

Wandering About

Issue 2, 2008/09

Crazy Talk...

Well, what a crazy fortnight it has indeed been! There have been mixed fortunes for Wanderers, both on and off the field. Some unfortunate happenings, as well as some more amusing ones. Let's start with the happy...

- As I write* our President and the lovely Nicole are clutching their baggage and forging through hundreds of protesters at Bangkok airport to make sure they are present at the **HUGE** event this Saturday night – **Wanderers Trivia Night!** Teams are getting angry. Wagers are flying everywhere, and there are still spots in many teams up for grabs! So if you aren't involved – **GET ON IT**. Tell a committee member. Remember, there is no call-of-the-card this weekend, just be back at the bowl around 7pm with your \$12, your brains, your bad mo, and your bad mo outfit! Judging will commence at half time and I'm sure photographs will be taken.
- The committee's ideas-man Nick Millar won \$150 in a radio dash-for-cash in his lunch break, wearing a full graduation outfit. He reports that the plan was to go commando beneath, but they changed the rules at the last minute. No doubt when Nick showed. Its Millar Time! Time for his shout, I'd say.

Now, the not so happy...

- Co-editor-In-Chief of the Wandering About, Matthew 'Monners' Morrison proved to us all just how far he'd go with his commitment to the cause when last Saturday in 1st grade he sprinted to reach a catch, diving full-stretch and landing with a thud in a ridiculously brave effort to reel in a screamer. Unfortunately he came up with his shoulder pointing the wrong way. It was a mammoth effort resulting in a nasty shoulder dislocation that saw Monners leave the field in great pain and head straight to the hospital. We sent the coach Rabsy to drive along slowly next to him as he jogged to emergency*. So a big **GET WELL MATE** from all of us.
- Another unfortunate incident occurred this week when Matt Tattersall, a Wanderer in his first year at the club, was on the end of an unprovoked attack from some deadheads (no doubt fuelled by toxins.) Boxy tells me he is in hospital nursing a nasty head injury (from a shovel! - weak dogs) and I hope Matt doesn't mind me putting it out there... I know Boxy had something going around at training for him... and we all just want to say our thoughts are with you Matt for a full and speedy recovery. Get you back and Wandering real soon mate!

I think that's about all from me. There's a few events mentioned later in this edition, but the VP has more on that so I won't steal his thunder. Did I mention my trivia team rules, and is going to win? Good luck suckers.

Crazy (Josh Crase)

We can be reached at matthew.sk.morrison@gmail.com or jcrazy@excite.com

* may be untrue

The Vice Prez Says...

Wanderers,

December and January is when your Club looks towards its membership to assist in fundraising. You've all been involved in clubs and you understand that fundraising is a critical necessity for clubs to survive, and although we don't expect our membership to always be the one's with their hands in pockets, we ask that you help us ask others to put their hands in theirs ☺

Membership in a sporting club is not only about playing, but supporting the club, and this club has now expanded to over 100 members, both playing as well as social. If each member was to help out only once per season we would have the support to provide more for our members and our sponsors. Now is the time to be a member of the Wanderers. With that said, in this Wandering About we have several events occurring in the coming weeks / months that I hope the membership can get behind.

The club continues to perform well on the field and all teams are competing well in their respective grades. It's time for the club to secure itself off the field and these social events help us to do this, whilst also getting members mixing in an environment that allow players from all grades to mingle and get to know your club colleagues.

GO YOU WANDERERS.... GO YOU GOOD THINGS!!

Texas – VP
(Michael Holdom, Vice President.)



Tex in action at the Mint (1st grade, round 6 vs Panthers CC.)

BBQ Sunday!

The BBQ fundraiser this year will be held outside **Magnet Mart in Woden** on **Sunday 7 December**. Our Treasurer, Caitlin, is seeking names to help out with cooking a few snags for an hour and a half. Its not hard stuff, and you get to hang out with other cool Wanderers and talk crap as well. Just don't scare the patrons. **Please contact Caitlin at treasury@wodenwandererscc.com**

Raffle!

Everyone loves a raffle. Especially with a cool first prize like **COLD HARD CASH!** Other prizes include a **Wanderer's shirt signed by Adam Gilchrist**, and a **3 month membership to Alive Health & Fitness** (our fantastic new sponsor). There will be hundreds of tickets and we will be asking all of **YOU** to help flog them off to anyone and everyone and the people they know. Grab a few books and tell everyone about the prizes – it won't be hard to get rid of them. Stay tuned for more info!



Wanderers at training, Duffy

Training

Training is held every **Wednesday 5:00pm 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.

Selections

To see where you're playing each week go to <http://www.wodenwandererscc.com/site2/pages/Selections/>

Please ensure the selectors are fully informed of your availability. All players should have notified 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.

PS. Another handy place to check what's going on is online at our President's facebook page. E.g.

 Peter reminds all Wanderers that they need turn up to their grounds today despite the overnight rain. 7:23am - 3 Comments

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.

