

The UTS North Sydney District Cricket Club

2019/20 Annual Report

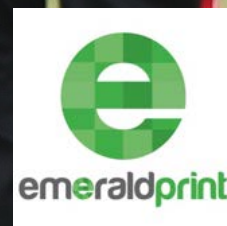


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Distinguished Members & Office Bearers

Patron

Bevyn White

Executive Committee

R Lavery (President), M Lloyd (Senior VP), P Lindsay (Secretary), O Knight (Assistant Secretary), A Wayling (Treasurer), S Jagot (Assistant Treasurer), N Lenoir-Jourdan, S Colless, S Berman, G Aitken

Cricket NSW & SCA Delegate

K Campbell

Life Member of SCA

B White

Life Members

T Chappell, D Cole, T Greenwood, S Hookey, V Kringas, M McMahon, W Playle, J Riseborough, K Riseborough, G Roberts, D Rodgie, R Shelton, G Spring, D Taylor, R Telfer, BO White, BC White, M White, P Marks, S Morgan, K Spring, C Williams, W Blackstone, W Davey, J Lawes, A Tedder, J Brian, N Deane, R Matthews, R Tulk, W Coltman, V Emery, R Minnett, R Turner, H Crompton, K Gilkes, A Moss, A Vincent, K Cunningham, C Hogue, H Pratten, G Davey, W Jones, A Punch

Life Member of NSWCA

D Cole





Mission Statement

The UTS North Sydney District Cricket Club (UTS NSDCC or the 'Bears') aims, through a quality structure and environment, to provide an opportunity for our cricketers to compete to their highest potential. The Bears provide a talent pathway all the way to Cricket NSW and ultimately Cricket Australia.

Our Mission is to:

- Establish and maintain formal links with our community within our geographic zone on Sydney's lower north shore;
- Assist our cricketers through their development from entry level (Woolworths Cricket Blast) through to Premier Grade Cricket;
- Provide the best quality structures and training; and
- Develop the life skills of our junior members.

Long Term Strategic Vision

The Bears have a long history and proud traditions and the Committee are committed to building on these solid foundations to enhance our sport within the community.

Our long term vision is to:

- Develop and nurture a greater number of first class cricketers;
- Provide higher quality facilities by working constructively with local council, the State government and Cricket NSW to prioritise resources;
- Expand our training, development and playing programs to engage a broader universe of cricketers including schools and girls/ women's cricket; and
- Strengthen our community engagement.

Constitution

The NSDCC is governed under a constitution. Pursuant to the constitution the committee is charged with the responsibility of managing the affairs of the club including the delivery each year of the audited financial statements.

At the last general meeting we welcomed one new member to the Committee, Nicole Lenior-Jourdan, and farewelled Keith Lawrence and Sumedh Thorat. The club thanks Keith and Sumedh for their selfless service.

In 2019/20 season the committee set out to ensure that it adhered to the following key principles:

- Transparency in our decision making;
- Accountability for our responsibilities;
- Democracy in decision making with committee members afforded the opportunity to test issues with rigorous debate; and the
- Financial sustainability of our club;

I am pleased to report that the committee has adhered to these key principles and we are much the better for that.

As a committee we continue to strive to improve both our processes and our outcomes. Over the course of 2019/20 the committee has worked hard to improve financial accountability, volunteer retention, revenue generation and resources. The ultimate goal of this work is to ensure the players have every opportunity to succeed when they take the field.

Management of the UTS North Sydney District Cricket Club is the preserve of every member of the Bears' community. The Committee appreciates the support of all those who are willing to give it, both formally and through less structured channels.

Committee Attendance

Rob Lavery – 100%
Michael Lloyd – 88%
Patrick Lindsay – 100%
Oliver Knight – 25%
Simon Jagot – 63%
Adam Wayling – 75%
Kathy Campbell – 88%
Samuel Colless – 25%
Nicole Lenoir-Jourdan – 75%
Sarah Berman – 88%
Glenn Aitken – 50%



President's Report

Rob Lavery

In 2019/20, we at the Bears continued to build on our recent improvements both on and off the field. Improved results throughout our grades were complemented by significantly increased numbers of volunteers and marked improvements in our back office processes and results.

On the field

As a club we made major steps on the field in 2019/20.

Fifth Grade, helmed by Pat Lindsay, claimed the club's first premiership in seven seasons, albeit in unusual circumstances. The abandonment of finals in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic should not detract from 5s deservedly claiming the David Sherwood trophy by virtue of their minor premiership.

Our Poidevin-Gray side fought through UNSW and local rivals, Gordon, to host the grand final at North Sydney Oval. While the team fell short against a highly talented Fairfield-Liverpool side, the efforts of George Lavelle, Mac Jenkins, Tim Reynolds and their team were still remarkable. To go from winning five PGs games in five seasons to all but lofting the silverware was a titanic improvement.

First Grade weathered the loss of Adam and James Crosthwaite to make finals again in 2019/20 under the leadership of Justin Avendano, with Tom Jagot taking the reigns during Justin's BBL stint. The season was punctuated by two outright wins, including one over perennial powerhouse, Sydney University, and some spectacular individual performances. Matt Alexander led all comers with the ball, claiming 48 wickets and earning selection in the NSW Premier Cricket First Grade team of the year. Matt, Justin, Tom and James Campbell all earned call-ups to NSW representative sides – a reflection of the team's strength.

Rob Aitken broke the First Grade games record when he took the field against UNSW. It is a record that is unlikely to be surpassed and testament to Rob's drive, humility and durability. We are fortunate to have had Rob at the Bears for almost 20 years.

Through the other grades, Glenn Aitken came within one sunny day of leading 2s into the finals, and Third Grade finished an up and down season midway up the ladder. Overall, the 10th placed finish in the men's club championship was an improvement from last season's 12th, but somewhat short of the club's goals given we were in 5th place going into the Christmas break.

In the final round of the season, our Brewer Shield side upset finalists St George-Sutherland to claim our women's program's historic first victory. It was a fine achievement and a reflection of the work coach Michelle Goszko, captain Genevieve O'Brien and all the girls have put in over the past two seasons. Our women's Third Grade side almost pulled off a win in their inaugural season against Bankstown and also look set for greater things in 2020/21.

Cricket operations

Our improvement on the field had many contributors whose work often took place on non-game days. All our captains and players worked tirelessly to prepare themselves and their teams to perform come game day. The volume of work that goes into skippering a side can often be overlooked, and a major part of the club's improved performance comes down to having the right people managing our teams.

We are blessed to have an amazing coaching staff. Gary Whitaker came on board in 2019/20 as Director of Men's Cricket and had an immediate impact. Our players benefit greatly from his vast experience, calm demeanour and love for the game. Michelle Goszko continued to transfer her immense knowledge to all our girls as our Director of Women's Cricket.

We were fortunate to retain Jason Krejza's services as our Junior Development Manager and he is a tremendous resource for our younger cricketers. Todd Harper wore many hats, on top of his main role as Training Co-ordinator, and is a source of great support for our players. Ash Perrot and Ray Beattie also gave much guidance, support and effort to our players through the weekly training sessions and on match days.

Our club captains, Sam Alexander and Cam New, brought a feeling of togetherness to the club unlike any I have experience in grade cricket and net captain Jacob Graham set the standards on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

While we moved in the right direction on the field, it is only the second step towards our ultimate goal, to reach the top of NSW Premier Cricket. Not to put too fine of a point on it, but we want more wins, more teams in finals and more premierships.

Partners

The Bears continued its highly valued partnership with UTS this season. This partnership is a major reason we are on an upward trend as a club and as a club we thank Elizabeth, Sam, Fudge and all the team at UTS Sport.

For younger Bears considering their university options, think about attending UTS and talk to myself or the committee about how the club can help.

Financial support and sponsorships

UTS North Sydney retained major sponsor Access RnD, as well as The Union Hotel and Hartford Partners, in 2019/20 to help maintain the financial stability of the club. A huge thanks to Rod, Dave and the team Access RnD for their continued generous support. We also added a wine partner, Lavender Ridge, as well as retaining a website partner, NgageCMS, to help promote the club professionally. We also greatly appreciate Five Star PR, who also

came on board to support the printing and production of this report and Mario Bros Pizza for rewarding our players of the round.

The club has received significant grant support from Cricket NSW, the Australian Cricketers Association, local and state government in 2019/20. Much of this support has been to improve infrastructure, such as sightscreens and net facilities, as well as to financially support the launch of our women's cricket program.

Without the support of our partners, it would not be possible for our players to take the field and we are enormously grateful to all our sponsors and financial supporters.

Junior pathways

UTS North Sydney worked to strengthen the pathways for local juniors, as well as UTS students, to represent the club at NSW Premier Cricket and Sydney Women's Premier Cricket level. We continue to enjoy a great relationship with Karl, Jenny, Cameron and everyone at our junior club. A huge thanks to Jack Thomas, Jason Krejza, Amelia Sim and all our junior coaches who gave our junior players great guidance through midweek training sessions.

Administration

In 2019/20 we farewelled club stalwart, Keith Lawrence, from the committee. Keith is certainly not gone altogether but now is a good time to thank Keith for the innumerable hats he has worn at the club over the past decade.

In Keith's place we welcomed Nicole onto the committee and her PR knowledge, and undeniable tenacity, have already seen us take major steps forward in media presence, community engagements and sponsorship generation.

I would like to thank everyone on the committee for their hard work. Pat, Adam, Michael, Simon, Olly,

Sarah, Kathy, Glenn, Sam and Nicole. I am proud to serve this club with each of you. Your contributions, in the main, take place behind the scenes and I can only say that the players at this club are fortunate to have each of you working in their interests.

Volunteers

Club volunteers come in many forms, from the committee, to those who provide match-day management and support, to parents and families of players, as well as selectors, coaches and former players. The volunteer work undertaken by players themselves is also not to be forgotten. A subsequent section of this report properly thanks all our volunteers, but I would like to extend my own thanks to all those who contributed during the season.

A special thanks to David James and Sarah Berman for writing and reviewing the round by round summaries for each grade in this year's annual report.

Looking forward

These are uncertain times. As a club we need to prepare as best we can to take the field in September, and be ready for pre-season before that, if circumstances allow.

It is worth remembering that, 30 years ago, the club stood at the financial cross-roads, at genuine risk of folding. The work of a great number of committee members and office bearers (notably former president Bevyn White) since then has brought stability and prosperity to the club.

We again face substantial challenges in the coming year and it is incumbent upon all members, volunteers, coaches and committee members to ensure the club survives and thrives in 2020/21 and thereafter.

Representatives

BBL

- Justin Avendano

BBL Academy

- Tom Jagot

NSW 2nd XIs

- Justin Avendano
- James Campbell
- Daniel Leerdam

NSW XI

- Justin Avendano
- Tom Jagot
- James Campbell
- Matt Alexander

NSW National Championships Squads

- Tim Reynolds (U19)
- Amelia Sim (U15)

State Challenge Squads

- Tim Reynolds (U19)
- Grace Keating (U17)
- Toby Laybutt (U16)
- Callum Smith (U16)
- Lucas Opacic (U16)
- Zak Keogh (U16)
- Hamish Reynolds (U14)
- Mridula Thirupathy (U14)
- Amelia Sim (U14)
- Belinda Tahana (U14)
- Liz Buckley (U13)

Volunteer Report

Sarah Berman

The Bears are very fortunate to have a huge number of dedicated volunteers who give up their time to make the club what it is. It's particularly pleasing to have gained many new volunteers this season, who have played a huge role in lifting the quality of the club's output both on and off the field. Our volunteers include parents, players, former players and people who previously had no connection with the club but are now an integral part of the Bears family.

We have had six regular scorers this year – Sarah Berman, Gemma-Jayne Ashdown (who joined came on board this year to score for Second Grade), Jeff Vilensky, Lachlan Reynolds, David James with PGs, and Alan Gibbons who scores for our women's and Brewer Shield teams. This has allowed players to focus on playing and saved captains a lot of time entering scores, and live scoring has also made it much easier for supporters to follow games and for our social media to stay up to date.

Our media presence has gone through the roof this season, thanks to contributions from a huge number of people. First and foremost, it's important to acknowledge David and Nicole James. Nicole has some opened doors we've been banging on for years and others we wouldn't have thought to knock on, thanks to her amazing media contacts. There was fabulous media coverage of Rob Aitken's record including in the Daily Telegraph, news.com.au social media and two radio stations, and we also had a match report in the North Shore Times every week and the Mosman Daily most weeks. David coordinated the match report operation all season – writing, editing, chasing and collating. Rob Lavery has collated a weekly supporters' newsletter and made the website the club's source of truth – including learning new features such as embedding social media posts and creating GIFs from photos.

We've also been very lucky to have two regular photographers, Tony Johnson and David James, providing top-quality shots from every First Grade game and a fair few other grades' games too. Thanks also to Jeff Vilensky, Greg Savage, Rod Campbell, Adam Cavenor and Ethan Joseph who've also provided photos and videos featured in our media through the season, Gem Ashdown for her help with graphics and photo editing, and to the captains for all of their input with match reports and other content.

Our men's squads have also had the benefit of two volunteer members of the coaching team, Ash Perrott and Ray Beattie. Ash and Ray joined us this year and became fully invested in the club, doing a great deal to help raise our standards. Ash has also been a mainstay on matchdays, helping out at a lot of Second Grade games in particular.

When it comes to matchday, the first person to acknowledge and thank is Kathy Campbell – we all know she's the queen of the canteen, but she does a lot of other work behind the scenes to make matchday run smoothly, including supplying all grounds with things like cordial. We were delighted also to welcome this year Chris Higgs and Rachel Pryce who have manned the canteen and sausage sizzle at major games, as well as helping to publicise our T20 double-header day, and on the day Chris was the voice of North Sydney Oval running the public address

We're lucky also to have Mark Bryant and Christin Hohne week in week out at First Grade games, doing a host of jobs including helping run the canteen and carrying drinks. In addition, at the start of the season, Luke Smith returned to the club as volunteer matchday manager at Bon Andrews – until he happily but inconveniently recovered enough from his injury to be able to play again. He did a huge amount to make no.2 run like clockwork, including catering, cleaning, line marking, drink making and assisting with scoring.

We've also been very lucky to have Lachlan Reynolds as volunteer manager of our Green Shield side, Ben Bryant coordinating all of our kit, and Craig Tomko as our chairman of selectors – arguably the most challenging role in the club. Craig's dedication (and petrol bill) is immense, as he gets to most grades most Saturdays to make sure he sees as many players and performances as he can first-hand. Finally, thank you to Jacqui Eyles, who manages our Brewer Shield

and women's teams, working tirelessly to get 11 players on the park often both days on the weekend, and Alan and Sarah Gibbons who provide superb support.

With such a committed and capable group of volunteers, the club is well-placed to go from strength to strength in 2020-21.



University Games

University of Technology Sydney went into the 2019 T20 University Games as defending premiers. Four players from UTS North Sydney Cricket Club formed part of the 2109 campaign held in Adelaide in November. They were Jack James, Chris Savage, Harrison May and Ahmer Amir. The team played in two round robin matches, against La Trobe University and hosts Adelaide University, winning both and qualifying for the Quarter Finals.

In the Quarter final UTS bowled University of Queensland out for 87, with Jack taking 2/12 and two runs outs, and Harrison and Chris grabbing a wicket each. UTS scored the runs 3 wickets down. In the Semi-Final UTS faced Adelaide Uni for a second time. Adelaide reached a respectable 5/124 with two wickets to Peter Francis from St George. UTS (2/125) reached the target comfortably in the 15th over thanks to Jack James (44*) and Nick Amos (39) from Sutherland.

The Final was played at Karen Rolton Oval against a very strong Sydney University team. UTS batted first and managed 8/134 with openers Jack James and Nick Amos reaching 63 without loss. However when Amos was out for 33 off 31 balls, the team lost 4/13 to be 4/76. A cameo from Isaiah Vumbucca (22 off

15) and some boundaries from Jack pushed the score beyond 130 at the close. Jack remained unbeaten on 70 off 59 balls including 6x4 and 2x6. Sydney University (2/135) chased down our score with 4 overs to spare. Will Masojado 49* and 3/14 and Charlie Dummer 78* were the main destroyers for the opposition.

Jack had a good tournament taking 7 wickets and scoring 131 runs @ 131- leading the averages for the event. Chris 2/27 from 5 overs and Harrison 2/54 from 11 overs had limited opportunities but did a great job when asked to bowl. Ahmer was given a few chances with the bat and gained some valuable experience against some quality bowling.

Round 1 – UTS 5/164 d La Trobe 102 (H May 1/6, C Savage 1/9)

Round 2 – UTS 8/125 d Adelaide Uni 103 (J James 4/20)

QF – UTS 3/91 d UQ 87 (J James 2/12, H May 1/7, C Savage 1/12)

SF – UTS 8/125 (J James 44*) d Adelaide Uni 5/124 (J James 1/21)

GF – 8/134 (J James 70*) lost to Sydney Uni 2/135





UTS NORTH SYDNEY BEARS

UTS SPORT

Access

MATT ALEXANDER & JAMES CAMPBELL

Access RnD Bradman Medallists

UTS NORTH SYDNEY BEARS

UTS SPORT

Access

JAMES AITKEN & NIRANJANA NAGULESWARAN

Frank Punch

Second Grade Players of the Year

UTS NORTH SYDNEY BEARS

UTS SPORT

Access

JACOB GRAHAM

Doug Cole

Third Grade Player of the Year

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Access

IZAACK MERLEHAN

Fourth Grade Player of the Year

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CHRIS SAVAGE

Fifth Grade Player of the Year

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AMY GIBBONS

Women's Third Grade Player of the Year

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JACK JAMES

Poidevin-Gray Player of the Year

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LUCY WARREN

Brewer Shield Player of the Year

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ADITYA NIGUL

Green Shield Player of the Year

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JAMES AITKEN

Bevyn White Cricketer of the Year

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SARAH BERMAN

Clubperson of the Year

UTS NORTH SYDNEY BEARS

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CHRIS SAVAGE

Young Clubperson of the Year



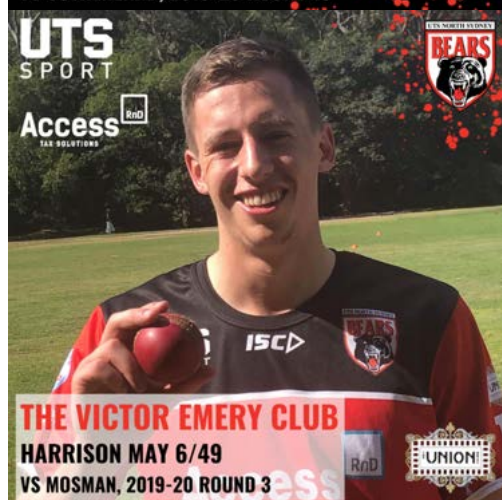
THE VICTOR EMERY CLUB
HARRISON MAY 5/58
 MATCH FIGURES OF 11/117
 VS SUTHERLAND, 2019-20 ROUND 13



MATT ALEXANDER 5/75
THE VICTOR EMERY CLUB
 VS MOSMAN, 2019-20 ROUND 3



JAMES CAMPBELL 5/40
THE VICTOR EMERY CLUB
 VS HAWKESBURY, 2019-20 ROUND 2



THE VICTOR EMERY CLUB
HARRISON MAY 6/49
 VS MOSMAN, 2019-20 ROUND 3



NIRANJAN NAGULESWARAN 5/39
 VS FAIRFIELD-LIVERPOOL, 2019-20 ROUND 8



FLETCHER MAY 5/55
 VS FAIRFIELD-LIVERPOOL, 2019-20 ROUND 8



THE VICTOR EMERY CLUB
AHMER AMIR 5/25
 VS PENRITH, 2019-20 ROUND 9



MATT ALEXANDER 7/38
 CLUB RECORD LIMITED OVERS BOWLING FIGURES
THE VICTOR EMERY CLUB
 VS BANKSTOWN, 2019-20 ROUND 1

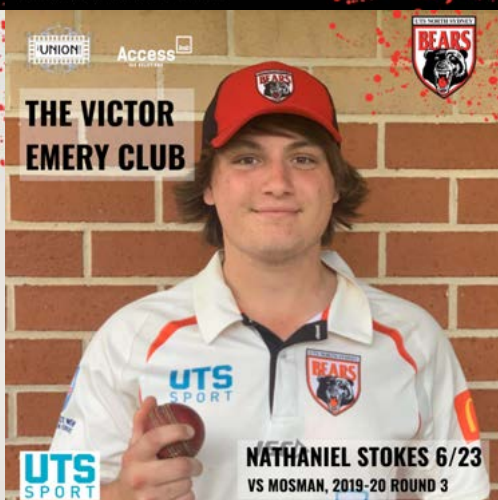


HARRISON MAY 6/59
 VS SUTHERLAND, 2019-20 ROUND 13



THE VICTOR EMERY CLUB

PATRICK LINDSAY 5/39
 VS SYDNEY UNIVERSITY, 2019-20 ROUND 4



THE VICTOR EMERY CLUB

NATHANIEL STOKES 6/23
 VS MOSMAN, 2019-20 ROUND 3



THE VICTOR EMERY CLUB

IZAACK MERLEHAN 5/79
 VS PARRAMATTA, 2019-20 ROUND 7



THE AUSTIN PUNCH CLUB
THOMAS JAGOT 156
 VS FAIRFIELD-LIVERPOOL, 2019-20 ROUND 8



THE AUSTIN PUNCH CLUB
JORDAN VILENSKY 114
 VS PARRAMATTA, 2019-20 ROUND 7



JAMIE SHAW 115 not out
 VS HAWKESBURY, 2019-20 ROUND 2



JACK JAMES 125
 VS PARRAMATTA, 2019-20 ROUND 7



THE AUSTIN PUNCH CLUB
CHRIS LLOYD 147*
 VS MOSMAN, 2019-20 ROUND 3



BEN BRYANT 101
THE AUSTIN PUNCH CLUB
 VS MOSMAN, 2019-20 ROUND 3



THE AUSTIN PUNCH CLUB
RAYMOND ALEXANDER 117
 VS PARRAMATTA, 2019-20 ROUND 7



JUSTIN AVENDANO 126*
 VS WESTERN SUBURBS, 2019-20 ROUND 6



THE VICTOR EMERY CLUB
PATRICK LINDSAY 7/33
 VS EASTERN SUBURBS, 2019-20 ROUND 14



CHRIS SAVAGE 5/38
 VS EASTERN SUBURBS, 2019-20 ROUND 14



TOBY LAYBUTT 5/57
 VS EASTERN SUBURBS, 2019-20 ROUND 14



THE VICTOR EMERY CLUB
JACK THOMAS 6/30
 VS SUTHERLAND, 2019-20 ROUND 13

Milestones

Rob Aitken

NSW Premier Cricket First Grade games record

600 First Grade wickets

11,000 First Grade runs

James Aitken

300 First Grade games

Matt Alexander

300 NSW Premier Cricket wickets

100 First Grade wickets

Patrick Lindsay

300 NSW Premier Cricket wickets

Glenn Aitken

6000 NSW Premier Cricket runs

Justin Avendano

4000 First Grade runs

Tom Jagot

3000 First Grade runs

100 First Grade matches

James Aitken

100 NSW Premier Cricket wickets

Mac Jenkins

100 NSW Premier Cricket wickets

Jack Thomas

100 NSW Premier Cricket wickets

Ray Alexander

2000 NSW Premier Cricket runs

Jack James

2000 NSW Premier Cricket runs

Tim Reynolds

2000 NSW Premier Cricket runs



Rob Aitken

NSW Premier Cricket 1st Grade Games Record

In round 12 of the 2019/20 NSW Premier Cricket season, Rob Aitken played his 473rd First Grade game, surpassing the competition record held by Hawkesbury, Penrith and Bankstown legend, Ken Hall. Remarkably, Hall took the record from Rob's father, Bob Aitken, who himself played 389 First Grade games (although Bob's record was only established when limited overs games were added to career records after Bob's retirement).

Rob started his First Grade career in 1992 for Fairfield-Liverpool before playing for Petersham-Marrickville and Parramatta. In 2001 Rob joined the Bears, where he has played 337 of his First Grade games.

Rob's is a career littered with highlights, he played in the NSW U19 and U21 sides before earning a NSW 2nd XI selection. In the 2000/01 season, Rob won the coveted Bill O'Reilly Medal for the best player in Sydney Grade Cricket.

In 2012/13 Rob added the Michael Bevan Medal for the best player in the Sydney Grade Cricket limited

overs final to his collection. In the process, he helped the Bears win their fifth limited overs title.

Rob is a unique cricketer, a once in a generation player. He is one of a handful of players in the world who have been able to master the ability to bowl the finger spun off and leg breaks – in the style of Iverson and Gleeson. As a result, he has been the object of much mystery, admiration and confusion, particularly by opposition batsmen, 601 of whom have lost their wicket to his skilful deliveries.

He is also a hard-hitting batsman with 11,143 First Grade runs to his credit including 8 centuries and 58 fifties. His remarkable record sees him join Grant Lambert as the only players with 11,000 runs and 600 wickets in the over 125 year history of Sydney Grade Cricket.

Rob has played much of his career with his two brothers James and Glenn at UTS North Sydney. James and Glenn have, themselves, forged formidable First Grade careers, having played 300 and 279 games respectively. It is hard to imagine a family ever besting the Aitkens' record of over 1400 First Grade games. Rob's record appearance was, as always, strongly supported by his family at David Phillips Oval.



James Aitken

300 1st Grade Appearances

James Aitken brought up a remarkable milestone in week 1 of round 14's fixture against Easts, taking the field for his 300th First Grade game. James' 300th match came more than 23 years on from his 1996 debut for Petersham-Marrickville, a phenomenal feat of sustained excellence.

James played one season in the top grade for Petersham-Marrickville, hitting a century in his seventh match at the age of only 19. He then moved to Parramatta for three seasons before joining the Bears for the 2002/03 season.

Since he joined the club, James has played 252 games in First Grade, amassing over 6,300 runs to sit fifth on the all-time list for the Bears.

He includes the 2012/13 First Grade limited overs premiership as part of his impressive resume.

Overall, James has 7,577 First Grade runs at 26.12 with seven centuries and 41 fifties. In 2017, James joined an exclusive list of players who have scored a First Grade hundred after their 40th birthday, and an even smaller list of just 9 who have scored one before 20 and one after 40.

In recent seasons James has added canny medium pacers to his arsenal and has captured 44 First Grade wickets at 35.16 (all for North Sydney), including 4/81 in his landmark game. His bowling form in the 2019/20 season was remarkable, taking 41 wickets at less than 14 across first and Second Grade.

James is a fierce competitor whose passion, work ethic and cricketing nous have seen him reach this rare landmark.



Director of Men's Cricket Report

Gary Whitaker

A very unusual end to the season with the crazy pandemic abbreviating the opportunity for our teams to contest Finals cricket.

At the completion of the round fixtures we managed to be placed in the top six in First Grade, Minor premiers in 5th grade - who were awarded the Dave Sherwood Trophy - a gallant runner up in the PGs and top 10 in the Club Championship. Overall, a pass mark for the season which could have been much better considering the position of all teams at the halfway mark of the season.

The results after the mid-season break were not what we wanted. Our achilles heel throughout the season was our inability to perform in the limited overs fixtures. The rounds after the break happened to be a couple of 50 over fixtures and this is when the club lost ground and slowly lost its way.

First Grade

4 wins on 1st Innings, 2 outright, 6 losses, 3 draws

In the first half of the season we lost by 1 run, then 1 wicket, then were convincingly beaten by Sydney in a limited-overs over match, but had two outright victories against Hawkesbury and Sydney University plus 6-point wins against Parramatta, Wests, Fairfield.

After the break we won one game in 7 rounds. This was against St George, but we suffered losses against Penrith, Manly, Sutherland and drew games against, UNSW, Easts and Blacktown.

The combination of our bowlers effectiveness prior to the break, and then returning a bit below par in regard to their numbers, had a major impact. The bowlers also had to contend with having to bowl on flat decks on day two of multiple fixtures. They were

subjected to having to bowl on the hottest, smokiest day ever, which further drained our resources.

The biggest area of concern is our inability to play our best cricket in the shorter versions of the game (We won 2 of 6 T20s and 1 of 5 50-over matches). Overall our tactics, detailed preparation and communication failed to maximise our options in all facets of the white ball game. This in an area we can all be better in as we can better understand the skills needed to be competitive in this format.

The leadership is an important factor to our success and if we relax our standards, results will suffer and the quality of team dynamics is compromised.

Lower grades

The lower grades results reflected a number of factors, including leadership, skills with the bat and ball, plus a lack of execution in the field.

Second Grade had their opportunities and Glenn did a superb job keeping his side in touch, but lack of consistency with the bat was our biggest problem.

Third and Fourth Grade had leadership changes that did not help get the unity their teams needed. A lack of consistency left us short of playing our best in all facets of our cricket.

Fifth Grade had the most consistent leadership and it showed with the success that was achieved, and the growth of the team under the guidance of Pat Lindsay. From that we can all learn what leadership looks like. Success can be achieved when you are totally engaged in all facets.

Youth Teams

PG's had a great season and we grew as a unit with the leadership of George being key to the side achieving success. The squad contains some awesome talent who are ready to step up and make a huge difference, especially in the shorter version.

Green Shield looked like a side that just needed a break early. Some great talents in the squad and I hope there were some lessons learned by all involved.

Training

The lads that turned up every week worked hard to prepare for each weekend. Those who did not should understand if you fail to prepare, you should prepare to fail. Overall, each player must critique themselves and ask, could I have been a better participant? Could

I have been more consistent with my attendance and preparation?

Final thanks

A huge thank you to all, the coaches, captains, scorers, volunteers and supporters. Many thanks and appreciation to Rob, Pat and Craig for your help and guidance.

I've had the best time and look forward to the challenges ahead.



First Grade Report

Justin Avendano

The season begun with a fresh new feel with some new exciting young players and an older head with our new head coach in Gary Whitaker. After finishing the previous season in a frustrating way getting washed out in the semi-final, the bears were hopeful for another strong season. After losing some big names in the Crosthwaite brothers the bears were set and confident with the youngsters at the club. Jack James was the big inclusion to the side this year joining us after playing in Melbourne last year, giving us stability at the top of the order and providing very handy off spin.

