesday from 5:00 pm at Duffy Oval (Dixon Drive). Our supercoach Paul Bunn (“Rabs”) is doing a great job running things and is happy to help you in any aspect of your game.



Wanderers fine-tuning their skills at Duffy

## Selections

The selections page on the Wanderers site (<http://www.wodenwandererscc.com/site2/pages/Selections/>) is the place to go to see where you're playing, who you're playing against and who you're playing with. Be sure to check it regularly - refreshing every five minutes is recommended. Also, please keep the selectors informed of your availability. All players should have notified [selections@wodenwandererscc.com](mailto:selections@wodenwandererscc.com) of their availability up until Christmas. If this is not the case or circumstances change, please send an email to this address as soon as possible.

## Ladies Travelling Picnic

A number of "Wanderettes" are warming up their champagne-drinking muscles in preparation for the first Ladies Travelling Picnic for season 2008/09 this Saturday. This is last-minute, but two places are still available. The cost is \$20 per person. For those who have already booked their ticket, don't forget that the bus leaves the West Deakin Hellenic Bowls Club (the "Bowlo") from 12:00 pm.

## Trivia Night and Movember Gala Parté

A trivia night will be held at the Bowlo from 7:30 pm on Saturday November 29 in conjunction with the Movember Gala Parté. Up to 10 people can be part of a single table, and the cost is \$12 per person. There will be some great prizes on offer, and not just for the boffins in the crowd. Also, at half time, those who have taken part in Movember will vie for the title of Best Mo on Ground. All present will take part in the judging, which will involve a parade and plenty of blue steel. Please note that after the cricket games on this night, there will be no "Call of the Card" or barbecue. So, if you think you're going to get peckish during the night, make sure you come prepared with nibblies or a plate (preferably with food on it). RSVP to Hersch at [secretary@wodenwandererscc.com](mailto:secretary@wodenwandererscc.com) with your team list, and hilarious name if you can think of one. **Please note:** we are still looking for two non-trivia-playing volunteers to assist with scoring for the night. Contact Hersch on the address above if you or someone you know is available.

## Christmas Party

Consider this a date-claimer for the Woden Wanderers Christmas Party, to be held at Pine Island in Tuggeranong on Sunday December 21. There will be a barbecue, probably a cricket game, and it is rumoured that a Santa may make an appearance on the day. Parents bringing their children are encouraged to bring along a small gift to be delivered by the fat red man himself.

## Contact Details

Here are the details of people you may need to contact at the club:

President	Peter J Bowman	0419 293 592	<a href="mailto:president@wodenwandererscc.com">president@wodenwandererscc.com</a>
Vice President	Michael Holdom	0423 949 392	<a href="mailto:president@wodenwandererscc.com">president@wodenwandererscc.com</a>
Secretary	Clint Fritz	0407 667 948	<a href="mailto:secretary@wodenwandererscc.com">secretary@wodenwandererscc.com</a>
Treasurer	Caitlin Hammick	0412 737 851	<a href="mailto:treasurer@wodenwandererscc.com">treasurer@wodenwandererscc.com</a>
Club Coach	Paul Bunn	0419 327 460	<a href="mailto:coach@wodenwandererscc.com">coach@wodenwandererscc.com</a>
General Committee	Paul Bunn		
	Rod Chancellor		
	Josh Crase		
	Gareth McAlister		
	Nick Millar		

## Sponsors



The **West Deakin Hellenic Bowling Club** has been the home of the Woden Wanderers Cricket Club since the 2004/2005 season. After games on Saturdays, players of all grades retire to the “Bowlo” to swap fishing tales from the day’s play over a couple of beers. Every week the captains deliver a “Call of the Card”, a barbecue is held and those present go into the draw for a meat tray.



**Compuware Corporation** provides software and IT services that help you maximise the value of your technology investments. They have been valued sponsors of the Woden Wanderers Cricket Club for five years. The ongoing support that Compuware provides has helped the Wanderers to their first championship, and we look forward to a long relationship that brings more success to both organisations.



**Alive Health and Fitness** has now amalgamated with Bodyworks Health Clubs to provide Wanderers members with access to six top-class facilities across Canberra. Any active Wanderers member is entitled to the Alive Health & Fitness sports club membership. This membership comes at a reduced rate of \$29 per fortnight and a reduced joining fee of \$49.50.



**5 Star Cricket** is Canberra’s local specialist in cricketing equipment, providing quality equipment made for cricketers of all abilities. As specialists they are able to provide the equipment and quality advice on how to best maintain your top gear. The shopfront is located at 4/9 Townsville Street, Fyshwick.

**Kingston Butchery** provides the meat trays for the badge draws after games each Saturday. If you spend \$40 or more at the Kingston Butchery this season you will get 20% off the purchase price. We recommend any of Jody’s prize-winning sausages, with his marinated roasts and steaks fantastic for any occasion.



**Weston Indoor Sports**  
45 Lancelot Street  
Weston ACT 2611  
Ph: (02) 6388 0444  
Fax: (02) 6388 4800

**Weston Indoor Sports Club** offer indoor cricket, access to a cricket bowling machine, netball, volleyball and soccer for people of all ages and all sporting levels. You’ll find plenty of Wanderers at Weston Indoor Sports in teams such as the Polar Bears and the Partridge Famulee Sporting Club on Tuesday nights.

The **Civic Merry-Go-Round** is run by a new Wanderer to the club, James Penny. He has generously donated some vouchers valid for 10 free rides on the Merry-Go-Round. If you are interested in collecting one of these vouchers, whether for yourself or someone of a more appropriate age, send an email to [president@wodenwandererscc.com](mailto:president@wodenwandererscc.com). Be warned that supplies are limited, so get in early to avoid disappointment.

## Match Reports

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade (Yellow), Round 5 vs Tuggeranong by Pablo Colmenares

Having been defeated soundly by the Woden Wanderers Red 6<sup>th</sup> Grade team in the previous round (that's Round 4 in case you are not following this), it was time for the lads to exact revenge on a sad and sorry lot. Our arch-enemies, The Tuggeranong team would make a tasty treat for the Mellow Yellow.