New 2008 Sponsor – Alive Health & Fitness

This year the Wanderers welcome a new major sponsor, Alive Health & Fitness. See the sponsors section below as well as your player handbook for more information on the fantastic player discounts on offer.



The Prez and VP at Alive Health & Fitness (gritting their teeth)

Contact Details

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

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

A word from our 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 Lizardet Street
Weston ACT 2611
Ph: (02) 6288 0444
Fax: (02) 6288 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. Be warned that supplies are limited, so get in early to avoid disappointment.



The merry-go-round in Civic. (JP wouldn't let me ride)

Match Reports

In the remaining pages you will find match reports from the following matches...

6th grade, Yellow:	Round 7
3rd Grade:	Rounds 6 and 7
1st Grade:	Rounds 6 and 7
4th Grade:	Rounds 1 and 2

6th Grade Mellow Yellow, Round 7 vs Queanbeyan Razorbacks by Pablo Colmenares

Another weekend filled with excitement as the Mellow Yellow (MY) had nearly pulled off a miracle the previous Saturday. Having scored a paltry 109 all out, MY got close to very nearly knocking over Olims who managed to scrape their way to the winning runs having lost seven wickets.

Following a concerned e-mail from one of the MY all-rounders I inspected the run-ups of the Gowrie ground prior to the commencement of the match. All good. Despite heavy rain overnight, the blustery conditions seemed to have worked their charm and the ground was in reasonable shape. The temperature was a different story. Somewhere near 10 degrees Celsius at the start of the match and it only seemed to go down from there. Smartly, I had decided to wear my skivvy.

It was Queanbeyan's home ground so, they tossed, I called, I lost and, we were sent in to field.

The opposition had a few handy batsmen. Luckily a couple of them were missing from this match's lineup. An early wicket by Darren saw the in-form batsman walk onto the crease with the score on 8. After a few awkward moments, when I had thought to myself "is this the guy that I was thinking of, or is this some other goose?", the new batsman had settled in and he started playing some masterful strokes. All we saw from then on were shots that cleared the field easily, either between, around, or above the fielders. By drinks they had reached 179. We had decided to take shelter from the cold icy wind when the square leg umpire got hit in the ankle, saving a very likely four. After drinks, the mayhem continued and we finally managed to knock the second batsman with the score on 274. Exit one L Medley on 199.

It should be noted that I had tried to unsettle the batsmen by rotating my bowlers in short spells. This had almost succeeded early on when Brando almost managed to ensnare the danger batsman when he was on or near 10 runs. L Medley skied one straight up toward the bowler's end on the on-side. Brando loudly and rightly called "mine". Unfortunately, the ball slipped between his fingers and it went to ground. End of story. Needless to say, I took Brando off after his second over.

Having managed to get that elusive second wicket with the score on 274, courtesy of Nigel Worthley, who had last played for the Wanderers in 2006, we knocked the next eight wickets for a mere 24 more runs. Nigel ended with figures of 2 for 22 with two maidens. Gaz had managed three wickets, and Marcus The Good and Darren ended with one wicket each. Brando had taken the last two wickets with the first two balls of his third over.

So, the scene was set. We were chasing 298. 299 to win. It has been done. There was no reason why we too could not do it. After a pep talk to the opening batsmen, and a word in a couple more ears, we strode out to start the chase.

Things were looking good with a better start than we'd had in previous matches. However, the runs dried up a bit between the 6th and 9th over. So, I walked over to Rod and asked both batsmen to step it up. This they did, taking the score to 48 in the 13th over before Rod was caught out for 20. Enter Darren, who had showed a bit of promise the week before. With Dave's help, Darren pushed the score swiftly to 104 in the 21st over when Dave was dismissed for 27. Gaz strolled out to the middle for his first match of the season. And him and Darren got on with the job. Together, they had smacked their way to 170 in the 27th over when Darren lost his wicket caught out for 76. Matt Ridley went in and, one over later, Gaz lost his wicket caught out on 45 with the score on 184.

At this point I took stock of the situation. All our blokes had done a magnificent job of getting us to near 200 runs with 16 overs still to go. This is still up for grabs.

Matt and I had a chat about stealing quick singles and making sure that we kept the score ticking. All was going well until Matt was run-out for 15 in the 36th over with the score on 213. Nigel arrived, and after scoring a single either side of a boundary four, he too was dismissed, this time the score was on 221 with 8 more overs to go. Roughly a tad under 10 per over required. Unfortunately the score moved at only half the rate required and I was dismissed for 27 caught and bowled in the 43rd over. Marcus The Good and Brando put on another 13 runs in the last two overs to end 36 runs short of the target.

Still, 263 runs with three wickets in hand demonstrates that we are capable of posting a decent score or, as was the case this time, of chasing a tough target.