The 1st game against Bankstown proved to be a tough one losing by 1 run. Needing 4 runs to win off the final ball, we only managed 2 runs. Matt Alexander was the star of the show with an incredible 7 for 38. Matt was in his prime at the start of the year. Matt said the key to his success was a lack of diet during the off season and focusing on not going the gym at all. Matt finished the season at the top of the table in the wickets column in Sydney. Matt took 80% of his wickets before Christmas or better known as the fat mattos era before he slimmed down from his George Rose physique to looking like Stoinis by the end of the year.

After some big wins and tough losses early on we met Sydney Uni away from home. There was more rivalry this year since we poached their head coach. We lost the toss and had a bowl 1st on what looked like a pretty good batting wicket. Enter James “it was there to hit” Campbell and Will “car lift” Graham. They struck early in their 1st spell having uni 4 for 50. This was followed by James Aitken with an incredible 3 for 6 with support from the others cleaning up uni for 111. The batsman got it done that afternoon and sent uni back into bat. Day two it was much of the same with the bowlers hitting the mark and taking consistent wickets through the innings. The main highlight with Fat mattos taking a one handed screamer at mid-on to get rid of the dangerous Hayden Kerr. Uni finished with 196 leaving the batsman with a tricky chase late afternoon. The batsman got it done with Ben “bicycle” Bryant and Justin Avendano finishing not out to claim the bears 1st outright win in almost 10 years. This promoted the 1st grade side to the top of the table after 4 rounds.

There were many highlights during the year. Rob Aitken going past the all-time 1st grade games record against UNSW. It was a very special moment for rob and his family with his 2 younger brothers by his side during the presentation. Rob has to be one of the most mentally tough people I have ever met, he played most of the year with broken fingers, on top of that he had to deal with his 60 year old aging body.



Not once does he say he's sore or run down, he gets the job done without fail. No one deserves this honour more than rob.

The other big milestone was his brother James Aitken playing his 300th match in the top grade. James has transformed his cricket over the last few years becoming the ever reliable medium pace bowler through the middle of the innings. Bowling long spells and always delivering. I never got to see James bowl his leg spin in 1st grade back in the 70s but I reckon his mediums at 105kph would've done the trick back on uncovered wickets.

Other big milestones during the year was Tim "SOK" Reynolds averaging more than 3 in 1st grade. Tim has always been asked to do the dirty work in 1st grade as a youngster but I believe he has found his home batting 5 for the bears. He showed his class in round 2 smacking 92 while the other batsman fell around him giving the bears a comprehensive outright win against Hawkesbury.

Thomas "T20 specialist" Jagot got selected to play for the Sydney sixers academy after his fine form for the

bears. Tom scored 288 runs at 72 in the t20s. Tom by his standards had a frustrating year but earned his spot in the academy as well as getting selected to play against the England lions which unfortunately got washed out. Jages also scored an incredible hundred against the lions batting for most of the day scoring 156

James Campbell got selected to play for the NSW 2nd 11 team against ACT were he showed his class been the pick of the quicks over the 4 days. James has been outstanding for the bears for a long time. If it wasn't for his 4 foot 11 he would've played 100 1st class matches by now. He has to be the best new ball bowler in the state. Making the batsman play at almost everything and swinging it both ways. If the slip cordon could catch he would've been very close to Mattos at the top of the wickets tally in Sydney.

Olly "mine was bigger" Knight smacking 10 sixers in a match winning 82 off 32. It was some of the biggest and cleanest striking of a cricket ball I have ever seen. His batting went to another level this year scoring runs at crucial time for us. He's really turning himself into a quality batting allrounder.



Ben Bryant had a standout year opening the batting for the bears breaking through at Allan Border oval with a superb 100. The 2019/20 season for ben will always be remembered by his bicycle kick in warm up which unfortunately cut his season short suffering a broken collarbone. At the time we all felt incredible sorry for Ben who had worked so hard during the year but now looking back on it, it was actually pretty funny. You're an idiot mate but I love you. I can't wait to talk to you about your new power handle ideas next season.

Other highlights included Jack James scoring a brilliant hundred against Paramatta. Justin Avendano taking the massive scalp of Luke Bartier in a TIGHT game against St George with some quality leg spin bowling. Will Graham with his hooping inswinger on the last ball of the day against Sutherland. Mac Jenkins 4-fa against Blacktown. There were many but they couldn't all make the list.

The season unfortunately got cut short with COVID-19 as we were sitting pretty inside the top 6 coming into quarter finals. We showed all year that we were a side that had everything. Old heads with some exciting young talent. With youngsters like Will Graham, Jack James, Mac Jenkins and Tim Reynolds all going into their 2nd year of 1st grade after the start they've had we are in a very strong position.

There are many people to thank and congratulate for the year. George Lavelle our trusty pom, keeper and middle order bat. You're a star and a wonderful teammate to have on the field. Ray Alexander on making his 1st grade debut scoring 49 in tough conditions at Sutherland. To all our volunteers. The team would not be as successful as what it is without you. Kathy, Dave, Tony, Mark, Sarah and Christin, thank you so much for everything you do week in week out. We all love you and appreciate everything you do for us.



Where do I start with our head coach Gary. I would've thought with all your experience around the grade cricket scene you would've been better in warm up games. Nothing makes me happier then to see you get stitched up and just complain for 5 mins after keep me ups. I know me bringing this up has probably you angry which just makes me happier. But in all seriousness you took on a tough role this year with some very young 1st grade cricketers and I truly believe your knowledge and time you spent with them all made us finish in the top 6. I really look forward to working with you next year.

Todd Harper. You do so much for this team its ridiculous. A lot of the time it goes unnoticed. It doesn't to me. You're our biggest supporter, coach and player. Always ready with your whites to take the field just in case the skipper gets a bad chicken burger. We appreciate everything you do for us on and off the field.

Bring on 2020/21. It's going to be the year this team wins a flag. We have too many top quality cricketers not to. Exciting times ahead.

First Grade – One and Two Day Round by Round Summary

Round 1 v Bankstown @ Bankstown Oval

Lost by 1 run 226 v 227

ACCESS RnD BRADMAN MEDAL PLAYER OF THE ROUND: Matt Alexander

Matt Alexander “the great” achieved the club’s best ever limited overs bowling figures of 7/38, but it was not enough to secure victory as the team went down by one run. Max Papworth, making his First Grade debut for the club and receiving cap no. 667, made a strong contribution with three catches behind the stumps. At 5/190 with eight overs remaining in Bankstown’s first innings, Alexander took 4 wickets in 10 balls and Bankstown were all out for 227. Ben Bryant (30) and Tom Jagot (42) put on 66 for the first wicket. Captain Justin Avendano top-scored with 60, but when he was out the Bears needed 54 runs off 38 balls. Papworth (15) and James Campbell (27*) combined to put on a quickfire 41 runs off 28 balls, leaving nine runs to win off the final over, nine wickets down. With four runs required off the final ball, Will Graham was run out attempting a third run, leaving the team one short of Bankstown’s score.

Round 2 v Hawkesbury @ North Sydney Oval

Won outright by 10 wickets 259 & 0/34 v 140 & 149

ACCESS RnD BRADMAN MEDAL PLAYERS OF THE ROUND: Jack James and James Campbell

Matt Alexander backed up his 7-fa from the previous week with 4/28 and Robbie Aitken had 2/0 as the Bears used the favourable conditions to roll Hawkesbury for 140 on Day 1. 19-year-old Jack James (Cap no. 668) debuted for the club in First Grade and made the most of his opportunity reaching 71* and combining with 18-year-old Tim Reynolds (49*) to steer the team past the opposition score off the last ball of the day. On Day two, Reynolds went on to make 92, his highest First Grade score, as the Bears were all out 226. In the Hawks second dig James Campbell took 5/40, with the Bears bowling the Hawks out late in the day for 149. Jack James and Tom Jagot scored the 31 runs required to give North Sydney their first outright victory since 2011.

Round 3 v Mosman @ Alan Border Oval

Lost by 1 wicket 5/385 v 9/389

ACCESS RnD BRADMAN MEDAL PLAYERS OF THE ROUND: Ben Bryant and Matt Alexander

A flat Allan Border Oval track saw the bat dominate on day 1. After seeing off a fiery opening spell from Greg West, openers Jack James and Ben Bryant compiled a 193-run opening stand – believed to be the best opening stand for North Sydney since at least 2009. James fell for 91, but Bryant (101 off 207 balls with 12x4) pushed on to reach triple figures for the first time in his First Grade career. Justin Avendano (81) and Tom Jagot (61) also cashed in, scoring fifties in a total of 5/385. In the process, Jagot went passed 2,500 First Grade runs for North Sydney. 19-year-old English import George Lavelle (cap no. 671) also made his First Grade debut in this game. On Day two, the Bears started well reducing Mosman to 2/24, but a 180-run stand between Hinton and Adlam moved the Whales to 4/262 and within reach of our big score. Excellent bowling from James Campbell (3/90) and Matt Alexander (5/75) kept the Bears in the hunt with Mosman at 7/319. However, Mosman passed our score nine wickets down and we were left to rue some missed chances in the field.

Round 4 v Sydney University @ University Oval
Won outright by 8 wickets 7/163 & 2/148 v 111 & 196
ACCESS RnD BRADMAN MEDAL PLAYER OF THE ROUND: James Campbell

Tom Jagot took the captaincy reins for this clash. The Bears were asked to field first and had early success with the pitch offering plenty of sideways movement. James Campbell 3/26 was the main destroyer, but all the quicks grabbed a wicket to have the Students wobbling at 6/73. The Aitken brothers then cleaned up the tail – Robbie taking 1/9 and James, in his 250th First Grade game for the club, claiming 3/6 from 6.3 overs to dismiss Uni for 111 after 51 overs. Loss of early wickets saw the Bears slump to 3/54. Robbie Aitken hit an aggressive 44 runs and in doing so became just the third player in Sydney First Grade history to both take 500 wickets and score 11,000 runs, a remarkable achievement. With 163 on the board and the fall of the 7th wicket Jagot declared and had a dip at the Uni openers who remained 0/6. On Day two the Bears dismissed the Students for 196. Alexander was the pick of the bowlers with 4/49 and George Lavelle took 5 catches for the match. Alexander and Jack James both took screamers in the field to cap off a clinical display. Ben Bryant (44 off 98) and Justin Avendano, (78 off 83), who was back for the second day, made short work of the chase putting together an unbeaten 131 run 3rd wicket partnership. Avendano hit six to ice the game and give UTS North Sydney victory outright for the second time in the season – a feat made all the more extraordinary by it being our first top-grade victory over Sydney Uni since 2011.

Round 5 v Sydney @ North Sydney Oval
Lost by 6 wickets 215 v 4/216
ACCESS RnD BRADMAN MEDAL PLAYERS OF THE ROUND: Ben Bryant and Jack James

After the fall of two early wickets, Ben Bryant combined with Jack James for a 102-run partnership from 122 balls. Both players reached fifty, Bryant scoring 59 from 70 and James 58 from 71, his third 50+ score in just four First Grade matches. Once Bryant and James were dismissed, three quick wickets to Ben Manenti saw the Bears slump to 8/180 with only Robbie Aitken (26*) offering resistance. There was a contribution from the tail but 215 all out was going to be tough to defend. Sydney cruised to victory in the 41st over with 18-year-old Mac Jenkins returning the best figures of 2/38 from 10. Jenkins also snared two catches in his first game of longer-form First Grade cricket for the club. James capped off a strong game, taking his maiden First Grade wicket with figures of 1/12 off 4 overs.

Round 6 v Western Suburbs @ North Sydney Oval
Won by 5 wickets 5/237 v 9/236
ACCESS RnD BRADMAN MEDAL PLAYER OF THE ROUND: Justin Avendano

In a highly competitive game, it was the Bears who emerged victorious after Wests posted an under par 236 after their 50 overs. Will Graham was the pick of the bowlers taking two early wickets to finish with 3/43. He was ably supported by Robbie Aitken, who claimed 3/55 from his 10 overs, including two caught and bowled. After losing Tom Jagot in the first over, Ben Bryant combined with Justin Avendano for a 111 stand, with the hundred coming from 128 balls, to place Norths in a strong position. With the pitch starting to hold up, a mini collapse put Wests back in it at 5/143. New batsman George Lavelle rectified the situation, but in a twist, the rain suspended play with Avendano 95* and the Bears marginally ahead on Duckworth-Lewis. After the rain interruption we required 51 from 50 balls. In his finest First Grade knock since joining the club, Lavelle scored 42 off 52, but it was Avendano who secured victory with an outstanding hundred (126* off 126 balls).

Round 7 v Parramatta @ Old Kings Oval

Won by 6 wickets 4/299 v 296

ACCESS RnD BRADMAN MEDAL PLAYER OF THE ROUND: Jack James

A great start saw the Bears have Parramatta 2/3 and then 3/49 after 23 overs with two wickets to James Campbell (3/66) and one to Matt Alexander. After lunch, Olly Knight (2/45) took a wicket and a great catch to reduce Parramatta to 5/74. Some lusty hitting from Luke Dempsey moved Parramatta to 147. A further 70-run partnership took Parramatta to 7/250 and, despite us taking the second new ball, Parramatta remained 9/291 with opener Tim Ward bringing up his hundred late in the day. Day two was memorable for the thick haze of smoke from Sydney bushfires and a maiden First Grade ton for youngster Jack James. Matt Alexander 3/49 cleaned up the final wicket, maintaining his lead in the First Grade bowling aggregate, allowing James and Ben Bryant to get on with the job of scoring the 297 runs required. The pair completed their third hundred-run stand of the season before Bryant was given out LBW for 43 with the score on 119. With James moving into the nineties, Justin Avendano quickly racked up his fourth fifty of the season. James and Avendano took the score to 269 with James falling for 125 (13 x 4, 1x6) in a 150-run partnership for the second wicket. Avendano remained 95 not out as the Bears reached the winning score. Avendano had a batting aggregate off 444 @ 111 after seven rounds and moved to the top of the First Grade run ladder with James sitting in fifth.

Round 8 v Fairfield-Liverpool @ Rosedale Oval

Won by 40 runs 325 v 285

ACCESS RnD BRADMAN MEDAL PLAYERS OF THE ROUND: Tom Jagot and George Lavelle

Skipper Tom Jagot had a day to remember, bringing up his 3,000th First Grade run and his first ton of the season to guide the Bears to a competitive total. An early dismissal brought Jagot to the crease. He batted with several partners as wickets fell regularly, bringing up his fifty off fifty balls. Tim Reynolds was the first batsman to hang around with Jagot, scoring 41 in an 87-run stand. It was Tom's sixth First Grade hundred for North Sydney. Jagot then combined with Olly Knight (38) for an 81-run partnership, and in the process went past 150. He was finally dismissed for 156 from 208 balls (15 x 4), his highest First Grade score. With the aid of the tail the team reached 325 all out. Despite the heat and smoke haze, the lads made a terrific start on day two, thanks to the ever-reliable James Campbell (3/47) taking early wickets. Campbell sat third in the bowling aggregate for Premier Cricket at the halfway point with 21 scalps. The bowling and fielding were top class with only 76 runs scored from the first 25 overs. By lunch, the Lions had clawed their way to 4/205. Shortly after the lunch, play was interrupted for an air quality break. Upon the resumption – three hours later at 5:30pm - Fairfield needed 98 runs from 31 overs. The long break gave the tired Bears outfit some energy as the Lions crept to within 80 runs of victory. However, when Campbell took the key wicket of Luke Ohryonowsky (75), it was the catalyst for a miraculous win as wickets fell regularly. Matt Alexander (2/65) and Jack James (1/10) reduced Fairfield to 7/158, with both batsmen caught behind the stumps by George Lavelle. The introduction of the new ball allowed Graham (2/55), Campbell and Alexander to finish the job in fading light. Lavelle finished with a seven-wicket haul, the most by any keeper in the competition this season. George also entered the record books for the number of dismissals by a North Sydney wicketkeeper, equalling the record set by Nigel Taylor in the 1996-97 season. The win elevated UTS North Sydney to second on the NSW Premier Cricket table at the Christmas break.

Round 9 v Penrith @ North Sydney Oval
Lost by 9 wickets 291 v 2/346
ACCESS RnD BRADMAN MEDAL PLAYER OF THE ROUND: Ben Bryant

Last year's Premiers, Penrith, took full toll of a very flat North Sydney pitch. Opener and NSW Blues contracted player Ryan Gibson (188) put on a masterclass, hitting the ball hard into gaps with precision. He was well supported by fellow rookie contracted player Ryan Hackney (131*), who punched singles to give his partner the strike. It took 41 overs for a mistake, as Gibson hit a ball high into the outfield off Mac Jenkins (1/41). Ben Bryant came in off the rope and, with the ball holding up, took a brilliant catch diving forward to grab the ball low down. Matt Alexander (1/79) took the only other wicket, with Penrith closing at 2/346 from their 50 overs. The run chase got off to a positive start with openers Ben Bryant (86) and Tom Jagot (37) reaching 75 after 14 overs. A quickfire 73-run partnership between Bryant and Tim Reynolds (38) moved the score to 2/177 in the 31st over. However, with 170 runs required from 19 overs, wickets started falling as the Bears slumped to 7/267. George Lavelle (55*) batted well with the lower order, bringing up his fifty with a six. However, he ran out of partners and the Bears were all out for 291.

Round 10 v Manly-Warringah @ Manly Oval
Lost by 4 runs 8/170 v 8/174
ACCESS RnD BRADMAN MEDAL PLAYER OF THE ROUND: Tim Reynolds

Rain was forecast all day, but surprisingly we managed to get a 28 overs per side game against local rivals Manly. Manly got off to a flyer reaching 2/53 from the first 8 overs, with former Tah, Matt Alexander (3/42), claiming the wickets of both openers. Olly Knight (2/26) took the next two wickets with a sharp caught and bowled and a bowled as Manly advanced the score to 4/108 by the end of the 16th over. Opening bowler Will Graham (2/43) was rewarded in his second spell with two scalps. A run-a ball-stand by the tailenders saw Manly finish at 8/174, leaving the Bears to chase 175 for victory.

NSW contracted bowler Ryan Hadley and his opening partner, Michael Visser, bowled with pace and in good areas to reduce UTS North Sydney to 2/8 after three overs. New batsmen, Jack James (40) and Tim Reynolds (74), survived some tough overs while chipping away at the total. Reynolds cleared the fence on four occasions as the pair pushed the score to 2/129, a partnership of 121 runs from 124 balls. When Reynolds holed out, attempting consecutive sixes from the last ball of the 22nd over, it triggered a mini collapse including two run-outs. At 5/136, we required 39 from 24 balls. George Lavelle played a nice cameo scoring 26 runs from just 13 deliveries, giving the red and black team a chance and taking the game into the final over. Hadley came back on to bowl the last with 11 required for victory and two wickets in the sheds. Tight bowling and clever field placements meant that only byes and singles were achieved from the first five deliveries with Lavelle needing a maximum to seal the win from the last ball. Lavelle aimed for cow corner but could not dig the yorker out, leaving the Bears short by 4 runs.

Round 11 v St George @ North Sydney Oval
Won by 72 runs 5/192 v 120 & 5/199
ACCESS RnD BRADMAN MEDAL PLAYER OF THE ROUND: Justin Avendano

The Bears faced St George in the Australia Day weekend clash and were strengthened with the return of captain Justin Avendano from Sydney Sixers duty. NSW bowler Trent Copeland was named for the opposition. It was a special

day for club legend Robbie Aitken who was named for his 472nd First Grade appearance, equalling the NSW Premier Cricket record held by Ken Hall.

In overcast conditions, James Campbell (4/25) turned in another stellar performance with the ball, claiming two early wickets to have St George on the back foot at 2/7. Olly Knight (3/24) had the ball singing in his first spell returning figures of 3/9, with the Saints crashing to 5/38. Campbell came back for his second spell to take two further wickets with St George in deep trouble at 7/82. Milestone man Robbie Aitken combined with Matt Alexander (1/34) to remove the tail. Aitken returned figures of 2/2 including his 600th career First Grade wicket, sealed by Tim Reynolds taking a sensational one-handed grab. St George were all out for 120 in 39.1 overs. In the Bears' reply, Copeland (3/36) bowled 15 overs straight, taking out openers Ben Bryant and Jack James. New batsmen Justin Avendano and Tom Jagot (29) took a positive approach as Copeland came to the end of his spell, putting together a 54-run partnership to advance the score to 3/91. Avendano then combined with Tim Reynolds (38) for an 88-run stand to pass the St George score. Avendano hit 15 boundaries, reaching 89 runs off 115 balls before being caught with the score at 179. UTS North Sydney declared at 5/192, with a first innings lead of 72. The bowlers toiled hard in search of an outright win, but with 57 overs completed in the day and St George 5/199 – a lead of 127 runs - the captains decided to call it a day at tea on day two.

Round 12 v University of NSW @ David Phillips Oval

Drawn DNB v 8/314

ACCESS RnD BRADMAN MEDAL PLAYER OF THE ROUND: James Campbell

At the start of proceedings Robbie Aitken, in his 473rd appearance, was recognised with a special presentation for breaking the record for number of First Grade games. On an oppressively hot day, the Bears chose to field and, although the bowlers kept it tight, UNSW reached 2/122. The Bees continued to 3/169 in the 62nd over, after Jack James (2/77) claimed his second wicket. James got through a mountain of work, bowling 25 overs with 6 maidens by the day's end. James Campbell (4/38), however, was the pick of the bowlers, claiming the fourth dismissal in his fourth spell. When Matt Alexander (2/72) chipped in with a wicket, UNSW had reached 5/186 after 71 overs. In the final eight overs the opposition piled on another 60 runs and, had it not been for two late wickets to Campbell, the Bears may have been batted out of the game. The Bees finished on 8/314 and, with no play possible on day two due to rain, the game was called a draw.

Round 13 v Sutherland @ Glenn McGrath Oval

Lost by 5 wickets 228 v 5/233

ACCESS RnD BRADMAN MEDAL PLAYER OF THE ROUND: Jack James

An injury to Ben Bryant in the warm-up forced a quick reshuffle that saw wicketkeeper George Lavelle partner Jack James at the top of the order and Ray Alexander receiving a last-minute call up for his First Grade debut after some excellent form in the lower grades. Lavelle (39) and James (54) batted patiently against Tom Pinson (ACT/NSW Country 2nd XI) and Dan Fallins (NSW) to see the Bears through to lunch at 0/61. The partnership was broken at 86 with Lavelle falling for 39. Justin Avendano hit a quickfire 15, but the loss of his wicket triggered a collapse with the Bears losing 4 for 7 from 22 balls. James reached fifty for the fourth time this season, but his innings was cut short after being adjudged LBW. The Bears slumped to 5/113, bringing brought debutant Ray Alexander to the crease. After being dropped on nought, Alexander put together handy partnerships with Robbie Aitken (18) and Olly Knight (22) to move the score to 7/183. Ray reached 49 before falling one run shy of a maiden First Grade fifty and the Bears all out 228. An exciting 6 overs saw Will Graham knock over one opener from the last ball of

the day to have Sutherland 1/9. On Day two, a wicket to Olly Knight left Sutherland 2/37 by the end of the eighth over of the day. Jack James took the third wicket and Sutherland were 3/80. The game started to drift away in the afternoon despite Will Graham (2/20) and Olly Knight (2/31) picking up wickets. The Sharks passed our total five wickets down.

Round 14 v Eastern Suburbs @ North Sydney Oval

Drawn 9/264 v 284

ACCESS RnD BRADMAN MEDAL PLAYER OF THE ROUND: James Aitken

Prior to the start of play, club stalwart James Aitken was acknowledged on his 300th First Grade career game. New ball pair James Campbell (1/61) and Matt Alexander (2/49) bowled a fiery first spell, placing plenty of pressure on the openers, with Campbell the beneficiary and Alexander taking the catch on the square leg boundary to have Easts 1/9 early. Olly Knight (1/36) dismissed the dangerous Angus Robson in his second over to reduce the Dolphins to 2/22 after 14. James Aitken (4/81) came on in the 19th over, claiming the first of his four in the 21st over. At lunch, Easts were 4/67. A 75-run partnership was broken when Jack James caught Tim Armstrong jogging a second run and pounced with a direct hit run-out. Alexander and then James (1/37) took quick wickets to have Easts 7/188. James Aitken did the rest, bowling 23.1 overs 4 maidens 4/81 and Easts were all out 284. Jack James (5*) and George Lavelle (3*) survived to five overs to be 0/8.

On Day two, George (who travelled home for Lancashire pre-season commitments) was replaced by Max Papworth, who was thrown straight into the action facing the new ball. Jack and Max (22) put together a partnership of 51 runs for the first wicket. Justin Avendano joined James to progress the score to 83. Tom Jagot (36) then combined with James for the best partnership of the day to have the Bears half-way to the target at 2/142. However, the loss of three quick wickets before tea saw us fall to 5/162, and after tea Jack departed for 61. When Robbie Aitken fell shortly after, the Bears had slumped to 7/169 with 116 runs required from the remaining 31 overs. Olly Knight (who made a mature 55) and James Aitken (18) knocked off 54 of the runs with Knight hitting two huge sixes, one over the Bill O'Reilly Stand. Matt Alexander (18) then partnered Knight to take the score to 254 before Knight fell and Easts scented victory. However, with six overs remaining, Alexander and James Campbell held off the Dolphins to gain one valuable point for the draw.

Round 15 v Blacktown @ North Sydney Oval

Drawn DNB v 231

ACCESS RnD BRADMAN MEDAL PLAYER OF THE ROUND: Mac Jenkins

Despite the intervention of persistent rain that eventually led to the game being abandoned, the UTS North Sydney First Grade side secured a draw and a place in the 2020 NSW Premier Cricket finals for a second successive year. Blacktown got off to a fast start before moving to 2/91 and then 3/110 with wickets to Matt Alexander, James Campbell (2/33) and Olly Knight (2/74). Mac Jenkins claimed the fourth wicket at 4/176. Robbie Aitken took the fifth Blacktown wicket and Campbell picked up his second pole to have the Mounties 6/207. Campbell then took a spectacular diving catch at long on off Olly Knight to expose the tail. Left-arm spinner Jenkins (4/35) then ripped through numbers 8, 10 and 11 in quick time to achieve his best figures of the season. Blacktown were dismissed for 231 in the 45th over. Unfortunately, what looked like a relatively straightforward chase did not eventuate.

First Grade Statistics – One and Two-Day Cricket

Batting

	Matches	Innings	Aggregate	NOs	50s	100s	HS	Average	C/S
James, Jack	14	14	576	1	5	1	125	44.31	6
Avendano, Justin	12	10	568	3	5	1	126*	81.14	4
Bryant, Benjamin	12	12	449	1	2	1	101	40.82	4
Jagot, Thomas	15	14	427	1	1	1	156	32.85	6
Reynolds, Tim	14	12	375	1	2	0	92	34.09	2
Knight, Oliver	14	12	211	2	1	0	55	21.10	5
Lavelle, George	12	10	200	6	1	0	55*	50.00	26/5
Aitken, Robert	15	10	153	1	0	0	44	17.00	3
Alexander, Matthew	15	9	90	1	0	0	33	11.25	5
Campbell, James	14	8	67	4	0	0	27*	16.75	5
Alexander, Raymond	2	2	51	0	0	0	49	25.50	0
Papworth, Max	4	3	47	0	0	0	22	15.67	9
Jenkins, Mac	7	4	30	0	0	0	17	7.50	4
Aitken, James	4	2	24	0	0	0	18	12.00	1
Graham, William	12	6	16	2	0	0	7	4.00	5

Bowling

	Matches	Overs	Wickets	Runs Conceded	5WI	10WM	BBI	Average
Alexander, Matthew	15	243	40	873	2	0	7/38	21.83
Campbell, James	14	231	32	770	1	0	5/40	24.06
Graham, William	12	125	19	526	0	0	3/43	27.68
Knight, Oliver	14	149.5	17	586	0	0	3/24	34.47
Aitken, Robert	15	128.1	15	539	0	0	3/55	35.93
Jenkins, Mac	7	69.1	9	272	0	0	4/35	30.22
Aitken, James	4	47.4	8	156	0	0	4/81	19.50
James, Jack	14	87	6	264	0	0	2/77	44.00
Avendano, Justin	12	14	2	67	0	0	2/30	33.50

First Grade – T20 Round by Round Summary

Round 1 v Sydney @ Drummoyne Oval Lost by 7 wickets 8/121 v 3/124

Norths started well with a 40-run opening stand in four overs between Justin Avendano (19) and Tom Jagot, who top scored with 49. Daniel Leerdam (20) also made a strong contribution, putting on 43 for the third wicket with Jagot. Once Leerdam was caught behind, wickets fell regularly, and a moderate total of 8/121 was achieved. There was an early wicket to Mac Jenkins (1/17 off 3), but former BBL player Dan Smith upped the ante, belting 47 from 28, with five sixes, including four sixes in Matt Alexander's first over (one into his own car!). Robbie Aitken (1/25) eventually knocked Smith over. Olly Knight (1/20 off 2) also chipped in for a wicket with Jenkins taking a fantastic catch. Sydney passed our score three down in the 15th over.

Round 2 v BYE

Round 3 v Sutherland @ Glenn McGrath Oval Won by 4 runs 7/143 v 8/139

After Justin Avendano won the toss and fell early, Tom Jagot (43) and Tim Reynolds (15) set a solid platform. After nine overs the score was 1/47, and this quickly became 3/57 off 11. Enter Olly Knight, who started as he meant to go on by hitting his third ball for six over the bowler's head. He and Jagot added 37 off just 18 balls before Jagot was caught on the fence, but the mantle was picked up by George Lavelle who made a run-a-ball 15. Knight was dismissed in the 16th over for 35 off just 16 balls with three sixes and two fours (and only two dots!), and UTS North Sydney ended on 7/143. In reply, the Sharks looked comfortable at 1/66 in the ninth, the one wicket being a sharp stumping by George Lavelle off the left-arm spin of Mac Jenkins (2/20). Will Graham made the breakthrough, removing Jarryd Biviano (24) and Tom Doyle (33) who'd compiled a half-century stand. Knight followed up his runs with 3/31 to keep the pressure on and leave Sutherland 7/135 with one over to go. Ten were required to win off the final over but only five were made, as Matt Alexander bowled Dan Fallins for 21 and held his nerve to restrict the Sharks to singles off the remaining balls to see the Bears home runs against the defending champions.