The Match Day conditions were a bit off. I had checked the weather and the forecast was for clearing showers. Well, it had rained 10mm overnight and the Tuggers captain had already checked the pitch. Despite all that water, the pitch was unyielding and Allen was unable to push his key into it.

Allen suggested that we use one end of the pitch only, since there was a lot of mud on the western end. Bleeming westies. I took my crew for a gander, and we came to the same conclusion.

The Tuggers group decided to put up the stumps and they also went around placing cones in strategic locations, kind of like where the field boundary would have been. To coin a phrase, the toss was coined and I called heads. Tails it was and we were sent in to bat. It kind of felt like it was their home match even though the fixture said otherwise. Hmmm.

Dave "no nickname" Evans and Brian "I get confused" Ward walked out to open for us. The opening bowler for Tuggers didn't do much. Neither did our batsmen. The next bowler didn't look like a bowler at all. Matter of fact, he looked a bit like me. Short and rotund, but not as handsome. First ball went to Brian and it (the ball that is) hit the seam. The ball moved from where it had pitched towards the off-stump by some 5 inches. Next ball did the same and Brian missed it. Off went the bail. Score on zero.

A few more balls all hitting the seam and moving in a long way, caused a lot of havoc for Brando whom had come in on account of Brian having lost his wicket...

Between Brando and Dave, the score had moved along to 22 when Brando went nighty night and was caught out for 9 trying to push the run rate. Brando had valiantly attempted to reach the boundary on two occasions but the muddy conditions caused the ball to pull up mere inches at every attempt. Joel Greenaway joined Dave at the crease upon Brando's untimely departure. Dave did an "exit stage left" not long after with the score on 24. Dave was bowled for 8. Some might say that in a desperate effort to get the score to tick a lot more frequently Marcus The Good was sent out to replace Dave instead of the Donald whom had been listed at position 5. However, it would be more accurate to describe this action as more of a tactical chess-like move, seeing as I had already swapped Marcus The Good with me when I had originally been listed to bat at number six and then realised that Marcus The Good would have been batting at number 11 which, when taking into account that Marcus The Good was one of our more proficient scorers, would have been an unfair thing to do...plus the fact that he had looked at me with a rueful look on his face and had sneered "I'm not batting at number 11" when I was working out the batting order.

The weather conditions coupled with the state of the field (fairly well soaked) and the reasonably accurate bowling had managed to slow our scoring rate to something similar to the pace at which snails run marathons. We had managed something like 12 runs by the 15th over and drinks saw us somewhere near 30 runs.

Joel was bowled for three with the score on 34 and then Marcus The Good decided to give the Tuggers team some catching practice. A no-ball too high saw him lob the ball to point for an easy, although ineffective,

catch. Next ball and he swats at it on the legside straight to the bloke at short leg. What a bloke. Always thinking of others, out for seven with the score on 38.

Well, the Donald had now been joined by Matt Rippley. Exemplifying the well-known adage that “you must bat where you were originally listed on the scoresheet or, forever be ...well you know the rest”, the Donald had the misfortune of doing something weird to his knee and had fallen backwards onto his stumps. At first I thought that he was hamming it up a bit. However, when he hadn't got up after a couple of minutes, I rushed out with a bottle of water. One of the Tuggers players was running out at the time, and he said that we should call an ambulance. We did, and then we all milled around the Donald, giving him a hard time while we waited for the ambos. Tuggers players offered to have him “retired hurt on two” instead of “out – hit all three stumps and flattened them real good”, and we took them up on their offer.



**The Donald sweet-talking an ambo**

Once the ambos filled the Donald with happy gas and bundled him into the back of their vehicle, we got the game underway.

Things improved a bit with Matt and Eddie on the crease. However Matt got out LBW for 12 with the score on 40 and Eddie hung around until we had scored 60 runs, caught for 10. Nick Millar and Marcus Bowman had both been promoted to batting positions 9 and 10 and they had been talking themselves up a lot. I expected that they would both be firing on all cylinders and the score would get somewhere around the 100 mark. But, it wasn't to be. Millar Time managed to get himself bowled and bowled real well for a duck with the score on 67. I entered the arena, bat in hand, still trying to finish my smoke through the grill of my helmet. I was thanking Millar heaps for letting me think that he and Marcus the Bad would be out there for a while so, surely I would have time for a smoke, a drink, a read of my newspaper, and possibly even a snooze. But, there I was walking to the middle. After a few courteous claps, three cheers and a hoo ha, I lifted my bat in acknowledgement and then got on with the game.

I managed to score a couple of runs and Marcus the Bad managed to block the oppositions' bowlers quite well until a sudden rush of blood to the head saw him lose his middle stump to a well directed ball. Exit the Woden Wanderers Mellow Yellow stage left for a paltry 69. hmmm 69. I don't know, it seemed ominous that such a number - much like the symbol for the ying and the yang - would figure in our books. But, I was wrong, there was nothing ominous about that number, the Tuggers team scored their winning runs just before drinks with eight wickets in hand. I had attempted to procure wickets by giving each of our bowlers a short stint. Only Marcus the Good and Millar Time managed to snare a wicket each.