Well done to all the blokes. Special mention to Darren Pope for his batting and tidy first five overs. Nigel, for his breakthrough wicket which stopped the number three batsman from reaching 200, and Brando for his unfortunate dropped catch which proved to be extremely, absolutely, very costly. But, them's the breaks.

Man of the match went to Gaz for a nice 45 with the bat and his three wickets. All bowled.

Special mention too to the Qbn scorers whom had realised that they were short six runs somewhere, so they scratched a six into L Medley's score to bring him to a neat 205. Unfortunately for them, I noticed this, and called their captain, who called his scorers, who sheepishly explained their actions and apologised. I still made it clear that this was not the done thing, and that the batsman's score would remain on 199. They pointed out that he didn't want those extra runs anyway...duh, wot?

Until next game,
Pablo C.

Captain of the Woden Wanderers' Mellow Yellows 6th Grade Team.

3rd Grade, Round 6 v Lanka Lions at Garran by Al Hughes

Important game as we went in out of the four with only 2 wins from five games. Lost the toss and they decided to bat. Mr Stark was yet to arrive, which saved me from deciding not to give him the new ball - and at that moment our fate was assured. I realised there was only one way to shut the coach up (see match report from Round 2!) and that was to get him to bowl. And, even better, use JP at the other end. JP ripped through his overs so quickly that Rabs never had a chance to draw breath. So we were all spared those helpful coaching tips :-)

Actually, the two of them bowled superbly in partnership. Rabs bowled with discipline, and for most of his nine over spell had three slips and only two on the leg side. He took wickets in his first, third, fourth and fifth overs - and gave nothing away. At the other end JP was even more niggardly, and then he too chimed in for a wicket in his sixth over. By this stage we had them 5/12 from 12 overs. Pretty handy start. The fielders backed them up well: can't recall any catches going down (I won't count the one I ran underneath and managed not to touch). John Gale, who had filled in for us at the last minute took two catches, CC grabbed a couple as keeper, Rabs took one off his own bowling, and Westy grabbed one too. By the time I replaced them, Rabs had 9 overs 4/17 and JP 7 overs 1/5. Nice start. (And Rabs, exhausted from his nine overs straight, comparatively quiet!) On came last year's third grade association bowling average winner, Ben Stark - he'd actually arrived at the game now! Only to disgrace himself by sledging the captain. I was starting to think he didn't want a bowl. But he did, and after a tentative start warmed into it and bowled his nine straight getting better all the time. He finished with 1/20 - and looked like he had found some form. At the other end Fred bowled pretty quick. I got him on at the right time, as the drinks break meant he bowled three before then four after - and I reckon he's best in short bursts. Certainly the batsmen weren't too keen on facing him. One of their guys made 17 and another 19 (Numbers 5 and 9 - just as we didn't attempt to say their names, I'm not going to attempt to spell them - or even copy them from the scorecard. On the subject of names, it was a little disappointing Michael Hunt wasn't playing for them in this game.....)

Anyhoo (as Pabs would say), Fred ended up with 2/17 from his seven overs. He and Thunderbolt had also performed a great job ensuring no easy runs, and no chance of serious recovery, and by the time they finished they were 8/61 from 31 overs - and we were well on top. On came Simon from one end - and like the week before grabbed a wicket in his first over. At the other end PM grabbed the final one. Both PM and Simon finished with 1/1 - from 1.1 and 1 overs respectively. All out 66.

Asked CC to open to test the theory that keepers should open if batting second as their eye should be in. In he went with Zak. And off he went. His innings went like this: ▪ 2 4 2 ▪ 6 ▪ 4 1 ▪ ▪ 1 4 ▪ 1 ▪ 1 ▪ ▪ 2 6 - and he ended up with 40 from 21 balls. Not out. Pretty handy when you're chasing a low total! He said it was nice to bat when you could see the ball. Thing was, he wasn't just seeing it; he was hitting it very hard as well. Couple of CC specials to cow interspersed with some really classy straight hitting. A pleasure to watch. This "keepers should open if batting second" theory is looking good...

Zak opened with him and looked comfortable - and when he gently eased one of his legs all the way along the ground to deep mid-wicket for 4, I thought he might have been over his (minor) form slump. Alas he then nicked one behind and was out for 8. PM went in and dotted them up solidly before missing one and getting bowled, so it was up to our fill-in extraordinaire to take on the important task of denying CC a chance of 50. Which he did with panache, five singles (all off the last ball???) and two fours took him to 13 not out and our total to 2/67 from 11.2 overs. So, that was that.

Great performance in the field from everyone. We really picked up from where we'd left off the week before (when we had Teachers 8 down defending our total of 69). All bowlers performed well, with Rabs and his 4 wickets probably the pick. And CC's innings was a beauty.