Round 4 v Manly @ North Sydney Oval Lost by 39 runs 9/138 v 8/177

In the first match of the double header, the Bears decided to field first against a star-studded Manly side. Jack Edwards made an extraordinary start scoring 23 runs off the first 6 balls, before being brilliantly caught by George Lavelle who ran and dived to take a skier off a relieved James Campbell. The introduction of Matt Alexander (8 runs off 2 overs) and a wicket to Mac Jenkins, who removed the dangerous Jay Lenton, gave the Bears some brief respite. However, Sydney Thunder's Chris Green showed his class in compiling 65 off 45 balls to guide the Tahs to a commanding 8/177. The innings provided several contenders for "moment of the day", including wonderful catches by Lavelle, Matt Alexander and Jack James, and Married at First Sight's Cameron Merchant walking out to bat to "Here Comes the Bride", but amongst all this was James Campbell, whose second dismissal was his 200th First Grade wicket, putting him in an elite club. In reply the Bears lost four wickets in the first three overs to be reeling at 4/20. Jake Hardy and Olly Knight started to rebuild, with Knight hitting 42 off 29 balls before being caught on the boundary with the score 7/80 in the 13th over. UTS North Sydney finished 9/138 following cameos from Robbie Aitken (22 off 23) and Matt Alexander (21* off 20).

Round 5 v St George @ North Sydney Oval
Lost by 8 wickets (DLS) 8/102 v 2/106

Young spinner Ben Knox was presented with cap number 672 upon making his First Grade debut for the club in the second game of the home double header. As in the morning match, UTS North Sydney lost early wickets and were 4/44 when Tom Jagot fell for a well-made 34 off 24 balls. Robbie Aitken headed up the recovery and steered the Bears to 5/76 in the 12th over before heavy rain halted play for 85 minutes. The match was reduced to 14 overs per side, so the Bears came out to face 16 more balls. Aitken (23 off 17) and Matt Alexander (15 off just 5) ensured 26 runs were score off these to take the total to 7/102. To reflect the curtailment, the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method provided St George with a slightly revised target of 106, but unfortunately St George made short work of this, winning by eight wickets in the 12th over. On debut, Ben Knox was the pick of the bowlers, conceding just 20 runs in his three overs.

Rounds 6 & 7 v BYE

Round 8 v Randwick Petersham @ North Sydney Oval
Lost by 52 runs 3/166 v 4/218

Randwick Petersham won the toss and elected to bat with their powerful batting line up taking full toll of our bowlers. Only Robbie Aitken (2/24) managed to go at less than ten runs an over as the batsmen, including England Lions representative Daniel Bell-Drummond, plundered nine sixes and 22 fours in a total of 4/218. Mac Jenkins (1/49) and Matt Alexander (1/44) were the other wicket-takers. Our batsman gave it a red hot go, but as the overs passed the run rate continued to climb. Tom Jagot 89* off 62 was a stand-out with 11 fours and a six. Daniel Leerdam (21 off 14) also made a strong contribution. Olly Knight (43 off 33), who hit four sixes, kept the crowd entertained and gave the Bears a sniff. Knight hit two of the biggest sixes in recent memory, with the first rebounding off the large fig tree and onto the road and the second hitting the top of the O'Reilly Stand. In the end, UTS North Sydney finished at 3/166, well short of Randy Petes' massive score.

Round 9 v Eastern Suburbs @ Waverley Oval
Won by 58 runs 3/225 v 163

The Bears were asked to bat first on a placid looking Waverley Oval deck. Skipper Justin Avendano and vice-captain Tom Jagot started with aplomb, putting on a century stand. Soon after being hit on the hand, Avendano obtained revenge, hitting an enormous bomb clean over the grandstand at. Many Easts old timers claimed it was a new record for the largest six hit at the Waverley ground. Justin's departure for 61 off 33 brought Olly Knight to the crease, who opened his account with a six and then followed up with nine more in his extraordinary innings of 82 off just 32 balls. Jagot anchored the innings beautifully, carrying his bat for the second week in succession with 69* off 51. A final score of 3/225 was surely a Bears record in the competition. Easts' chase started with a bang with Tim Armstrong in imperious touch until he was undone by a direct hit run-out, by Matt Alexander. Armstrong made 60 off 21 balls. Matt then removed Robson in the same over as the game swung back to Norths. Wickets fell regularly from then on, highlighted by a brilliant outfield catch from Will Graham off Olly Knight to remove the set batsman Jamie Smith, and a superb spell of bowling from the ageless Rob Aitken who took 4/11 off 4! The Bears ran out comprehensive winners by 62 runs.

First Grade Statistics – T20 Cricket

Batting

	Matches	Innings	Aggregate	NO	50s	100s	HS	Average	C/S
Jagot, Thomas	6	6	288	2	2	0	89	72.00	0
Knight, Oliver	6	6	214	0	1	0	82	35.67	4
Avendano, Justin	4	4	93	0	1	0	61	23.25	0
Aitken, Robert	6	4	57	2	0	0	23	28.50	1
Leerdam, Daniel	5	5	52	0	0	0	21	10.40	2
Alexander, Matthew	6	4	42	2	0	0	21	21.00	2
Lavelle, George	5	3	24	0	0	0	15	8.00	3/2
Reynolds, Tim	5	5	19	1	0	0	15	4.75	1
Hardy, Jake	3	3	16	0	0	0	15	5.33	1
Campbell, James	2	2	10	2	0	0	9		0
Papworth, Max	1	1	10	0	0	0	10	10.00	0
Jenkins, Mac	6	3	8	2	0	0	6	8.00	4
James, Jack	4	2	6	0	0	0	6	3.00	2
Bryant, Benjamin	1	1	5	1	0	0	5		0
Van Kemenade, Ryan	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	2.00	0

Bowling

	Matches	Overs	Wickets	Runs Conceded	2WI	BBI	Average	Econ
Aitken, Robert	6	22	8	144	2	4/11	18.00	6.55
Alexander, Matthew	6	20.2	8	185	2	3/27	23.13	9.10
Knight, Oliver	6	18	6	159	1	3/31	26.50	8.83
Jenkins, Mac	6	19.4	6	163	1	2/20	27.17	8.29
Campbell, James	2	5	3	51	1	3/43	17.00	10.20
Graham, William	4	14	3	149	1	2/31	49.67	10.64
Shaikh, Ali	2	2	0	27	0	0/27		13.50
Knox, Benjamin	2	5	0	39	0	0/19		7.80

Second Grade Report

Glenn Aitken



Season Summary

The UTS North Sydney District Cricket Club Second XI had a strong season. Finishing in eighth position on 49 points, only one win out of the top 6. The season consisted of 15 matches, resulting in five losses, six first innings wins, three draws and a fantastic outright victory. There is a lot to be proud of for all players. The season was my most enjoyable in recent years. This is due to the quality and great humour of the players and their professional approach to their cricket. This season, there was unusual weather and too many days of rain and covers. However, there were also plenty of tough contests against strong oppositions, many hard fought close wins and some of the most enjoyable games of cricket to be played. All players approached this season with an attitude of intensity, competition and support of each other. The team spirit lifted all players and they faced every challenge with a winning, never give up mindset. I am very proud of all the players this season and with everyone's achievements. I am looking forward to next season.

- Highest team score of 9/378 against UNSW
- Glenn Aitken finishing 4th in the Second Grade competition Batting Aggregates with 501 runs with an average 35.79
- Ray Alexander finishing 9th in the Second Grade competition Batting Aggregates with 454 runs with an average of 50.44, despite only having 10 innings
- James Aitken finishing 3rd in the Second Grade competition bowling aggregates with 33 wickets and a bowling average of 12.45
- Niranjan Naguleswaran finishing 9th in the Second Grade competition bowling aggregates with 27 wickets and an average of 22
- Sam Alexander finishing with 20 wickets and an average of 26.40

Additional performances included:

- Harrison May taking a remarkable 11 wickets in a match upon his return to the grade against Sutherland

Second Grade centuries

- 117 - Ray Alexander vs Parramatta

Five wicket hauls for our bowling unit

- 6/59 and 5/58 - Harrison May vs Sutherland
- 5/39 - Niranjan Naguleswaran vs Fairfield

Twenty three players represented the club in Second Grade during the season. The side consisted mainly of young players combined with a core of experience. The perfect combination of a Second Grade side. At full strength it was one of the strongest Second Grade sides that I have been part of.

This season saw the unearthing of a lot of amazing talent that will no doubt go on to player higher grades and hopefully more. Excellent young players showed a lot of potential this season including, Cameron New, James Leary, Broc and Jake Hardy, Nuwyan White and both Fletcher and Harrison May.

Special mention has to be made of Harrison “the big horse” May, he exploded onto the Second Grade scene with an amazing 11 wicket haul. He finished with 17 wickets in Second Grade from only a few games. Looking forward to a lot more from the fiery quick.

Voting was held at the end of every match by the players to decide the player of the Year for Second Grade. It was an extremely close contest between two of the most experienced players in the side, Niranjana Naguleswaran and James Aitken. Both players led with their ever reliable performances and turned in exceptional efforts to win games from difficult positions with both the bat and ball. These players could not be split, and so the joint player of the season for Second Grade 2019/2020 is James Aitken and Niranjana Naguleswaran.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone involved with Second Grade this season. Firstly, to the management committee and selectors for giving me the opportunity to lead this Second Grade side, it was an honour.

Thank you for all the support that goes on behind the scenes to get the team on the park every week. Thanks to Pat Lindsay for every little thing that you have done this year, thank you to Luke Smith, Ash Perrot and Ray Beattie for your weekly support and help at the ground and assistance with the warm ups. Thanks also must be extended to our 12th woman and beloved scorer Gemma Ashdown for her tireless work on the book. Jeff Vilensky also for his assistance at the end of the year. Finally, thanks to all the supporters, family and friends.

I look forward to next season and it is essential that Second Grade builds on this season’s success.

Personal pars

James Aitken

James is a true cricketing professional, who excels with both bat and ball. He seems to get better every season. He was unfortunate to not play more First

Grade cricket this season on the back of his stellar results. James formed the backbone of the Second Grade bowling attack, taking 33 wickets at a miserly average of 12.45. His precision and skill with the ball dominated the batsman and controlled every game. James has a habit of shattering the stumps of top order batsmen who are set. Every time he bowled he would change the game, with a momentum shift or by taking a series of wickets! This is evidenced by the fact he took 4 wickets in an innings on 4 occasions. James was an important feature of the batting middle order. His experience, skill and disciplined attitude to cricket ensured a successful season for Second Grade. He is a great role model for younger players and is one of the club’s true doyens.



Ray Alexander

Ray Alexander had an exceptional season this year. He is a top order batsman, who bowls more than handy medium pace seam. He was the standout batsman of the year. He just kept churning out the runs, often in very difficult game situations. It was always a pleasure to watch, his calm attitude saw him “just keep batting”. He was very deserving of his promotion to the top grade. Ray capitalised on the promise that he had shown in previous seasons and demonstrated the significant skill he has as a batsman. He scored 454 runs at an average of 50.44. He scored runs in all circumstances and was crucial in winning many matches. His 117 against Parramatta was a tutorial in batting. However, the most memorable innings was against Sydney, where he showed maturity and skill and completed his

masterclass with a six down the ground to capture a memorable win.

Broc Hardy

Broc is a natural talent in all aspects of cricket and a fine young man. He demonstrated his class as a top order batsman, but is also a fine bowler and amazing fielder. He has grown in confidence this year. Broc looks extremely comfortable at this level. He scored 316 runs with a highest score of 71. Whenever, Broc strides to the crease he looks comfortable. He has the all shots and made many bowlers look pedestrian with his fluent strokes. However, he needs to ensure that he capitalises on his ability and his many 'starts'. Broc is the best fielder in the club and possibly grade cricket, he covers the field with impressive athleticism. He is always willing to work hard and do anything for the team, an admirable quality. He will undoubtedly go on to play higher levels of cricket and will form a crucial part of the future of the club.

Jake Hardy

Jake is a talented player who is blossoming into a formidable cricketer with a good cricket brain. He scored 249 runs and averaged 22.64. This is not a reflection of his ability or his season. He finished the year very strong with excellent form in Second Grade. He is versatile with the bat, being able to aggressively crunch his shots and combine that smart placement and running between the wickets. Jake is patient and determined. His highest score of 68 against UNSW, highlighted all his flair and skill. Jake is also a quality fielder who has a safe pair of hands. He was acknowledged for his efforts and skills with a well deserved promotion to First Grade, where he formed part of the 20/20 squad. I look forward to seeing bigger and better things next season.

Niranjan Naguleswaran

Niranjan is an excellent all-round cricketer who had an exceptional season this year. His aggressive batting and off-spin bowling were a vital ingredient in the team's success. He seems to get better with experience. He was a reliable member of the Second Grade bowling unit, with meticulous accuracy and

control. He took 27 wickets at an average of 22. His season best figures were 5/39 off 22 overs against Fairfield Liverpool. Niranjan's batting was also very impressive this season with some memorable and match winning innings. He scored 285 runs at an average of 23.75. His dogged half century against Penrith enabled us to win the game! He is an all-round professional with a strong work ethic. His attitude and presence make him a great role model for the younger players. He always puts the team before his own personal achievement. A true 'doyen' of the club.

Cameron New

Cameron is a talented opening batsmen with a classic technique, who is extremely strong straight down the ground. It is always great to watch him present the full face against deliveries. He is a terrific team player and is willing to support his mates and work hard through the tough times. Cameron has good leadership qualities. He is an exceptional fielder and is versatile in close to the batsman and patrolling the outfield. He has one of the most powerful arms in the club! Cameron showed an enormous amount of potential this season and demonstrated that he was more than capable at this level. He needs to capitalise on his many 'starts' and go on to score larger totals. He is encouraged to maintain his strong work ethic and commitment to his batting. I look forward to seeing his game continue to develop next season and for him to consolidate his position in Second Grade and go on to higher honours.

Max Papworth

Max was a tremendous acquisition for the club and a crucial component of the Second Grade team this season. He is an excellent cricketer and even better young man. His experience and contribution to the side was immeasurable. As leader of the slips cordon, his banter and humour is first class, but his more important contribution was his strategic advice, leadership, encouragement and management of fields. Max is a talented top order batsman who contributed many valuable innings. He scored 212 runs at an average of 21.20. His highest score of the season was his 73 against Mosman. He is a fine wicket

keeper, with excellent glove and footwork behind the stumps. His season was unfortunately hampered by injury, but despite this he showed his class by returning as a batsman and enduring the pain. Max is a class cricketer with a lot of talent, who I enjoyed playing cricket with and I look forward to following his future success.

Ali Shaikh

Ali is a fine young man and somewhat of a cricket enigma, who has extraordinary talent with both batting and bowling! This was a challenging season for Ali for his bowling. From his 11 matches he took 11 wickets at an average of 52.09. This was due to a number of factors including bad luck. His bowling can lack accuracy at times, but he is a wicket taker. He needs to trust his ability and skill and persevere despite results or obstacles. He needs to focus on executing his skills more consistently, and this will require a more dedicated approach to his training. This season was a positive for Ali in regards to his batting. He was given the opportunity to showcase his skill and he did so on many occasions. Ali's many innings proved vital in posting competitive totals and he formed a few match winning partnerships, including our victory over Sydney. He had 8 innings in Second Grade and scored 177 runs at an average of 45.25. He posted three scores over 40 as well. These are figures that any top order batsman would be proud to have. I hope that Ali takes the lessons from this season and uses them as fuel to drive his improvement. With the right approach there is no limit to what he might be able to achieve.

Sam Alexander

Sam is a dynamic cricketer with a true passion for the game of cricket and his club! He has been the heart and soul of the team and one of the main reasons that this season was so successful and enjoyable. Sam has a talent for circuiting, telling the best yarns and taking poles! He always makes an instant impact with

his cricket and his personality. His energy and attitude is infectious. Sam's hardwork and passion are always for the team and is a great role model for younger players. Sam's bowling continues to improve and he is dedicated to the art. He has a natural action with excellent shape and improved control. He imparts high 'revs' on all his deliveries and has vicious turn, as many an opposing batsman can testify. One poor 'top order stick' from Penrith was unfortunate enough to face a ball that pitched outside leg and managed to shatter the off bail! This year also saw improvement in his batting, including some seriously big bomb hitting.

Mac Jenkins

Mac is an extremely talented young cricketer, who possesses a keen cricketing brain and has maturity well beyond his years. He has been a fantastic addition to the club and formed an integral part of the Second Grade bowling attack for the 8 games he played. Mac's left arm orthodox spin bowling is impressive. He demonstrates great control, shape and spin. He has the ability to adapt to the conditions of the match and out thinks many batsmen. These are impressive qualities for a spinner so young and are telling of a big future ahead of him. Mac's bowling is always difficult to face and batsmen struggle to score off him. He took 10 wickets at an average of 29.40, but this does not truly reflect the impact and control he had on games. He is also a very talented batsmen, who unfortunately suffered from being shuffled around the batting order. His 35no against St George, when the side was in trouble is a perfect example of his talent. Mac is an all round cricketer who has a big future ahead of him and I look forward to following his future success.

Also played: Jack James, Ben Knox, Jacob Graham, Nuwan Whyte, Ahmer Amir, Will Graham, Jordan Vilensky, Ryan Van Kemenade, Fletcher May, Harrison May, Jared Ninness and Oliver Knight

Second Grade Round by Round Summary

Round 1 v Bankstown @ Tunks Park Won by 4 wickets 6/208 v 9/204

The Bears had a good start with Ali Shaikh blowing off the front pad of their opening batsman despite their top order going at 5 an over. Niranjan Naguleswaran changed the momentum when the other young opener tried to sneak a cheeky single to mid off. In a fluid movement of athleticism and grace he ran to his left hand, picked up the ball one handed and shattered the stumps at the bowler's end, leaving the batsman well short of his ground. The rest of the innings was dominated by a quartet of finger-spinners who strangled the game, bowling with great control and accuracy. Jack James (2/31) and Mac Jenkins (2/40) grabbed two wickets each. The only interruption to spin was an injection of Ali Shaikh's (2/36) reverse swing. Bankstown were restricted to 9/204 off 50 overs. In reply, Jack James (25) and Broc Hardy (71) moved the Bears' total to 50 in the 13th over. However, two quick wickets left UTS North Sydney at 4/54 in the 18th. Hardy, who hails from the Central Coast, made his grade debut for the club and rode his luck to compile a match-winning 136 run partnership with captain Glenn Aitken. Aitken finished with an unbeaten 86, hitting a four to secure the victory in the 47th over.

Round 2 v Hawkesbury @ Owen Earle Oval Drawn 5/109 v 186

Second Grade journeyed north-west to Owen Earle Oval to take on a Hawkesbury side with plenty of First Grade experience. Ryan Van Kemenade and James Aitken took the first two wickets to have the Hawks 2/34 after 11. Aitken struck again in the nineteenth over, bowling a miserly spell with his two wickets costing just 21 runs in 16 overs. Spin dominated the rest of the day with Sam Alexander (2/13), Mac Jenkins (0/25) and Niranjan Naguleswaran (1/29) choking the scoring to resist the Hawks to 7/179 at the close. It didn't take the Bears long



to mop up the Hawkesbury tail on day two with James Aitken (3/24) and Ryan Van Kemenade (4/41 from 14.2 overs) doing the job to restrict Hawkesbury to 186. James Leary (49) and Cam New (36) opened the batting, reaching 0/77 off 14 overs, when the rain came to spoil the party. Six hours worth of blowing, super-sopping and drying the ground with saw dust led to resumption at 6:10pm with 12 overs left in the day. Unfortunately, bad light stopped play with UTS North Sydney 78 runs short of victory.

Round 3 v Mosman @ Bon Andrews Oval
Won by 176 runs 293 v 117 & 4/201

After batting first, the loss of an early wicket did not deter the boys from batting positively as Broc Hardy (26) whacked six fours before being the second man out in the 6th over – 2/30. When a third went down in the 9th it was 3/44 and time for some consolidation. James Leary (69) and Max Papworth (73) delivered in the form of a 133-run 4th wicket partnership, with Papworth hitting 12 fours to shift the momentum in the Bears' favor. When Papworth and Leary fell with the score on 178 the Whales took 5 wickets for 34 runs in 14 overs. However, Ali Shaikh (54*) joined Ryan Van Kemenade (37) for a nice 45-run stand with Shaikh hitting 10 fours to reach a well earned fifty not out as the final wicket fell at 293. Shaikh and James Aitken grabbed two wickets to leave the Whales 2/31 at the close with a Mosman batsman going off retired hurt as well. Aitken bowled 7 overs, 4 maidens 1 for 4! The Bears got off to a strong start on day two with Ali Shaikh capturing a wicket in the first over of the day. After that Mosman rallied and formed a strong partnership that took the score to 3/83. James Aitken then took out three Whales batsman have them 6/88. With Mosman on the ropes, Mac Jenkins claimed another leaving them reeling at 7/94. Ali Shaikh returned to clean up the tail, taking the last two wickets to have Mosman all out 117 and maintaining an unbeaten start to the season. The Whales followed on and reached 4/201.

Round 4 v Sydney University @ Bon Andrews Oval
Drawn 347 v 7/292

Captain Glenn Aitken won the toss on a hard but green wicket at Bon Andrews, but with the deck doing a bit early the Bears were 2/20. Cameron New (28) and Broc Hardy (60) consolidated, taking the score to 73 before New was out. Jake Hardy followed for 14 before Broc combined with Aitken. A 128 run partnership between GA and Ray Alexander dominated the middle session. Aitken scored a powerful 93, but fell to a great diving catch on the boundary. Alexander remained not out 71 taking the team's total to 9/316. After batting on to be all out 347 on day two, with Alexander reaching 86, we needed to take 10 Sydney University wickets in 90 overs. It took 51 overs for Mac Jenkins to make the first breakthrough with Sydney Uni 1/156. University attempted to lift the scoring rate and, with three overs to tea, Niranjan Naguleswaran stuck, removing the other opener. A Sam Alexander wicket placed the Bears back in the hunt at 3/180 after 63 over. Naguleswaran (3/76) got another two wickets just after tea to have the Students five down. James Aitken (2/52) claimed the 6th and 7th Sydney Uni wickets at 7/276. However, with 9 overs remaining, the numbers 8 and 9 held on and the game ended in a draw.

Round 5 v Sydney @ Birchgrove Oval
Won by 2 wickets 8/167 v 162

After winning the toss and bowling, James Aitken (3/17) removed one opener without offering a shot, leaving Sydney 1/6 off 4. Niranjan Naguleswaran took the second Sydney wicket at 87. The spinners, Sam Alexander (2/42) and Naguleswaran (2/37), continued to choke the middle order. This bowling pressure, combined with a brilliant piece of fielding and direct hit from Broc Hardy, had Sydney 6/146. Our seam bowlers closed out the innings, decimating their tail, and Sydney were all out for 162 in the 44th. After we lost an early wicket, Cameron New (35) and Broc Hardy (19) consolidated to 1/59 on a Birchgrove pitch that was offering a lot of inconsistency. The Bears then lost 4 for 5 and a further 2 wickets shortly after to collapse to 7/77. With only three wickets in hand and 86 runs to win, Ray Alexander combined with Niranjan Naguleswaran (19) to form a crucial 43 run partnership and steer the team closer to victory. With 40 runs required from 6 overs, Ali Shaikh (13*) joined Alexander. The last 8 runs were pressure-filled, but in the end Alexander secured an amazing victory with a six down the ground and a match winning 56 not out.

Round 6 v Western Suburbs @ Pratten Park
Won by 4 wickets 6/217 v 7/216

After the Bears sent the opposition in, the two Wests openers batted with aggression and plenty of luck to go past 50 by the 11th over. However, discipline and perseverance from James Aitken, who had bowled unchanged, led to success. JA removed both set openers to finish with the miserly figures of 2/24 off 10 straight overs. Finger spinner Sam Alexander (2/33) then took out the next two batsman in his first two overs, and after 21 overs Wests were 4/73. Niranjan Naguleswaran (3/46) took care of the next three batsman, with some late hitting from the tail netting Wests 7 for 216 off their 50 overs. Wicketkeeper James Leary was impressive, snaring two sharp chances and two even sharper stumpings. With UTS North Sydney two wickets down, James Leary was joined by James Aitken, who got the run rate moving, scoring freely to all parts of the field. The 66-run third wicket partnership took the score past 100 by the 27th over. As the clouds darkened, Aitken (46) and Leary (47) fell with the scores at 107 and 127 respectively. When two more wickets fell, the Bears were 6/145, needing 8 an over off the final nine overs. After a rain delay, Olly Knight and Glenn Aitken guided the Bears home. The left/ right hand pairing allowed both batsmen to target the short end every over. The turning point was the 44th over, in which Olly hit three sixes and took 24 runs off the over. The action packed over included three beamers, two of which travelled the distance, and retirement for the bowler. The game was finished off in the 49th over. GA finished with 29 not out off 19 balls and Olly with an aggressive and dominant 44 not out. The win cemented our spot in the top three.

Round 7 v Parramatta @ Bon Andrews Oval
Lost by 177 runs 245 v 7d/422

Norths won the toss and sent the opposition in. Tight bowling and wickets to Ali Shaikh (3/114), Nuwan Whyte (1/64) and later Niranjan Naguleswaran (3/117) saw Parramatta plodding along at 4/179 after 55 overs. Unfortunately, the Two Blues picked up the rate considerably from this point to finish the day 7/422. Chasing down 400+ runs was always going to be a challenge and, with plenty of life in the wicket, we lost three early wickets to be 3/16 after 7 overs. A brief moment of consolidation between Jake Hardy (31) and Max Papworth moved the score to 44. When captain Glenn Aitken was bowled for 7 runs, things became dire at 6/71. However, the batsmen did not give it away with Ray Alexander and Niranjan Naguleswaran (24) working hard to take the team to the lunch break at 6/92 and eventually completing a fifty run stand. Alexander pushed on past fifty for the third time in four innings

with support from Ali Shaikh (16). Ray and Second Grade debutant Nuwan White (16) copped a barrage of short stuff, but this did not stop Ray completing a gritty hundred from 216 balls. Ray's knock kept the draw alive into the 84th over before he was last man out.

Round 8 v Fairfield-Liverpool @ Bon Andrews Oval
Won by 88 runs 315 v 227

The Second Grade seagulls turned up to the picturesque Bon Andrews Oval fit and firing after a Friday filled with hydrolyte and nutrient-dense meals. The message from GA was wickets in the bank are key. The message was obviously poignant for new opening partnership Broc Hardy and James Leary, with the lads both scoring at over a run a ball for the first 10 overs. Leary departed for a quick-fire 20 while Broc continued finding the boundary for a well-made 71. The unstoppable Ray Alexander (46) and James Aitken (29) made strong contributions before all-rounder Ali Shaikh came to the crease and blasted 45. Captain Glenn Aitken batted through the pain of a crook back to slap the Fairfield attack to all parts on his way to 59 not out. On day two, the Bears batted on adding another 11 runs before the Glenn was dismissed for 70 with the total at 315. The Lions' chase got off to a good start taking the score to 44 off 13 overs. James Aitken was rewarded with the first wicket of the day, but in the heat, the wicket proved to be exceptionally flat and the opposition went to lunch at 1/93 off 28 overs. Fairfield continued to 117 before James Leary took a sharp catch behind the stumps off Niranjan Naguleswaran. With 150 runs on the board off 40 overs, the game was ripped open by outstanding spells of bowling from James Aitken (4/39 off 17) and Naguleswaran (5/39 off 22). The Lions lost 5 wickets for 6 runs! After tea the Bears were able to wrap up the tail in a dominant bowling and fielding display. Nuwan White (1/36) took the last wicket off a bouncer, caught down the legside by a spectacular diving catch by James Leary. It was a fantastic way to seal an outstanding win by Second Grade.

Round 9 v Penrith @ Howell Oval
Won by 65 runs 8/173 v 108

After winning the toss and electing to bat, the Bears quickly fell to 4/30. Niranjan Naguleswaran (50) and Ali Shaikh (43*) then came together in an 88-run stand that showcased unfathomable skill. Norths finished 50 overs on 8/173 with the two lower-order bats giving us something to defend. With the wicket flattening out, Penrith blew out to 0/50 off 10. James Aitken (4/16) then bowled an unbelievable spell that could only be described as a masterclass. He was well supported by Niranjan Naguleswaran (2/7), Sam Alexander (2/7) and Fletcher May (2/40) as Penrith lost 8 wickets for 55 runs, crumbling to 108 all out.

Round 10 v Manly-Warringah @ Bon Andrews Oval
Lost by 78 runs (DLS) 127 v 9/189

In a rain-affected fixture, UTS North Sydney won the toss and sent Manly into bat. The constant rain assisted the batting, with the ball sliding through instead of seaming and popping like was hoped at the toss. James Aitken (1/31 off 8 overs) made the first breakthrough and Fletcher May (1/34 off 6 overs), the second. The game was then stopped due to rain and unsafe conditions with the score at 2/80 from 16 overs. Upon resumption the match was revised down to 33 overs for both sides. The drier conditions allowed for the introduction of tweaking twins Niranjan Naguleswaran and Sam Alexander, who used all their skill and control to wrestle the game back into the balance. Niranjan took 4/34 from 7 overs, while Sam's fine spell of bowling saw him finish with 2/46 off 7 overs. With Duckworth-Lewis-Stern calculations involved, Manly's total of 189 was converted into a target of 205 runs, making

the chase a much more difficult task. An unfortunate start saw Broc Hardy run out at the non-striker's end after a deflection. James Leary (8) was bowled in the third over bringing Ray Alexander (42) and Cameron New (29) to the crease. They managed to push the score to 2/75 off 15 overs before being dismissed in consecutive overs. The Manly bowlers maintained a strong line and length to claim three further middle order scalps. Some late resistance from Niranjana with 24 runs off 24 balls gave the Bears some hope. However, in the end the side was dismissed for 127 off 25 overs, falling well short of the runs required.