One final thing to mention. Having now had a bit of history with the Tuggers team, and having had Allen push the friendship a bit on many occasions, I could not believe that the following took place at the end of the game:

One of Tuggers scorers called out to Allen whom was umpiring at the time and had a chat with him. Allen then walked over to me and I thought “hello, have they made a mess of the scoring and they don't know

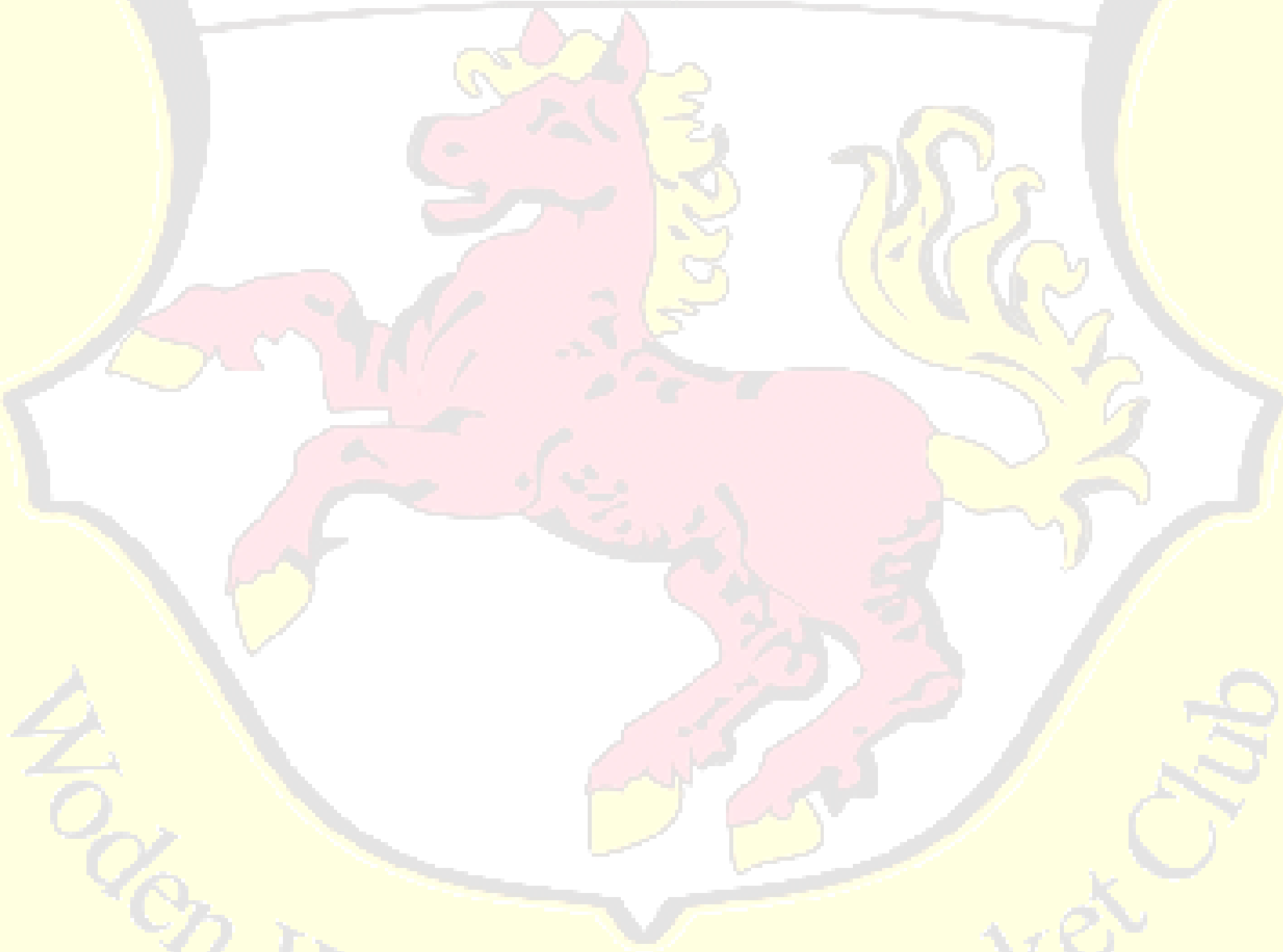
what to do, or do they have to go home early and they are going to suggest that they might just draw the match?”.

Allen asked me if we would mind fielding for a bit longer because his opening batsman was on 44 and they would like to see him score his fifty.

I looked into Allen’s pleading eyes, the feigned smile on his lips, the way the sun shone behind a dark cloud just behind his short hair, which was gently moving back and forth in the breeze. I looked around at my players and I thought to myself “You have got to be kidding me”. I said to Allen, “What? Have you guys already scored the winning runs?”. With a gentle nod, and without breaking eye contact, Allen said to me “yes”.

To the sound of boos from the sidelines, I shook Allen’s hand and I said to him “well done, you have won the game. Unfortunately, the moment that you score the winning runs, we have to stop”.

Oh, I love this game.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Round 5 vs Teachers

by Al Hughes

Won the toss and batted (!) on an overcast day, with the Garran outfield in its usual lush condition. Teachers have been one of the stronger sides in this grade for the past few seasons, though this year have not been doing so well. They had a one win from four record, while we were two and two. So, an important game to keep the momentum from last week's big win over Queanbeyan.

Zak and I went out to open, and their opening bowlers were steady, as usual. The Garran pitch was up and down, with one ball per over kicking off the pitch, and one every other over keeping low. After scratching around for 16 balls for one single, I played my favourite waft outside off stump: faint edge, caught behind. Out came Greg Condon for his first game in 3s this season, fresh from a fifty last week in 4s. And promptly departed for a duck, gently nudging a low full toss back to the bowler. Which brought Texas to the crease at his favourite number 4 position, and he and Zak knuckled down to dig us out of trouble. From 2/7 in the fourth over they took us through to 44 in the 18th - and their partnership of 37 turned out to be the highest partnership from both innings! Batting wasn't easy: the pitch stayed up and down, the bowling was tight, and the outfield very slow. Zak looked solid, and Tex struggled hard to bat himself into some sort of form. Initially it was a most un-Tex-like performance: it took him 14 balls to get off the mark. But in the conditions it was a better knock than he gave himself credit for, and he and Zak did well to see off the opening bowlers. With a change in bowlers, it looked like Tex was starting to find form, and he smacked three trademark Tex shots through the leg side for 4 - before losing patience and getting bowled trying to sweep a straight one. He ended with 20 from about 55 balls - and wasn't happy. But in the context of the game it was actually the third top score of the day, and a pretty handy contribution to our innings.

