

**UNIVERSITY  
OF  
NEW SOUTH WALES  
CRICKET CLUB**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

1997/98



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**PAST OFFICE BEARERS**

**PATRON**

Prof RH Myers	1973-81
Prof M Birt	1981-85
Hon G Samuels AC, QC	1985-94 (Life Patron 1994)
Sir Anthony Mason AC	1994-

**PRESIDENT**

Major Wilthew	1951-53	Mr Y Marshall	1976-77
Prof AE Alexander	1953-57	Mr A Epstein	1977-79
Prof EB Smyth	1957-61	Dr J Ingleson	1979-86
Prof HJ Oliver	1961-63	Mr D Meagher	1986-90
Prof SE Livingstone	1963-64	Mr G Clark	1990-91
Dr EC Watton	1964-66	Mr C Chapman	1991-
Mr CH Barrington	1966-76		

**HONORARY SECRETARY**

Mr V Turner	1951-53	Mr JE Pratley	1967-69
Mr J Brooks	1953-54	Mr JR Wegner	1969-72
Mr C Davis	1954	Dr JP Barford	1972-75
Dr EC Watton	1954-55	Mr RP Zabell	1976
Dr B Frawley	1955-56	Mr GF Mullins	1976-77
Mr JR Beard	1956-58	Ms J Ratcliffe	1977-79
Mr R Warroner	1958-59	Mr AN McMaster	1979-83
Mr MJ Reidy	1959-60	Mr S Campbell	1983-84
Mr CH Barrington	1960-62	Mr L Darmody	1984-87
Mr D Lacey	1962-63	Mr P Godber	1987-93
Mr GM Garland	1963-65	Mr JO Carmichael	1993-96
Mr MJ Gosling	1965-66	Mr AC Jones	1996-97
Dr PJ Schofield	1966-67	Mr C Vonwiller	1997-

HONORARY TREASURER

Mr R Emerson	1954-56	Mr D Wills	1969-70
Mr G Wilton	1956-57	Mr PC Emery	1970-71
Mr W Dwyer	1957-60	Mr HW Hopkins	1971-74
Mr J MckMiddleton	1960-61	Mr RW Merrell	1974-79
Mr JT Hall	1961-64	Mr PE James	1979-80
Mr J Chegwyn	1964-66	Mr MT Sample	1980-86
Mr A Conomos	1966-67	Mr P Jourdain	1986-97
Mr GJ Cole	1967-69	Mr D Quinlin	1997-

BLUES WINNERS

Mr LJ Lawrence	Mr R Warrener	Mr C Chapman
Mr J Piggott	Mr J Rogers	Mr G Lawson
Mr D March	Mr J Mck Middleton	Mr G Watson
Mr RSJ Levi	Mr DC Clark	Mr JG Robson
Mr HC Bundy	Mr RWD Robertson	Mr JS Dixon
Mr PA Ward	Mr GC Robinson	Mr J Baker
Mr MJ Reidy	Mr JB Martel	Mr G Livingstone
Mr K Daly	Mr M Ray	Mr M Back
Mr J Chegwyn	Mr S Van der Sluys	Mr A White
Mr JM Healy	Mr P Grattan-Smith	Mr M Phelps

SPORTS RECOGNITION AWARD

Mr CH Barrington	Mr A Epstein	Mr GM Garland	Mr JE Ingleson
Mr RW Merrell	Mr JD MacFarlane	Mr J Rogers	

**OFFICE BEARERS 1997/98**

<b><u>PRESIDENT</u></b>	Christopher Chapman
<b><u>HONORARY SECRETARY</u></b>	Christoph Vonwiller
<b><u>CHAIRMAN OF SELECTORS</u></b>	Greig Robinson
<b><u>HONORARY TREASURER</u></b>	David Quinlin
<b><u>HONORARY AUDITOR</u></b>	J.T. Hall

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

C Chapman	D Quinlin	P Urquhart
J Dixon	A Muller	M Mullen
G Lawson (Chairman)	G Clark	D Carson
C Hannah	C Harris	J Plunkett-Cole
B Calver	Z Zavos	S Mohideen
P Scarle	G Livingstone	T Buckett

**LIFE MEMBERS**

J Beard	HC Bundy	MJ Reidy
Pr SE Livingstone	J Mck Middleton	Dr EC Watton
CH Barrington	GN Garland	A Taylor
RW Merrell	A Epstein	J Rogers
M Ray	JD MacFarlane	PE James
Pr J Barford	G Lawson	G Livingstone
JG Robson	G Robinson	

**SELECTION COMMITTEE**

G Robinson (Chairman)	J Dixon	M Mullen
T Buckett	R Stark	G Harris
B Vonwiller	A Jones	