Round 11 v St George @ Hurstville Oval
Lost by 3 wickets 8/166 v 7/167

After being sent in on a tacky Hurstville Oval pitch, openers James Leary (8) and Cameron New (16) absorbed the early pressure until the fall of the first wicket in the 12th over. Three quick ones then followed, and the Bears slumped to be 4/32 off 18. Max Papworth combined with James Aitken to rebuild the innings, moving the score to 84 before James was out for a well made 34. Max fell in the next over. At 6/85 off 33 overs, new batsmen Mac Jenkins and captain Glenn Aitken showed great maturity and composure with Glenn dismissed in the second last over for a run-a-ball 40. Mac remained not out 35 and we were able to scrape together 166 runs. St George got off to a great start, going at 4 an over for the first 10, until the ever-reliable James Aitken (3/30 off 10) took the first of his three wickets. Mac Jenkins (1/32 off 10) then combined with Max Papworth to effect a sharp run-out, taking the score to 2/68 off 18, and a wicket to have St George 3/83. The Saints consolidated and pushed their total to 3/143. Wickets to Niranjana Naguleswaran (2/28 off 10) and Sam Alexander (1/32 off 8) kept us in the hunt. However, North Sydney were unable to pull off the impossible and St George passed the total, 7 wickets down in the 46th over.

Round 12 v University of NSW @ Bon Andrews Oval
Drawn 9d/378 v 2/74

The Bears won the toss and elected to bat but two quick wickets left the team 2/7 off 5 overs. Jake Hardy and Max Papworth showed patience and excellent shot selection to push the score to 2/100 at lunch. Jake fell for 68 and Max for 44 after the break. Ray Alexander then combined with James Aitken for an excellent 100 run partnership, taking us to 5/188 at tea. After tea, James was dismissed for 42 runs and Ray for 86 with the total 7/277 after 81 overs. Niranjana Naguleswaran joined captain Glenn Aitken (30) to take the score past 300 runs in the 90th over. Niranjana then exploded, scoring 53 runs off 32 balls, including 5 large sixes! When Niranjana was caught on the boundary, Fletcher May hit 16 runs in an eight-ball cameo, including smashing one of the biggest sixes ever recorded in the history of North Sydney cricket. The Bears concluded the day 9/378. In some sort of miracle, 23 overs were bowled at Bon Andrews Oval in the first session of a wet day two to have University of NSW 2/42. James Aitken took both wickets and had typically miserly figures of 2/11 from 12 overs. Rain kept the players off until later in the afternoon, but a further 11 overs were bowled before a heavy downpour ended the match with Uni at 2/74.

Round 13 v Sutherland @ Bon Andrews Oval
Won outright by 7 wickets 226 & 2/77 v 119 & 233

Harrison May was the star of the show on day one of the clash with Sutherland. The Big Horse, as he is affectionately known, took match-winning figures of 13 overs 2 maidens 6/59. May started the day by knocking over the Sharks top four to have them in deep trouble at 4/10. James Aitken (2/45) then chimed in with two wickets with the score on 28 to have Sutho 6/28. May took the next two wickets completing a five for on only his second appearance at this grade. The only interruption to the May-Aitken show was 2.4 overs by Mac Jenkins (1/13). Sutherland were all out 119 from 26.4 overs. After losing an early wicket, most of the Bears batsmen made starts, with the best partnership of 64 runs between Broc Hardy (41) and Jordan Vilensky (35). Jake Hardy (32), Max Papworth (35), Glenn Aitken (30) and Nirajan Naguleswaran (35) all made it into the thirties, with Niranjan scoring his runs of just 20 balls and including four sixes. With 266 on the board, Norths headed into day two with a 147 run lead. James Aitken (2/44 off 24 overs) and Harrison May (5/58 off 22 overs) once again opened the bowling reducing Sutherland to 2/26 off 11 overs. However, Sutho consolidated, struggling their way to lunch at 2/81 off 32 overs. After lunch Sam Alexander (1/23) and Mac Jenkins (2/21) took the next two wickets leaving Sutherland 5/137. The re-introduction of May straight after tea reaped immediate results with two wickets in two balls to have Sutherland reeling at 7/193. James Aitken again proved his worth by dismissing their opening batsman who had scored a century. However, it was Harrison's day. He cleaned up the last batsman in an amazing performance taking another 5 wicket haul and 11 wickets for the match! He was clapped from the field by all players. Sutherland were all out for 223 runs, leaving 77 runs required off 16 overs for an outright victory. Despite losing Broc and Jordan early, Cameron New (31no) and Jake Hardy (36no) combined to chase down the runs with more than an over to spare! It was a remarkable result for the Bears, the first Second Grade win over two innings since the famous Grand Final "reverse outright" over Gordon in 2011.

Round 14 v Eastern Suburbs @ Waverly Oval
Lost outright 102 & 184 v 8d/217 & 5/72

North Sydney won the toss and elected to bat on a good wicket. Unfortunately, the batsman played too many shots and as a result the Bears were reeling at 5/17 after 7 overs. James Leary (26) showed resistance at the start of the innings. However, it was Niranjan Nagleswaran who showed the greatest defiance in light of the game situation, making a heroic 37. William Graham's 15 off 62 deliveries also helped the Bears fight into the middle session and manage a small total of 102. The Bears showed great passion and skill in the field, attacking the Dolphins batting line up. Strong spells from Will Graham (2/45 off 12 overs) and Harrison "Big Horse" May (1/36 off 9 overs) gave us the possibility of an unlikely result. Unfortunately, Easts passed the total 3 wickets down. Mac Jenkins (1/59 off 14 overs), Niranjan Nagleswaran (1/45 off 10 overs) and Sam Alexander (3/29 off 7 overs) continued to apply pressure as Easts tried to push further past our total. Easts declared at the start of day two, 115 runs to the good. After losing Cam New early, the Bears batsmen looked to absorb time and apply pressure to the Dolphins. James Leary (37) and Jake Hardy (47) formed a lengthy partnership, while wkipper Glenn Aitken provided substance to the innings, top-scoring with 60. GA was well supported by Ahmer Amir and Will Graham, both of whom occupied the crease. When the side was all out for 184, Easts were left with just 11 overs to score 70 for outright victory. Will Graham (3/35) struck in the first over, bowling one opener for a duck. Harrison May (2/37) and Will then traded wickets in the second, third, fourth and fifth overs to reduce Easts to 5/30 after five. At the start of the 10th over, Easts still required 19 runs however the set batsman got the job done and the Bears suffered an outright defeat at the hands of the second placed Dolphins.

Round 15 v Blacktown @ Joe McAleer Oval
Lost by 9 runs (DLS) 9/101 v 9/213

On a very green wicket, North Sydney won the toss and elected to bowl. Opening quicks Harrison May (3/38 off 8) and Will Graham. (1/44 off 9) got the team off to a good start. James Aitken (1/20 off 10) bowled a brilliant spell to control the innings. He was supported by a cheeky spell of bowling from Ray “Samoz’ cousin” Alexander (1/29 off 4). Sam Alexander (3/48 off 10) also produced another fine spell. He was ably supported by Ben Knox (0/33 off 6) on Second Grade debut. Blacktown’s innings came to a halt on 9/213 in the 47th with rain falling throughout the remainder of the day. After a long delay, the game was back on at 6pm with 15 overs to play and Duckworth-Lewis-Stern giving the surprisingly large total of 110 to chase. A good start by Cameron New (24) and James Leary (18) had the Bears tracking well and ahead of the run rate. However, when Cameron was dismissed, this led to a series of five dismissals that put us on the back foot. A disciplined innings from skipper Glenn Aitken (20) gave the team hope. However, with the fall of his wicket, despite a valiant effort from the “Big Horse” (10), the chase fell an agonising 9 runs short. The loss ended any hope of finishing in the top six.



Second Grade Statistics

Batting

	Matches	Innings	Aggregate	NO	50s	100s	HS	Average	C/S
Aitken, Glenn	15	16	501	2	4	0	93	35.79	2
Alexander, Raymond	10	10	454	1	3	1	117	50.44	1
Hardy, Broc	14	15	316	1	3	0	71	22.57	1
Leary, James	13	14	312	0	1	0	69	22.29	19/2
Naguleswaran, Niranjan	15	13	285	1	2	0	53	23.75	6
Hardy, Jake	10	12	249	1	1	0	68	22.64	4
Aitken, James	12	12	217	2	0	0	46	21.70	3
New, Cameron	11	13	213	1	0	0	36	17.75	4
Papworth, Max	10	10	212	0	1	0	73	21.20	5/2
Shaikh, Ali	11	8	177	4	1	0	54	44.25	1
Jenkins, Mac	8	8	61	1	0	0	35	8.71	2
Vilensky, Jordan	3	5	50	0	0	0	35	10.00	1
Van Kemenade, Ryan	4	4	44	0	0	0	37	11.00	0
Knight, Oliver	1	1	44	1	0	0	44		1
Alexander, Sam	15	10	40	4	0	0	16	6.67	2

Also batted – J.James (25 runs @ 25), W.Graham (21 runs @ 10.50), F.May (21 runs undismisssed), H.May (19 runs @ 9.50), A.Amir (17 runs @ 8.50), N.Whyte (16 runs @ 8), J.Graham (8 runs undismisssed), B.Knox (0 runs undismisssed)

Bowling

	Matches	Overs	Wickets	Runs Conceded	5WI	10WM	BBI	Average
Aitken, James	12	192	33	411	0	0	4/16	12.45
Naguleswaran, Niranjan	15	178.3	27	594	1	0	5/39	22.00
Alexander, Sam	15	138.2	20	528	0	0	3/29	26.40
May, Harrison	3	56.3	17	228	2	1	6/59	13.41
Shaikh, Ali	11	109	11	573	0	0	4/40	52.09
Jenkins, Mac	8	99.5	10	294	0	0	2/21	29.40
Graham, William	2	26.5	6	124	0	0	3/35	20.67
Van Kemenade, Ryan	4	46.2	6	173	0	0	4/41	28.83

Also bowled – F.May (3 wickets @ 39.33), J.James (2 wickets @ 15.5), N.Whyte (2 wickets @ 50), R.Alexander (1 wicket @ 68), J.Ninness (0 wickets for 3 runs), B.Hardy (0 wickets for 22 runs), B.Knox (0 wickets for 33 runs), O.Knight (0 wickets for 47 runs)

Third Grade Report

Chris Lloyd

3rd grade had a season of big wins and close losses. A young and talented group played some excellent cricket but failed to produce the consistency required to push for the top 6 and a place in the finals. The team welcomed many new faces, including star quick and lower order maestro Jacob “Yak” Graham, bombsman Chris Spratt, Pakistani batsman, bowler and circuitsman Ahmer Amir and (almost) coastie Jordan Vilensky, the last 2 in their first seasons of grade cricket. The results ended up mixed, with 6 (mostly) big wins balanced with 7 losses and 2 draws. 7 of these 9 results were close enough that you could taste victory, but we just couldn’t close it out on the day. 10th place overall on the table didn’t fully reflect the ability of the side nor the closeness of many of the matches to come.

The season started with a tough 2 wicket loss to eventual 3rd place Bankstown. Some excellent bowling nearly saved the day after a low total but a

combination of dropped catches and luck saw the points go the wrong way. This was followed by 2 good wins. Round 2 saw the 3rd grade debut of Jordan Vilensky, who would end up second leading run scorer in 3s, 7th overall in the competition a deserved promotion at the end of the season into 2s. Round 3 at Mosman saw the Bears in trouble at 5/117 before skipper Chris Lloyd (147*) was joined by star recruit Jacob Graham (56*). The two put on 184*, which was the highest 6th wicket partnership in all of 3rd grade that season, ending the day at 5/301. The duo returned next week to torment the Whales as Graham took 4/76 and 2 catches along with Lloyd’s 1 catch and the final wicket.

The next 4 rounds saw a series of missed opportunities for the Bears. A 1 wicket loss to eventual premiers Sydney Uni was followed by home losses to Sydney and Wests. A trip in round 7 out to Merrylands saw the Bears have Parramatta 5/119 before letting go and allowing them to make exactly 300. The following week, the highest partnership of the season of 198 between Dhruva Thorat (78) and Jordan Vilensky (114) saw North Sydney cruising at



1/216 before a procession of wickets saw us fall to 8/256. Whilst the lower order was able to force a draw, these rounds would eventually be looked back on as where the finals hunt was lost.

The games either side of Christmas was much more positive for 3rd grade's season. A trip out to Fairfield Oval saw the Bears post a very competitive total of 252 in week 1, before returning to an absolute scorcher in week 2. The pre-emptive heat rule saw the game start at 9am with the temperature already hovering above 30 degrees. A herculean effort from the May brothers on a very flat pitch saw the Bears grind their opponents into the dust that was fast gathering around the ground. Fletcher May finished with 5/55 off 16 overs while just as impressive was Harrison May's 2/42 off 16. The match finished with an 87 run win at 1pm, with the temperature now a brutal 45 degrees and many other games across Sydney being abandoned. This epic performance was followed by a crushing 1 day victory (our only 1 day

win for the season) against Penrith. A middling total of 235 was superbly defended, with Pakistani tweaker Ahmer Amir finishing a bonus point victory with 5/25.

Round 10 against Manly had been a day long marked in the calendar by club hero Jacob Graham. The man was playing against his former club and had stated he was prepared to give up various body parts in exchange for a win. The day looked like it might not happen at all with heavy skies and bad forecasts but a gap in the weather saw a 40 over game started at midday. The Bears won the toss and batted on a hard and fast looking pitch. We got off to a flier with the score 2/47 off 7 before light rain started wreaking havoc. A middle order collapse in suddenly treacherous conditions saw the Bears limp to 8/131 off 40 overs but still in with a chance at claiming the 6 points. The bowling innings started slowly, but drop catches and mishits away from fielders meant that Manly were able to see out the worst of the new ball. They eventually chased down the total 5 down with 2



overs to go but the score didn't reflect the play. Combine this result with another close loss the following week against St George and the path to finals was starting to become mathematical.

Week 1 of round 12 against UNSW saw a hot day, small ground and flat pitch and this meant both teams were keen to win the toss and bat. It started badly – we lost the toss and were in the field. From that point onwards, it turned into Bear hunt. A fierce opening bowling spell from one of the angriest men in grade cricket in Harrison May (4/21) included one of the greatest caught and bowled wickets you will see. Excellent performances from Nuwan Whyte (2/16), Jacob Graham (1/20) and Fraser Noack (2/7 and a brilliant runout) along with by far the best fielding effort of the season saw UNSW all out for 65 off 30 overs. A slightly shaky run chase saw us 2/9 before Jordan Vilensky (38) and Izaak Merlehan steadied the ship, with Jordan falling at scores level. Skipper Chris Lloyd joined Merlehan in what has been described as “one of the great free hits in grade cricket history”. The pair proceeded to hit UNSW all over the park, with Merlehan hitting 3 sixes on his way to 64 off 65 balls. Lloyd continued the rampage, hitting multiple balls onto the adjacent 1st grade fixture and 7 bombs in total before being caught on the fence for 80 off just 43 deliveries. The hunt ended on 8/213 but sadly rain ruined any chance of an outright the following week. A single day of cricketing Nirvana was roundly celebrated by the team.

The Bears faced Sutherland the next week on a typically slow surface at Sutherland Oval. An excellent bowling display from everyone saw us restrict them to 137 all out, Jacob Graham again starring with 4/18 off 14.1 overs. However, the run chase saw the batsmen failing to make the necessary adjustments, collapsing to 7/76. That man Yak Graham was joined by Jake Holmes and together the two rebuilt the innings. Holmes eventually fell for 27 with 11 runs to win, but Yak (31*) steered it home with Fraser “Campiecesy” Noack. Our first and only tight win of the season showed the way forward for the future. The final 2 rounds saw our mathematical chance of finals disappear, as a tough loss to Easts was followed by a washout whilst in a strong position against Blacktown in the final game of the season.

Overall the season was fun and entertaining. The lessons learned will be valuable for building this team in the future, as well as providing the all important player development to strengthen the club. Special mention should be given to Jacob Graham, who took the reigns as captain for 4 matches over the course of the season. Just as importantly, the team benefitted from the hard work of volunteers. Jeff Vilensky was everywhere, doing live scoring, taking video and helping to keep social media updated, His only drawback was choosing to go and help in 2nd grade once Jordan had been promoted. Lachlan Reynolds also helped out later in the season with scoring while Luke Smith was always a smiling face early on at Bon Andrews.

Third Grade Round by Round Summary

Round 1 v Bankstown @ Kelso Park North Lost by 2 wickets 8/142 v 8/144

After batting first, the Bears had lost 3/25 after 10 overs. Desperately in need of a partnership, Ray Alexander (18) and Chris Lloyd (30) combined for 44 valuable runs, but once again two wickets fell on 69. Jacob Graham fought hard and remained 28 not out. A score of 8/142 was below par, but something to bowl at. A wicket to Fletcher May (3/44) in the first over of the bowling innings gave the team some hope. A second wicket in the fifth over reduced Bankstown to 2/14. When Nuwan Whyte (2/32) chimed in for a pole in the tenth it was 3/30 and game on. The bowling unit continued to knock over batsman and, at 6/77 in the 21st over, we were in the game. Although, Graham and Ben Knox (2/38) grabbed two further wickets, the Bulldogs passed our score 8 down in the 34th over.

Round 2 v Hawkesbury @ Bon Andrews Oval Won by 139 runs 9d/290 v 151

On a wet Saturday, Jacob Graham took over captaincy duties with Chris Lloyd getting married. After a one-hour, delay debutant Jordan Vilensky (64) and Dhruva Thorat (30) combined to grind down and blunt the Hawks openers before putting the change bowlers to the sword, taking us from 1/14 to 1/81 just after drinks. With the loss of wickets in the middle session, the Bears moved to 5/138 at tea. Skipper Jacob Graham and Raymond Alexander then built a fruitful partnership with Ray bringing up his 50 in style with a boundary. When Alexander (55) was dismissed, Graham (67*) batted well with the tail including a swashbuckling Nuwan Whyte (28) to take the Bears from 6/179 to a very defendable 9/290. With the constant threat of rain on day two, the innings was declared before the start of play. With no wickets down after 9 overs, Jarrad Ninness snared two in two balls in the 10th and a third wicket at the back end of his first spell to have Hawkesbury 3/40 after 12 overs. Fletcher May (1/42) then chimed in the 15th taking out the remaining opener and leaving Hawkesbury 4/53. Jacob Graham (3/29) then put more pressure on the Hawks with two further wickets in the one over and a third wicket to reduce the opposition to 7/102 after 28. After tea, Ben Knox (2/3) and Ninness (4/51) finished the game just as the rain was approaching.

Round 3 v Mosman @ Rawson Oval Won by 47 runs 5d/301 v 254

Captain Chris Lloyd won the toss and chose to bat. Losing both openers with the score at 29 was not in the plan and at 3/42 the game was on a knife-edge. However, Ray Alexander (38) and Lloyd got the innings back on track. Jacob Graham (56*) then combined with Lloyd to pile on 184 unbeaten runs for the sixth wicket, elevating the score to 5/301 after 80 overs. Lloyd produced his highest ever grade score of 147*, and the highest score by a North Sydney Third Grader since at least 2010. The 184 runs was also the best sixth wicket stand of the season in Third Grade. The Bears declared on their day one score and Mosman started well, putting on 60 for the 1st wicket before Jacob Graham struck. From there, a steady stream of pressure bowling brought about wickets and poor shots. Ahmer Amir claimed three top order scalps in his Third Grade debut for the Bears while Jacob Graham (4/76) and Ben Knox (2/26) reduced Mosman to 9/179. However, the Whales' number 11, Habib, took the long handle to all comers in the next 13 overs moving the score to 9/254. Needing 48 more from eight overs, skipper Chris Lloyd brought himself on and forced Habib to sky one to confident Jacob Graham, who took an excellent outfield catch to end the game.

Round 4 v Sydney University @ St Paul's Oval
Lost by 1 wicket 237 v 9/238

After winning the toss, the Bears batted on a well grassed but good looking wicket. Dhruva Thorat (29) and Tom Hamblin started well, seeing off the new ball. A rush of wickets from poor shots resulted in a tea-time score of 5/107. After tea, Jarrad Ninness (56) and Ahmer Amir came together for an important partnership until Amir was dismissed for 62, his maiden half century for the Bears. Fletcher May (25) joined Ninness and together they pushed the score along with Ninness passing fifty for the first time in his Sydney grade cricket career. May was the last man out with the Bears finishing at 237. On day two, Fletcher May (2/54) and Nuwan Whyte (4/42) got the Bears off to a good start, keeping the runs down and claiming the first two wickets to have Sydney Uni 2/30 off 14 overs. Young leg spinner Ben Knox continued the momentum with a wicket in his second over and the Students were 3/34 off 17. A match-winning partnership of 114 then developed between batsmen 4 and 5. Wickets to Whyte, Ahmer Amir, May and Jacob Graham reduced Sydney University to 9/223. The equation was simple one wicket or 14 runs – and the tail enders did the job with the Bears falling agonisingly short.

Round 5 v Sydney @ Bon Andrews Oval
Lost by 110 runs 110 v 220

After being asked to bat first, the Sydney openers put on a 50-run opening stand in the first 10 overs. The Bears then knocked over numbers 1, 2 and 3 with the score at 55. Nuwan Whyte (3/19 off 8) made a double breakthrough with two wickets in two overs, while Jacob Graham (2/22) grabbed the other. Fletcher May (2/47) took out the next two batsmen to have the Tigers 5 down for 104 in the 29th. Ben Knox and then Chris Lloyd grabbed wickets, with Lloyd returning figures of 2/28 off 4, and Sydney were dismissed for 220. Unfortunately, the batting innings never really got going with wickets falling regularly, including two at 87 and two at 100. Only Dhruva Thorat (23) and Chris Lloyd (22) managed to score more than twenty.

Round 6 v Western Suburbs @ Bon Andrews Oval
Lost by 34 runs 223 v 4/257

Jacob Graham (0/44 off 10) and Harrison May (0/23 off 8) kept it tight, but could not prevent a big opening partnership of 156 runs from 36 overs. Finally, in the 37th, Nuwan Whyte, got a wicket for the Bears, doubling his efforts in the 43rd to finish with 2/56 from his 10. Young off-spinner Adam Cavenor (2/39) bowled at the death, and was rewarded with two wickets as the Magpies reached 4/257. In the Bears' reply, a wicket in the first over brought Cam New and Chris Spratt together (18) for a handy 47-run partnership. The dismissal of Spratt brought Ahmer Amir to the crease. Cam (58) and Ahmer (56) looked in control guiding the team to 3/130 after 25, with both players reaching 50. A middle order collapse had the team under pressure at 6/164 after 36. Big hitting Jake Holmes on his Third Grade debut almost pulled us out of trouble, scoring 48 runs (3x4 3x6). He was the last man out in the 45th over with the score on 223 – just 35 runs short of the target.

Round 7 v Parramatta @ Merrylands Oval
Drawn 8/268 v 8d/300

Brothers May opened the bowling at Merrylands Oval, with Harrison (3/38) taking the first wicket of the day and Fletcher (2/63), the second to have Parramatta 2/33 early. Jarrad Ninness (1/35) claimed a wicket with the batsman not offering a shot, but the Two Blues progressed to 3/107 at tea. Harrison grabbed two after tea that saw Parramatta fall to 5/119 at the halfway point. Spinners Adam Cavenor (1/31) and Ben Knox (1/86) took the next two wickets before Fletcher came back to take our last wicket at 8/264. The Parramatta batsman then pushed on to 300 by the close and declared before day two. In reply, the dismissal of Jamie Shaw in the 10th over brought Dhruva Thorat and a clearly unwell Jordan Vilensky together. The pair dismantled Parramatta's bowling attack, batting together for nearly four hours, with Jordan (114) bringing up his maiden grade hundred. In the 62nd over Dhruva was out for an excellent 78 off 178 balls, ending the partnership at 194, the highest second wicket partnership in Third Grade so far this year and the highest partnership for any wicket in the North Sydney club's season to date. The loss of the second wicket triggered a collapse, as the Bears looked to chase down the remaining 85 runs required from the 18 overs available. The team fell from 1/216 to 8/256 in the space of ten overs. Fletcher May and Ben Knox batted out the last seven pressure filled overs to force a draw as Norths finished up 8/268 to force a draw.

Round 8 v Fairfield-Liverpool @ Fairfield Oval
Won by 87 runs 252 v 165

After winning the toss, Cam New and Dhruva Thorat (19) moved the score to 49 before Dhruva was dismissed. Jordan Vilensky then joined New in the middle with the pair putting on 55 before New fell for a well-made 52 off 93 balls. The next partnership was a cracker netting 95 runs with Chris Spratt eventually falling for 48 and Jordan for 74. Some lusty hitting from captain Chris Lloyd (25), saw the Bears reach 252, before bowling one over at Fairfield, who remained 0/7 at the close. Despite the 9am start on day two being a challenge for some of the boys, Harrison May started with a jaffa to have the Lions 1/7 in the first over. The May brothers continued to build pressure and it was not long before Fletcher took a wicket to have Fairfield on the back foot at 2/24. The Bears were literally on a roll as Ben Knox (2/31) bowled a leggie that hit the pitch and rolled, taking out the batsman's stumps and reducing Fairfield to 3/47. Opposition captain and former Big Bash player Luke Doran made a breezy 27 before snicking off to a fired up Fletcher May. Heroic long spells from the May brothers paid dividends as they ripped out the middle and lower order in the now scorching conditions. Fletcher (5/55) took the first three wickets after lunch and in doing so claimed his first 5-fa for the club. Harrison (2/42) claimed the eighth wicket to have the Lions 8/157. Ben Knox came back on to take the final wicket with Fairfield only batting 10 due to injury. The temperature gauge in the skippers' car as we departed read 44 degrees!

Round 9 v Penrith @ Bon Andrews Oval
Won by 104 runs 235 v 131

Norths lost the toss and were sent in, and Chris Spratt and Dhruva Thorat put on 34 for the first wicket. Spratt and Jordan Vilensky (30) combined for a 54-run partnership, before Spratt fell for an even 50 off 51 balls. Another solid partnership between Vilensky and Jake Hardy ensued to take the score to 143 after 27 overs. Three quick wickets saw the team reduced to 5/155 before Hardy and Jacob Graham moved the score to 196. Wickets then fell regularly with Jake finishing last man out on 81. Debutant Fraser Noack (1/23) got the team off to a dream start with a wicket in his first over. Penrith steadied to reach 40 before two quick wickets to Jacob Graham (2/7) put us right

on top at 3/42. Ahmer Amir (5/25) then bowled unchanged with Izaak Merlehan (2/40) to decimate the Penrith batting line up and in the process took five poles, his maiden 5-fa in grade cricket. In the end Penrith were dismissed for 131 – and the Bears walked away with a valuable bonus point.

Round 10 v Manly-Warringah @ LM Graham Reserve
Lost by 4 runs 8/131 v 5/135

An unexpected break in the rain radar allowed a 1pm start and 40 overs a side on a wet Saturday. Norths won the toss and batted. A couple of early wickets had us in a bit of trouble before Jordan Vilensky (13) and Jake Hardy (23) took us to 2/47 off 9. From here we struggled to 8/131 off our 40 overs with Jacob Graham finishing 23*, still a very competitive total. Harrison May (2/16) and Jacob Graham (1/27) bowled well at the start keeping it tight to have Manly 1/20 off 9 before we let them get away. Graham claimed the second wicket of the day, but by that stage the Tahs had advanced to 86 from 22 overs. We hung in with further wickets to Ben Knox (1/26) and Harrison May in the 25th and 26th overs but, ultimately lack of wickets allowed Manly to get home five wickets down and with three overs to spare.

Round 11 v St George @ Bon Andrews Oval
Lost by 2 wickets 186 v 8/187

After being sent in, a few loose shots saw the Bears move to 3/30 before Chris Lloyd (33) joined Jake Hardy for an 85-run stand at over 5 an over. Jake batted beautifully before flashing at one too close to his body for a run-a-ball 60. From 5/143 in the 30th over the boys struggled, with a few players getting starts and then getting out. Eventually we were all out for 186 in the second-last over. In the St George reply, Harrison May (1/52) claimed a wicket from his second ball. The bowlers took wickets consistently to kept us in the game with Fletcher May (3/45), Nuwan Whyte (2/20 off 3) and Ahmer Amir (1/19 off 5) combining to reduce the Saints to 7/148, needing 39 to win. Jacob Graham (1/23) took another one to leave them 8/169, but the Bears couldn't find the final two wickets to win the game.

Round 12 v University of NSW @ David Phillips Oval
Won by 8 wickets 8/213 v 65

UNSW won the toss and batted, but this became the high point of their day. Two early wickets to Nuwan Whyte (2/16) were followed up by two more from Harrison May (4/21). A slow partnership formed, which was then broken by a stunning caught and bowled from May. Two balls later, Fraser Noack scored a direct hit runout to leave UNSW 6/33 at drinks. Further pressure and excellent bowling resulted in the Bears bowling the Bees out for 65 in 30 overs, with two wickets to Fraser (2/7) and two more to Harrison. In reply, two unlucky wickets at the top had the Bears 2/9 before a solid partnership of 56 developed between Jordan Vilensky (38) and Izaak Merlehan to bring the scores level. Skipper Chris Lloyd then joined Izaak and together they pummeled the tiring UNSW attack. Merlehan fell for 64 off 65 balls including three sixes while Lloyd continued the onslaught, eventually finishing with 80 off just 43 deliveries with seven sixes. The Bears finished the day 8/213 with a 148-run lead and were hopeful that the predicted storms would hold off on day two. Unfortunately, the BoM got it right and there was no further play with the Bears gaining six points from the previous week.

Round 13 v Sutherland @ Sutherland Oval
Won by 2 wickets 8/141 v 137

A rough outfield and an unusual looking pitch greeted the Bears on arrival at Sutherland Oval. A well-earned promotion to Second Grade for Jordan Vilensky saw Adam Cavenor join the squad. The skipper won the toss and opted to bowl with Fletcher May and Nuwan Whyte bowling plenty of dot balls and maidens that resulted in a wicket to Nuwan. Fraser Noack and spiritual leader Yak (aka Jacob Graham) turned the screws and ran through the middle order, with Yak claiming 3 wickets in his first spell. Tea was taken with Sutherland 5/72. After the break Izaak Merlehan (2/17) and Ahmer Amir (1/13) made further inroads into the batting order. Noack and Yak were recalled to claim the final two wickets with Noack finishing with 2/32 and Yak having the outstanding figures of 4/18 off 14.1 overs. Sutherland were all out for 137 off 62.1 overs. After two wickets went down, Ahmer Amir and Izaak Merlehan saw out the day, with the Bears 2/30. Day two saw the Bears lose quick wickets to balls popping off the surface with 2/30 quickly turning into 6/70 at drinks, with 68 still needed for victory. At 7/76 it was going to require some grit - enter Jacob Graham and Jake Holmes. Together the pair ground out 41 runs in 26 overs, but importantly no wickets fell. A sudden downpour delayed the game by 35 minutes with Yak and Holmes whittling down the total to 14 after the resumption. Holmes was out for 27, but Big Fraser Noack was able to negotiate a few nervy moments, allowing Yak (31*) to finish the game in style with a flocked boundary.