Meanwhile Zak kept going and was still in at drinks, by which stage we'd reached 4/58 (CC having departed for a three-ball one, caught at deep mid wicket, again!). JP was batting with Zak, and we had plenty of batting to come. Given the conditions, anything over 100 would be defensible. Unfortunately our batting from then on was woeful. JP and Zak lost patience and both skied catches to mid off: JP for four, and Zak for what turned out to be the match top score of 28. Macca showed he could match anyone else and did the same: his first ball just cleared mid off, his third went straight to him. Mick Foti fell lbw for a duck, and Blake gently stroked the ball in the air to cover, also for a duck. Suddenly 4/58 had become 9/62. Jonty joined Simon Hill and for a couple of overs it looked like they might stage some sort of recovery. But it was not to be: Jonty got one of the balls that lifted unexpectedly and popped it in the air - and the bowler followed through to take a good diving catch. Simon remained not out 5, and we were all out for 69. Disappointingly just about all of us had got ourselves out rather than being victim of good bowling. The pitch was certainly playing tricks, and the bowlers were tight, but only Jonty's wicket was directly related to that. Mick was out defending, but all the rest of us caused our own dismissals playing shots that weren't necessary. We won't win too many if we keep batting like that....

So 69 was not the easiest total to defend, but not impossible, and we had a strong bowling attack. Jonty took the first over with the wind behind him, and within a couple of balls it was clear he had good rhythm. His third ball brought the batsman forward driving, and it flew from the edge to second slip where Zak took a very good sharp catch. 1/1. Next over Macca showed why he has been so successful the last couple of seasons, immediately hitting good line and length. Both he and Jonty bowled without a fine leg, only two or three on the leg side, and with two or three slips and a gully. Which meant they needed to be very accurate, especially when we had such a low total to defend. Both of them bowled superbly. In Jonty's second over he trapped the other opener LBW, and in Macca's second over he did the same to their number three. So we had them 3/4 - and were right in the game. Jonty's first five overs went for 5 runs: at the other end Macca was just as miserly conceding only 6, and after 10 overs they had crept along to 3/14. Twice balls were hit just short of fieldsman, but we all kept concentrating, and made them earn every run.

Their number 4 (J Onus, took 5/27 with the ball) was looking pretty solid, though both bowlers would beat the bat at least once an over. Finally Onus latched onto a slower ball and hit a six. Next over Macca brought him forward to drive and he nicked it to first slip. And despite seeing it early it bounced off my wrist - dropped. Bugger! Still after 12 overs they were 3/29 and it was time to give Jonty a rest. On came Mick Foti and immediately he found a groove, giving the batsmen nothing to hit, and moving the ball away from the right hander. Macca kept going at the other end, and in his final over clean bowled Onus (for 24). That left Macca with figures of 2/16 from his 9, and the total 4/40. Meanwhile Mick continued to bowl very tight, and though he hadn't yet grabbed a wicket, he beat the bat countless times and conceded very few runs. On came Simon Hill to replace Macca - to immediate success. On Simon's second ball the number 5 who had batted for a long time for his 7 runs went the big swing - and it went for a long long way. Straight up in the air. CC lost sight of it, and to my horror I heard Zak shout "Yours Al". Could hardly choose a worse catcher - and the ball had actually gone high enough that anyone in the team could have made ground to catch it! Miraculously I held on to it - which surprised me as much as everyone else.

Then two balls later their number 7 stumbled forward and missed the ball. CC, standing up to the stumps to Simon's medium pace, had the bails off instantaneously, and now we had our sixth wicket, with Simon taking two in his first over. And a really classy piece of keeping. So, 6/46 in the 20th over. Mick and Simon continued to keep things tight, and we went to drinks after 23 with them at 6/49, and still the game could go either way. Decided to keep going with Mick and Simon after drinks (this is the WWCC version of the currently fashionable "youth policy", a la Hawthorn...) and they didn't let us down. Finally Mick snared a wicket when a slash to third man was taken smartly by Macca (who had been placed their one ball earlier - Go Skip :-)) and they were now 7/54 from 25. Slowly they eked out runs, or leg byes, and several shots flew agonisingly short or wide of fielders. As the score crept over 60, I decided to bring Jonty back for one last crack at them. Mick had bowled an excellent spell of 8 overs 1/14, and Simon also bowled well, finishing with 5 overs 2/10.

So in came Jonty and straight away bowled with the same pace and venom as in his opening spell. Unfortunately the edge flew wide of the slips and fly slips, so they jagged 2 from his first over back. 5 to win, 3 wickets needed, and I decided to give Blake a try. Not the easiest time to come on to bowl, and unfortunately his first ball was swiped over square leg for 4, tying the scores. The next 5 were dots, so back to Jonty. Who promptly takes a wicket, caught behind. Two more wickets to get. But first ball finds the gap between second slip and fly slip and they scramble home for the winning run. Jonty finished with 7.4 overs 3/19 - and bowled as well as I've seen him bowl for some time. He seemed to glide through his run up and bowl with minimal effort - but regularly the ball was whistling through with genuine pace. And his control was superb. One of his overs went for 11 - which means the other 6.4 for only 8 - and just about all them were snicks or french cuts.

All the bowlers did well - and they were well supported by the whole team in the field. We never stopped trying, and it was really good to see us come so close to defending such a crap score with the bat. I was particularly pleased at how well Mick and Simon bowled in a very tense and difficult match situation. I know Macca will always do well in such circumstances, but it is very useful for the club's future to unearth blokes new to the club who have shown they can stand up and perform under pressure. Now, if we can just manage to get our total into triple figures, I'm confident we have the bowlers - and fielders - to defend anything. So, though we've had three losses in our first five games, I'm confident we have the ability to do much better. Time to start winning!

Man of the match, for his 5 not out and 2/10 from five overs: Simon Hill.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, Round 5 vs Teachers

by Matthew Morrison

After some overnight rain, Wanderers across the city were given a stern warning via the Prez's Facebook status that all players must turn up to their respective grounds. By game time, though, a washout in First Grade looked unlikely, with some slightly muddy patches and an overcast sky the only real evidence of recent rain. What did catch everyone off-guard, though, were the gale-force winds that seem to visit the Mint every now and then. Everyone scampered to put on every single item of clothing they had brought with them, while Dougie shivered with a towel wrapped around him.