**BLUES COMMITTEE**

G Lawson	G Livingstone	J Martel
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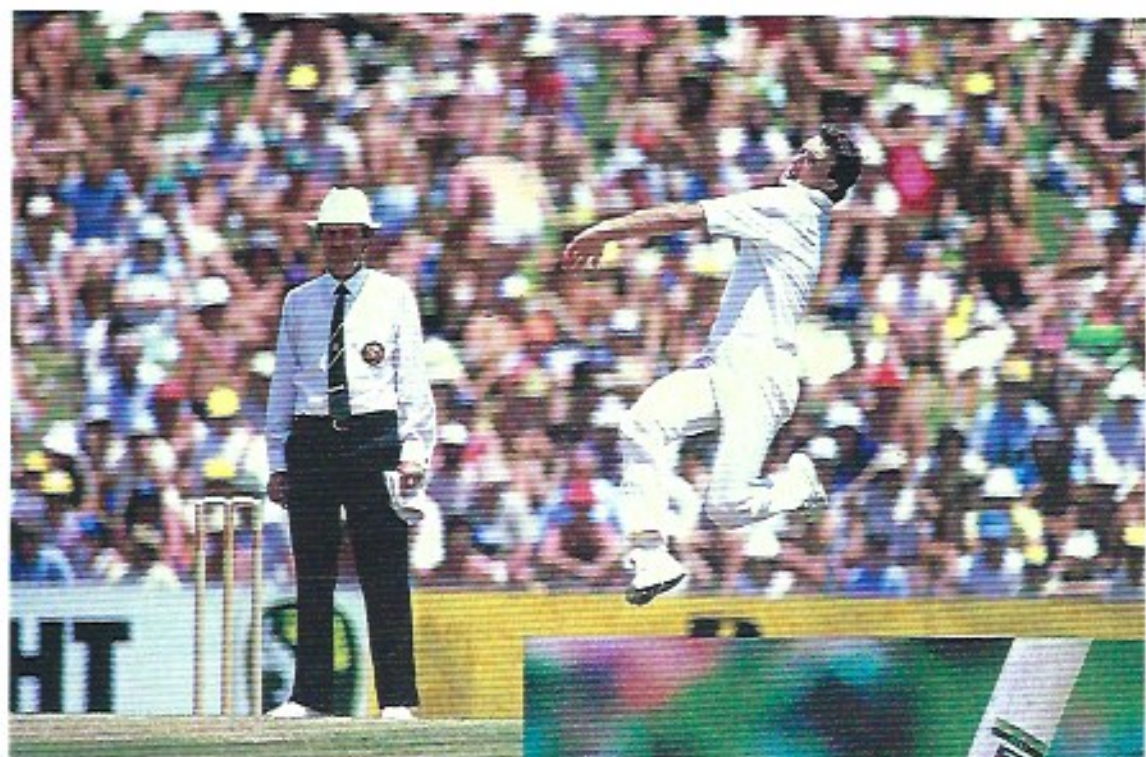
**SCA DELEGATES**

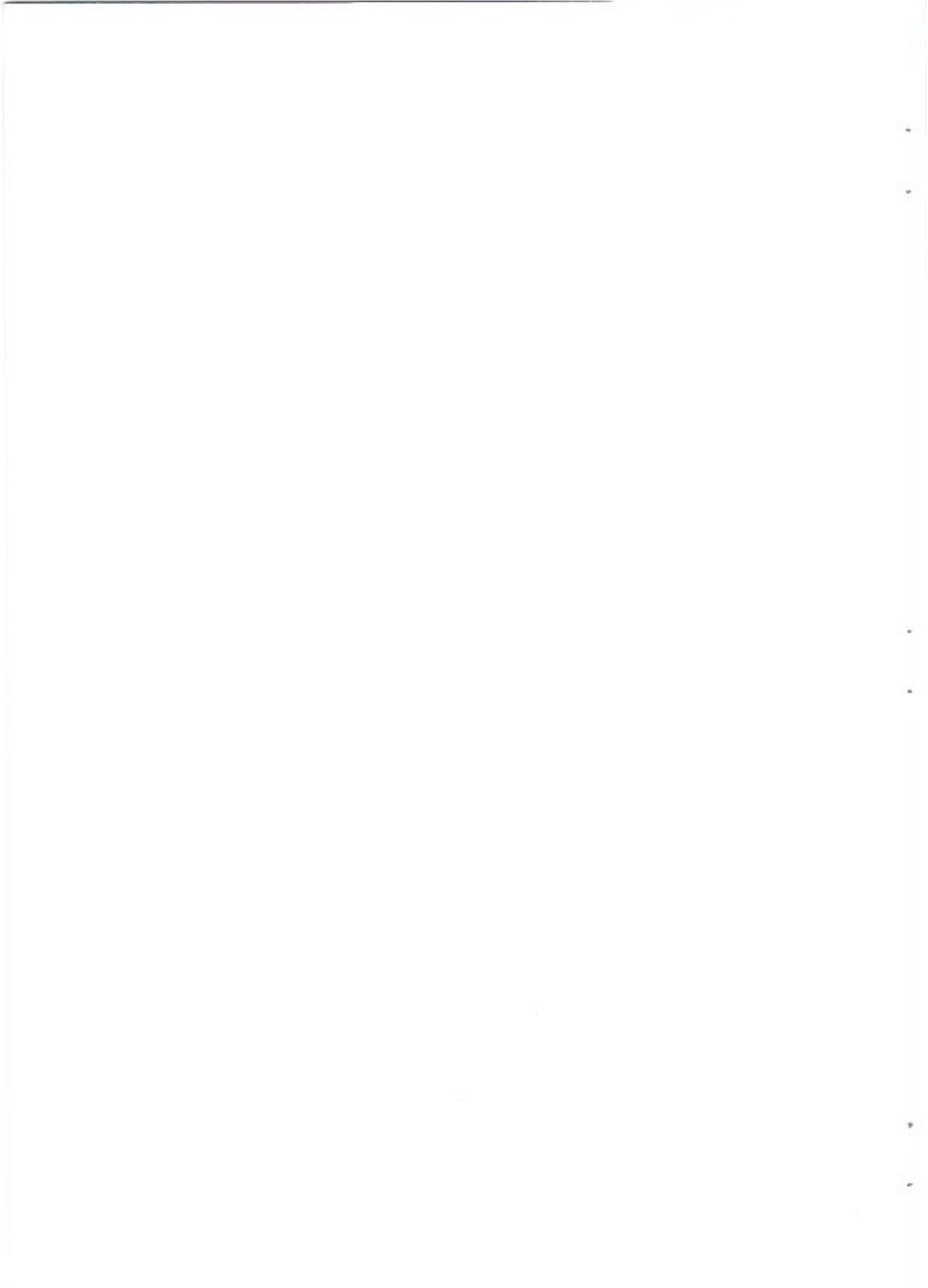
G Clark	J Dixon
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**SPORTS ASSOCIATION DELEGATES**