Round 14 v Easts @ Bon Andrews Oval Sat
Lost by 133 runs 164 v 7/297d

Easts got off to a safe start scoring 23 runs from the first 7 overs. Fletcher May (2/65) then took two wickets in three balls to have the Dolphins 2/25 after 8. The third wicket proved elusive until a debut Third Grade bouncer resulted in a debut Third Grade wicket to Hamish Reynolds (1/20) and Easts were 3/69. Nuwan Whyte (2/42) bowled the remaining opener prior to tea and the game was in the balance at 4/140. After tea, Fraser Noack (1/44) and Izaak Merlehan (1/54) took wickets, but with the fall of the seventh wicket Easts called time with 297 runs on the board. Chris Spratt remained unbeaten on 22 as the Bears went 1 down for 29 at the close. On day two, Chris Spratt continued on his way for an entertaining 46. However, a constant flow of wickets saw the Bears reduced to 7/126 with Jake Holmes (22) the only other batsman to score more than 20. The tail continued to wag as the Bears progressed to 164 runs. However, UTS North Sydney finished well short of the target, putting the team out of contention for finals cricket.

Round 15 v Blacktown @ Bon Andrews Oval
Drawn 220 v DNB

With the weather lurking around in the background there was an underlying feeling that we might only get to have half a game and, as such, all eyes were on the toss hoping and praying that we got the opportunity to bat. The toss was made and we lost, but we won being sent into bat. Dhruva Thorat lost two partners with the score on 5. This brought Adam Cavenor (48) to the crease and, for the better part of the next hour, Dhruva and Adam picked up runs for fun taking the team to 2/70 at drinks. Cavenor fell after drinks, bringing skipper Jacob Graham to the crease. When Graham fell it was 4/107 and, although Dhruva (55) went past fifty, the team slumped to 8/134 with his dismissal. Fletcher May (27) and Fraser Noack (26*) then combined for an entertaining partnership full of bombs and boundaries adding 42 to the score in quick time before Fletcher was undone. A swashbuckling Nuwan Whyte (28) then battered all bowlers to all parts to lift the score 220 all out with one ball remaining. Unfortunately that's all she wrote as the weather took away any chance of further play.

Third Grade Statistics

Batting

	Matches	Innings	Aggregate	NO	50s	100s	HS	Average	C/S
Lloyd, Chris	11	11	389	1	1	1	147	38.90	4
Vilensky, Jordan	10	10	368	0	2	1	114	36.80	9
Graham, Jacob	15	14	284	5	2	0	67	31.56	8
Thorat, Dhruva	14	14	271	0	2	0	78	19.36	5
Amir, Ahmer	12	11	186	0	2	0	62	16.91	0
Spratt, Chris	9	9	181	0	1	0	50	20.11	3
Hardy, Jake	3	3	164	0	2	0	81	54.67	0
Holmes, Jake	9	9	128	0	0	0	48	14.22	8
New, Cameron	3	3	124	0	2	0	58	41.33	0
Alexander, Raymond	3	3	111	0	1	0	55	37.00	0
May, Fletcher	11	11	94	2	0	0	27	10.44	0
Merlehan, Izaak	6	6	93	0	1	0	64	15.50	0
Cavenor, Adam	5	5	82	0	0	0	48	16.40	1
Ninness, Jarrad	5	4	79	0	1	0	56	19.75	1
Whyte, Nuwan	11	9	72	3	0	0	28	12.00	0
Hamblin, Tom	5	5	47	0	0	0	21	9.40	1
Noack, Fraser	5	4	37	2	0	0	26	18.50	2
Knox, Benjamin	12	9	36	6	0	0	14	12.00	5
Hodge, Liam	5	4	34	0	0	0	14	8.50	0

Also batted – H.Reynolds (18 runs @ 9), F.Nixon-Tomko (14 runs @ 14), B.Kumar (14 runs @ 14), J.Shaw (10 runs @ 10), J.Leary (7 runs @ 7), H.May (6 runs @ 3), C.Rose (5 runs @ 5)

Bowling

	Matches	Overs	Wickets	Runs Conceded	5WI	BBI	Average
Graham, Jacob	15	130.4	20	407	0	4/18	20.35
May, Fletcher	11	123	20	499	1	5/55	24.95
Whyte, Nuwan	11	91	18	287	0	4/42	15.94
May, Harrison	7	72	12	199	0	4/21	16.58
Amir, Ahmer	12	61.4	12	231	1	5/25	19.25
Knox, Benjamin	12	95.2	12	369	0	2/3	30.75
Noack, Fraser	5	30	6	106	0	2/7	17.67
Merlehan, Izaak	6	35.3	5	131	0	2/17	26.20
Ninness, Jarrad	5	46	5	198	0	4/51	39.60

Also bowled – A.Cavenor (3 wickets @ 23.3), C.Lloyd (3 wickets @ 30.33), H.Reynolds (1 wicket @ 20), J.Vilensky (0 wickets for 8 runs), B.Kumar (0 wickets for 9 runs)

Fourth Grade Report

Keith Lawrence

The 4th grade UTS North Sydney team finished a disappointing 17th place on the ladder. Through the course of the season we used upwards of 38 players and never consolidated a team spirit and match plan that gave us the consistency to win games. At the start of the season the selectors would have felt the likes of allrounders Adam Cavenor and Baran Kumar would have been key players in lengthening the batting order and giving us the edge in the 5th bowler stakes, but for different reasons these players were absent for most of the year and we suffered. In grade cricket posting 200 runs gives you a strong chance of winning and we simply did not do that enough, recoding only 4 wins through the season.

Of the 38 players that represented 4th grade there are a number who should be very proud of their efforts, namely Harrison May, Hamish Reynolds, Shiv Vohra, Finn Nixon-Tomko, Ollie Jennings, Toby Laybutt, Chaitanya Madala and Izaak Merlehan.

Harrison May is a tall strong opening bowler who has the ability to hit a good length and cause opening bats problems around the off stump with the ball seaming both ways. Harrison would have been disappointed to start the season in 4s but with some terrific spells early in the season he was able to garner the support of the selectors and he finished the season in 2s collecting 5-wicket hauls.

Hamish Reynolds was 13 years of age at the start of the season and was thrown into the opening batting role after a couple of good innings at 6. Hamish displays a great technique and as his game develops in manipulating the singles he will rapidly move up through the grades. It is expected Hamish will be a key member and contributor next season in our Green Shield side both with bat and ball.

Shiv Vohra is a young off spinner who had a slow start to the season often finding himself being used as a

“holding bowler” but as the season progressed and he was able to mix up his deliveries and find the wickets he was chasing. Some 20 wickets is a strong return for an off-spinner, but is no where near the return he should expect. If Shiv can find the discipline off the field to improve his fitness and build some core strength then he will see his bowling and in particular his fielding improve and so will his “stocks”. Put simply it is up to Shiv if he can find the discipline when no one is watching.

Chaitanya Madala is a wicket-keeper/batsman, who played mostly as a bat but did a solid job behind the stumps when asked. Chaitanya never scored the amount of runs to match his technique, but he like others showed glimpses of what he could do with some self-reflection and discipline. Against Easts Chaitanya had to step up and see out some very strong bowling and he did so, soaking up the pressure with a strong defence and then caressing the ball into gaps with his drives when the opportunity presented. There is no question Chaitanya has the shots in his repertoire the only thing holding him back is selecting the right time to deploy them.

Finn Nixon-Tomko our opening bat had a disrupted season, with matches lost to cramming for the HSC but he did show glimpses of his abilities. Finn is one player who does value his wicket, but like many lower grade cricketers loses sight of the value of a quick single to rotate the strike and upset the rhythm of the opening quicks. If Finn is able to introduce more singles into his game, it will compliment his drives and back foot shots and will see him record the scores he deserves.

Ollie Jennings a member of our Green Shield team only played one match for 4th grade, against Easts, but in that match he showed some real class and application with the bat in hand, and some great potential with his leg spinners. If Ollie’s love of the game is matched by his abilities he will progress through the grades, as he showed he possesses a strong mind a key attribute of successful people.

Toby Laybutt is another young Green Shield player that has surprised me. I am struggle to understand why he did not rip through the top order of Green Shield sides. Toby is a player who bowls from a good height, accurate seaming deliveries that force the batsman to play tentatively around the off stump. He recorded a 5 for against Easts, and everyone of their batsman showed him incredible respect, given his accuracy. The only thing stopping Toby wandering up the grades will be his ability to stay injury free and his availability.

The final player to make a special mention of is our 4th grade player of the year Izaak Merlehan. Despite only playing 4 matches for us, his all round influence and results with bat, ball and in the field warranted the award. Against St George in a one day match he scored a match winning innings of 88 off 63 balls, to compliment his 3 wicket for 19 runs from his 10 overs. Izaak always has a smile on his face and is a great team and club man, he has the ability to play higher grade cricket it is simply a case of whether he wants to work for it. His flighted off spinners and

quick arm-ball are accurate and constantly ask questions of the batsman. His fielding on its day is as good as anyone in the club, and if he puts a little bit of work into his batting defence to compliment his stroke play then he is a true allrounder.

On a personal note I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the efforts of our club committee led by Rob Lavery and Pat Lindsay. Their leadership and commitment to the club complimented by a hard working committee and ever increasing volunteer base and the clubs coaching staff have done a sterling job in strengthening our position on and off the park.

I would also like to recognise the individual efforts of Sarah Berman who's contribution and leadership in rallying the volunteering efforts, scoring and harnessing the efforts of many to provide us with a superb social media presence... our overwhelming gratitude. We all hope you're planning on getting Australian Citizenship and only heading back to blighty on holidays!

Fourth Grade Round by Round Summary

Round 1 v Bankstown @ Punchbowl Oval Lost by 39 runs 154 v 8/193

UTS North Sydney won the toss and fielded first, with opening bowlers, Harrison May (1/29) and Tim Robson (2/31) building pressure with plenty of dots. Robson took the first wicket, in the eighth over to have Bankstown 1/19. Bankstown put together a few good partnerships, but at 5/115 after 38, and wickets to Shivam Vohra (2/40) and Baran Kumar (1/18) the Bears looked to be in a good position. Despite two wickets to Will Abbott (2/29), in his final two overs, the Bulldogs accelerated to score 75 runs from the last 10 overs and finish with 8/193. In the run chase, the first wicket fell at 25 in the seventh over, but a steady partnership developed between Finn Nixon-Tomko (28) and Jake Holmes (45) and it wasn't until the 26th over that Nixon-Tomko was out. At 2/59, UTS North Sydney required a further 135 runs from 24 overs. With the run rate required continuing to rise, wickets started to tumble and we were eventually dismissed after 47 overs for 154.

Round 2 v Hawkesbury @ Bensons Lane 3 Lost by 8 wickets 89 v 3/132

Fourth Grade made a long trek out to the open fields with all of the sights and smells that Hawkesbury has to offer. Drew Sellers made his club debut and Adi Nigul was promoted to 4s after a strong showing in 5s the previous week. Unfortunately, after batting first in difficult conditions, the UTS North Sydney Bears were rolled for 89 runs. Hawkesbury then took control of the game and claimed first innings points for the loss of three wickets with no play further play available on day two. Finn Nixon Tomko (27) was the best of the batsman with Will Abbott, Baran Kumar and Shivam Vohra all taking a pole each.

Round 3 v Mosman @ Tunks Park Won by 97 runs 8d/245 v 148

UTS North Sydney batted first at Tunks Park and, after losing a few early wickets, were 3/34 after nine overs. In the middle order, Adam Cavenor (26) and Jake Holmes (44) made starts, but with wickets falling regularly it was difficult to gain momentum. At 6/108 and 7/139, the Whales were gaining control of the game. However, a resilient stand of 55 between Baran Kumar and Tim Robson (31) and a further 51 partnership between Kumar and Shivam Vohra (23*) lifted the score to 8/245 to put the Bears back in the hunt. On day two, Tim Robson opted to declare. Mosman's openers started very strongly and after an hour had taken the total past 50 for no loss. However, after Harry May got the first breakthrough, he proceeded to destroy the Whales' middle order, taking six wickets in his pre-tea spell. Baran Kumar then came on and in his second over took two in two, before collecting the final wicket to provide Fourth Grade with their first win of the season.

Round 4 v Sydney University @ Tunks Park Lost by 147 runs 126 v 7d/273

A strong start by Harry May on a green Tunks International Sports Park reduced the students to 3/40. Nathaniel Stokes then entered the attack and nabbed one quickly, with a strangle down the leg side. After that, Uni compiled a pair of large partnerships which took the shine off the ball and the life out of the pitch. The Students took it deep in the day and accelerated away to a good position, declaring at 7/273 with two overs to go. Tim Robson was the

pick of the bowlers with 3/54. Two early wickets on day two left Norths 2/8 after 7 overs. Youngsters, Jamie Shaw (26) and Adam Cavenor (25) attempted to consolidate, putting on 48 for the third wicket. However, a mini collapse saw the team go from 2/47 to 5/64. Things did not really improve from there as wickets continued to tumble and we were all out for 124 after 54 overs.

Round 5 v Sydney @ Ryde Oval
Won by 6 wickets 4/163 v 162

Harrison May (3/27) got 4s off to a perfect start, sending three of the top four packing. May combined with Baran Kumar (2/50) to blast out the top order. The opening pair ripped out the first three wickets before Sydney had scored and a fourth wicket with the score on 13. A loose period allowed a 64-run partnership to develop before big Will Abbott (2/21) got us back on top with two quick wickets. With the score at 122, Kumar snagged his second pole of the game. Young left-arm offy Adam Cavenor (2/22) grabbed the next Tigers batsman and it was 8/123. Two more wickets and Sydney were all out for 162. In reply, a cracking start by the openers, Jamie Shaw (49 off 73) and Chris Spratt (52 off 71) put the opening bowlers under pressure from the get go. Shaw and Spratt attacked and spread the field nicely to control the innings and get us past 100. From there the result wasn't in doubt with 20s from Cavenor and Adi Nigul. It was a terrific win which buoyed the Fourth Grade side.

Round 6 v Western Suburbs @ Blick Oval
Lost by 111 runs 105 v 216

The Wests openers came out swinging, racing to 59, before Tim Robson (3/48) combined with Baran Kumar (1/59) to take three wickets without addition to the score. The Bears bowlers then grabbed two more quick wickets to have Wests 5/70. However, on the back of an innings by PG Sofianidis the Magpies went from 5/70 to 216. Chris Savage (2/20), bowled tightly on debut in Fourth Grade, while Nathaniel Stokes (2/40) and Izaak Merlehan (2/17) got two each, to chip away at the lower middle order and dismiss the opposition in 34.1 overs. There was very little to speak of in the batting performance as we lost a continuous stream of wickets to be all out 105. Keith Lawrence was the sole hand of substance, with a gritty 24.

Round 7 v Parramatta @ Tunks Park
Won by 1 wicket 9d/131 v 123 & 3/47

Nathaniel Stokes (0/33) and Ross Brown (3/22) opened the attack, and were difficult to get away bowling five maidens in the first six overs. Brown, on debut in Fourth Grade, was the beneficiary with two early wickets and Parramatta 2/1 off 6. After a brilliant first spell, Fraser Noack (2/10), also making his Fourth Grade debut, replaced Brown and in the 16th over Shiv Vohra (3/14) was introduced into the attack for Stokes. This new combination claimed five wickets in three overs and after 20 overs the Parramatta batting innings had been torn to shreds to be 7 for 29. Unfortunately, Parramatta were able to put together a few handy partnerships to give themselves a chance. Baran Kumar (2/40) grabbed the eighth wicket of the day with the score on 52 and Brown the ninth at 87. When Kumar had picked up his second wicket, Parramatta were all out for 123. In reply the Bears lost four wickets to be 4/84 at the end of day one with Baran (32*) and Hamish Reynolds, another Fourth Grade debutant, on 1*, at the crease. Grant Jansson (18) and Keith Lawrence (17) also made contributions. Baran Kumar (40) combined with Liam Hodge for a vital 27 run partnership for the 6th wicket to edge the Bears closer to the target. After passing the opposition score seven down and claiming first innings points, we fell in a hole, losing two quick wickets. Captain Lawrence decided to declare on 9/131 so as not to waste any further overs. Liam Hodge survived the

collapse and finished up 34 not out. Once the Two Blues drew level with our score, Ross Brown (2/13) picked up two poles with catches to have Parra 2/9 off 6. Nathaniel Stokes (1/9) chimed in with a third in the next over, giving the Bears a faint hope of ripping into the Two Blues line-up. Some stubborn batting and a very flat Tunks wicket led to the decision to call the match with Parramatta ahead by 38 runs and 22 overs in the day to go.

Round 8 v Fairfield-Liverpool @ Tunks Park
Lost by 20 runs 231 v 211

The Bears won the toss, sending the Lions in on a hard and flat wicket with significant grass coverage. Poor early bowling allowed Fairfield to progress to 47 for no loss. A double change in the bowling attack resulted in Izaak Melehan (3/52) and Fraser Noack (1/55) claiming three wickets to have the Lions 3 for 49. At tea, Fairfield had rallied to be 4 for 113, before Jarrad Ninness (1/21) grabbed wicket number five. Shivam “the Shiv” Vohra (2/11) got the next as Fairfield pushed on to 6/169. Youngster Hamish Reynolds (2/23) exposed the lower order, bowling brilliantly with keeper Liam Hodge up to the stumps. At the close of play Fairfield were nine down for 213. Day two saw Fairfield add a few runs before Izzak Merlehan secured his fourth wicket, finishing with figures of 4/57 from his 24 overs. At 1/1, Adi Nigul joined Merlehan, sharing a highly productive partnership of 70 before Adi was brilliantly caught in close for 37. Izaak then went past fifty for the first time in Fourth Grade to go with his four wickets and three catches. However, when he departed for a controlled 61 in the 39th over it triggered a mini collapse with three wickets going down for 11 runs. With Norths 6/136, our youngest Bear, Hamish Reynolds (46*) showed great maturity at the crease in combination with Fraser Noack (30), with the pair compiling for a 70 run partnership that provided the team with a great opportunity to win the game. However, with Fraser dismissed at 7/206 and only ten available batmen, we fell 20 runs short of our objective.

Round 9 v Penrith @ Bill Ball Oval
Lost by 5 wickets 132 v 5/137

After winning the toss and choosing to bat a flurry of wickets including three ducks put the team on the ropes at 4/21. Finn Nixon-Tomko batted through scoring 41 with some lovely pull shots and in combination with Hamish Reynolds (21) we started to find our feet, with the pair putting together a 50 run stand for the 5th wicket. A further clump of wickets saw the team dismissed for 132 with a few single figure scores and 24 from Lachlan Stewart pushing us beyond the 100 mark. In reply Jack Thomas (1/17 off 10) and Tim Robson (1/21 off 9) took early wickets to have Penrith 2/7 and then 3/21 after a run-out. Finn (1/12) and Shiv Vohra (1/25) made a double breakthrough with the score on 97. However, Penrith cruised past our total 5 down.

Round 10 v Manly-Warringah @ Tunks Park
Abandoned (no play)

Round 11 v St George @ Harold Fraser Oval
Won by 5 wickets 5/201 v 200

Fourth Grade were greeted with a new pavilion, carpeted change rooms, a lift to the viewing pavilion and a belter of a wicket when they arrived at Harold Fraser Oval. The Dragons had no hesitation batting and made a good start. Fraser Noack (3/40) and Izaak Merlehan (3/19) worked in tandem to put the brakes on the St George innings and reduce them to 6/71 in the 27th. Shiv Vohra (2/50) and Tim Robson grabbed two further wickets, with Robson also involved in a run-out. Unfortunately though, the Bears conceded around 130 runs in the final 20 overs to give St George an even 200 runs. With 201 runs required to win, 2/31 was not an ideal start. However, a fifty by opener Finn Nixon-Tomko and 29 by Jake Holmes took the score to 3/76. Next to the crease strode Izzak Merlehan who launched a blistering shot over deep mid-wicket to the get off the mark and signal his intention. Izaak finished with 88 not out off 67 balls, sending the spinners to all ends of the ground to cap a great all-round performance which saw the Bears winning with a few overs to spare.

Round 12 v University of NSW @ Tunks Park
Drawn DNB v 8/364

After losing the toss, the Bears were asked to field in extreme heat on a flat Tunks pitch. Young Green Shield bowler, Toby Laybutt (1/33), bowled in good areas in his first spell to take a wicket on his grade debut. Adam Cavenor (1/43) then claimed the second wicket of the day with the score on 73. Will Abbott (1/30) grabbed the third UNSW wicket in the 37th over at 112. From there, things got tough with Green Shield player Nicholas Everitt (170) and Nikolous Tsoukalas (66) putting together a 143 run partnership for the fourth wicket. The pain did not end there with the Bumblebees scoring another 101 for the fifth wicket and the score advancing to 356. The Bees got to 8/364 with wickets to Tim Robson (1/79), Shiv Vohra (1/33) and Keith Lawrence (1/86). With rain all week and further showers on day two, the match was abandoned.

Round 13 v Sutherland @ Tunks Park
Lost outright by 5 wickets 76 & 104 v 3/77d & 5/104

Sutherland won the toss and sent UTS North Sydney into bat and it didn't take long before their decision was justified with the wicket of captain Keith Lawrence. The Bears then lost three wickets with the score on 13 to be in deep trouble. A further two wickets fell at 30 and before long the team had slumped to 9/43. The best partnership of the day – 33 runs - was between No. 10 Archie Wright (28) and No. 11 Toby Laybutt. Tim Robson (2/22) and Luke Opacic (1/16) took three Sharks wickets before they passed our score. Sol Balbi also bowled six tight overs for just 9 runs. Sutherland then declared and, in our second dig, Lawrence and Hamish Reynolds looked solid before Lawrence was run out with the score on 27. On day two, in an attempt to avoid an outright loss, Ali Shaikh (21) and Reynolds progressed the score to 50 before Reynolds was caught for 16. A number of players managed to reach double figures but regular wickets saw the team slump to 7/96 and then all out 104 in 48.5 overs. This left Sutherland around 40 overs to score the 104 required. The bowlers toiled hard with wickets to Shiv Vohra (2/38), Toby Laybutt (1/16) and Tim Robson (1/19). However, after 35 overs Sutherland had reached the target five down.

Round 14 v Eastern Suburbs @ Trumper Park
Lost by 2 wickets 186 v 214

The Bears were sent into bat on a wicket that looked like it would have a bit of life. Despite losing a wicket early, Drew Sellers (29) and Abdullah Shaikh (38) put on 50 for the second wicket. Chaitanya Madala (34) then combined with Abdullah to take the score to 3/84. Regular wickets fell but new lad Oliver Jennings (24) defied a testing attack, occupying the crease for two hours and facing over 100 balls. Shiv Vohra (24) and Luke Opacic (17) also combined for a useful partnership late in the innings to move the team score to 186 all out. With two overs to be bowled at the end of the day, a great delivery from Will Abbott (1/0) took the edge of the Easts opener's bat to put the team on a high. On day two, Toby Laybutt struck in the second over of the morning, and then collected another pole four overs later, to have the wind in the Bears' sails at 3/16. The Dolphins progressed to 79 before Toby claimed his third wicket in the first over of his second spell. When Toby claimed his fourth of the afternoon, the game was in the balance with Easts 5/109. The sixth wicket partnership took the score to 143 before Toby completed his five-fa in the first over of his third spell. Shiv Vohra then joined the party and Easts were 7/158, needing 29 runs with three wickets in hand. Sol Balbi took a wicket immediately upon returning to the attack and Easts needed 20, eight down. Unfortunately, the Easts skipper, Coles, proved a thorn in the Bears' side, taking the Dolphins past the target in a remarkable, undefeated innings of 149. Shiv (3/30) claimed the final two wickets after Easts had claimed six points but ultimately the Bears fell to a superb innings by Coles that represented almost 70% of his side's total. The Bears' Green Shield spearhead, Toby Laybutt finished with the excellent figures of 5/57, claiming his first five wicket haul for the club.

Round 15 v Blacktown @ Whalan Oval
Drawn 0/20 v 127

Fourth Grade headed to Whalan Oval with some late season points on their collective mind. Captain Lawrence called correctly and the Bears decided to insert Blacktown. Sol Balbi and Kobe Allison (on grade debut for the club) took the new ball and caused the Mounties top order significant issues. Kobe claimed the first wicket, caught behind in his second over, while Sol continued to apply the pressure from the other end. Jarrad Ninness replaced Kobe and claimed the remaining opener. Sol concluded his fine opening spell having had no luck, but having collected the parsimonious figures of eight overs, 0/8. Shivam Vohra entered the attack and claimed the next two wickets, both stumped by Lachlan Stewart. Kobe returned to the attack and he and Shiv traded the next three wickets to finish with three apiece from their respective 10 overs (Kobe 3/35, Shiv 3/32). Skipper Lawrence and Baran Kumar claimed the last two wickets to dismiss Blacktown for a below-par 127. Luke Smith and Baran Kumar opened for the Bears and they took the score along to 0/20 without much fuss. Alas, with the game seemingly in hand, the rain intervened and there was no further play to be had. It was a great shame not to be able to capitalise on a fine bowling effort.

Fourth Grade Statistics

Batting

	Matches	Innings	Aggregate	NO	50s	100s	HS	Average	C/S
Merlehan, Izaak	4	3	151	1	2	0	88	75.50	3
Holmes, Jake	6	5	139	0	0	0	45	27.80	8
Kumar, Baran	7	5	126	1	1	0	59	31.50	0
Nixon-Tomko, Finn	5	5	121	0	1	0	50	24.20	0
Robson, Timothy	10	8	106	0	0	0	31	13.25	4
Shaw, Jamie	4	4	101	0	0	0	49	25.25	0
Nigul, Aditya	6	6	88	0	0	0	37	14.67	0
Reynolds, Hamish	6	6	88	1	0	0	46	17.60	3
Lawrence, Keith	10	9	82	1	0	0	24	10.25	1
Vohra, Shivam	13	11	79	3	0	0	24	9.88	1
Cavenor, Adam	4	3	73	0	0	0	26	24.33	1
Sellers, Drew	5	5	73	1	0	0	29	18.25	1
Shaikh, Abdullah	3	4	64	0	0	0	38	16.00	0

Also batted – C.Spratt (53 runs @ 26.5), L.Hodge (51 runs @ 51), C.Madala (46 runs @ 15.33), L.Stewart (42 runs @ 7), A.Wright (38 runs @ 19), G.Jansson (32 runs @ 8), H.May (30 runs @ 10), F.Noack (30 runs @ 30), O.Jennings (24 runs @ 24), L.Opacic (21 runs @ 7), N.Stokes (19 runs @ 6.33), G.Archer (16 runs @ 16), M.Oliver (15 runs @ 7.50), C.Rose (10 runs @ 10), A.Gotsis (10 runs @ 5), C.Savage (9 runs @ 9), J.Thomas (8 runs @ 8), J.Vilensky (7 runs @ 7), S.Balbi (7 runs @ 3.50), W.Abbott 6 runs @ 3), R.Brown (3 runs @ 3), L.Smith (2 runs @ 2), L.Heffernan (1 run @ 0.50), T.Laybutt (1 runs @ 0.50), J.Ninness (0 runs @ 0)

Bowling

	Matches	Overs	Wickets	Runs Conceded	5WI	BBI	Average
Vohra, Shivam	13	111	20	372	0	3/14	18.60
Robson, Timothy	10	116.3	14	408	0	3/48	29.14
May, Harrison	5	52	12	178	1	6/49	14.83
Kumar, Baran	7	45.2	11	227	0	3/35	20.64
Merlehan, Izaak	4	54.2	10	158	0	4/57	15.80
Laybutt, Toby	3	38	7	131	1	5/57	18.71
Abbott, William	6	41	7	165	0	2/21	23.57
Noack, Fraser J	3	42	6	122	0	3/40	20.33

Also bowled – R.Brown (5 wickets @ 14.2), N.Stokes (4 wickets @ 41.5), K.Allison (3 wickets @ 11.67), A.Cavenor (3 wickets @ 21.67), H.Reynolds (2 wickets @ 20), J.Ninness (2 wickets @ 21.5), C.Savage (2 wickets @ 44.5), K.Lawrence (2 wickets @ 48), F.Nixon-Tomko (1 wicket @ 12), A.Thomas (1 wicket @ 14), J.Thomas (1 wicket @ 17), L.Opacic (1 wicket @ 51), S.Balbi (1 wicket @ 74), D.Sellers (0/11), O.Jennings (0/14), A.Wright (0/18), J.Shaw (0/19), L.Stewart (0/20), G.Archer (0/64)

Fifth Grade Report

Patrick Lindsay

UTS North Sydney 5th Grade are the David Sherwood Cup Holders!

It feels wonderful to be able to say this, however, as mentioned regularly throughout the past few months, there is a certain emptiness, as we weren't able to test our wares in a finals series.

Nevertheless the UTS North Sydney 5th Grade side had a stellar season, claiming the minor premiership as well as the David Sherwood Cup.

I will therefore focus this report on those players who played a key part of our success. Note 34 players represented 5th grade in season 2019-20 so I will focus on those who were eligible for finals. This shouldn't ignore the contributions of Izaak Merlehan and Jamie Shaw who went onto to bigger and better things up the grades after their respective 5-fa and tons.

Chris Savage

5th Grade player of season, Took 29 wickets at an average of 13 in the 9 games played in 5s. Clearly destined for higher grades as evidenced by his PGs performances (12 @ 15.33), Chris' best performance was vs Easts where he took 5/38 and had a few further chances go down. Chris is also a gutsy cricketer, bowling himself to a standstill at Fairfield on a 40+ degree day. Great season Sav-dog!

Luke Smith

Luca returned to play after starting the season as the ground manager at Bon Andrews. We saw glimpses of the Luca of old – power square of the wicket on the on-side and punchy down the ground, but he wasn't able to put it together for a big score. Luca was pumped for finals and I'm sure a big score was going to come. Luca's ability to score quickly and dominate

attacks is so valuable and we hope we can see more of this in season 20-21.