For the fifth straight time, Knuckles won the toss and decided to bat. There had been some rumblings that he had considered bowling given the conditions, but batting first had worked four times in a row, and there was no point in changing things now. This was a classic top-versus-bottom clash, but all of the teams in First Grade are capable of playing good cricket, so we could not afford to take Teachers lightly.

I opened with Noddy, and promptly tried to hit the first ball for six, but didn't get within a metre of it. The few overs that followed were remarkably similar to most games we have played so far: I batted like the proverbial without getting out but my opening partner (Noddy in this case) got out playing his first false stroke. Noddy got a leading edge to mid-on for 8, which brought Damo to the crease. A couple of balls later my luck finally ran out, guiding one straight to gully to be gone for 12, and leaving us in a spot of bother at 2/25.

Out strode Knuckles, already with a ton under his belt this season and keen for more. He and Damo immediately set about rebuilding the innings, and with the outfield rather slow due to rain the big fellas were made to work hard for their runs, with plenty of twos and threes in their partnership. They were still together at drinks, and looking strong despite both being the beneficiaries of some dropped catches. Still, you have to ride your luck at times and if you hit them hard enough, you're probably not going to get caught.

The pair continued in this vein for a short while, until Damo was adjudged PLUMB IN FRONT by yours truly for 58. I was later advised by Damo that he smashed it, and so the first LBW I have given as a Wanderer turned out to be the wrong decision. It was a really good knock though, and congratulations should be extended to Damo for making his first 50 for the club. Pity you couldn't go on with it though, mate!

This wicket sparked a middle-order collapse: from 2/139 just before Damo's dismissal, we found ourselves at 8/175. Dougie, who clearly needed to do better than just 108 not out last week to keep his number 3 spot, did not last long and was bowled by a gentle stump-to-stump bowler they called "Fitzy". Fitzy would prove to be an unlikely spearhead for Teachers, picking up four wickets in the end. Sam Lang joined Knuckles, but was run out first ball in a fashion that some in the club would call a "stitch-up" - "Yes, no, yes, no... sorry mate." Knuckles played a few more big shots before going for one too many and getting caught on the boundary for 66. He has been a real run machine in the middle order; someone needs to step up to fill that role for the next couple of weeks. Crazy and Pipes were also back in the sheds before too long, and it seemed like we would end up well short of our 45 overs, which would have been a big disappointment.

Starky and Steve Hart put together a handy little partnership of 26 for the ninth wicket, which put us over the 200. Starky played a couple of nice line-drives to left field (I can't really use cricket terminology to describe them), while Steve, who is a magnificent on-field talker, ran well between the wickets and knocked the ball around nicely. Eventually Steve got caught off their opening bowler who had returned, while The Chad managed to get one off the face of the bat straight to first slip to be out for 1. This left us all out for 206 after 43.1 overs, which given the slow speed of the outfield was quite a good score.

The new ball was taken by Pipes as usual, but this time Crazy took over from The Chad as his partner-in-crime at the other end. Pipes started off well without luck, but one of the openers (Jamieson, Teachers' captain) took a liking to Crazy's bowling and deposited four of his deliveries to the fence or over it. A fielder was pushed back to the long-on boundary, and the wicket soon followed with Damo taking a nice catch on the boundary.

This wicket seemed to settle Crazy down, and he got into a rhythm, getting their other opener caught at cover and taking a wicket the very next ball to be on a hat-trick, and have Teachers at 3/45. At the other end, Pipes was getting a little frustrated at a few close calls, and their keeper, who plays with more bottom hand than anyone I've seen, was quick to latch onto anything short. He played a few good shots before Steve Hart, who had taken over from Crazy, had him trapped in front for 33, which was their top score. At the other end, The Chad, bowling in a different first-change role, was very economical and picked up the wicket of Teachers' number 5, who clearly had the intention of smashing every ball for four or six. Steve, who ended up with the tidy figures of 2/11 off 4 overs, picked up another wicket before drinks, and we went to three-quarter time well in front with Teachers at 6/86.

After drinks, we were expecting a quick capitulation before heading back to the Bowlo. Their tail had other ideas though, and without doing too much damage on the scoreboard, hung around and became a nuisance. The Chad, took 1/9, but Knuckles rung the bowling changes in an effort to get the wicket we were after. Starky and Sam bowled tidily without reward, and eventually it was Crazy who picked up that man Fitzzy to a fine catch to Noddy running backwards from square leg. Noddy has been given a hard time for his apparent lethargy in the field, but in this game he was brilliant, whether the ball was on the ground or in the air. This was Crazy's fourth wicket for the day, rounding out a fine return to the team after missing the first couple of games.

At this point, Knuckles, possibly realising that he would be missing a few games soon and therefore needed to stock up on champion player points, decided to have a bowl at the tail. If he was after a few cheap points, he was not disappointed, as that is exactly what he got. A nice stumping by Dougie to go with some "Four 'n' Twenties" that resulted in wickets gave Knuckles the nice figures of 3/11. As The Chad said though, "they don't draw a diagram in the scorebook" and the tail, which had stuck around longer than we would have liked, had finally been wrapped up. Teachers were dismissed for 114 after 31.3 overs, giving victory to the good guys by 92 runs.

This leaves us 5 from 5 and two wins clear at the top of the ladder. Of course, we all know that premierships aren't won at this end of the season, so we have to keep turning up every week and putting in the same effort we have so far. However, I do like the confident feeling within the team; it's not over-confidence or arrogance, as given how much good-natured stick each and every player gets in the field from their teammates, our feet are kept firmly on the ground. We just turn up to every game knowing that if we all do our jobs, we should win.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Round 4 vs Queanbeyan Razorbacks by Blake Wilson**

Having lost the first two games and then won the third on forfeit, we really needed to grab a win. The team selected aimed to address our main weakness from the first two games: fielding. Al was a late withdrawal due to illness, but fortunately Jacko was on standby and stepped in. CC, having earlier in the week volunteered to be the keeper, also stepped back in as skipper.