3rd Grade, Round 7 v Panthers at Kambah 1

by Al Hughes

I'd learnt the secret now, and, primarily to ensure the "gag Rabs" strategy could keep working, made history by winning the toss and electing to bowl. Decided we were a little thin with bowlers, so asked CC if he'd like to have a bowl this week - and he accepted. I reckoned he'd get through overs as quickly as JP, so it would definitely keep Rabs gasping for breath and unable to pass on those little nuggets of wisdom to all and sundry. I'd planned to get PM to keep, but just as I mentioned it, the elusive Mick Hamood, playing his first game for Wanderers, casually mentioned "I can keep if you like". He wasn't wrong. He can keep - and despite looking rusty with his glovework at times and not having played any cricket for five years (that indoor rubbish obviously doesn't count) - showed he is a very handy keeper indeed. But I digress.

So out we went to field, hoping to make it three weeks running of really good fielding efforts. (or possibly 4 - I didn't see the game against the Beans.) We stuck with our youth opening bowling policy: downhill, with a nice outswing crosswind came Rabs, and from the other end CC rolled his arm over for the first time this season. Conditions were miserable. It was cold, windy and wet. The idea was to roll them quickly, win quickly, and get out of the cold. Fortunately, the bowlers obliged.

Rabs took up from where he'd left off the week before. He started with a maiden, then took two wickets in his second over. CC meanwhile looked a bit rusty at first - but got steadily better. By his fourth over he was starting to duck them in to the batsmen nicely - and he too took two wickets. Just as Rabs started to run out of puff - so in the end I took pity on the pair of them and gave them a rest after 8 overs each. (Actually the umpires told me the wrong number of overs and I thought they were bowled out...) So after 16 overs Rabs had 2/33 and CC 2/25 - and Panthers were 4/56. On came The Scurge (or should that be Scourge?), in his 3s debut, to replace Rabs. Woops, I had him at the wrong end - he was clearly trying to bowl inswing into a very strong outswing wind. Not that it mattered in his first over, as nothing bounced in the batsman's half of the pitch, and he was called for 4 no balls (excessive bouncers). Given which, the fact the over only went for 5 was pretty impressive. His next over was better: his second ball actually pitched up and clean bowled the batsman. Every now and then the wind would die down and he'd get some late inswing. Meanwhile at the other end JP was doing his thing, giving little away, making the batsmen earn their runs. After his first five overs he had 2/11 - and The Scurge (with an "o"?) had 2/13, having clean bowled a second victim. By this stage we had them on the ropes at 8/80 from 25 overs.

All four bowlers had bowled really well, and been backed up by some really good ground fielding and catching. Rabs set the tone by holding a superb caught and bowled to get things started - and it was particularly impressive in the very cold conditions. The batsman smashed it back at him and, clearly not having time to get out of the way, Rabs was forced to put his left hand in the way. The ball deflected upwards and bowler had the composure to grab the rebound. Nice catch - and probably even more impressive bruising on his left hand. Not to worry he bowls with his right hand. (And yes, he bats with his right hand too - so no injury worries there :-). John Gale again proved a ball magnet and grabbed two good catches, JP looked very safe under one skied to point, and Tex came in quickly from deepish mid on to grab a good catch. Considering the conditions, it was very good indeed.

SO we had them 8/80 - and they had only 10 players at the ground - so one more wicket and we could have a rest. At that point it became a bit frustrating. They had one of those irritating sloggers who tries to hit everything between wide mid on and square leg. And when he missed (which happened a lot) the ball would just miss the stumps. And when it was on the stumps he'd get a top edge over the keepers head. And we dropped a couple of catches. I persisted with JP and the Scurge and they finished with 2/41 and 2/23 respectively, both having chances missed from their bowling. Time to turn to Tom and PM to see how they would go. Tom started well, and his first over cost only 2. PM had the misfortune of having the slogger on

strike - and his first over went for 8. Back came Tom, who was getting the ball to skid through low very nicely - and grabbed a wicket.

At last we'd broken the stand of 54 - but by then a number 11 had arrived and the slogger was still in, and on strike for PM's next over. He asked for another fielder on the legside, but I replied No, you've already got 5 there - hit the off stump. PM cunningly got the slogger off strike with a single, then slipped his classic off spinner delivery (it doesn't turn at all) past their number 11 and on to his off stump, and we had them all out 135. PM had 1/9 and Tom 1/3. All in all a very good team effort. Every bowler took wickets, and everyone backed them up in what were very trying conditions.

As we left the field I told Mick Hamood about my "keepers should open in the second innings" theory, and he agreed. Plus I wanted to see if he could bat. We had a little team discussion about not being complacent. You know the thing. All those tried and true clichés "We don't have to win it in the first 10 overs" "We must bat sensibly" and, my favourite "If we don't get bowled out we'll win". If only I could have worked in "It's not rocket science" and "Let's not reinvent the wheel" then, at the end of the day, I could have claimed to be King of Cliché....