D Carson	S Mohideen
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# FIRST CLASS REPRESENTATIVES







**AWARD WINNERS****AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVES**

1979-90	G Lawson
1993-	M Slater

**SHEFFIELD SHIELD REPRESENTATIVES**

1977-78	G Watson	1991-	M Slater
1977-92	G Lawson	1995-6	J Young
1982-83	M Ray		

**TED DAVIS TROPHY - PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

1967-68	GJ Cole	1978-79	M Ray	1989-90	JG Robson
1968-69	AJ Taylor	1979-80	I Kellaway	1990-91	J Baker
1969-70	GM Garland	1980-81	M Ray	1991-92	M Slater
1970-71	GM Garland	1981-82	JG Robson	1992-93	D Gallop
1971-72	PJ Schofield	1982-83	N Perger	1993-94	J Young
1972-73	GM Garland	1983-84	G Robinson	1994-95	M Phelps
1973-74	M Ray	1984-85	JG Robson	1995-96	JG Robson
1974-75	M Ray	1985-86	G Livingstone	1996-97	A Lindsay
1975-76	M Ray	1986-87	M Gregg	1997-98	J Stam
1976-77	S Campbell	1987-88	A Clements		
1977-78	W Hetherington	1988-89	J Baker		

**CAPTAIN JOHN MORRIS FIELDING TROPHY**

1958-59	J Middleton	1972-73	J Martel	1986-87	M Back
1959-60	R Werley	1973-74	D Pratt	1987-88	M Kovacs
1960-61	D Lacey	1974-75	I Smith	1988-89	D Cummins
1961-62	H Boulton	1975-76	C Chapman	1989-90	A Pratt
1962-63	R Smith	1976-77	D Meagher	1990-91	A Pratt
1963-64	G Sylvester	1977-78	D Meagher	1991-92	S Norbury
1964-65	J Middleton	1978-79	J Barford	1992-93	G Hill
1965-66	D Webster	1979-80	C Hanger	1993-94	A Pratt
1966-67	GJ Cole	1980-81	J Sackett	1994-95	M Kovacs
1967-68	RSJ Levi	1981-82	J Sackett	1995-96	B Schirmer
1968-69	D Wills	1982-83	B Everett	1996-97	A Lamb
1969-70	RWD Robertson	1983-84	B Everett	1997-98	S Mohideen
1970-71	RWD Robertson	1984-85	M Back		
1971-72	J Martel	1985-86	J Dixon		

**BARR-TURN TROPHY**

1968-69 R Lucas	1978-79 G Robinson	1988-89 J Gallagher
1969-70 G Garland	1979-80 D Pratt	1989-90 M Kovacs
1970-71 R Robertson	1980-81 D Meagher	1990-91 P Sinclair
1971-72 P Larkin	1981-82 J Robson	1991-92 M Hayward
1972-73 P Dobell-Brown	1982-83 R Stark	1992-93 D Trafford
1973-74 R Merrell	1983-84 G Holt	1993-94 M Phelps
1974-75 John Pym	1984-85 P Scolari	1994-95 M Gregg
1975-76 Richard Pym	1985-86 M Ryan	1995-96 T Buckett
1976-77 P Grattan-Smith	1986-87 E Robb	1996-97 D Jebb
1977-78 J O'Brien	1987-88 J Dixon	1997-98 D Stephen

**CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR**

1991-92 P Trimble	1994-95 M Kovacs	1996-97 AC Jones
1992-93 D Downing	1995-96 J Carmichael	1997-98 G Lawson/JDixon

**JOHN ROGERS TROPHY FOR POIDEVIN-GRAY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

1983-84 M Hoy	1988-89 A Flemming	1993-94 M Payne
1984-85 L Gray	1989-90 A Flemming	1994-95 S Mohideen
1985-86 S O'Brien	1990-91 P Sinclair	1995-96 B Nott
1986-87 M Back	1991-92 M Hayward	1996-97 P Hemphill
1987-88 A White	1992-93 D Gainsford	1997-98 A Lamb

**ROOKIE AWARD**

1989-90 B Calver	1991-92 M Hayward	1993-97 Not Awarded
1990-91 D Trafford	1992-93 M Phelps	1997-98 T Hoare

**LADIES PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

1989-90 J Van Ardenne	1992-93 P van Oploo	1996-97
1990-91 J Van Ardenne	1994-95 S Zeppos	1997-98 G Connolly
1991-92 J Van Ardenne	1995-96 A Sanders	

**DOUBLE WICKET COMPETITION**

1971-72 D Wills/J Howe	1983-84 No contest
1972-75 No contest	1984-85 M Back/E Robb
1975-76 P Grattan-Smith/G Lawson	1985-86 Rained out
1976-77 No contest	1986-87 J Abbott/J Wilcher
1977-78 N Jansson/M Herring	1987-88 G Lawson/A Shaw
1978-79 S Campbell/I Kellaway	1988-93 No contest
1979-81 No contest	1993-94 M Hayward/R Wickramasena
1981-82 J Robson/J Gallagher	1994-98 No contest
1982-83 J Robson/P Jourdain	