Queanbeyan won the toss and sent us in to bat - so no point in tossing the coin really. We opened with Zak and third grade debutant Callum Hughes, fresh from scoring two consecutive 100s in 4<sup>th</sup> Grade. Zak looked steady until he hit one straight to mid on: 1/7. The Queanbeyan opening bowlers - brothers Charman (played first grade last season) - were quite sharp, and moved the ball on the (fortunately) rare occasions they pitched it up. Callum looked solid, and for his first four balls defended sensibly, and picked up a single to fine leg. Then he showed what he can do: two consecutive short balls were dispatched effortlessly for six, landing at least 30 metres beyond the square leg boundary. He added a couple of fours before not quite connecting with another pull shot and being caught right on the longest boundary. Still - 24 from 14 balls was a handy start, and he showed he has the ability to score a lot more runs in weeks to come. This left us 2/30 in the 4th over, with myself joined at the crease by CC.

We put on 25 at good pace, with regular boundaries complemented by some sensible running between the wicket, before I departed for 19, and PM joined CC in the middle. After 10 overs from a pretty good opening attack we were 3/63. Run rate wasn't an issue, but time to consolidate and not lose wickets for a while. That was the theory anyway. In eight overs the two of them added a further 64 runs. PM demonstrated his prowess at avoiding running between the wickets by scoring 21, with five 4s (all behind the wicket on the off side - he later claimed two of them were deliberate) before he missed one and was bowled. At the other end CC was batting really sensibly, defending the good balls and hitting the bad ones for six. He fell to a miracle catch at cow corner, when the fielder made a lot of ground to a hard flat hit that was going to clear the boundary for six, threw one hand in the air and it stuck. CC ended up with 52 from 54 balls, including four 6s and six 4s.

This took us to drinks at 5/138 from 23 overs, with Westy and Simon Hill together. Simon had a short stint and went for 2 trying to put the ball over the ridiculously short boundary. Next came Tom Novak to the crease for his first game in 3's. Ex wanderer (Marc "the Pez" Perreau) came on to bowl and I must say he didn't bowl too badly. He was swinging the ball a fair way and had Tom in a bit of strife, but to Tom's credit he fought really hard and hung around for a well-compiled 10. Pez was having no luck with the ball (maybe it is because he has downgraded from the double pump to the single pump) with a few french cuts going for four. Meanwhile, at the other end Westy was just blocking the good balls and sending the bad balls a long way over the fence. With only a few overs to go Pauly Smith, Jacko and Mick Foti came in for a bit of a slash making 15, 9 and 1\* respectively.

I guess it should be mentioned the excellent effort by Westy at the other end. He batted sensibly when he needed to and was absolutely ruthless when the bowling was bad. He made it to 50 off 54 balls and then moved from 50 to 109 off an additional 25 balls. Unfortunately, he didn't manage to get the red ink as he got caught down the leg side off the last ball of the innings. Either way, well batted mate! At the end of the innings we were all out for 269. It was certainly a good score however the boundaries were the smallest I had played on since under 10's, and given the way we had performed in the field in the first couple of games, nothing was a given.

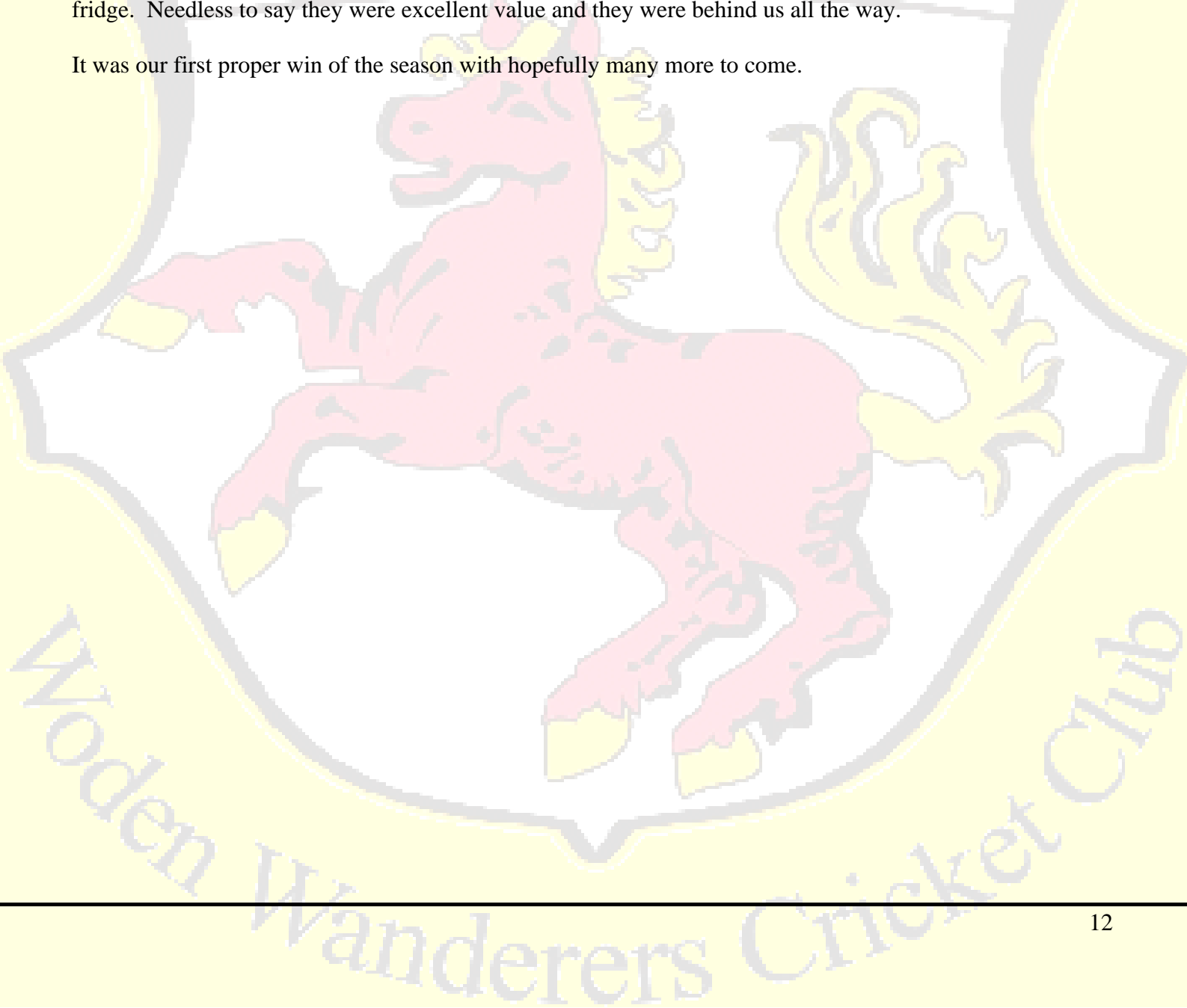
We came into bowl with the new opening combination of Pauly Smith and Mick Foti. Pauly bowled well taking the wicket of the Pez in the first over for a duck with a sharp catch by PM in the slips. At the other