Jack Thomas

A mainstay of the side, Jack was a valuable contributor throughout the season as evidenced by his 20 poles @ 10.75 in 8 games. Jack picked up a couple of injuries that certainly curtailed his wickets tally. The highlight of Jacks season was his brilliant 6-30 vs Sutherland that helped us defend a measly 129 vs another Top 6 side. Jack's fielding in the slips was also a feature, perhaps highlighted by the fact that he was the only person who regularly held catches in the cordon!

Cooper Goddard

Played the 2nd most games in the season and scored 189 runs @ 19. The highlights of Cooper's season were often in the field. He was simply the best fielder in the comp, effecting numerous run-outs (often direct hits) and possessing a safe pair of hands. Cooper is so athletic I could often field him at extra cover and he would easily cover two positions in the field (cover and mid-off). Coopers athleticism, anticipation and ability to gather the ball on the half volley at full pace make him a truly superb fielder. The Jonty Rhodes of the team.

Nathaniel Stokes

A key member of the side as a new ball/first change bowler Nathaniel took 18 wickets @ 15. Nathaniel's best performance was against Mosman where he ripped through the Whales to pick up 6/23. Nathaniel can move the ball both ways and has couple of handy variations. Another player destined to play higher cricket, Nathaniel's batting also showed promise at times.

Chaitanya Madala

Chaitanya played 9 games in 5s before finishing the season in 4s. Chaitanya is compact batsman and tidy

wicketkeeper. The highlight of Chaitanya's season was his 56 vs Hawksbury in Round 2. Chaitanya has a big future and the club looks forward to seeing develop over the coming seasons.

Abdullah Shaikh

We welcomed Abzy back to the club from Wests and it was a pleasure to have him around the dressing room. Abzy batted very nicely for his 53 vs Parramatta in Round 7 and then played brilliantly in our win vs Fairfield in Round 8, with his 42 in the blazing heat, nearly good enough to get us the 10 points. Abzy's fielding has also improved a lot, with him being steady presence at gully.

Lucas Heffernan

The Heff played 6 games for 5s, mostly behind the stumps. At his best, Heff is a dashing left handed bat, capable of some quality innings such as his 28* vs UNSW and his 38 vs Sutherland. Heff is also a good keeper with plenty of energy and a great lad around the dressing room.

Oliver Jennings

OJ/Juice played his 1st season of grade in season 19/20 and across Green Shield and grade he scored 285 runs at 26 and took 6 wickets at 42. Juice averaged 27 in 5s and is a calm left handed bat. His leg spin bowling is very accurate – he bowled tremendously well in Round 15 vs Blacktown with a very wet ball. I'm not sure he said a word at all during the season, however I'm sure he was just taking it all in and we'll be hearing Juice chirping in no time. Ollie is a player with a lot of promise, we look forward to seeing him up the grades in future seasons.

Archie Wright

Another player who made his grade debut this season, Archie played 6 games for the club with 5 in 5s as well as a number of games for Roseville including 1st Grade. Archie's best day was vs Penrith where he

took 2 for 34 off his 10. He also did well against Manly taking a key wicket in our defence. Archie has ability with the bat as seen by his fighting 28 vs Sutherland in 4s. Archie's a top lad, great around the dressing room and a committed trainer.

Michael Lloyd

This legendary Bear played 5 games of high quality cricket for 5s in an effort to play finals (failed) and win a premiership (succeeded!). Lloydie finished top of the Bears 5s runs chart with 209 runs @ 35. A typically swashbuckling 62 the highlight against Easts, as well as nearly dying in the heat in the 2nd dig vs Fairfield for 37. A certain opening bowler mentioned he may need to work on his slips catching.

Finn Nixon-Tomko

After an interrupted start to the season (HSC) Finn joined 5s to play some finals cricket. Finn showed his class vs Sydney with 60 before he was run out, with the game at his mercy. Finn is a patient opening bat, with a solid technique and good temperament. He will play higher grade cricket sooner rather than later. Finn's left arm orthos are also handy and he bowled particularly well vs Blacktown in Round 15.

Charlie Rose

Another player who had an interrupted start to the season (injury) Charlie also joined 5s to taste finals cricket. His best knock was in the 2nd dig vs Easts where he came out to bat with the bears in a spot of bother and saw us home easily. Charlie is a high quality left hand bat and a great field. Higher grades await Charlie if he can stay fit!

Liam Hodge

Hodgey joined the team in the quest for finals and was a key member of the side behind the stumps. He scored nearly half of the teams runs in the match vs Manly and also top scored in the 1st dig vs Sutherland. Hodgey is also very slick behind the

stumps as evidenced by his stumping off Revai vs St George. Hodgley is also a gutsy cricketer, playing on with a dislocated finger vs Easts. He also managed to take his 1st grade wicket vs Blacktown when given a celebrity bowl – a lifetime memory I'm sure!

Ben Revai

Ben played for the team when school commitments allowed and he had a major impact on the 4 games he played. He was Man of the Match in the tied game vs St George top scoring with 32 and then taking 3 very valuable wickets including 2 in the last over defending 7 runs! Ben is very cool under pressure and is a real three dimensional cricketer. A top prospect for the club.

Akshit Rana

Aki joined the side after his Green Shield campaign ended and he made quite an impact with his off-spin bowling and batting. He played very well in his debut vs Penrith taking two wickets and scoring a crucial 26 to help us to a defendable target. He also bowled magnificently vs Manly taking 3 for 9 off 7 overs and bowling us to an unlikely victory. Aki possesses a beautiful off spinners action, a tight batting technique and is lively in the field – a very handy cricketer!

Congrats to all on winning the flag. All players should look to bigger and better things with their cricket next season!



Fifth Grade Round by Round Summary

Round 1 v Bankstown @ Graeme Thomas Oval Won by 7 wickets 3/151 v 149

After being asked to field, the Bears took wickets at regular intervals. Jack Thomas (1/23) bowled in good areas, while Nathaniel Stokes (2/25) bowled nicely for his two wickets. Adrian Perera (2/9) was asked to bowl at a challenging time for a wrist-spinner and acquitted himself very well taking two wickets. Patrick Lindsay gained the best bowling figures of the game, taking 4/20 off his 10 overs. Cooper Goddard was easily the standout fielder, taking a great catch to remove their skipper. All in all, it was a solid performance to dismiss Bankstown for 149. With the bat, young Green Shield player, Adi Nigul was the standout. He batted through the innings with a mature, composed knock of 60 not out, including eight fours. Cooper Goddard batted positively and looked really good for his 26. Michael Oliver showed great leadership with his 35 not out that included five fours, to see the team home comfortably with the team chasing down the 149 required with three wickets down after just 36 overs.

Round 2 v Hawkesbury @ Tunks Park Won by 158 runs 4d/256 v 98 & 1/20

A soggy Tunks Park outfield, but a hard dry pitch - a true Bernie special - greeted Fifth Grade. Grant Jansson and Jamie Shaw, in just his third game for the club, opened the batting and set about destroying the Hawks opening attack, plundering 137 for the first wicket off just 21 overs. With Jansson falling for a typically dashing 65, Chaitanya Madala then joined Shaw with the pair inflicting further pain on the Hawkesbury bowlers by putting on another century stand of 107. With Madala out after a well-compiled 56, the home team was sitting nicely on 2/144. Captain Patrick Lindsay declared at 4/256 off 54 overs with Jamie Shaw compiling a brilliant 115*. Ross Brown (2/7) on his club debut, opened the bowling with Chris Savage, and had immediate success with a wicket off his second ball. Brown then claimed a second late wicket to have Hawkesbury 2/13 at the close of play. There was drama early on day two, with the big quick Ross Brown succumbing to a hammy, pinged by a sniper hiding in the Tunks trees. However, wickets to Jamie Shaw and Chris Savage had the Hawks reeling at 4/41. Hawkesbury batted very conservatively, hoping for the rain as they went eight down, and a man short. Lindsay (3/14) cleaned up the middle order allowing Shaw (2/23) and Savage (2/27) to wrap the game up and secure the six points, bowling Hawkesbury out for 98. Rain prevented any chance of an outright and the game was called with the Hawks 1/20 following on.

Round 3 v Mosman @ Balmoral Oval Lost by 83 runs 144 v 227 & 0/14

The Bears lost the toss and were asked to field on a picturesque Balmoral Oval. Early wickets to Chris Savage (1/37) and Nathaniel Stokes had the Bears on top. However, a third wicket stand of 141 put the Whales in the ascendancy at 2/173 after 46 overs. A wicket to skipper Patrick Lindsay (3/80 off 26), who got through a mountain of work, halted some of the momentum. However, it was a double breakthrough by Stokes that put the Bears back on top. Wickets tumbled from this point with the Whales losing 7/23 in nine overs to be all out for 227. In only his third game in grade cricket, Stokes was the star of the show with 6/23 off 12 overs - the second best haul of the round in all grades. The Bears had 12 tricky overs to negotiate before stumps but Michael Lloyd 28* and Izaak Merlehan 12* batted with grit putting together 36 valuable runs to have us 2/42 at the close. The early loss of Lloyd on day two was a tough blow and the Mosman bowlers bowled well. Although Izaak Merlehan carried his bat for a stand-

out innings of 72*, it was not enough as wickets fell regularly at the other end. Ultimately Fifth Grade fell more than 80 runs short for a disappointing result.

Round 4 v Sydney University @ Camperdown Park
Won by 3 wickets 7/205 v 203

Fifth Grade welcomed four debutants to Camperdown Park in their clash with Sydney University. Messrs Noack, Nelson, Gotsis and Jennings suited up for the Bears in NSW Premier Cricket for the first time, while youngster Hamish Reynolds returned to the side. The Students were happy to bat after winning the toss on a pitch with minimal sideways movement. Chris Savage (1/25) and Matthew Nelson (2/32) took the first two wickets. Peter Brazel then picked up the Uni skipper and the Bears were on a roll at 3/49. Uni mounted a partnership to move to 3/129 before skipper Pat Lindsay (5/39) got a much needed double breakthrough. Wickets then fell regularly with Brazel (2/20) taking the final pole at 203. Skipper Lindsay finished with 5/39 off 18, his twelfth 5-fa for the club. The Bears then faced 19 overs losing 2/48 with Hamish Reynolds 26*. With 152 required for victory on day two, Chris Savage (49) combined with Reynolds to put on 60 for the third wicket and reach 3/108. Partnerships developed with all players contributing, but at the same time wickets were being lost. At 7/169, Matthew Nelson (17*), in his first game for the Bears and Patrick Lindsay (19*) in his 136th game, came together to get the Bears over the line, reaching the target with three overs remaining in the day.

Round 5 v Sydney @ Tunks Park
Lost by 57 runs 151 v 8/208

Skipper Patrick Lindsay lost the toss for the fifth time in succession and the Bears were asked to field first. Sydney raced to 0/30 off 4 before Nathaniel Stokes took a wicket. Chris Savage took out the other opener in the 18th over, but at that stage Sydney had accumulated 73 runs. Stokes (3/39 off 10) took the next two wickets with the score at 119 and 133. When Izaak Merehan chipped in for a wicket, Sydney were 5/134 in the 36th. Savage (3/35 off 9), who bowled particularly well, also claimed three poles and at the close of the Sydney innings it was 8/208. The Bears started brightly with the bat putting on 35 for the first wicket. Finn Nixon-Tomko (60) and Hamish Reynolds (28) put on a good partnership for the 3rd wicket. However, wickets fell steadily and the Bears were bowled out for 151.

Round 6 v Western Suburbs @ Tunks Park
Won by 63 runs 6/212 v 149

Overnight rain had the Tunks outfield sluggish, but the deck was fine and Wests opted to bowl first after winning the toss. Highlights with the bat were the diligent opening stand of 66 between Peter Brazel (24) and Hamish Reynolds (38), confident displays from returning Bears Jacob Thompson (32) and Luke Smith (28), and a big bomb from skipper Lindsay (25*). UTS North Sydney finished with a highly competitive 6/212. The Bears built pressure with the ball from the off, seeking to keep the Magpies behind the run rate with storm clouds brewing. Fraser Noack was the standout bowler with 4/23. The Bears were wasteful with a couple of dropped chances and two wickets off no-balls, however got the job done, dismissing Wests for 147 in the 46th over.

Round 7 v Parramatta @ Castlewood Oval
Won by 28 runs 267 v 239

After choosing to bat first at Castlewood Oval we lost Peter Brazel early, but a series of positive and confident partnerships advanced the score at a decent clip. Izaak Merlehan (29) combined with Cooper Goddard (43) to put on 42 for the second wicket, while Chaitanya Madala (47) and Abdullah Shaikh (53) put on a 73-run stand for the fourth wicket. Shaikh, who notched up his fourth fifty in grade cricket, then combined with Oliver Jennings (29) for a 48 run partnership for the fifth wicket. Parra regrouped and eventually the Bears were dismissed in the last over for 267. At the start of day two, we needed 10 Parra wickets. What we didn't expect was the wrong pitch on the square being prepared, creating a very short boundary on the eastern part of the ground. Added to this, skipper Pat Lindsay had injured his hamstring during day one and was unable to bowl, with Jack Thomas taking over the captaincy reigns. Parra started well by advancing to 110/1 before Thomas struck in the 31st over, triggering a mini-collapse. Izaak Merlehan, and then Thomas an over later, picked up wickets to have the Two Blues 4/115. Merlehan, who had bowled unchanged from the 16th over, then took a sharp catch off his own bowling in the 42nd over and then another wicket adjudged LBW to reduce Parramatta to 6/143 in the 48th. A solid seventh wicket stand of 57 advanced the score to 6/200. However, that man, Merlehan got two quick ones, both caught by Archie Wright at square leg and in a flash it was 8/204. Skipper Thomas (4/36), bowling on fumes, then got the key wicket of the hard hitting number 9, followed by the final wicket LBW to dismiss Parra for 239 with four overs left in the day. Izaak Merlehan was the standout performer - 31 overs 7 maidens 5 wickets for 79 to go with his 29 last week. It is the second time in his North Sydney career that Izaak has taken a five-fa in Fifth Grade.

Round 8 v Fairfield-Liverpool @ Don Dawson Oval
Won by 7 wickets 3d/86 & 5/106 v 79 & 129

After being asked to field, Jack Thomas (3/15) and Chris Savage (2/31) opened the attack, bowling the first 21 overs straight. Thomas took the first pole in the fifth over and another in the seventh to have Fairfield 2/17. Savage chimed in a few overs later with a typical full straight ball. Thomas looked a class above, moving the ball both ways, in the air and off the pitch, with great control. When he took his third wicket of the day, the Lions were reeling at 4/26. By the 18th over with another one to Savage, The Bears were off to a flyer and Fairfield had been reduced to 5/34. It didn't get any easier for the Fairfield batsman as the change bowlers came on. Archie Wright (1/8) and Ben Revai (1/12) were both introduced to bowl a few overs with Pat Lindsay holding up an end. Both boys snared their First Grade wickets, courtesy of good catches from Rohan Awati and Abdullah Shaikh respectively. Skipper Lindsay (3/11) wrapped the innings up by taking the final three Fairfield wickets in the 52nd over with the score on 79. This left the Bears 26 overs in the day to chase down 80. We lost Savage early, however Michael Lloyd and Oliver Jennings batted positively putting on 55 before Lloyd was dismissed for a hard hitting 31 in the 17th. Abdullah Shaikh (20*) and Jennings (27*) took the team past the Lions total. After a declaration on day two, it took 26 overs to take our first wicket with the score on 42. From there, wickets fell regularly. Pat Lindsay (4/48) claimed the first 4 wickets and then Ben Revai (3/25) took the next three. Opening bowlers Chris Savage (2/13) and Jack Thomas (1/12) took the final three Lions wickets to dismiss them for 128. 122 off 18 overs was needed for outright glory. However, the oppressive heat claimed Savage to heat stroke and made it challenging for veteran Michael Lloyd (37) to run twos. Abdullah Shaikh (42*) kept us in the hunt, but eventually the heat won out, with the boys finishing at 5/106 off our 18 overs.

Round 9 v Penrith @ Tunks Park

Won by 8 runs 8/187 v 179

An inexperienced team, including two debutants, was named to take on ladder leaders Penrith at Tunks Park. The Bears got off to a strong start via Green Shielders Olly Jennings and Ben Fisher (on debut) who put on a mature opening stand of 67 before Jennings was dismissed for 21. Luke Smith and Fisher moved the score to 96, however after the dismissal of Fisher for 50 with the score on 107, the wheels fell off and the Bears collapsed to be 7/127. Aki Rana (26), also on debut, and Ben Revai (24*) counterpunched brilliantly advancing the score to 8/187 at the close to provide a competitive total. Penrith got off to a flyer, quickly moving the score to 59 before Pat Lindsay (2/9 off 10) trapped the opener for the first wicket. Rana (2/47 off 10) dismissed the other opener and built pressure with Archie Wright (2/34 off 10) bowling particularly well. Nevertheless, Penrith took it deep, needing an achievable 32 off four with two wickets in hand. Ben Revai (1/45 off 10) bowled a terrific 47th over going for only two runs, which put us in front and Sol Balbi (2/39 off 9.5) took the last two wickets in the 48th and 50th overs to secure victory by eight runs.

Round 10 v Manly-Warringah @ Mike Pawley Oval

Won by 1 run 85 v 84

A sodden Mike Pawley Oval greeted the 5s boys for their clash with Manly. With the rain easing after midday, play commenced, with UTS North Sydney batting and the game reduced to 34 overs per side. The Bears quickly slumped to 5/24. Liam Hodge (39) allowed us to scratch our way to 85 in 28.3 overs. However, this team has made winning a habit and refused to submit. Will Abbott dismissed one opener, and when skipper Pat Lindsay got two quick ones it was 3/14 and game on. Ben Revai grabbed another with the score at 41 to leave the door ajar. Youngster Aki Rana then turned the game on its head with 3/9 from 7 overs, reducing Manly to 7/60. Two further quick wickets to Lindsay (3/18 off 7) and Archie Wright (1/9 off 4) had Manly reeling at 9/71, still 14 in arrears. Manly clawed their way to 9/80 with 2 overs remaining and then hit a four off the first ball of the 33rd over. However, Ben Revai (2/17 off 5.2) held his nerve snicking off the number 9 to win the game by a run and move the 5th Grade doyens eight points clear atop the ladder!

Round 11 v St George @ Tunks Park

Tied 160 v 9/160

After being inserted by the Saints, Adi Nigul (25) and Luke Smith (23) advanced the score to 57 before they fell in quick succession to the St George change bowlers. The same bowlers then ripped the heart out of the Bears middle order with Norths slumping to 6/88. Ben Revai showed great resolve, scoring 32* and advancing the score to 160. In reply, St George quickly moved to 2/79 before two brilliant run-outs to Cooper Goddard and then a sharp stumping to Liam Hodge off Revai gave the Bears a chance at 6/136. However, with seven runs needed off the last over and four wickets in hand, St George were in the box seat. Two off the first ball reduced the equation to 5 off 5. A run-out by Abbott and Revai with the Saints attempting a 2nd - 4 off 4 with 3 wickets in hand. The third ball of the over was swung high to deep midwicket. Abzy Shaikh stood calmly under it and pouched the catch - 4 off 3 with two wickets in hand. The fourth ball of the over was also hit in the air - straight to Will Abbott! A team hat-trick, Revai (3/33 off 10) on a hat-trick himself and 4 off 2 with the number 11 striding out. The penultimate was hit for two meaning one to tie and two to win. The last ball was hit firmly down the ground...but straight to mid-off. A run was completed. But only one. A tie at Tunks International Sports Park!

Round 12 v University of NSW @ Alexandria Park
Drawn 1/55 v 131

The quirky Alexandria Park with its short boundaries and trees in the outfield was the location for 5s' clash vs UNSW. The Bears were asked to field first and put together an impressive bowling and fielding display to dismiss the Bees for 131 in the 59th over. Wickets were shared between Jack Thomas (3/28), Pat Lindsay (2/26), Chris Savage (2/37) and Luke Opacic (2/20), with Opacic the pick of the bowlers. In reply, the Bears reached 1/55 with Lucas Heffernan not out on 28 and requiring 77 runs on day two for victory. Unfortunately, the weather worked against us and no further play was possible with the game ending in a draw.

Round 13 v Sutherland @ Tonkin Park
Won by 58 runs 129 & 7d/135 v 71 & 7/129

The Bears won the toss and elected to bat on what looked like a hard surface. Unfortunately, wickets fell regularly with Finn Nixon-Tomko (24) and Liam Hodge (37) anchoring the innings. Cooper Goddard (15) also made a strong contribution before holing out in the deep. Sadly the Bears were all out shortly after tea for a disappointing 129. Nevertheless, we were still optimistic, knowing the strength of our attack. And so it proved with Jack Thomas (12 overs 7 maidens 6 for 18) tearing through the Sutho top order. Jack bowled with accuracy and control, moving the ball in the air and off the pitch. Cooper Goddard, whose fielding in the cover region has been electric all season, contributed with another brilliant direct hit run-out after swooping on a ball in the covers and throwing down the stumps. A mini fightback from Sutherland improved their position to 8/54 at the close. On day two, Chris Savage (2/19) picked up the final two wickets, giving the Bears a lead of 58 with 70 overs left in the day. In the second dig, Lucas Heffernan scored freely, top-scoring with 38. Hodge (25) and Goddard (29*) also contributed before skipper Pat Lindsay declared the innings closed at 7/135, a lead of 193 with 31 overs remaining. The Bears started the fourth innings well, reducing Sutherland to 5-30 with Chris Savage continuing his good form from earlier in the day with 4/43. However a couple of partnerships halted our momentum, and stumps were called after 33 overs with the Sharks on 7/129.

Round 14 v Eastern Suburbs @ Tunks Park
Won outright by 6 wickets 8d/140 & 4/89 v 98 & 126

Easts had no hesitation in batting first on what looked like a typical Bernie belter. Chris Savage got the Bears underway with a wicket in the fourth over. Wickets fell relatively regularly with Savage the pick of the bowlers with 5/38 off 18 overs. Savage looked a class above and took his wicket tally to 24 at an average of 12.9 in this grade. Nathaniel Stokes (3/23), also chipped in with three important middle order wickets. Keeper Liam Hodge, who dislocated his finger catching a Chris Savage thunderbolt, deserves special mention. Hodgey battled on manfully for a couple of overs, catching a few more balls, before leaving the field. He then fielded fine leg to fine leg (finger still out of place) until the innings ended with the score on 98. For the Bears, Michael Lloyd (62) steadied the ship with Luke Smith (24) after a few early wickets went down. Norths passed the Dolphins' total in the 19th over and ended the day 8/140 - a lead of 42. Skipper Lindsay declared at the start of day two and it wasn't long before Easts were reeling at 7-97 with wickets to Savage (1/33), Jarrad Ninness (1/24) and a five for Lindsay who finished with 7/33 off 21.5 overs. Easts were eventually bundled out for 126 with Nathaniel Stokes (1/21) also claiming a pole. The Bears needed 85 off 25 for the 10 points, but started 2/0 off 2 balls! When Luke Smith (13) was dismissed it was 3/20. However, Charlie Rose (28*) and Michael Lloyd (29) moved the score to 56, before Cooper Goddard

(16*) joined Rose to knock off the runs quickly by the 19th over. It was the side's first outright of the season after a couple of near misses vs Fairfield and Sutherland.

Round 15 v Blacktown @ Tunks Park
Drawn DNB v 231

The Bears lost the toss and were asked to field first. Unfortunately, constant light drizzle meant the ground held some surface water, which affected the condition of the ball. This neutralised our attack somewhat and Blacktown were able to score relatively freely. Chris Savage (4/34) again bowled well. However, it was the part time spin of Finn Nixon Tomko (1/10) and Liam Hodge (1/6) and the full time spinners - Ollie Jennings (1/24) and Patrick Lindsay (1/25) - who negotiated the very wet ball to dry up the runs and restrict Blacktown to 8/154 off 49 overs (reduced due to rain delays). Over the lunch break, the rain got heavier and more constant. After hearing the Penrith (2nd place - 6 points behind) vs Wests game was abandoned, stumps were called and the Bears Fifth Grade team had secured the Minor Premiership.



Fifth Grade Statistics

Batting

	Matches	Innings	Aggregate	NO	50s	100s	HS	Average	C/S
Lloyd, Michael	5	7	209	1	1	0	62	34.83	1
Goddard, Cooper	11	12	189	2	0	0	43	18.90	2
Shaikh, Abdullah	8	8	135	2	1	0	53	22.50	2
Madala, Chaitanya	9	8	129	1	1	0	56	18.43	1
Merlehan, Izaak	6	4	128	1	1	0	72	42.67	1
Nixon-Tomko, Finn	5	5	128	0	1	0	60	25.60	1
Shaw, Jamie	2	2	122	1	0	1	115	122.00	0
Smith, Luke	6	8	118	0	0	0	29	14.75	0
Reynolds, Hamish	3	3	116	0	1	0	50	38.67	1
Jennings, Oliver	5	5	108	1	0	0	29	27.00	0
Hodge, Liam	5	4	103	1	0	0	39	34.33	6
Lindsay, Patrick	15	10	99	2	0	0	25	12.38	3
Nigul, Aditya	2	2	85	1	1	0	60	85.00	0
Savage, Christopher	9	7	80	1	0	0	49	13.33	1
Heffernan, Lucas	6	7	78	1	0	0	38	13.00	2

Also batted – G.Jansson (65 runs @ 65), C.Rose (63 runs @ 21), B.Revai (56 runs @ 56), B.Fisher (50 runs @ 50), J.Thomas (45 runs @ 7.50), M.Oliver (40 runs @ 20), N.Stokes (38 runs @ 6.33), J.Thompson (32 runs @ 32), A.Rana (30 runs @ 6), P.Brazel (27 runs @ 9), M.Nelson (17 runs undismisssed), F.Atshan (11 runs undismisssed), A.Wright (9 runs @ 3), F.Noack (9 runs @ 9), W.Abbott (7 runs @ 3.50), S.Vohra (7 runs undismisssed), A. Gotsis (6 runs @ 6), A.Clark (3 runs @ 3), D.Sellers (0 runs @ 0), S.Balbi (0 runs @ 0)

Bowling

	Matches	Overs	Wickets	Runs Conceded	5WI	BBI	Average
Lindsay, Patrick	15	230	43	491	2	7/33	11.42
Savage, Christopher	9	144.4	29	377	1	5/38	13.00
Thomas, Jack	8	110.5	20	215	1	6/30	10.75
Stokes, Nathaniel	9	82.2	18	264	1	6/23	14.67
Revai, Ben	4	38	9	135	0	3/28	15.00
Rana, Akshit	5	37	7	145	0	3/9	20.71
Merlehan, Izaak	6	61	7	173	1	5/79	24.71

Also bowled – F.Noack (4 wickets @ 25.75), A.Wright (4 wickets @ 29), S.Balbi (3 wickets @ 30.33), L.Opacic (2 wickets @ 10), R.Brown (2 wickets @ 12), M.Nelson (2 wickets @ 16), P.Brazel (2 wickets @ 18.5), A.Perera (2 wickets @ 25), L.Hodge (1 wicket @ 7), F.Nixon-Tomko (1 wicket @ 11), C.Goddard (1 wicket @ 13), J.Ninness (1 wicket @ 24), W.Abbott (1 wicket @ 33), F.Atshan (1 wicket @ 36), O.Jennings (1 wicket @ 39), R.Awati (0/6), A.Shaikh (0/7), S.Vohra (0/21), A.Clark (0/23), H.Reynolds (0/30)

Women's Third Grade Report

Michelle Goszko

This season represented more progress for the women's program at the Bears with the club entering a 3rd grade side for the first time. The team played in the T20 competition and there were some fantastic performances from many players, some who were playing cricket for the first time! Whilst we weren't able to notch that first win, there were some close games and we gave clubs with many more established teams, a good run for their money!

Some of our Brewer Shield girls doubled up and played some games for the 3rd grade team and gained some valuable experiences, including Liz Buckley, who is 13, hitting her highest score for the club. Olivia Aylward also made her captaincy debut, and Amy Gibbons, who joined the Bears this season, had a great year and was named player of the year. It was a great result for Amy who worked very hard on her game throughout the season. We also had a number of mums play their first game of cricket and they did a fabulous job.

With the partnership and support of UTS, we had a number of players who joined the club from a program that was run with Sheridan and Sam from UTS Sport. This was extremely beneficial and I can't thank the UTS Sport team enough for their backing.

Thank you to Rob Lavery our president for his support once again with developing this team. It was tough at times but Rob was unwavering in his support. A very big thank you to Sarah Berman for your support of this team and for captaining so well!

Finally I would like to thank Jacqui Eyles and Alan Gibbons for your commitment and passion for this team. From getting players to games, scoring, coaching, organising and in Jacqui's case, playing, you guys are what a club is all about. Passion, commitment and a genuine love of the game and club.

There are bigger and better things on the horizon for this team next season and I know that the first win is just around the corner. Go the Bears!



Women's Third Grade Round by Round Summary

Round 1 v St George-Sutherland @ Gifford Park

Sat 11 Jan 2020

Lost by 51 runs 6/90 v 3/141

The Bears' first ever senior women's game was against an experienced St George-Sutherland Slayers side who had won the 40-over competition completed before Christmas. Lucy Warren (1/29) and Leela Uthappa (0/15) opened the bowling for Norths. Sutherland started with intent and had 25 runs on the board when Lucy beautifully clean bowled one of their openers in the third over. From there it settled a bit, and Sutherland steadily ticked over the runs punctuated by a few more fours before two of their players were retired not out after reaching 31 and 33 respectively. The Bears took two more wickets in the last two overs of the game - both run-outs, effected by Ani Uthappa and Tilly Kingsmill. UTS North Sydney needed a score of 141 in 20 overs to knock off the St George Sutherland total. Captain Genevieve O'Brien (37) and Amelia Sim (14) in her first game back from injury, opened the batting and steadily built a partnership while respecting the bowling experience from the opposition. When Amelia was dismissed with the score on 31, Lucy Warren (14) joined O'Brien to put on another 24, with both players clearing the rope – for Warren it was her first ever six. After O'Brien was forced to retire the runs dried up, but Grace Keating batted out the overs for 14* and shepherded us to 6/90. This was a great effort with some new players and also some returning after being away from the game for a while.