## CLUB HONOURS

### MUNICIPAL AND SHIRES COMPETITION (ENTERED 1951)

B Division Premiers	1963-64
A Division Premiers	1964-65
Club Champions	1964-65
A Division Premiers	1965-66
Club Champions	1965-66
B Division Premiers	1966-67
Club Champions	1966-67
A Division Premiers	1967-68
B Division Premiers	1967-68
Club Champions	1967-68
Club Champions	1968-69
A Division Premiers	1970-71
Club Champions	1970-71
A Division Premiers	1971-72
Club Champions	1971-72
D Division One-Day Premiers	1986-87

### GRADE COMPETITION (ENTERED 1973-74)

2nd Grade Encouragement Award	1974-75
3rd Grade Encouragement Award	1975-76
1st Grade Premiers	1976-77
Poidevin-Gray Premiers	1976-77
2nd Grade Premiers	1977-78
Club Champions	1978-79
1st Grade Premiers	1980-81
Fifth Grade Premiers	1995-96

### INTER-VARSITY

Champions	1974-75
Champions	1986-87
Champions	1988-89
Champions	1995-96

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**PREMIERSHIP WINNING TEAMS**

**B DIVISION 1963-64**

HC Bundy (C), TD Creer (VC), RG Ballantyne, R Bayfield, DC Clark, J Hollington, I Lowe, F Martin, I Potter, G Sylvester, RW Smith, C Relton (12th).

**A DIVISION 1964-65**

J Chegwyn (C), J Mck Middleton (VC), BG Andrews, DC Clark, RG Ballantyne, K Daly, G Garland, J Piggott, G Sylvester, JJ Reidy, PA Wark.

**A DIVISION 1965-66**

J Chegwyn (C), J Mck Middleton (VC), CH Barrington, R Bayfield, A Bishop, GJ Cole, D Lacey, D Popcock, AJ Taylor, AR Turner, DE Willis.

**A DIVISION 1967-68**

HC Bundy (C), JE Pratley (VC), BG Andrews, RG Ballantyne, JN Healey, H Herbert, RSJ Levi, I Lowe, PJ McEarchran, J Mck Middleton, DE Wills, PC Emery (12th).

**B DIVISION 1967-68**

RW Lucas (C), PJ Schofield (VC), CH Barrington, D Brady, R Bayfield, GJ Cole, J Piggott, C Relton, AJ Taylor, AR Turner, PA Ward.

**A DIVISION 1970-71**

JE Pratley (C), GM Garland (VC), GJ Colc, BR Cos, AE Dietsch, PA Heaney, JB Martel, Z Pirjevec, RWD Robertson, GG Robinson, DG Smith.

**A DIVISION 1971-72**

GM Garland (C), AE Dietsch (VC), GJ Colc, BR Cos, PA Heaney, JB Martel, GAN Preston, CAP Samerasekera, AJ Taylor, P Whalen, DE Wills, HW Hopkins, RWD Robertson, GG Robinson.

**INTER-VARSITY CHAMPIONS 1974-75**

J Martel (C), C Chapman, J Robson, P James, J Barford, S Tait, R March, S Wiblin, C Brown, R Zabell, G Kirkwood, D Barbour, M Ray, P Grattan-Smith.

**2ND GRADE ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD 1974-75**

R Robertson, G Garland, A Taylor, P Burnett, D Smith, D Barbour, P Watkins, C Brown, G Kirkwood, A Jacobs, P Grattan-Smith, A Wijeratne, P Noble.

**3RD GRADE ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD 1975-76**

J Ingleson, C Kiefel, I Smith, B Cox, G Cole, G Garland, S Howard, M Bryce, R Zabell, J Cutler, T Haymet.

**1ST GRADE 1976-77**

J Rogers (C), J Martel, R Pym, G Watson, G Livingstone, C Chapman, J Robson, G Lawson, J O'Brien, P Deegan, M Ray, S Campbell, P Grattan-Smith, M Watt.

**POIDEVIN-GRAY 1976-77**

J Robson (C), M Bryce, J Carmichael, S Howard, N Jansson, P Jourdain, G Kirkwood, G Lawson, G Livingstone, D Meagher, N Perger, M Watt.

**2ND GRADE 1977-78**

T Buddin (C), P Deegan, R Campbell, N Jansson, P Tout, B Handley, G Kirkwood, R Pym, R March, G Robinson, I Smith, J Martel, N Perger, D Pratt, P Emery, J Sands, P Jourdain.

**1ST GRADE 1980-81**

M Ray (C), T Buddin, C Chapman, G Lawson, B Handley, C Hanger, J Dixon, P Tout, N Perger, S Campbell, N Jansson, G Livingstone, J Robson, A Wijeratne, D Meagher.

**D DIVISION M&S ONE-DAY PREMIERS 1986-87**

D Bell (C), D Hughes, J Hughes, P Bush, S Bell, M Howe, D Joseph, G Morgan, D Graham, J Warrington, D Fitzsimmons.

**INTERVARSITY CHAMPIONS 1986-87**

J Baker (C), J Abbott, B Cooper, A Szabo, J Martin, S O'Brien, D Roper, W McKay, L Gray, P Warrington, M Palin, N Horne, M Back, J Orchard.

**INTERVARSITY CHAMPIONS 1988-89**

A Shaw (C), P Sinclair, D Coots, A Flemming, M Kovacs, N Wood, A White, A McCallum, T Grosser, S Raju, D Cummins.