So out went Mick and Zak to see what we could do with the bat. Zak took strike and, as any proper opener should, saw the first over away with six dots. And from then on it was the Mick Hamood show for the next 15 overs. He smashed them. Three 6s and nine 4s on his way to 79 from about 40 balls. (Too late at night now to try to count them.) He was strong on the offside in particular, and destroyed everything short. Zak and he shared an opening partnership of 37 - and Zak made 2. Then cc grabbed his first ever golden duck for the Wanderers, so suddenly 0/37 became 2/37. Out went Tex, and he too hit the ball sweetly for a fast 20 in a partnership of 59, before he hit someone a catch to be the only Wanderers player dismissed in a manner other than bowled (!). With the weather threatening, as it had done all day, I thought it best to keep the attacking batsmen going, so out went Rabs. And he too joined the fun: dot 1 dot 4 6 out. Finally Mick missed one too and was bowled. And John Gale missed one too (well, this week he didn't actually hit any either). So suddenly from cruising at 2/96 we were a little shaky at 6/122. Out went JP to join Tom at the crease, with JP telling me there was no way I would get a bat.

And he was right. He and Tom wrapped things up very nicely indeed, and we finished 6/137 in the 21st over. (So as you can see all the chat about "no hurry" was really effective.) Tom finished with 7 not out, JP with 5 not out. Clearly Mick Hamood's 79 was the batting highlight. His keeping was impressive too. And apparently he can bowl - guess we'll find out next game, when CC returns to keeping. (Probably just coz he wants to open and he knows I'm fixated on the, say after me, "keepers should open in the second innings" theory.) Two weeks running our keeper has opened in the second innings and taken the game away from the opposition very quickly. The theory is looking good.

And, for the first time this season the Happy Team has more wins than losses. We're back in the 4. Now it's time to string some wins together.

1st Grade, Round 6 vs Panthers

by Matthew Morrison

Just like Round 5, we had some Friday night rain and forecasts for more rain on the Saturday, which led to doubt over whether or not we would play. This week, however, Facebook would be of no help to me, so I looked out the window and saw a blazing sun, which convinced me we'd get a full game in.

This week we had a fresh new captain in Ben Pipe, and a fresh new look to our team, with five new faces from the week before: Tex, Callum Hughes, Blake Wilson, Macca and Jonty all got promoted from the 3rd Grade, with Callum making his 1st Grade debut for the club. Dropping out of the side were Knuckles, Damo, Josh Lumby, Starky and Steve Hart.

Pipes continued the new Wanderers tradition of winning the toss and batting. As usual I was opening, but once again Sam, who turned up at about 12:25, had the role of opener thrust upon him. The ball moved around in the first over, but after that it didn't move much at all and we started getting quite comfortable. We managed to see the openers off, and were looking OK at 0/46 in the 12th over. At this point, though, I thought it would be a good idea to hit the ball straight to a short mid-off and run. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way down the pitch though, I knew I was gone if he hit, and when the ball hit the stumps I just kept jogging straight back to the "pavilion", having butchered one. Oops.

In came Dougie, having been promoted back to number 3. He and Sam set about working the bowlers around, keeping the runs ticking over without taking any real risks, and we went to drinks at 1/81. At this point it's probably worth mentioning that the Panthers' over rate was atrocious. Part of the problem was that their captain was also their wicketkeeper, which made it difficult to have discussions with the bowler on how he would like his field. However, the discussions occurred far too often and for far too long, and there were too many minor field placing changes after each ball. In the end, they took close to 200 minutes for their 45 overs, which really tested our patience.

Anyway, soon after drinks we lost Sam, who fought hard for his 37, particularly given he got home at about 6 and was probably not feeling the best. Sam obviously prefers to bat in the middle order but he's never complained when forced to open and got the job done today. This left us 2/93 in the 25th over, which was a good platform for the rest of our innings. In came Cal, who watched a few before taking one of their opening bowlers (Catchpole) for 18 off one over with some very nice swats over the heads of mid-wicket and the bowler. This 1st Grade thing's pretty easy, hey Cal? He was eventually bowled for 23, but scored at better than a run a ball, and really got us going towards a good total.

Tex came and went, but managed to get a couple of good boundaries away (including one on the off-side) before he was through. This left us at 4/161 with about 8 overs to go, and we were thinking that a score of 200+ would be nice. At the other end, Dougie had gone from simply working the bowlers around to giving the bad ball a real whack with his compact style. He racked up another 50, which surely hands him the number 3 spot for a while, before being bowled for 69.

Macca, who had been promoted to number 6, joined Dougie after Tex's dismissal, and came out all guns blazing, like he should. He and Pipes finished off the innings for us, taking the Wanderers to 5/225. Macca finished with a very handy 41 not out. We felt this was definitely a defensible total; the outfield was quite strange in that on one side of the field the grass was dead and the outfield quite quick, but everywhere else the grass was quite thick and boundaries were hard-earned.