end, Mick also bowled well taking wickets in his 2nd, 4th and 6th overs. He ended up with the figures of 6 overs, 3-34. CC then bought myself onto bowl and after bowling a bit of crap early came back with 3/41 (it doesn't matter how many overs I bowled!) Simon also chimed in with a couple of wickets but, like myself, was a little expensive.

We were taking wickets pretty quickly, however the 4's and 6's were flowing from the bat of one of the Queanbeyan blokes who made 50 off not very many balls at all. Unfortunately, Zakka came onto bowl and got touched up a little. I do recall 3 6's being hit in the over, however the book says 1 over 0/17 and the book does not lie. We had one wicket to go and two guys in who were smashing the ball everywhere. It should be mentioned that one of the batsmen managed to get the ball somehow stuck 30 feet in the air in a gumtree. CC then threw the ball to Pauly Smith to finish it off, which he then did. I was currently standing on the boundary at long on listening to the interactions of the Queanbeyan crowd. If only we had Knuckles there to keep the player's wives in line as I have never heard females drop the C-bomb as much as they did. Pauly Smith then came into bowl and the ball went high in the air. As I got under it I heard the calls of the Queanbeyan player's wives, "he won't f\*&king catch it!" Well... it seems I did, and the match was over. Queanbeyan were all out for 156 in the 23rd over.

A special mention must go out to our supporters on the sideline. We have no idea who they were, they were a bunch of guys who wheeled over an esky full of beer on a golf buggy that was converted into a portable fridge. Needless to say they were excellent value and they were behind us all the way.

It was our first proper win of the season with hopefully many more to come.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Round 2 vs Workers

by Al Hughes

Selection dramas in the morning ended up giving us the opportunity to call up Rabs as our tenth player, and a mate of Westy's, Matt Edwards as our twelfth. Massive thanks to both of you for filling in at short notice - nothing worse than having less than 11 on the field.

Won the toss and batted (of course). Out went Rabs with Mick Foti, and the pair looked very solid, with Rabs mixing beautifully-timed drives straight to the field with some well placed french cuts, and the occasional shot between fielders. He ended up with 33 - he was unhappy ("I set myself high standards") with his knock, but it was very handy for the team. Mick Foti looked solid sometimes, tentative at others, but best of all managed to withstand the ball-by-ball coaching from his opening partner. (Just joking Rabs.) Unfortunately the lush outfield (as always!) meant his excellent cricket shots (ie along the ground) only went for singles. If he'd been playing for Swanbourne CC (my old club in Perth) he would have scored at least 24: the scorebook reveals he only made 6, all singles. But definitely a good prospect for the future.

Simon Hill, fresh from 82 the week before, came and went for a quacker. Not quite the 164 I'd asked of him (well, you should improve each week, surely), but he is definitely a good prospect. So by drinks we were 3/56 from 23 overs, with Westy joining PM in the middle. The pair batted very well indeed and in 18 overs added 82 runs, taking us to 3/142 in the 40th over, before PM fell for a very well compiled 54, chasing quick runs (seven 4s, one 6). He looked sharp, organised - and most miraculously of all, ran well between the wickets!!! Maybe the fact Westy had done his groin (or was it calf, or hammy) helped, but PM was the quicker of the two. Something I've never seen before. Westy too was very solid, defending the good balls, and finding the boundary with the bad ones (five 4s, two 6s). Then he too fell chasing quick runs.

The rest of our innings was very Wanderersesque. Suffice to say all out 158 at the end of the 44th over. Highlights (probably better described a lowlights!) were:

- Blake twinging a quad (not sure what that is really, but apparently it's some muscle that some people have on their legs. Personally I've found that not having muscles means I never strain them.) And timing the ball so well that a defensive push found its way to deepish mid off;
- Hersh taking a leaf out of the Ben Dalton school of batting and hitting a very nicely timed drive straight down deepish mid on's throat;
- Fred perfecting the French cut;
- Dom showing he can still hit the ball - unfortunately straight into the air;
- Matt Edwards (our very very last minute ring in) proving he definitely is a footballer not a cricketer with a golden quack; which all led to;
- Me coming in at number 11 to face a hat trick ball, something that I've never had to do before. Gentle full toss on leg stump, which I pushed equally gently back to mid on - massive appeal (not sure what for). Given not out - but it was probably closer to being out than the previous ball I faced in any form of cricket (last year's GF, but who's bitter :-). And I ended up not out 1, my first ever red ink for WWCC. Lets hope it isn't the highlight of my season!

So, 158 to defend. Bear in mind last season both matches against Workers were low scoring affairs. I thought we batted pretty well, especially the top 5, as Workers were as disciplined as ever, bowled tight line and length, and gave very few easy runs away. So, with a very lush outfield and long boundaries, 158 was definitely defendable. But, there were a few negatives. Blake and Westy were both injured and so needed to field where they didn't have to run. Which meant it was hard to hide me and PM - and we both need hiding! Rabs had ankle surgery not long ago (but still was one of our best fielders). Matt hadn't played cricket before, but to his credit tried his heart out for us, and made some very good stops. So, take out the bowler and

keeper and we were left with three fit cricketers (comparatively): Mick, Simon and Fred. Tricky, especially when Fred was bowling.