**INTERVARSITY CHAMPIONS 1995-96**

M Phelps (C), P Carson, D Carson, D Culhane, S Mohideen, M Leahy, P Levett, P Searle, S Gerber, M Hayward, A Cavill, G Shanthan

**FIFTH GRADE PREMIERS 1995-96**

R Stark (C), P Searle, C Neal, C Jameson, S Gerber, T Buckett, G Shepherd, P Carson, G Harris, P Levett, M Robson, G Clark, M Hughes.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is with some disappointment that my direct involvement in the day-to-day activities and running of the Club in Season 1997-98 were reduced due to various commitments in other areas of my life. I might normally say "enormous disappointment" except that my circumstances have allowed me to stand back and observe some much needed changes in the administrative functions within the Club.



I have mentioned on numerous occasions my views that the culture of this great Club can only be maintained if we can continue to bring young, talented people into the Club and provide them with, not only cricket's playing opportunities, but also the personal development opportunities that go along with being part of the running of a successful sporting club. I have long been an active administrator within the Club and have feared that we would suffer in the long term because its running was being left in the hands of a limited number of older heads. It is not that the contributions of we "old heads" was lacking, more the drain that it becomes on those resources and the less vitality that is naturally instilled into this important area. It is that vitality, both on the field and in the meeting rooms, that has typified the UNSWCC culture.

However, the "enormous disappointment" of feeling so distanced from the Club was substantially alleviated by observations of the Club's administration that this distance afforded me. To see the likes of intelligent and talented people such as Andrew Jones (1996-97 Clubman of the year), Matt Sanders and Christoph Vonwiller taking over and driving the extremely efficient running of the Club in this important year was satisfying in the extreme. With other new faces in the person of the (not so young) Jim Plunkett-Cole and our Junior Development team of Sohail Mohideen, Paul Searle and Alex Lamb taking on enormous responsibilities and achieving real successes, I can see nothing but a bright future that this proud and great Club deserves. The job, however, is never done and I look forward to the next "cra" joining the team to keep the Club at the pinnacle of "club-level" sporting achievement.

On the field, our 3rds, 4ths and 5ths narrowly missed the semi-finals. They were expertly led by Messrs Bucket, Stark and Harris and promising young on-field talent was identified and nurtured in these important developmental environments. 1sts and 2nds performed very well in finishing in the middle of the table - an impressive start to the rebuilding of our performances after the recent difficult years. Ian Salisbury (and his lovely wife, Emma) were a fantastic addition to the Club and we hope that they will continue to be involved for a long time to come. Geoff Milliken, another "old head", also made an immediate impact and

provided that much needed playing experience for our eager and talented 1st Grade side when he joined the Club this season.

A special congratulations also to the well deserved life membership bestowed on Greig "Robbo" Robinson. His contributions to the Club have been significant and extend over an incredibly long period of time.

In the difficult times that this Club has been, and continues to be, faced with in maintaining its position in the elite competition, it would be remiss of me to not also mention the support that we have received from the University. In particular, the foresight that has been shown in the Village Green Development will hold the Club in good stead as we forge towards our goal of being the premier cricket club in Sydney.

As I mentioned in last year's report, this is a marvellous club, rich in heritage and tradition notwithstanding its relatively short history in grade. We have shown the dogged fight this year that is required to pursue a bright future for the Club and that vigour within the Club must be maintained by all of us.

**CHRIS CHAPMAN**

PRESIDENT

## COACHING REPORT

Comparison of 1996-97 and 1997-98 Grade Tables shows that we have improved significantly, particularly in the higher Grades and the Club Championship. The table below illustrates this.

GRADE	1996-97		1997-98	
	Position	Points	Position	Points
1	20 <sup>th</sup>	12	Eq. 11 <sup>th</sup>	40
2	Eq. 13 <sup>th</sup>	34	Eq. 14 <sup>th</sup>	36
3	19 <sup>th</sup>	18	7 <sup>th</sup>	51
4	3 <sup>rd</sup>	55	Eq. 5 <sup>th</sup>	54
5	Eq. 1 <sup>st</sup>	70	5 <sup>th</sup>	64
PG	10 <sup>th</sup> in Division	6	Eq. 3 <sup>rd</sup> in Division	21
Club Championship	19 <sup>th</sup>	Not available	14 <sup>th</sup>	1070

I think that there were two main reasons for the improvement.

Firstly the availability of Michael Slater, Ian Salisbury and Geoff Milliken meant we not only had a very competitive and respected team but there was a filter down effect through the Grades.

Secondly the Club as a whole lifted its collective game with more members contributing to the organisation and importantly Café DP's great success.



From the Coaching point of view I was happy with the commitment of most players and think that the "back to basics" skill improvement we concentrated on in pre-season and throughout the year was the right approach and should be pursued.

Practice was conducted under some difficulty because of the redevelopment of the VG but we made the best of it at DP and in fact the early season centre wicket sessions helped everyone. While the undulations of the new practice wickets, losing balls up the hill and putting the nets up and down were annoying the effort of everyone was great.

Unfortunately we did not spend as much time on fielding as I would have liked because of the desire to get everyone a bat or a bowl and the need for fielders at centre wicket.

I was very happy to see that our batting improved markedly this season and the number of centuries scored outstripped previous years. However, it dropped off towards the end of the season and that is why we missed the semis in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades.

All in all I think we progressed as players and a Club and if we keep concentrating on the skills we will reach the finals in all Grades.