Round 2 v Manly-Warringah @ Tunks Park

Abandoned (no play)

Round 3 BYE

Round 4 v Campbelltown-Camden @ Tunks Park

Abandoned (no play)

Round 5 v Universities @ Tonbridge Park

Lost by 106 runs 42 v 2/148

It was a tough day for an under-strength Bears side who hadn't been on the park in the Third Grade competition for five weeks due to a bye and two washouts. Universities racked up 2/148 in their 20 overs, but it's testament to our bowlers' resilience that only one of them reached 30 and retired. Grace Keating bowled superbly for 1/12 off her four overs, ably supported by Grace Boulding (0/20) and Jasmeet Bedi (1/25). In reply, we had a nightmare start with both openers dismissed for ducks, and after that only Amy Gibbons got going. While wickets fell around her, Amy batted brilliantly, making 31* (off 31 balls) out of our total of 42.

Round 6 v Gordon @ Tunks Park

Lost by 117 runs 51 v 5/168

Although the Bears women suffered a heavy defeat at the hands of Gordon, the game included a number of "firsts" and highlights. Wicketkeeper Amy Gibbons not only made her first ever stumping (off her mum Sarah's bowling, with Sarah taking 1/29) but also later swapped the pads for the ball and took her first wicket too (1/19). There were also first Bears wickets for Hina Mehreet (1/30), on her debut for the club, and Tilly Kingsmill (1/31). In our batting innings, Olivia Aylward made her season's best score of 17* on her first appearance for the Third Grade side, and team manager Jacqui Eyles batted for the Bears for the first time and made two runs.

Round 7 v Bankstown @ O'Neill Park
Lost by 4 wickets 4/72 v 6/87

In the final game of the season and with a number of players missing due to representative duties or injury, and regular men's First Grade scorer Sarah Berman making a guest appearance as skipper, the Bears came very close to an upset against one of the strongest sides in the competition. Liz Buckley and Mridula Thirupathy opened the batting and made a solid start, before Mridula was dismissed for 5 in the fifth over. Liz and Anushka Dongre (on her Bears debut) took the score to 41 before Liz was run out attempting a second run that was there, but only without the slight hesitation which was present. Liz made 26, comfortably her highest score for the club. After her dismissal the run rate slowed a little, but Grace Keating saw us through to 4/72 off 20 overs. Placed second on the ladder, Bankstown were keen for maximum bonus points (achieved when scoring 100 more than the opposition) so informed us they would be batting on if and when they passed our score. It soon became apparent they'd underestimated our bowling prowess! Superb bowling from Liz Buckley (2/15), Grace Keating (1/16) and Anushka Dongre (2/9) had Bankstown reeling at 4/20 with 73 looking a long way off, let alone 173. Bankstown began to build a partnership, but we kept our foot on the throttle, rotating our three main bowlers in a quest to bowl them out and got the breakthrough thanks to a brilliant diving catch at the second attempt by Mridula Thirupathy behind the stumps. A sixth wicket came two overs later when an ill-advised run was taken to Sarah Gibbons who effected the run out. Liz Buckley padded up as wicketkeeper to allow Thirupathy to come on and bowl three tight overs (0/7). With plenty of overs in the bank, Bankstown's seventh wicket partnership was able to grind out the runs, and they passed our score in the 17th over, batted on and finished just 15 ahead after Sarah Gibbons' final over went for just four.



Women's Third Grade Statistics

Batting

	Matches	Innings	Aggregate	NO	50s	100s	HS	Average	C/S
Gibbons, Amy	3	2	39	1	0	0	31	39.00	0
O'Brien, Genevieve	1	1	37	1	0	0	37		0
Buckley, Elizabeth	1	1	26	0	0	0	26	26.00	1
Keating, Grace	3	2	22	2	0	0	14		0
Aylward, Olivia	1	1	17	1	0	0	17		0
Sim, Amelia	2	2	14	0	0	0	14	7.00	0
Warren, Lucy	1	1	14	0	0	0	14	14.00	0
Dongre, Anushka	1	1	11	0	0	0	11	11.00	0
Mehreen, Hina	1	1	7	0	0	0	7	7.00	0
Chappel, Edwina	2	1	6	0	0	0	6	6.00	1
Wood, Belinda	2	2	5	0	0	0	5	2.50	0
Thirupathy, Mridula	1	1	5	0	0	0	5	5.00	2
Kingsmill, Tilly	2	2	2	0	0	0	2	1.00	0
Tannous, Georgina	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	2.00	0
Eyles, Jacqui	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	2.00	0

Also batted – M.Mills (1 run undismised), D. Gonsalves (1 run @ 1), L.Uthappa (0 runs @ 0), A.Uthappa (0 runs @ 0), S.Gibbons (0 runs @ 0), S.Berman (0 runs undismised), J.Bedi (0 runs undismised)

Bowling

	Matches	Overs	Wickets	Runs Conceded	5WI	BBI	Average
Dongre, Anushka	1	4	2	9	0	2/9	4.50
Buckley, Elizabeth	1	4	2	15	0	2/15	7.50
Keating, Grace	3	8	2	28	0	1/12	14.00
Gibbons, Amy	3	3	1	19	0	1/19	19.00
Warren, Lucy	1	4	1	29	0	1/29	29.00
Mehreen, Hina	1	2	1	30	0	1/30	30.00
Kingsmill, Tilly	2	7	1	53	0	1/31	53.00
Bedi, Jasmeet	4	7	1	55	0	1/25	55.00
Gibbons, Sarah	3	10	1	83	0	1/29	83.00

Also bowled – M.Thirupathy (0/7), S.Berman (0/7), O.Aylward (0/13), L.Uthappa (0/15), A.Uthappa (0/21), G.O'Brien (0/24), E.Chappel (0/8), B.Wood (0/18)

Poidevin-Gray Shield Report

George Lavelle



This year's PGs side enjoyed a successful season. Despite being one of the younger teams in the competition, we were able to produce some great team performances in our run to the Grand Final in a season which will be fondly remembered.

The group stage started away at Manly, where, despite our opponents being 110-1 after 11 overs, we managed to fight our way to a victory. Great performances from all three spin bowlers, followed by gutsy knocks from Jake Hardy and James Leary helped see us over the line and made sure our campaign got off on the right foot.

Despite a loss to Sutherland in the next game, clinical wins over Randwick, Eastern Suburbs and UNSW saw us guarantee a spot in the top four. In all three of these games our seamers, Chris Savage, Fletcher May and Nuwan Whyte, were exceptional. A special mention must go to a Chris Savage spell in a crunch game against UNSW where he ran through their top order (which consisted of all 1st grade players) and ended up with figures of 4/15.

Our first semi-final was the reverse fixture of our

previous game against UNSW. We headed down to the David Phillips oval and chose to bat first. After a shaky start, an excellent 67 from James Leary set the platform for Jake Hardy, supported by his brother Broc, to take on the final 15 overs. Jake's 77 off 58 balls was one of the best innings of the PGs season and helped us set a total of 260. Chris Savage carried on where he left off and trapped the UNSW opener LBW in the first over of their chase. This was soon followed by a superb runout from Broc Hardy which meant the momentum was well with us. Our spin trio of Jack James, Mac Jenkins and Ben Knox then got to work and their economical bowling made sure that UNSW never looked like reaching our score.

This victory led us to play Gordon, the group winners, who had looked strong throughout the tournament and hadn't lost a game. Supported by many Bears in the stands, we blew Gordon out of the water with great performances with the ball from Mac Jenkins, Fletcher May and Ben Knox. A catch of the season contender from Ben Knox must also be mentioned which topped off the day. A clinical chase followed with 52 for Jack James and a consecutive 50 for Jake Hardy which led us to the Grand Final on our home turf.

Unfortunately we couldn't go one step further and bring home the PGs championship. Despite 87 from Jack James we fell just short in a rain affected game against a strong Fairfield-Liverpool side. However, it had been a great squad effort all season long so we were able to see the incredible achievement we had accomplished as a group.

Special thanks must go to Todd Harper, Gary Whitaker, Jason Krejza, Pat Lindsay and David James for all their help with coaching, scoring and all round support. Without their help the great season we had wouldn't have been possible.

Poidevin-Gray Round by Round Summary



Round 1 v Sydney @ Drummoyne Oval (T20) **Lost by 5 wickets 7/128 v 5/132**

Tim Reynolds (19) and Jack James (45) got the team away to a bright start to be 3/75 after 10 of our 20 overs. Although several batsmen made starts, a slow outfield and tight bowling combined with some rash shots to bring the rate under 7. Two big shots from James Leary (11*) at the end elevated the score to a defendable 128. Outstanding early bowling from Fletcher May (1/24) and Mac Jenkins (0/15) had the Tigers crawling along at 1/13 after 4. The run rate required continued to climb when Ben Knox (2/18) took a wicket in each of his second and third overs. Jack James's first two overs both resulted in a wicket courtesy of a sharp stumping and then a brilliant run-out to James Leary. The game was well and truly in our favour at 5/60 after 14 with Sydney needing 69 runs off six overs. A key moment was when Lachie Beattie was dropped on 2. He went on to make 38 off 28 balls as gaps appeared in the field everywhere. In the end, Sydney passed our score with a ball to spare. It is fair to say that this was a game that we let slip away.

Round 2 v Manly-Warringah @ Manly Oval
Won by 4 wickets 6/240 v 5/239

The Tahs had first use of a very flat and fast Manly Oval, getting away to a flyer reaching 0/50 after 6 overs. Kobe Allison (1/35) made the first breakthrough and it was 1/56 after 7. Enter NSW rookie contracted player Ollie Davies (45) who started with a single and six dots before taking full toll of our bowling hitting 44 off the next 13 balls and moving the score to 1/104 off 11. In his first over, Jack James (1/32) took care of Davies, tempting him to hit over mid-off – straight into the chest of Mac Jenkins, who took an excellent catch. James then combined with Ben Knox (2/35) and the two spinners started to slow the rate. With pressure building, Jenkins swooped, firing the ball into the lightening hands of Lavelle, to effect a run-out – Manly 3/126 off 17. A second run-out an over later, courtesy of a powerful throw from Allison reduced Manly to 4/127. Manly rebuilt with a steady 60 run partnership until opening bowler, Nuwan Whyte (1/49), was re-introduced into the attack. Knox then bowled the no. 7 in the 41st over before Broc Hardy (1/15) grabbed a wicket with a sharp catch off his own bowling leaving Manly 7/212. Jenkins (2/55) and Knox bowled at the death, finishing the job in the 49th over with Broc Hardy taking three catches in the match. It was an amazing recovery to bowl the Tahs out for 239 when 300+ looked on the cards.

A solid start to the batting saw Jack James (25) dismissed at 1/45 after 10. However, two quick wickets saw the Bears slump to 3/53 off 14. George Lavelle (25) combined with Jake Hardy to put on a valuable 50 run partnership taking us to 4/104 in the 28th. Hardy and James Leary then crunched 70 of 60-odd balls before Jake was dismissed for 55. Mac Jenkins (26) combined beautifully with Leary to put on 43 off 48, and when he was out the Bears needed 26 from 28. Leary made an unbeaten 52 with Kobe Allison doing the rest, smashing 19 not out off 10 balls for a memorable victory.

Round 3 v Sutherland @ Bon Andrews Oval
Lost by 19 runs 9/216 v 7/235

After the Sharks chose to bat, Nuwan Whyte (1/34) and Fletcher May (1/44) tightened the screws on the Sutherland openers. However, it was a stunning direct hit run-out from Broc Hardy, throwing at one stump, that was to be the first breakthrough. May was given one more over and it proved a winner as he took out the no. 3. Former NSW U19 wicketkeeper (and new Bears recruit for 2020-21) Aiden Bariol was next to go, courtesy of a Nuwan Whyte special that stayed low and ripped out the off stump. A sharp catch at first slip by Tim Reynolds off Ben Knox left the Sharks struggling at 4/42. Sutherland then consolidated before Mac Jenkins (2/29) took the fifth and sixth wickets in his second spell. From there the Sharks batsman took control, scoring 135 from the last 17 overs. In the chase, both openers were out without scoring and the Bears were in a similar position to Sutherland at 3/26. George Lavelle (18) combined with Jake Hardy (25) for a 49 run partnership to put the team back on track. However, when the Hardy brothers were both dismissed to leave the Bears 6/85, things looked dire. Mac Jenkins fought valiantly, compiling an excellent 69 off 96 balls to provide a glimmer of hope as we passed 200. Kobe Allison (20 off 28) and Nuwan Whyte (26 off 31) both also made strong contributions. However, we finished our 50 overs on 9/216 – 21 runs short of the opposition total.

Round 4 v Randwick Petersham @ Bon Andrews Oval (T20)
Won by 8 wickets 2/104 v 7/102

Randwick Petersham won the toss and elected to bat. Former Randy Pete Mac Jenkins (1/18) took the first wicket with a nice catch taken by another former Randy Pete, Jack James, at short cover. Nuwan Whyte then clean bowled the other opener in the third over. Whyte bowled full and straight and with good pace, finishing with outstanding

figures of 3 for 9. Chris Savage (2/20) then claimed a wicket on debut in his first over. James (1/16) bowled four tight overs in the middle. It was a comprehensive bowling performance to restrict the opposition to 7/102. After the loss of an early wicket, Jack James (49* off 50) and Tim Reynolds (28) combined for a 55 run partnership. Reynolds hit 6 fours in his 23-ball stay. George Lavelle (20* off 16) joined James to cruise to victory in the 15th over, the pair putting on 41 unbeaten runs.

Round 5 v Eastern Suburbs @ Waverley Oval
Won by 4 wickets 7/193 v 190

Nuwan Whyte (1/44) got our boys off to great start with a wicket in his second over to have Easts 1/9. Young English batsman Jamie Smith then went on a rampage, crunching 31 runs from 11 balls before Fletcher May splattered his stumps with an excellent yorker. Mac Jenkins (1/27) bowled unchanged, claiming the third Dolphins scalp, via a George Lavelle stumping. Chris Savage dismissed the number 4 with the score at 120. Jack James (2/21) took over from Jenkins and had immediate success in his first over. When Savage doubled up, Easts had lost 3 for 11 in 5 overs. James claimed his second wicket, reducing Easts to 7/148 after 38 overs. Savage (3/28) and May (3/25) then cleaned up the tail with Eastern Suburbs all out for 190. After losing James Leary and Jack James, Tim Reynolds (45) and George Lavelle got the chase back on track with a patient partnership that netted 72 runs. By the time George was out for a valuable 58, the Bears had reached 6/166 and needed a further 25 from 48 balls. A run-out and tight bowling closed the gap to 18 required off 24. Mac Jenkins (30*) combined with Nuwan Whyte (13*) to get the job done, with a plucky Jenkins hitting a four off George Furrer with the field up to finish the game.

Round 6 v University of NSW @ Bon Andrews Oval
Won by 85 runs 9/217 v 132

The Bear cubs arrived at a damp Bon Andrews knowing that a win would secure a semi-final berth. Jack James (19) and James Leary (59) did a good job on a seaming, sometimes sticky, wicket to get to drinks at 0/52. After drinks, James, Tim Reynolds (10) and George Lavelle (12) were dismissed. After a short rain delay at the 27th over Jake Hardy (17) took advantage of the extra zip, hitting three fours in quick succession, while Leary passed fifty for the second time in the PGs season. When Leary and Hardy fell, 3/126 quickly became 7/142 in the 39th over. It could have ended badly, but bowlers Kobe Alison (36 off 22) and Fletcher May (24 off 32) resurrected the innings, taking apart the UNSW bowlers, with Kobe hitting two fours and three sixes. Ben Knox (10) also contributed so that we finished with 9/217 on the board. Chris Savage was given the new rock, taking a wicket in his first over - UNSW 1/1. Savage then knocked over the next two batsmen to have figures of 3/6 and leave UNSW 3/15 after 5. Savage completed the destruction of the UNSW top order taking his fourth wicket to have numbers 1,2,3 and 4 and UNSW 4/24. Spinners Ben Knox and Mac Jenkins replaced the opening seamers, with Jenkins successful in his first over. Jack James (2/23) replaced Knox, breaking the 37-run partnership that had developed and UNSW were now 6/73. Jenkins (2/25) continued to bowl tightly and was rewarded with a second wicket, while James took his second wicket with the score at 99. Ben Knox (2/42) then finished the job with Savage (4/16) steaming in from the other end in an attempt to claim a 5-fa. In the end, UNSW was all out 132 and, in a slice of irony, we geared up to play them again in the semi-final at their home ground a couple of weeks later.

Semi-final v University of NSW @ David Phillips Oval
Won by 37 runs (DLS) 6/260 v 8/201

Loss of early wickets saw the Bears 2/33 from 11. However, an excellent 92-run partnership between George Lavelle (50) and James Leary steadied the ship moving the score to 3/125. Leary played the anchor role, compiling consecutive PGs fifties at the top of the order, and finished with 67 (6x4 1x6) runs from 103 balls. With 177 on the board after a 52-run partnership between Leary and Jake Hardy, there were 10 overs remaining. Jake was joined by his brother Broc (34), and the Hardy boys put on an entertaining 68 runs from around 50 balls. Jake was dismissed from the last ball of the innings after top scoring with 77 from 58. The Bears had reached a highly competitive 260. Chris Savage claimed a wicket in his first over and a brilliant direct hit run-out from Broc Hardy, with one stump to aim at, gave the Bears the perfect start – 2/8 in the fourth. However, a 78 run partnership between Jack Attenborough and Vincent Hreszcuk at close to 5 runs per over started to make the Bears supporters nervous. Ben Knox (0/34 from 10) put the brakes on from one end. Jack James then picked up the dangerous Hreszcuk LBW with his first ball and then Attenborough a few overs later to have UNSW 4/136 in the 33rd. A hard flat throw from the boundary from Tim Reynolds produced a run-out and the Bees were 5/143. James (3/37) then picked up his third pole in his final over with a nice catch by Broc Hardy and, at 6/160, 101 runs were needed from 9 overs. While UNSW were going at around 9 per over, the Bears kept taking wickets. Chris Savage (2/32 from 6) took the seventh and then James effected the third run-out of the day in the 44th over. After 46 overs UNSW had reached 8/201 needing 15 runs per over to win. However, a storm took the players from the field and they did not return. The game was called with North Sydney ahead on Duckworth-Lewis-Stern by 37 runs.

Preliminary Final v Gordon @ Chatswood Oval
Won by 8 wickets 2/162 v 8/160

A delayed start reduced the game to 44 overs per side, with Gordon winning the toss and electing to bat. In the final ball of Fletcher May's first over Ben Knox leaped full stretch and plucked a one handed speculator out of the sky at mid wicket that was heading for the fence, and Gordon were 1/9 off two. The catch set the tone for the rest of the lads and had the field buzzing. The opening quicks, May and Chris Savage, bowled unchanged for 12 overs, leading to a second wicket for May (2/24) and Gordon were 2/39. Finger spinners Jack James and Mac Jenkins (2/39) then bowled in tandem, turning the screws on the batsmen. Five overs into their respective spells, James, and Jenkins had reduced Gordon to 4/66 from 23 overs. James (1/24) bowled out, finishing with two maidens from his 9 overs, while Jenkins had 1/20 from 7 overs. Ben Knox (2/19) and Nuwan Whyte (1/18) claimed the next three wickets, with Jenkins returning to take his second wicket in the 41st over to have Gordon 8/133. The Stags progressed their score to 8/160 at the close with some powerful lower-order hitting. In the Bears' reply, openers Jack James and James Leary moved the total to 47, before Leary was dismissed in the 16th over. Daniel Leerdam was next man in after answering an SOS call with both George Lavelle and Broc Hardy unavailable. Leerdam (15) picked up the run rate before being caught on the fence. James launched a bomb onto the roof of the stand in the 23rd over and the Bears were 2/76. James and Jake Hardy then finished the job with an unbeaten 86 run stand. The pair upped the ante, reaching an unbeaten fifty run partnership off 53 balls. James moved into the forties with a second six, while Hardy hit fours off all bowlers. Jack's 50 came up in the 31st over and the team 150 came up after 212 balls. Only five more legitimate balls were needed with Jake (51* off 44) reaching fifty in the process.

Grand Final v Fairfield-Liverpool @ North Sydney Oval
Lost by 37 runs (DLS) 219 v 4/233

The young Bears were clearly the underdogs, facing eight regular First Graders in the opposition, including two NSW 2nd XI players and an Australian U19 representative. The day started well with a wicket in the second over to Fletcher May (1/34 off 8.5). Although the bowlers kept the run rate under control, Param Uppal (85) and Yuvraj Sharma (72) put on a 139-run second wicket partnership to give the Lions the ascendancy. After two rain interruptions, Sharma was removed by Ben Knox (1/25 off 5), and 33 overs had passed for 145 runs. Chris Savage (1/54) dismissed Uppal and then Jack James (1/52) claimed the final Bears wicket courtesy of a brilliant diving catch by Jake Hardy, who sustained a suspected broken finger in the process in the 41st over. Only five more overs were possible before rain ended Fairfield's innings at 4/233 off 46.5 overs. Duckworth-Lewis-Stern recalculated the chase to 256 runs from 46 overs. The Bears were in early trouble at 3/35 off 12 overs. Jack James (87) then combined with Jordan Vilensky (13) for 27 off 34 and Jake Hardy (25) 36 off 35 balls to get the chase back on track. Another 20-run stand between James and captain Mac Jenkins (8) took the score to 6/118 from 26 overs. Seven runs per over with 20 overs remaining was achievable, but tricky with only four left in the sheds. Jack and Nuwan Whyte (30) scored 44 runs from 49 balls with Nuwan launching two big bombs in his 23-ball stay. Jack then combined with Fletcher May (25) for the best partnership of the day (45 runs from 42 balls) to bring the target under 50 runs. Jack attempted to lift the pace, smashing Chad Sammut over the mid-wicket fence, but then feathered a catch to the keeper in an attempt to keep the strike. His 87 runs included 3 fours and 2 sixes. The team lasted one more ball – dismissed for 219.



Poidevin-Gray Statistics

Batting

	Matches	Innings	Aggregate	NO	50s	HS	Average	C/S
James, Jack N	9	9	294	2	2	87	42.00	3
Hardy, Jake	9	9	282	1	3	77	35.25	3
Leary, James	9	8	224	2	3	67	37.33	4/2
Lavelle, George	6	6	183	1	2	58	36.60	3/3
Reynolds, Tim L	9	8	151	0	0	45	18.88	5
Jenkins, Mac	9	6	143	1	1	69	28.60	4
Allison, Kobe S	7	3	75	1	0	36	37.50	0
Whyte, Nuwan	8	3	69	2	0	30	69.00	0
Hardy, Broc	7	6	63	0	0	34	10.50	4
May, Fletcher	8	6	63	2	0	25	15.75	2
Vilensky, Jordan D	6	3	28	0	0	14	9.33	1
Leerdam, Daniel	2	2	24	0	0	15	12.00	0
Knox, Benjamin	8	3	16	2	0	10	16.00	3
Savage, Christopher	7	2	1	2	0	1		1

Bowling

	Matches	Overs	Wickets	Runs Conceded	5WI	BBI	Average	Econ
Savage, Christopher	7	44	12	184	0	4/15	15.33	4.18
James, Jack	9	65	12	268	0	3/37	22.33	4.12
Knox, Benjamin	8	64.5	10	252	0	2/18	25.20	3.89
Jenkins, Mac	9	75	10	288	0	2/25	28.80	3.84
May, Fletcher	8	49.4	8	226	0	3/25	28.25	4.55
Whyte, Nuwan	8	42	7	202	0	3/9	28.86	4.81
Allison, Kobe	7	12	2	97	0	1/35	48.50	8.08
Hardy, Broc	7	3	1	15	0	1/15	15.00	5.00
Cavenor, Adam	4	5	0	27	0	0/12		5.40
Abbott, William	1	4	0	38	0	0/38		9.50

Brewer Shield Report

Michelle Goszko

Season 19/20 was No 2 for the Bears' Brewers team and this year represented some exciting improvements for the team as a whole and the girls. We had a bit of player turnover and the girls that came into the squad performed extremely well and fitted into our culture like a glove.

This season we registered the first ever win for the team and we came so close on a number of other occasions to getting the W. All of the girls earnt so much respect from not only other teams but also other coaches and myself. They should all be very proud of themselves. Every single session the girls put in 100% and turned up to training willing to learn and be better cricketers.

I would like to say a big thank you to UTS for their support of the female program at the club. Your support is integral to us getting on the park. Thank you to Rob Lavery for your passion and leadership for the female program. This team simply wouldn't get on the park without you. Thank you to Todd for turning up every week. The girls loved having you at training.

Another important part of the squad is the management team. Jacqui Eyles our Manager is the glue for this side and I can't thank her enough. Your support to me is irreplaceable. A big thank you to the other parents who assisted with coaching this season, Allan Gibbons, Greg Buckley, Chris O'Brien and Sean Sim. Thank you to all the parents for scoring, driving to training/games etc. Lastly thank you to the girls. You are a fantastic bunch of young cricketers but even better people.

Let's go get them next year girls.. Grrrrr...

Genevieve O'Brien

Again GG was our captain courageous. So much so that she finished 2nd in the Premier Cricket Awards for top captain in Brewer! Genevieve played some really important innings for us this season and was unlucky on a couple of occasions where she was set for a big innings. Her leg spin bowling went to a new level this year and looked dangerous every time she bowled. GG is the leader of this side for a reason and I couldn't think of a better role model than her to have led the side. A fantastic cricketer and human! GG made the U17's NSW Metro squad this season as well.

Amelia Sim

Amelia had a frustrating year with injury however what this did was show how resilient and passionate a person she is. When she did get back on the park she came back with a bang and bowled outstandingly well. She is an important part of the team and led from the front. She has a rocket arm and her athleticism is second to none. She is also a leader of this team in many ways. Amelia became our first NSW representative with selection in the Metro U15's state side. A fantastic reward for all the effort she has put in.

Grace Keating

Grace had another good year for the Bears and even introduced a new secret weapon. Her medium swing bowling! She is a fantastic fielder and she was an important part of our top order batting, playing some important innings for us. Grace trains really well and is a great team member. I can't wait to see where her game goes next year! Grace also was selected in the U14's NSW Metro Squad.

Lucy Warren

Lucy improved so much this year that she was named our player of the year, which was an outstanding result for Lucy. She bowled with extra pace and accuracy this season and her consistency was superb.

Lucy also made our highest score of the season in our breakthrough win and she can certainly hit a long ball! A great team player, Lucy will be looking forward to another ground-breaking year next season. Lucy was selected in the NSW Metro U14's squad.

Liz Buckley

Liz had a great season with the ball this year. She bowled with a lot more pace and accuracy and troubled players many years her senior. She has some real talent with the ball and with another year of growing, I know she will be a feared bowler by many next season. Liz's fielding and batting also improved this season and I look forward to her taking on a bigger role next year. Another player who was picked in a NSW U13's Metro squad.

Ani Uthappa

This was Ani's first year with the Bears and she did an outstanding job with us! A smart spin bowler, she created many wickets with her tight bowling and she was also a fantastic team player. Ani is one of the most pleasant people you will ever meet and was such a pleasure to coach. Bigger and better things are on the cards next season.

Talia Kapo

Talia had a really good season this year with the Bears. Her batting effort against Manly this season made me so proud and she showed such fight and determination, which is all I can ask for as a coach. A real turning point for her. Her bowling really improved as well and a big season is on the cards for Talia next season! Talia was also selected in the NSW Metro Academy squad this season.

Chole Day

Chloe was an important part of our squad this season and all aspects of her cricket improved. Next season I hope she starts to believe in her bowling as much as

I do! She is a terrific team player and one of the hardest trainers in the team.

Mridula Thirupathy

Mridula was a new player who joined us at the Bears this season and she made an immediate impact. Whilst only 13 years of age, she stood tall against many players older than her and had some great innings. Her fielding was exceptional and she saved many runs in the field and took some great catches. She has natural flair with the bat and is certainly one to watch in the future. Mridula was also part of the NSW U13's Academy squad.

Amy Gibbons

Amy joined the Bears this season and became such an important part of the club. She played some key innings in both Brewer and 3rd grade this season. Amy was also our wicketkeeper and did a great job, especially keeping up to the stumps to the spinners. She is a fantastic team player and always put in at training and wanted to learn.

Belinda Tahana

Belinda joined the Bears this season and had a great year. She is a tremendous swing bowler with good pace, bats with some great intent and purpose and is a demon in the field. She brings a great energy to the squad and came into the team seamlessly. I can't wait to see where Belinda can take her cricket next season. Belinda was also in the NSW U14's Academy squad.

Grace Boulding

A late addition to the Bears, Grace came into the team and batted in the top order. Grace is our first country player to join us and she immediately made an impact with her first innings for us with some tremendous shots. She has enormous potential and I know there will be plenty of runs for us next year. As with most

country kids, Grace is a top person as well as being a top cricketer!

Tilly Kingsmill

Tilly joined us from the Bears Sixers girls' team who play on a Saturday afternoon to fill in. Tilly did an outstanding job for us and has some great potential with her bowling. I'm excited to see Tilly train with us in pre-season and play full time with us next year. One of the nicest people you will ever meet and always put in 100% at training and games.

Olivia Aylward

Olivia joined the Bears this season and improved our team no end. She bowls some great outswing at good pace, is great in the field with a good arm and can hit a ball as good as anyone in Brewer. She just has to believe that she can do it! I know she can and so do all of her teammates. I'm looking forward to a big season from Olivia next year



Brewer Shield Round by Round Summary

Round 1 BYE

Round 2 v Sydney @ Tunks Park Lost by 64 runs 8/120 v 7/184

In the first game of the Brewer Shield season, fielding five new recruits, UTS Norths won the toss and decided to bowl. We had an amazing start with the openers, Belinda Tahana (2/26) and Lucy Warren (2/27), both taking two wickets each in their opening spell. Sydney lost their first two wickets before they'd scored a run and were 4 for 16 after 4 overs! This became 5/40 with a wicket for Grace Keating (1/28) but partnerships of 48, 59 and 37 followed to get Sydney up to 7/184 off 40 overs. Captain Genevieve O'Brien took 1/14 off 7, steadying the ship in the middle overs. Sydney's opening bowlers were tight and we were sitting them out so runs were accumulated slowly at the start of our reply. The highlight of the innings was an outstanding 81-run partnership between Grace Keating (35) and Mridula Thirapathy (41), which ensured we batted out our overs to make 8/120, the highest score to date in the short history of Bears women's cricket – and one that was to be bested multiple times later in the season as our team continued to develop.