I gave Fred the new ball and in his first over one flew just wide of me in the gully. If only I'd been five yards deeper and a bit squarer - then at least I'd have been able to drop it! As it was I had to chase the thing to the boundary. Thank God it got there, otherwise they would probably have run 10 or so on my throw. Time to roll the dice - I gave Blake the new ball into the wind, to bowl his left arm orthodox. He got great bite and bounce, and took a wicket in his first over. At which point I was feeling pretty smug. Fred looked dangerous and kept it tight, and after 5 overs we were looking OK with them 1/11.

Then I blundered by acquiescing in Blake's request to just bowl a two-over spell (1/6 at that stage). Time to roll the dice again with Dom - who was also a semi ring-in, as he is listed as "emergency" and hasn't actually trained or done anything cricket since last season. Unfortunately this gamble didn't work, and his couple of overs went for 24. Meanwhile Rabs replaced Fred running down the hill - and clean bowled their number three with his second ball. We're right back in it, 2/47. Replaced Dom with Mick Foti, who showed he is a genuine all-rounder, bowling very steady left arm mediums: 4 overs for 15. Meanwhile I persisted with Rabs, but in retrospect should have given him a rest earlier. He bowled well, but potential catches went agonisingly wide of, or over fieldmen.

So I rolled the dice again: PM came on and looked good, so I promptly replaced him with Blake, and brought PM back from the other end, so we went with our spinners in tandem. PM took a wicket, and we're back in it. 2/98 in the 18th was 3/116 at drinks, and neither batsmen looked comfortable against the spinners. So we kept going with them after drinks. PM kept it very tight, but unfortunately Blake lost his length a bit, and our lack of mobility in the field was catching up with us. Their opener played particularly well, and ended the game with a huge six to take him to 87 not out. (He's the guy who kept for Queanbeyan last year - a handy cricketer.) So they passed our total comfortably in the end. If only that one in the first over had flown straight to me at gully, it might have been a very different result.

Never mind, we can't win them all. (Yeah, well, OK - we haven't won any yet this season!) We stuck at it well, and never stopped trying. Unfortunately we just didn't have enough fit fielders and bowlers to perform as well in the field as Workers had done. But when we play to our potential, we'll beat them.

Man of the match for his 54 and 1/12 was PM. And particular thanks to Matt Edwards for filling in for us - as one of the few fit fielders he must have got pretty fed up with me regularly moving him around - but he never complained, and kept trying. He saved at least 20 runs just by being there. Also big thanks to WWCC coach - he might not have been happy with his own performance, but 33 and 1/32 aint bad - and his encouragement to everyone playing was much appreciated.

So, it has not been the ideal start to the season - two games, two losses. But we still enjoyed ourselves, which is the main thing. We're still the happy team, and I was glad to see just about all of us head down to 1s to cheer them on in what became a thrilling finish to their match. So we get the losses out of the way early, and it will get better from here. Barton this week - time to stop the rot and grab a win. (Editor's note: Barton 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade subsequently pulled their team, resulting in a forfeit to the Wanderers.)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Round 1 vs Crossroads

by Al Hughes

Let me say first of all that I wasn't there, so this is a summary from what's on the CC&SCA website and feedback from others.

WWCC led by CC won the toss and batted. Well skippered CC! can't do better than that. Mick Foti opened up and got a golden quacker - which can happen to any opener (just getting my excuses ready). In came a new player to WWCC, Josh Lumby, to join Zak. The pair put on 30 in quick time before Josh was out for 28. (Zak obviously had none of the strike!) I hear Mr Lumby is a handy cricketer, and as he top scored in 1s in Round 2 (I think), I suspect we won't see him on 3s again. From all accounts he carved up Crossroads opening bowler Nicholson - and Nicholson is pretty good. One of the better bowlers in 3rd grade last year, IMHO. Augurs well for WWCC to pick up a player of Josh's quality. CC made 5, one boundary, then PM joined Zak and they put on 34 before PM departed for 24. Shortly afterwards it was 5/73, with Zak out for 8. I can only assume everyone was keeping him off strike his entire innings - or maybe his mind was on other things? (For those who don't know already, welcome to a new addition to the Zakharoff family: David and Kirstie now have new daughter Zoë. Great initials. Well done to all of you from WWCC.)

Back to the game. The next few partnerships were handy: 50, 51, 30, and 21. All contributed. Fred made 18, Westy 22, Blake 15, and Hersh 14 (including two fours - one of which was smashed straight back over the bowler's head. He should have left the description there, but then added it was a cross batted swipe and he had no idea where it was going.) The constant in all these partnerships was a new player to WWCC, Simon Hill, who started showing he has a solid defence, then opened up to hit 4s and 6s and ended up with an excellent 82. Great start to what will hopefully be a long and successful WWCC career. Hotpants 0 not out. So we finished with a pretty handy total of 235 from 44.2 overs.

On to the Crossroads innings (and here I'm really struggling as there are no bowling figures on the website and I don't have the scoresheet). Mick Foti took two wickets, and (I am told) bowled well. Hotpants also took two wickets, and Blake CC and Simon grabbed one each. At one point we had them 6/97, then out came "H" - who is their genial opening bowler who can hit the ball long and far but usually (thankfully) misses one early on. Not this time. 6/97 became 7/170 and finally 7/241 in the 44th over. Big H ended up with 93 not out. (Blake reckons he had a plumb LBW knocked back somewhere - but bowlers always reckon they are plumb.)

I'm informed we dropped a lot of catches, including H on numerous occasions. Ah well, these things happen. (I recall we did the same thing first game last season against Harman, but luckily had enough runs for it not to matter!)

Big thanks to CC for stepping in to skipper in my absence. Quite a few good things to take from the game. We unearthed three new young fit cricketers who are just what the club needs. Welcome Josh Lumby, Mick Foti and Simon Hill. Westy and PM showed a bit of form - form they took into the next match. Probably lots of other stuff but I don't know what it is. On to Round Two - lets hope we can improve.