I would like to pass on my thanks to Geoff Lawson for his outstanding contribution to coaching and the success of practice. He was there a lot and it showed in the attitude and performance of the players.

Also Jim Dixon, Ian Salisbury, Dennis Cameron (although work commitments limited him to pre-season) and the junior development and Green Shield coaches Zac Zavos, Paul Urqhart, Sohail Mohideen and Alex Lamb.

Thanks to Roger Carr and Ray Galway for their help in providing centre wickets and general support of the Club.

Finally as you may know I will not be coaching next season and thank all Club members for the support and help over the past three seasons.

Greg Livingstone.

## FIRST GRADE REPORT

The 1997/98 season has the hallmarks of the commencement of a new era of success for the first grade team at this proud club.

That may be a "big" call but I feel pretty comfortable with it. Why?:

- the weaknesses I mentioned last year that proved insurmountable have largely been cured in the form of our talented young batsmen substantially proving their worth (along with the addition of Salsy and Spike's experience and talent with the bat), a quality spinner whom we are confident we can retain with the Club, and some young batsmen and lower grade players performing at levels that will (if they haven't already) put pressure on the first grade players. There are still too many crucial catches being dropped but, I guess, not everything can be cured at once;
- this is part of my first point but I believe is worth highlighting separately - our batsmen scored 8 centuries and clearly have learnt this special and crucial skill;
- the Club's traditional complacency in its focus on the continued supply of talented young cricketers into the playing ranks has finally disappeared. We have relied for too long on the natural introduction of country and private school students to the fold, not fully appreciating the competitive recruitment issues that are now part and parcel of what is still fundamentally amateur grade cricket. The Club is now making sure that those sources of the typical UNSW cricketer are fully aware of our existence in this elite competition and the benefits this Club is best suited to provide in nurturing their cricket careers as well as other of life's opportunities. Todd Hoare is only the first example of what I believe will be the new batch of Jim Robsons, Greg Livingstones, Jamie Bakers or Michael Slaters. He is one of these formerly more "natural" recruits who will force their way into first grade (and hopefully beyond). This is now a first grade side that is strong and positions will be hard earned. As in former days of glory, those who manage to make it will also drag our other young talented players to performance levels they should be attaining right throughout the grades: and
- having messrs Lawson (off the field) and Slater (on the field) available in much larger doses than usual doesn't hurt either.

Talking about how good we are going to be is, unfortunately, only ever talk (and my wife, who has been reading this over my shoulder, thinks that is all cricketers are really any good at). We can write-up our success stories when they come. For the moment I'll concentrate on the substantial successes within this year's first grade.

Individuals scored a lot more runs this year but, more importantly, many substantial

partnerships shaped our match winning scorecards. Slats and Salsy proved to be the main components of the higher order successes although, by season end, Pratty had taken over. The inclusion of Spike added much needed "real" batting experience in the middle order to assist Hayers in his efforts to ensure lower order partnerships developed. Our batting worked very well for us, a huge improvement on more recent years. Hawkesbury, Gordon and Sutherland the notable exceptions.

If our bowling could have matched the previous season's, things would have looked very bright. DP is certainly a factor that needs to be incorporated in any analysis of their performance. But, rather than relying on this excuse, I believe the bowlers could have performed at higher levels. Arguably that is a little too critical but, what the heck, I get labelled as too critical in any event so I'll just come right out and say it.

Fielding is still an issue and an area of our game that receives only tacit attention, rather than the concerted focus it requires. Not enough first and second graders (at least) are doing the extra bit of fielding practise in the varied, interesting, concentrated and, ultimately, constructive manner that is required. I would dearly love to see that change next year as I believe our semi final prospects hinge on this area of our performance.

Thanks to Manilla for his tireless and helpful efforts as our scorer and manager this year. To Henry and Livo as our coaches and mentors. To the other captains and Robbo for their support during the year in selections/strategies. To Ray Galway for his efforts in producing a quality cricket wicket when it was so important for the "perceptions" of the Club that inevitably arise at the SCA/NSWCA level. To the gorgeous Mrs Emma ("Blurter") Salisbury for being the most pleasant of house guests, for keeping Salsy on the straight and narrow, for afternoon teas, for walking the dogs, for trying to keep Hamish quiet at 3am, for drinking with the boys hours after her "poor-arse" husband has gone home, etc, etc. Thanks to J.P-C for his absolutely enormous and selfless contribution to the Club this year. Cafe DP was one of the big success stories within a club that is quickly getting its act together. What a great bloke and what a fantastic addition to the Club and its culture. My last thankyou to my wife who rarely gets a thankyou in my public commentaries because my thanks to her extend way beyond my cricket season. But even on a cricket note she is always helping me and the team out - entertaining at our place, the best afternoon teas, never complaining about my cricket commitments, and giving me some well-timed words of support to keep this deteriorating body going.

Finally, my congratulations to all of the first grade players on their efforts this year and their performances on the field. It is a great side to be involved in and I hope it continues to always maintain its unmistakable, yet difficult to define, UNSWCC character. I tend to get critical of their "underperforming" but that is me as captain and "wise-old-fart" talking. They are proving that the UNSWCC is a very important part of this amateur club level cricket that will prosper as an elite cricket competition and as a nursery for people who will be valuable members of our society - that is the Club's aim. The first grade players this year are part and parcel of what makes this such a great and enjoyable Club. I

should also note at this final point that Hayers, a classic example of the UNSWCC member (that's scary isn't it), may have disappeared for a while - but hopefully not. In case he doesn't return it is appropriate to thank him now for his "special" contributions to the Club (and to my daily e:mail workload).