Pipes gave us a minor surprise by telling us that Tim Rhodes and Crazy would open the bowling, as they would better use the shine of the new ball. Pipes would bowl first change and then tear the ball to shreds as

per usual. This plan lasted exactly one over before Pipes kicked Jonty in the groin and demanded the ball (I didn't actually see this happen, but it was a bit suspicious to me that Jonty complained of an injured groin after one over and Pipes just happened to be on the spot ready to take over). The bowling change worked; a wicket with the first ball and another in the first over had the Panthers reeling at 2/5. A couple of overs later, Crazy got their opener to bunt one straight to me at "Sabby" (shortish mid-off) and they were 3/18. Pipes got another wicket in his opening spell to have the Panthers at 4/33 and in real trouble.

At this point, their captain/keeper/time waster extraordinaire came to the crease. He could quite clearly bat, and quite often it seems like we get 4 or 5 quick wickets before a partnership finally forms. The lefty at the other end didn't seem to have a brilliant technique, but was solid enough and could really hit a ball, which made fielding at Sabby quite an intimidating task. The longer these guys stayed together, the more it looked like we might have a fight to win after all, particularly given their slow over rate meant that it was getting quite late. Our friend the captain may have sensed this, and even went to the extreme length of breaking his bat to try and stall for time (probably not, but by now I wouldn't have been surprised).

The ball had now been turned over to The Chad and Sam, and it was Sam who ended up getting the breakthrough, with the big lefty holing out to Macca, one of at least 5 fielders between point and mid-off. Their next batsman joined the captain, and they managed to put together something resembling a partnership while we missed a couple of run-out opportunities in the field. At drinks they were 5/93, which still left us in a good position, but we had definitely taken the foot off the throat. Thankfully, a couple of overs after drinks, Sam got another 2 wickets in one over, including a CATCH AT FIRST SLIP to Tex. I had stopped believing that such a thing existed at this level, but I will eat my words because now I have seen it with my own eyes.

The rest of their batsmen didn't exactly roll over, but never looked like chasing the runs down. Blake took what I believe was his first wicket for 1st Grade – a looping caught and bowled where at one point it looked like Pipey was going to smash him Michael Crocker-on-Brett Stewart style, but pulled out just in time. Sam, who had bowled tight lines for 9 overs and ended up with 3/17, was replaced by Pipes, who took the last wicket to end up with 4/19 himself. The Panthers were rolled for 122, which gave the guys in the garish yellow shirts victory by 103 runs. It was lucky we bowled them out so quickly, as I believe it was still well after 6:00 by the time we had finished, even though they lasted less than 33 overs.

Another game, another win, but everybody knows premierships aren't won at this time of year. We just have to do the same next week.

1st Grade, Round 7 vs Lanka Lions by Matthew Morrison (and Josh Crase)

I grew up in Far North Queensland, so admittedly I don't really have much to compare against, but during this game it was easily the coldest I have ever played cricket, even compared to two weeks ago against Teachers. On top of that, a chilly breeze blew across the ground and rain was forecast. So what do we do? We play cricket of course.

We were playing the Lions, who along with Workers were looking like one of the main challengers for the premiership this year. We had two changes to last week's side, with Tex and Jonty (injured groin) being replaced by Damo and Steve Hart. Pipey was once again our captain, once again won the toss, and once again decided to bat. All three were good decisions in my opinion.

This time my opening partner was Callum "I need a nickname because Hughesy is already taken" Hughes. I proceeded to get dropped at point from the second ball of the day before knocking around a couple of boundaries before being caught in front not much later for 14. Callum had started pretty nervously at the other end, before finding his feet, once again taking the opening bowler for 18 off one over. Yep, it looked like the nerves had gone. Unfortunately, he once again got out just as he started to look good, getting a little confused by a half-track slower ball (otherwise known as a "pie") and bunting it straight to the cover fielder, who took a nice catch diving forward.

Dougie and Damo both didn't last long, both getting out to err, *injudicious* (that's what thesaurus suggested) shots. We were in pretty big trouble at 4/41, and all thoughts of knocking up a quick 200 before declaring were put to rest. The task of rebuilding the innings went to Sam, who was batting at number 5 this week, and Pipey, who was probably used to doing this from last year. A short rain break after 15 overs gave the batsmen some time to collect their thoughts, and after the break they played some good cricket, waiting for the bad to come along, and then hitting it hard. They also picked their targets, as the Lions have 3 good bowlers, with the rest not being much of a threat to take wickets or contain runs. Pipes was eventually dismissed for 21, but the partnership of 52 with Sam was vital to restoring the innings.

Macca then joined Sam and they played some more sensible cricket, taking us to the drinks break (which had been pushed back to the 30-over mark due to the rain) at 5/118. We were looking like a good shot to get to that 200 mark which we had threatened every game, yet never looked close to getting at 4/41. They continued batting well, with Sam getting a deserved first 50 for the club before eventually getting bowled for 52 by a quicker ball from their spinner. Macca continued on, playing a couple of glorious cover drives in the process before holing out trying to boost the run-rate for 21.