Round 3 v Northern District @ Asquith Oval Lost by 68 runs 44 v 5/112

After winning the toss and electing to field in a T20 fixture, our bowling performance was solid and we kept their openers to a manageable score for the first few overs. NDs were 0/6 after 3 overs then they started to hit us around a bit with the first wicket falling to Grace Keating (1/13) in the 8th over with 40 runs on the board. Three more wickets fell in the next few overs to Liz Buckley (2/18) and Genevieve O'Brien (1/17), taking the score to 4/56 in the 12th and it was anyone's game. Unfortunately, the Rangers fifth wicket pair put on 49, before their partnership was ended by a run out effected by Lucy Warren and Belinda Tahana. Northern District finished 5/112 off their 20 overs. In reply, our openers defended well for a few overs but couldn't get much on the board. The ND bowlers put on a very consistent display of strong straight bowling and we just couldn't get in our groove. It was all over for us in the 15th over with only 44 runs!

Round 4 v Gordon @ Tunks Park Abandoned (no play)

Round 6 v Universities @ David Phillips Oval Lost by 119 runs 88 v 4/207

It was a tough morning in the field for the Bears girls as Universities racked up 4/207 off 40 overs, underpinned by a brilliant 95 by their opening bat, Frankie Nicklin. The Bears used eight bowlers, with the pick being Grace Keating (1/15) and Belinda Tahana (1/22, including Nicklin), and captain Genevieve O'Brien and Lucy Warren also chimed in with wickets. In reply, several players got in, including Keating (17) and Mridula Thirupathy (17), who put on 38 for the second wicket, but nobody managed to convert their start against the Students' strong attack. After Keating fell with the score on 51, we lost the remaining eight wickets for 37 and were bowled out for 88 in the 26th over.

Round 7 v Campbelltown-Camden @ Tunks Park

Abandoned (no play)

**Round 8 v Parramatta @ Tunks Park
Lost by 60 runs 8/128 v 3/188**

Parramatta won the toss on a sunny morning and elected to bat. After a long injury layoff, and then returning to the side as a batsman only, Amelia Sim bowled her first overs of the season in competitive cricket. It was a dream comeback, with Amelia grabbing an lbw in her first over and finishing 1/11 off 4. Unfortunately, the Bears couldn't capitalise on the strong start, with catches put down and Parramatta numbers 2 and 3 combining for a partnership of 164 and their skipper making a ton before retiring. Ani Uthappa (1/16), in her fourth game for the Bears, got the breakthrough and recorded her first wicket for the club as Grace Keating took a sharp catch. Captain Genevieve O'Brien chipped in with a wicket of her own (1/25), and our bowlers kept it tight to claw the run rate back in the final overs. Parra finished on 3/188, a strong total. In reply, O'Brien and Grace Keating combined for an impressive opening stand of 69 before O'Brien fell, caught in the deep, for 30 in the 23rd over as she attempted to up the run rate. Mridula Thirupathy joined Keating and made 15 before she too was caught. Then disaster struck as two run-outs followed, and we were left with too much to do. Keating was sixth out with the score on 122 in the 38th over for 47, then the highest individual score recorded by a female Bear. We finished on 8/128, at the time our record team score, but were left to rue mistakes in the field that cost us a shot at a win.

**Round 9 v Manly-Warringah @ Graham Reserve
Lost by 8 runs 115 v 9/123**

After losing the toss and being asked to bowl first, the Bears made the best possible start by taking four wickets with the score on just two – two to Amelia Sim (who had 2/0 off her first two overs!), one to Lucy Warren (1/14) and one to Genevieve O'Brien (1/25). From here, Manly recovered to 29 before losing another wicket, before slumping again to 6/45. From here, one more wicket might have brought Manly's downfall, but we just couldn't find it and a partnership of 55 for the seventh wicket was the backbone of a respectable but chaseable total of 9/123 in 40 overs. Amelia Sim recorded the extraordinary bowling figures of 5 overs, 3 maidens, 2 wickets for 3 runs (and only one of those runs was off the bat!). In reply, O'Brien (14) and Grace Boulding built a strong partnership of 36 for the second wicket. Boulding was playing her first game for the Bears and immediately made an impression. She hit four boundaries in her 24 off 30 balls before missing a straight one with the score on 40. O'Brien fell shortly afterwards, bringing Amy Gibbons to the crease. Two wickets fell with the score on 60, leaving the Bears 5 down with more than half of the score to get, but overs on their side. Gibbons (18) and Lucy Warren (13) put on 18 vital runs, and Warren and Uthappa another 11, but in the 22nd over with the score on 89, disaster struck with three wickets falling, bringing the last pair together with 35 still needed. Olivia Aylward (10*) and Talia Kapo (15) played superbly to keep inching the score closer to the target, but Kapo was lbw off the last ball of the 30th over and Manly had won by just eight runs.

Round 10 v St George-Sutherland @ Olds Park
Won by 14 runs 9/152 v 138

With a few players missing due to representative duties and injury, the Bears won the toss and chose to bat. It was a shaky start with both openers out early and the score at 2/10, but the middle order steadied the ship with outstanding performances from Lucy Warren (48), Amy Gibbons (26) and Belinda Tahana (16). With Tahlia Kapo (8*) and Anjali Uthappa (7*) showing the value of lower order runs, we finished our 40 overs at 9/152, our highest-ever total. Lucy's 48 is also our record individual score. With runs on the board, the Bears took to the field looking for early wickets, and Tahana delivered with an lbw in her first over. It took 15 overs for the next breakthrough, taken by Genevieve O'Brien (2/33), and this was followed up by Grace Boulding's first wicket for the club. Even with the runs gettable for the hosts, the Bears kept the pressure on, which led to a flurry of further wickets (including a direct hit run-out from O'Brien). The equation became St George needing 38 runs, the Bears needing 3 wickets. The Slayers got the target down to 18 before Belinda Tahana (3/16) struck with a peach and the ball was tossed back to opening bowler (and star batter) Lucy Warren (2/22), to finish the job. Finish it she did, taking the last two wickets with the score on 138, to secure a maiden victory for the UTS North Sydney Brewer Shield side.



Brewer Shield Statistics

Batting

	Matches	Innings	Aggregate	NO	50s	HS	Average	C/S
Keating, Grace	6	6	117	0	0	47	19.50	1
Thirupathy, Mridula	5	5	89	0	0	41	17.80	0/1
Warren, Lucy	6	6	88	0	0	48	14.67	2
O'Brien, Genevieve	6	6	67	1	0	30	13.40	1
Gibbons, Amy	6	6	60	0	0	28	10.00	1
Kapo, Talia	4	4	30	1	0	15	10.00	0
Tahana, Belinda	4	4	27	0	0	16	6.75	3
Boulding, Grace	2	1	24	0	0	24	24.00	0
Aylward, Olivia	5	5	19	2	0	10	6.33	1
Sim, Amelia	3	3	9	0	0	8	3.00	0
Uthappa, Anjali	4	2	7	2	0	7		0
Buckley, Elizabeth	6	6	5	0	0	3	0.83	2
McKay, Evelyn	1	1	3	0	0	3	3.00	0
Kingsmill, Tilly	2	1	3	0	0	3	3.00	0
Day, Chloe	4	3	2	1	0	1	1.00	0
Broomhead, Baylee	1	1	2	1	0	2		0

Bowling

	Matches	Overs	Wickets	Runs Conceded	BBI	2WI	Average	Econ
O'Brien, Genevieve	6	36	7	152	1	2/33	21.71	4.22
Tahana, Belinda	4	22	6	87	2	3/16	14.50	3.95
Warren, Lucy	6	31.5	6	113	2	2/22	18.83	3.55
Keating, Grace	6	33	5	119	1	2/21	23.80	3.61
Buckley, Elizabeth	6	21	4	99	1	2/18	24.75	4.71
Sim, Amelia	3	9	3	14	1	2/3	4.67	1.56
Kingsmill, Tilly	2	4	1	14	0	1/14	14.00	3.50
Uthappa, Anjali	4	9	1	43	0	1/16	43.00	4.78
Aylward, Olivia	5	12	1	66	0	1/10	66.00	5.50
Broomhead, Baylee	1	3	0	6	0	0/6		2.00
Thirupathy, Mridula	5	4	0	19	0	0/8		4.75
Kapo, Talia	4	4	0	27	0	0/27		6.75
Ford, Ella	1	4	0	32	0	0/32		8.00
Day, Chloe	4	11	0	70	0	0/8		6.36

AW Green Shield Report

Jason Krejza

First, I need to thank all those involved in the Green Shield set up. Without certain people behind the scenes, stuff just doesn't happen. And all voluntarily. Please ensure that whenever you cross paths with one of these fantastic people, thank them. You probably wouldn't be on the park without them.

This season was my first Green Shield season and I really, really enjoyed it. It would've been nice to have seen some more success but I really believe that the learning experiences we had will put us in a good position this year. It was a good step in the right direction for a team that hadn't shown much progress for a few years – I feel some good things are coming for this team in the coming years.

The feel around the group was positive coming into the first round – good chat, the squad was bonding

well, performances were good in trials and our preparation at training was good. We talked about backing ourselves and really believing in our talent. The only piece of the puzzle left was doing what we spoke about and putting all our hard work into action on the field.

If we won our first couple games I believe things would be vastly different. Our boys really needed some confidence to get them going. But WE kept losing games! Applying ourselves to 100 overs of cricket didn't happen often enough to be one of the top teams and there needed to be more self-belief as we did have the skills to match anyone..

In saying all that, if this squad keeps improving, then we will see a Bears Greenies team battling it out in finals in the near future. Every player needs to figure out how they can let their talent free once they cross that white line. A strong focus on good preparation, hard work, commitment and team work is going to be vital.

AW Green Shield Round by Round Summary

Round 1 v Fairfield-Liverpool @ Rosedale Oval Lost by 7 runs 145 v 152

The Bears started the season's opening round strongly, reducing the Lions to 5/48 thanks to strong spells from openers Callum Smith and Toby Laybutt, as well as change bowlers Lucas Opacic and Hamish Reynolds. Fairfield-Liverpool's numbers 6 and 7 dug in to take the team to 100 without further loss. The Bears picked up the final 5 wickets for 52 runs with Callum's 4-for complemented by tight spells from Toby and Aki Rana. UTS North Sydney's chase started equally as shakily, falling to 5/44 before Oliver Jennings and Aki Rana took the score to 119. Unfortunately they fell in quick succession and, while the lower order fought, they couldn't reach the Lions total.

Round 2 v Manly-Warringah @ Tunks Park Lost by 7 wickets 7/222 v 3/224

In Round 2, the Bears won the toss and batted first at Tunks Park. Hamish Reynolds departed early but Adi Nigul (63) combined with Zak Keogh (18) for a 54 run partnership. Ben Fisher (47) then joined Nigul for a 62 run stand to move the Bears to 3/126. The loss of Nigul for 63 brought skipper Harry Davis to the crease. Davis and Fisher scored quickly moving the score to 191 before Fisher was out just short of his fifty. Davis also missed out on a fifty, but scored his 48 runs from 51 balls. The final score of 7/222 was certainly defendable, but Manly always put up a strong batting side. The Waratahs batsmen were difficult to dislodge, and maintained the run rate required throughout the chase. The Manly openers put on a 93 run opening stand before Oliver Jennings (1/36) crashed through the stumps of Lachlan Johnson. Oliver backed up his work with a run out to have Manly 2/116. However, another strong partnership developed taking the score to 209. Toby Laybutt (1/38) took the opener Cooper's wicket on 97 with a catch behind to Davis. Manly scored the remaining runs with over three overs to spare and the Bears were left to rue a couple of missed chances in the field.

Round 3 v Mosman @ Tunks Park Lost by 7 wickets 9/233 v 3/234

Skipper Harry Davis again won the toss against the local rivals. Adi Nigul and Hamish Reynolds justified the skipper's faith, adding 52 for the first wicket. Zak Keogh, Ben Fisher, Oliver Jennings and Harry all made useful contributions in the middle order, however the Whales bowled well at the death to keep the total to 233. There was little joy for the Bears with the ball after Toby Laybutt and Lucas Opacic had removed the openers with 52 on the board. Mosman's first and second drops combined for a 162 run partnership to help the Whales home with more than 6 overs to spare.

Round 4 v Gordon @ Killara Oval Lost by 2 wickets 5/250 v 8/251

Another toss won and another strong start, the score flying to 45 before Hamish Reynolds fell for 11. Ben Fisher (24) and Aditya Nigul compiled a 74 run partnership before Adi fell trying to keep the run rate going, for a game high 82 runs. Unfortunately, Ben departed soon after with the score on 157. Oliver Jennings and Akshit Rana (22) came together in the 33rd over, putting on a further 58 runs for the 5th wicket, before Aki lost his stumps trying to force the run rate in the closing overs. His demise brought Harry Davis to the crease, who scored a quick fire 14

runs from 7 balls to finish off the innings at 5 for 250. Oliver Jennings remained undefeated on 52 not out from 46 balls. Early chances were missed in the Stags' innings, until Luke Opacic came on and hit the right length to take both openers in his opening spell. Our spinners took over in the middle overs with Oliver Jennings (1/33) getting a smart stumping thanks to a good effort from Harry Davis behind the stumps. Aki Rana tied them down and got his reward with a smart catch from Zac Keogh giving him tidy figures of 1 for 38. After the score progressed to 4/167 at the end of the 35th over before Callum claimed the next wicket. A further dismissal courtesy of a Toby Laybutt run-out left Gordon at 6/195 with 8 overs to go. Charlie Sharp pulled off a direct hit run out to finally dismiss Gordon's key man, reducing Gordon to 7/196. The boys squeezed hard, but unfortunately a cameo from the Gordon number 8 who hit 38 from 30 got them across the line with just two balls remaining.

Round 5 v Parramatta @ Merrylands Oval
Lost by 83 runs 232 v 149

A lost toss saw Parramatta bat first and their openers powered to 92 before both falling to Aden Clark. Oliver Jennings took the third wicket to apply some pressure but Parramatta kept building until Aden (3/49) claimed his third scalp. The bowlers did well to restrict the opposition to a chaseable total of 232, with Lucas Opacic claiming a brace of economical wickets. Unfortunately, the Bears lost wickets too regularly, and no one could hang around to complement Andrew Gotsis' top score of 43. The chase fell disappointingly short after the strong batting performances in the previous rounds.

Round 6 v Blacktown Mounties @ Joe McAleer Reserve
Lost by 6 wickets 106 v 6/109

The Blacktown captain read a tough pitch at Joe Mac correctly and sent the Bears in to bat first. The top 3 fell for 34 before Adi Nigul (20) and Harry Davis (29) knuckled down to take the score to 74. Unfortunately, the wickets fell regularly thereafter and UTS North Sydney were dismissed for 106 with more than 17 overs left unused. One Blacktown opener played a blinder of an innings that defied the conditions (and ensured his partners remained off strike) to break the back of the chase, recording the game's only half century at quicker than a run a ball. Lucas Opacic (3/16) and some Blacktown nerves combined to give the Mounties a scare, but they passed the Bears' total in the 22nd over.

Round 7 v Sydney University @ Tunks Park
Won by 53 runs 217 v 164

Pride was on the line as Harry Davis again won the toss and batted first at Tunks. Regular wickets saw the Bears in trouble at 6/95 on a good wicket before Aki Rana (30) joined Ben Fisher (33). They saw the score to 147 before Aden Clark (36no) and Lucas Opacic (17) put on the finishing touches to take the total to 217. Toby Laybutt (2/7) started strongly, claiming one opener, before Oliver Jennings (2/31) picked up a brace of wickets. Uni's number 3 dug in but none of his teammates could stick with him as wickets fell regularly. Aki Rana (3/32) turned the screws before Aden Clark (3/40) topped off a fine all-round effort with three wickets of his own. A few nerves showed as Uni's number 11 enjoyed a bat before Toby finished off students for 164 and ensured the Bears ended the season with a win.

AW Green Shield Statistics

Batting

	Matches	Innings	Aggregate	NO	50s	HS	Average	C/S
Nigul, Aditya	7	7	215	0	2	82	30.71	1
Fisher, Benjamin	7	7	161	0	0	47	23.00	4
Jennings, Oliver	7	7	153	1	1	52	25.50	0
Davis, Harrison J	7	7	131	1	0	48	21.83	9/2
Rana, Akshit	5	5	102	1	0	38	25.50	0
Reynolds, Hamish	7	7	97	0	0	26	13.86	1
Keogh, Zak	5	5	93	0	0	38	18.60	3
Gotsis, Andrew	4	3	77	0	0	43	25.67	1
Clark, Aden	7	5	60	2	0	36	20.00	2
Sharp, Charlie	6	5	33	1	0	13	8.25	0
Opacic, Luke	7	6	22	2	0	17	5.50	0
Smith, Callum	6	3	17	0	0	10	5.67	0
Hedges, Jamieson	4	3	16	2	0	11	16.00	2
Laybutt, Toby S	7	1	7	0	0	7	7.00	2

Bowling

	Matches	Overs	Wickets	Runs Conceded	2WI	BBI	Average	Econ
Opacic, Luke	7	45.4	10	223	4	3/16	22.30	4.88
Laybutt, Toby	7	52.5	8	188	3	2/7	23.50	3.56
Clark, Aden	7	24	7	151	2	3/40	21.57	6.29
Smith, Callum	6	37	6	188	1	4/40	31.33	5.08
Jennings, Oliver	7	47.3	5	201	1	2/31	40.20	4.23
Rana, Akshit	5	50	4	162	1	3/32	40.50	3.24
Reynolds, Hamish	7	28.4	2	161	0	1/22	80.50	5.62
Nigul, Aditya	7	2	0	5	0	0/5		2.50
Hedges, Jamieson	4	12	0	58	0	0/26		4.83

Club Records

Season Records

First Grade

Batting Aggregate: 1,267, S Hookey, 1994/95
Batting Average: 226.00, D Coltman, 1925/26
Highest Score: 243*, N Phillips, 1929/30
Bowling Aggregate: 64, Dr H Hordern, 1912/13
Bowling Average: 7.67, W O'Reilly, 1933/34

Second Grade

Batting Aggregate: 1,083, F Punch, 1900/01
Batting Average: 107.50, A White, 1991/92
Highest Score: 278*, N Phillips, 1904/05
Bowling Aggregate: 84, Dr H Hordern, 1904/05
Bowling Average: 7.59, J Groves, 1937/38

Third Grade

Batting Aggregate: 971, E Bubb, 1925/26
Batting Average: 93.80, J Punch, 1910/11
Highest Score: 205, D Long, 1923/24
Bowling Aggregate: 63, A Punch, 1910/11
Bowling Average: 6.52, Dr H Hordern, 1904/05

Fourth Grade

Batting Aggregate: 594, J Hopwood, 2009/10
Batting Average: 54.80, E Hepworth, 2010/11
Highest Score: 172, J Jesson, 1941/42
Bowling Aggregate: 60, W Watkins, 1957/58
Bowling Average: 8.33, W Watkins, 1957/58

Fifth Grade

Batting Aggregate: 543, P Maddocks, 2009/10
Batting Average: 67.33, S Henwood, 2007/08
Highest Score: 169*, A Wayling, 2007/08
Bowling Aggregate: 56, B Townsend, 1974/75
Bowling Average: 7.40, B Townsend, 1974/75

Women's Third Grade

Batting Aggregate: 39, A.Gibbons, 2019/20
Batting Average: 39.00, A.Gibbons, 2019/20
Highest Score: 37*, G.O'Brien, 2019/20
Bowling Aggregate: 2, A.Dongre, 2019/20
Bowling Average: 4.50, A.Dongre, 2019/20

Poidevin-Gray Shield

Batting Aggregate: 471, S Rodgie, 2007/08
Batting Average: 113.33, A Anderson, 1969/70
Highest Score: 200*, M Munro, 1986/87

Bowling Aggregate: 30, K Davenport, 1967/68
Bowling Average: 6.33, P Carey, 1958/59

AW Green Shield

Batting Aggregate: 525, S Birch, 2010/11
Batting Average: 114.00, G Spring, 1977/78
Highest Score: 155*, S Birch, 2010/11
Bowling Aggregate: 28, D Brooke, 58/59 & A Bagga, 08/09
Bowling Average: 5.00, H Sword, 1937/38

Brewer Shield

Batting Aggregate: 191, G O'Brien, 2018/19
Batting Average: 21.22, G O'Brien, 2018/19
Highest Score: 48, L.Warren, 2019/20
Bowling Aggregate: 9, L Warren, 2018/19
Bowling Average: 14.50, B.Tahana, 2019/20

200 runs or more in an innings

First Grade

A Hopkins, 229, 1906/07
G Moore, 205, 1912/13
R Minnett, 205, 1912/13
A Punch, 207, 1920/21
N Phillips, 243, 1929/30
N Phillips, 200, 1929/30
T Chappell, 201*, 1985/86
V Kringas, 205*, 1986/87
S Hookey, 200, 1994/95
N Taylor, 208, 1997/98
N Watkins, 202, 2015/16

Second Grade

F Kayser, 209, 1895/96
L McMahon, 214, 1896/97
A White, 278, 1904/05
G Sayers, 206, 1905/06
F Punch, 202, 1906/07
R Allen, 217, 1987/88
D Wotherspoon, 266*, 2000/01

Third Grade

D Long, 205, 1923/24
E Bubb, 201, 1925/26

Poidevin-Gray Shield

M Munro, 200*, 1986/87

10 wickets in an innings

Third Grade

E Bull, 10/22, 1906/07

Hat-Tricks

First Grade

C Hogue, 1921/22

W Pratt, 1921/22

W O'Reilly, 1933/34 (4 wickets in 4 balls)

J Callaghan, 1942/43

V Emery, 1962/93

S Taylor, 1974/75

G Spring, 1981/82

G Aitken, 2010/11

Second Grade

E Mansfield, 1906/07

A Whatmore, 1906/07

J Cahill, 1933/34

R Merchant, 1968/69

G Sullivan, 2009/10

C Elder, 1973/74

T Middlebrook, 1985/86

A Butterworth, 1995/96

S Marshman, 2004/05

P Lindsay, 2011/12

Third Grade

A Lough, 1911/12 (twice in an innings)

A Punch, 1911/12 (5 wickets in 5 balls)

G Gavey, 1935/35 (4 wickets in 4 balls)

W Davey, 1923/24

A Cheal, 1932/33

D Eade, 1972/73

Fourth Grade

J Freeman, 1968/69

R Turner, 1979/80

R Leishman, 2010/11

Fifth Grade

I Joyce, 1974/75

W Glacken, 1977/78

A Child, 1983/84

C Reed, 2010/11

Colts

K Ryan, 1938/39

P Gill, 1962/63

R Robinson, 1969/70

AW Green Shield

R Young, 1946/47

M Puglisi, 1948/49

T Philp, 1953/54

H Cameron, 1967/68

F Paterson, 1975/76

200 First Grade Wickets for the Club

654 – V Emery

423 – K Spring

389 – R Shelton

384 – A Hopkins

370 – R Aitken*

340 – J Callaghan

303 – S Weisener

290 – M Burton

278 – S Hogue

263 – G Aitken*

261 – B White

260 – G Spring

258 – R Eaton

258 – S Taylor

243 – G Sullivan

234 – T Wooster

230 – C Hill

221 – J Campbell*

209 – J Peterson

204 – B Long

4,000 First Grade Runs for the Club

9,075 – A Punch

7,859 – R Aitken*

7,571 – J Brian

7,232 – N Taylor

6,369 – J Aitken*

6,328 – R Donovan

6,093 – J King

6,059 – S Hookey

5,809 – G Spring

5,515 – A Hopkins

5,355 – D Taylor

4,978 – J Lawes

4,877 – S Rodgie

4,735 – NY Deane

4,569 – P Marks

4,513 – K Gilkes

4,380 – J Avendano*

4,356 – D Johnston

4,096 – A Jesson

4,073 – V Emery

First Grade Partnership Records

Wicket	Total	Players	Opponent	Season
1 st	259	A White (177) & R Duff (96)	Redfern	1906/07
2 nd	303	A Oberai (166*) & J Avendano (176)	Manly-Warringah	2016/17
3 rd	258	W Duff (120) & A Hopkins (137)	Central Cumberland	1898/99
4 th	261	T Jagot (125*) & A Crosthwaite (143*)	Sydney	2018/19
5 th	248	G Moore (139) & V Deane (122*)	Balmain	1909/10
6 th	205	R Minnett (181) & A Johnston (108)	Glebe	1910/11
7 th	183	F Iredale (150*) & S Redgrave (84)	Waverley	1904/05
8 th	181	A Punch (207) & C Armstrong (61*)	Petersham	1920/21
9 th	119	C Smith (157) & B Long (40)	Middle Harbour	1915/16
10 th	156	N Bills (96*) & J Campbell (53)	Bankstown	2012/13

Australian Test Representatives Who Have Played for the Club

S Barnes	G Beard	D Bradman	T Chappell	P Charlton
R Duff	J Gregory	R Hartigan	A Hopkins	Dr H Hordern
F Iredale	J Krejza	C Macartney	S McCabe	S MacGill
K Miller	R Minnett	K O'Keefe	W O'Reilly	B Shepherd
K Walters				

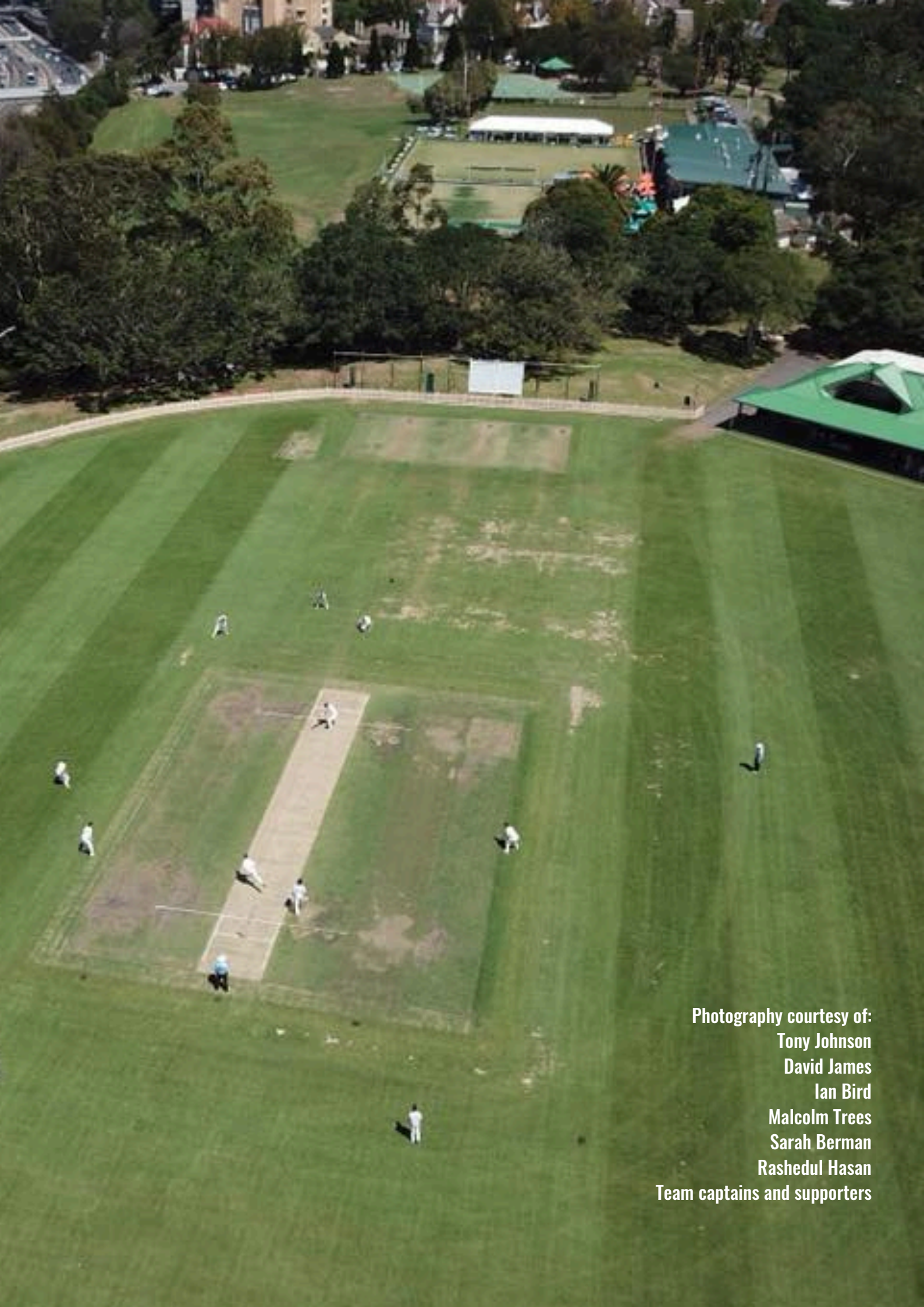
Sheffield Shield Representatives Who Have Played for the Club

A Anderson	S Barnes	G Beard	N Bills	A Bird
P Bowler	D Bradman	W Brown	P Cantrell	W Catchlove
R Chapman	T Chappell	P Charlton	G Clarke	R Collins
A Crosthwaite	F Cummins	G Davies	R Duff	V Emery
K Geyer	F Gilmore	F Goodman	J Gregory	R Hickson
R Hartigan	C Hill	S Hills	A Hopkins	S Hookey
Dr H Hordern	G Horsfield	D Hughes	F Iredale	R Jeffrey
F Johnson	D Johnston	T Johnston	J Krejza	J Lenton
E Long	J Lush	C Macartney	S McCabe	S MacGill
P Marks	K Miller	L Minnett	R Minnett	F McElphone
G Moore	F Nolan	K O'Keefe	W O'Reilly	R Osborne
N Phillips	L Poidevin	H Pratten	A Punch	K Quist
S Redgrave	P Shea	B Shepherd	G Spring	E Waddy
K Walters	H Whiddon	E White	A Wyatt	

BBL Representatives Who Have Played for the Club

J Avendano	A Crosthwaite	D Hughes	S Keen	J Krejza
J Lenton				

Note



Photography courtesy of:
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Team captains and supporters