JIM DIXON

### **The Players**

Michael Slater: Topped the batting with limited (although increased) appearances. Has taken over the captaincy reigns when he is available and is proving his skills extend well beyond batting genius. Magnificent centuries at NDs (to kick-start our 1997/98 season), vs Campbelltown, and vs Manly. Hope to continue to see him around for at least a couple of matches next season as he is a wonderful clubman and ambassador for the Club. Must be Australia's opening batsman for the foreseeable future as his latter innings on the sub-continent proved when he is given a chance to settle back into the side.

Just because I'm sick of only having complimentary things to say about Slats I will add that he bowled a couple of, I suppose, tidy overs at Hurstville and dropped a few catches.

Hamish Nott: Continues to show ability and promise but no real first grade performances. Has a lot on his plate but still should be doing more to cement a place in the first grade side. He will probably now need to do a lot more to remain part of the side. His fielding can be brilliant but is too inconsistent. His bowling too has plenty of promise. Average drunk. Needs to keep his clothes on in the captain's backyard/pool after midnight.

Anthony Pratt: Back to the opening role in his season-by-season merry-go-round in the batting order, but this time a big success. His maiden first grade hundred vs Manly was a great knock. Bowled pretty well with some spells into hurricane DP being critical to our sides good showings. The catch of the season vs Randwick showed he still has that white West Indian in him.

Ian Salisbury: Historically, Pommies don't have a good track record in coming into Sydney First Grade cricket and performing well on or off the field. Boy did we strike pay-dirt with Salsy. "Cinderella/Santa/Salsy" was an outstanding success story even if his leg-spinning forte did not often prove the match winner it could have. With some lingering niggling injuries Salsy's "top drawer" bowling efforts were relatively limited, but crucial in our wins vs Randwick and Bankstown. His batting at No 3 was a highlight and showed that this talent should be released at the first-class level as well because he CAN bat. Most of all Salsy and his lovely wife Emma proved to be the perfect visitors to the Club and "longish-term" guests at our house. We will love to have him back for each and every English Winter he may have available to spend down under as he has added a lot in his short stay so far. Trouble is - from the Club's perspective - he's heading strongly towards getting back into the England side and we may therefore see very little of him (we'll make up for it

by taking Emma off his hands for these wonderful Australian summers that she enjoys). If he gets back in to the Test team he'll be the only reason the poms will get any cheers. Hopefully the name Salisbury (not his brother at NDs) will become synonymous with UNSW cricket.

David Carson: In previous years we were just wishing Carso would come good and be a significant part of the First Grade side's prosperous future. After this season, I believe we know he will. It will still need the same levels of effort in training and learning but Carso clearly turned a corner this season and I believe the next few seasons will see the fruits of this. Should keep working on his bowling and his catching is growing in confidence. A very good ground fielder capable of putting pressure on opposition batsmen.

Ben Nott: Notty's season was arguably a bit of a let down from the previous year in pure batting terms. However, Notty was responding to the responsibility of being our No 1 batsman in 96/97 and trying to see us out of deep batting mire. 97/98 saw Slat, Salsy, Spike and even Pratty and Carso at the end of the year relieving Notty of these responsibilities to a certain extent. I believe Notty adapted pretty well to these changing circumstances and to the slightly different role. He will know next year, in an even stronger and better performing side, that he must take his chances with the bat when they come, as he is a class player capable of going further. Notty's keeping seems to suffer from some hand injuries although he generally takes them when they come. This is an area that will need a lot of work if he wants it to carry him further in the game and Notty has the toughness to work even harder on this part of his game.

Geoff Milliken: With very good reason the Club was a buzz with the news that Spike had decided to play with us in season 1997/98. Spike has been a close friend of the Club throughout his distinguished First Grade and First-Class career. Some of us (particularly Livo) have known Spike a long time and, although jumping at the prospect of him finishing his career with us, were saddened and angered at his treatment by his former club - a club that he served so loyally and proudly for almost 15 years. He now comes to the finest Club in Sydney Grade Cricket and we will benefit enormously from his presence on and off the field. I only hope we do everything we can to allow Spike to finish his cricket playing days with the respect and admiration he deserves. His disrupted season was not his best (understandably) but he played some crucial innings for us, none more so than Gordon and Randwick. Next year, I believe, his experience, combined with the other Club talent that is shining through, will see us into the semi-finals.

Matthew Hayward: A real quality all-rounder's year. Probably didn't bowl quite as well and consistently as he could have, but he genuinely swings the ball and gets higher order batsmen out. Very good catcher but resembles a 90 year old in moving around in the field. His batting was the highlight. Just used early season opportunities to occupy the crease and discovered how easy batting can be (probably one of the real life examples Carso finally learnt from). In fact he turned into our designated "slogger" and showed everyone what a great eye and ability to hit through the line he has. His innings' vs Hawkesbury, Manly, Randwick, and Gordon all stand out. He will do well in WA next year and hopefully return for more seasons with us in the near future.