The failure of those of us at the top of the order meant that the tail was forced to face the last 9-or-so overs, which isn't their job. Crazy managed to get a couple off the middle and Steve was his usual self, really getting the most out of his batting partner by constantly communicating. However, the innings fell short; we were bowled out for 159 in the 41st over, with The Chad once again robbed on 0 not out.

Although 159 was our smallest total of the season, we still felt we could win, since we had successfully defended less than that plenty of times last year. Pipes and Crazy opened the bowling, and quite simply were too good. Crazy picked up the early wicket, getting their lefty opener Anu (who is apparently quite good) to chip a leading edge straight to Damo, who was fielding at Sabby. To the batsmen, Damo must have cut an imposing figure fielding in close, and the way he threw himself around was quite inspirational to the rest of us.

For a while it seemed that nobody was ever going to be able to hit Crazy: the first runs off the bat against him came in his 7th over, and they were from an edge through slips. He ended up with the superb figures of 1/11 off 9. At the other end, Pipey got hit for a couple of boundaries before rebounding nicely and bowling the same guy in the same over, reducing the Lions to 2/23. Sam brought about the third wicket with a brilliant piece of fielding: the Lions batsman had hit the ball behind square leg and taken off for a quick single. Sam went to his right and picked the ball up cleanly before throwing the stumps down. Pipes took another wicket in the same over, and the Lions were in big trouble at 4/23.

Sam was eventually brought on to replace Pipes, and Blake took over from Crazy's end. At this point, a couple of their batsmen finally started to show some resistance, and buckled down. Not even some tripe that Blake served up in his first over could tempt them into a rash shot (but it was worth a go). Sam got a big wicket right on the drinks break, and we looked in command with the Lions at 5/53 in the 23rd.

Unfortunately, our middle-order curse struck again, and we were unable to seal the deal. Blake enticed Whitechurch (who is called "Whitey" by his Lankan teammates because of his name, not his skin colour) into a high skier that I couldn't quite wrap my hands around running away towards the boundary looking over my shoulder. A few overs later I got another half-chance when Whitey chipped one wide of me at mid-on. I saw it straight off the bat and realising that the game was slipping away, made a desperate dive at the ball. I missed the ball, hit the ground and rolled, but my left arm got stuck in the way of my roll, which meant that either my shoulder or the ground had to give. Ground 1, shoulder 0. Thankfully we had some supporters there, which meant that Rabs was able to take me to the hospital where they popped it back in and JP was able to field in my place. Of course I can't finish the game report, so it's over to Crazy...

Well everyone was a bit shaken from the sight of Monners arm sticking out above the shoulder joint, but we managed to at least put up a fair effort to finish by taking them to the last wicket before they made the runs. It looked like being controversial at one stage, when with the scores tied, Sam Lang came in and clean bowled a guy. Then the scorers called out that he had finished his 9 overs the previous over. The batsman wasn't keen to leave but eventually he did and we gave the ball to Steve Hart to finish off Sam's over. Next ball = wicket (great catch from Pipey at mid-off). We were one wicket from a tie and a pretty controversial finish, considering they had called out that Sam had done his 9 earlier on and we'd just forgotten. Anyway, the next ball went for a couple of runs and the rest is history. Our first loss for the season, albeit a very close one.

4th Grade, Round 1 vs Gungahlin by Rod Chancellor

With our skipper Toothy away we were pretty keen to see what we could do without him and things were looking good half way to the ground. Hmm... got kit?...check... got esky?...check... got water on ice?...check... phone rings... “Hey Rocket you got a ball?”bugger! Thanks for backing me up Toothy.

Anyway, with that one sorted, acting captain Rocket marched across to the Gungahlin camp and proceeded to lose the toss. They sent us into the field. We opened the bowling with ‘the Scourge’ who managed to just have the one run scored off his first one and Cal Hughes at the other end couldn’t get their openers out with his first three balls., so Sundar ran him out with a direct hit... nice... Drads grabbed a sharp chance in gully off the Scourge’s 4th over to leave them 2/30 after 7.

We rang in the bowling changes to give the blokes a rest this early in the season and see what the new blokes could do. John Lebner and Leigh Thornton kept them fairly quiet for a while before Zoom-Zoom Sundar came on and knocked out their number 2’s middle peg after squirting a few down leg side, as he is accustomed. He also looked very nice in his brand new not-so-baggy yellow. Taking the pace off the ball is always a good option so we brought on new bloke Joel Greenaway and sent two blokes down to the leg side boundary and sure enough ...wicket off his first ball for the Wanderers...well done Joel! Daham Mudjyanselage chipped in with some tight fast medium stuff before we were off for drinks. They were 4/104 hmm not too bad. A very sharp direct hit from Leigh Thornton which saw them 5/181 after 37 was the highlight of the second session but the guys gave their all right to the end....a worthy effort. We had 225 to chase.

Bravely sticking himself at number 11 Captain Rocket sent Mr. Cricket Cal Hughes in to open with Drads. These two did an admirable job until Drads edged one to first slip in the 13th over for 27 runs. Top effort! Cal continued to smack them around with excellent support from Dave Betts who was tragically run out on 40. He was followed by Andrew ‘Spikes’ Allen who turned the strike over nicely to Cal before we got the runs in the 35th over with Mr. Cricket on 142 not out. Absolutely outstanding! Look out thirds. If this is the standard we can expect from 4th this year I’m booking the bus to the finals now. Needless to say man-of-the-match goes to Cal.

4th Grade, Round 2 vs Workers at Hughes by Adam Stewart

After round 1's crushing batting display by 4th grade confidence was high to make it 2 from 2. Before the start of the game the first thing you noticed at Hughes was the really ugly twirling orange arms on Adelaide avenue, closely followed by the long grass.

The game started poorly by the captain losing the toss, but we were sent in. Going out to open was Drady and Adam, with the captain talking up how we should bat sensibly and see it to drinks. This lasted all of 5 overs when Drady (3) decided to sky one and was gone for 3, 1/13 (5). Spikes was next out to the crease and showed good promise before a massive off cutter sent his leg stump tumbling backwards, gone for just 2 and the Wanderers 2/16 (8). New boy Leigh came and went for a quacker off 6 balls and the top order looked a bit of a mess at 3/16 (10). Rocket confidently strode out to the middle where he took guard and with the captain put on the biggest partnership of the day scoring 19, before the skipper was caught at first slip edging the ball with the toe of the bat, 4/36 (16). The Scurge (8) came out and played with all of his normal shots "Big swing, no ding" before he eventually got onto one which went straight up and the keeper took an easy catch with the Wanderers now reeling at 5/45 (19). Daham came in for his first bat for the club and 2 balls later made his first duck, a perfect 1 from 1, suuuuurely he couldn't keep that up during the season. Joel Greenaway was next out and dotted is up for ages, with 9 balls before he made the scorers do any work. At the other end Rocket had been trying to hold his end up to avoid a massive collapse but eventually fell, edging the ball onto his helmet, which then popped up into the air and he was caught, gone for a hard fought 11. With the score at 7/51 it did not look healthy and the day may soon be over after such a confident start. The tail tried as hard as it could, but couldn't contribute any more runs (Sundar 1, John "Chops" Lebnar 9, Magnum 0*) adding 13 more before the team was rolled for a less than impressive total of 64 after just 30 overs.

With the change of innings came a pep talk from the captain to inspire the boys and with the long grass no runs were going to be scored through the infield, so the tactic was to bowl straight and at the stumps. With the plan set and the field set with nobody straight to encourage the big drives, it took Sundar just 2 overs to get the first breakthrough, clean bowling one of their openers. Meanwhile at the other end Chops was having no luck finding the edge instead just beating the batsman time after time. The Scurge was brought into the attack early to get the ball swinging into the batsman instead of away and got a wicket with his first ball 2/13 (6). Chops continued to toil away and was eventually rewarded with 2 wickets in 2 overs and finished his spell 2/15 (5), exactly what the team needed. Leigh-roy was thrown the ball and was also rewarded at the start of his spell getting a wicket in his 2nd over, which was backed up by the Scurge with another wicket in the following over. However Leigh not to be outdone got his 2nd and 3rd for the day the very next over and the Wanderers were on a roll and sensed a magical comeback.

Workers were 8/56 and we were right into the tail, the captain made a massive call and took off the Scurge who bowled an excellent spell taking 2/21 (4). The Sundar express was taking all passengers and delivered 5 balls into his comeback spell taking another wicket and redecorating the furniture and finishing with figures of 2/13 (6) with 3 maidens. Not knowing how many runs Workers needed for victory the ring field was instituted and everyone told to cut off the singles. Leigh with his confidence high steamed in and bowled the number 11 to collect figures of 4/13 (5), the scenes were amazing, blokes jumping on each other and high fives we'd won the match after only scoring 64.

Alas the news was broken to the captain and the boys, when the scorebooks were checked Workers were bowled out for 64 after 20 overs. A tie, yes a tie in a one day match, rare but there it was. The boys shattered and pumped all in one facial expression. The truth of it is we didn't deserve any of the points after

our batting display, but our bowlers stuck to their guns and pulled a magical effort out of the hat to get this result.

All 4 bowlers were the Man of the Match, but with his first 4 wickets in Wanderers colours and for this season it was awarded to Leigh. Apart from the excellent bowling performance the only other positives out of the game was, that 4th grade were still undefeated after 2 rounds.

On a side note the 4th grade team have many new faces this year, and to many 'normal' names. I strongly encourage not only 4th graders but other Wanderers to highlight 'mishaps' or 'events' which could lead to a nickname for any of the boys.

Cheers

4th Grade Skipper
Adza.

Go You Wanderers, Go You Good Things. For those new to the club that's GYWGYGT.