Jon Horley: Jackster's season was again only fair given his natural talents. A few good

PARTNERSHIPS

Wicket	Runs	Player (Score)	Player (Score)	Opponent
1ST	163	Jim Dixon (50)	Michael Slater (152)	N Districts
	91	Hamish Nott (31)	Tony Pratt (67)	Mosman
	61	Tony Pratt (37)	Geoff Milliken (13)	C'Town
2ND	246	Tony Pratt (121)	Michael Slater (149)	Manly
	54	Michael Slater (152)	Ben Nott (17)	N Districts
3RD	211	Ian Salisbury (119*)	Michael Slater (106)	C'Town
	197	Ian Salisbury (100)	Ben Nott (130)	Wests
	54	David Carson (51)	Ben Nott (46)	Balmain (2nd)
	53	Michael Slater (33)	Ian Salisbury (62)	East(2nd)
4TH	142	David Carson (173)	Ben Nott (65)	Bankstown
	50	Ben Nott (46)	Geoff Milliken (30)	Balmain(2nd)
5TH	87	Matthew Hayward(44)	Ben Nott (62*)	Manly
	58	Geoff Milliken (44)	David Carson (42)	Randwick
	52	David Carson (173)	Matthew Hayward(16)	Bankstown
6TH	35	Ben Nott (25)	David Carson (39)	H'Bury
7TH	122	Geoff Milliken (69)	Matthew Hayward(50)	Gordon
	53	Geoff Milliken (40*)	Jon Horley (21)	Nth Syd(2nd)
8TH	61	Andrew Johnson (43)	Ian Salisbury (40)	Penrith
9TH	107	Matthew Hayward(83)	Warren Saunders(41*)	Randwick
	50	Jim Dixon (68*)	Warren Saunders (20)	S'land
10TH	90	Jim Dixon (68*)	Darren Stephen(36)	S'land
	67	Matt Hayward(68*)	Tony Pratt (18)	H'Bury

ONE DAY COMPETITIONBATTING

Name	M	I	NO	HS	Agg	Ave	C/S	50/100
Jon Horley	4	4	3	27*	66	66.00	1	-/-
Geoff Milliken	1	1	0	57	57	57.00	-	-/1
Andrew Johnson	4	4	0	89	157	39.25	1	-/1
David Carson	3	3	0	82	89	29.67	1	-/1
Warren Saunders	4	1	0	26	26	26.00	-	-/-
Ben Nott	4	4	0	34	62	15.50	3/3	-/-
Matthew Hayward	3	3	0	24	46	15.33	2	-/-
Tony Pratt	4	4	1	18	40	13.33	1	-/-
Ian Salisbury	4	4	0	30	50	12.50	1	-/-
Hamish Nott	3	3	0	22	30	10.00	2	-/-
Jim Dixon	4	4	0	5	13	3.25	-	-/-
David Trafford	1	1	0	2	2	2.00	-	-/-
Mark Mullen	1	1	1	17*	17	-	-	-/-
Darren Stephen	4	1	1	4*	4	-	-	-/-

BOWLING

Name	O	M	W	Runs	Ave	Best	Runs/O
Hamish Nott	4.4	0	3	9	3.00	2-8	1.93
Mark Mullen	8	3	2	21	10.50	2-21	2.63
Ian Salisbury	34	6	8	91	11.38	2-14	2.68
Darren Stephen	24	5	4	82	20.50	2-20	3.42
Tony Pratt	34.5	3	6	125	20.83	3-15	3.59
Warren Saunders	25	7	2	56	28.00	2-16	2.24
Matthew Hayward	16	2	2	56	28.00	2-22	3.50
Jon Horley	24	1	2	82	41.00	2-21	3.42
Jim Dixon	16	1	1	48	48.00	1-25	3.00

## 1996/1997 SEASON-MATCH RESULTS

### 2 Day Competition

#### Round 1 vs Northern Districts

Day 1 for everyone was washed out so we enjoyed a 60 over limited over game to get the season started. Buoyed by the availability of Slats and the rain providing an opportunity to utilise our pommy import first up, we produced a solid effort to begin this important season with a win.

A fair crowd was there to witness an unusual grade event these days - Mark Taylor available for his home club. Of course there was also the prospect of comparing the Australian captain and opening batsman's form with that of Australia's best opening batsman (our very own Michael Slater). To the extent that you can have a "match-up" of batsmen in this fickle game we play, this was no contest.

Our bowling was pretty damn ordinary, which seemed to set the tone for our early season form in the field. Salsy (basically straight off the plane) was the pick, Pratty and Hayers fair. The Slats show then rolled out and we cruised home with 8 overs to spare (losing our first wicket at 163 at 34 overs) thanks mainly to Shaker's perseverance on the hill.

UNSW 3 for 271 (Slater 152, Dixon 50)

beat

Northern Districts 6 for 270 (Salisbury 2/84)

#### Round 2 vs Penrith

Again, very poor in the field with perhaps a couple of marginal decisions that could have gone our way and drastically changed things (a Geyer LBW when he was on about 12 - he got 137 and smashed us). Hayers was the pick of the bowlers, beating the bat on numerous occasions. Salsy was still getting over jet lag but managed to apply pressure at various times (just no one chiming in with some pressure at the other end when Salsy was getting it together).

We (ie Slats) smashed a few that night (he was unavailable day 2) to give us a bit of a sniff at chasing a big score next week. We didn't bat well on a flat slow wicket against a very modest attack. The last four to go in (AJ, Salsy, Hayers and Jack) were the only ones to show some fight and form. Not a good back-up game after starting the season with a good win.

UNSW 232 (Johnson 43, Salisbury 40, Slats 39)

lost to

Penrith 6 for 369 (Salisbury 4/130, Hayward 2/44); and

1 for 67



### Round 3 vs Wests

Our first 1st grade game at DP and the skipper (unusually) loses the toss (Note: that's 3 lost tosses out of 3) with the wicket looking flat and a gale blowing down the ground. Pleasant fielding conditions (not). We battled pretty well, Pratty, Salsy, Hayers and Shaker all doing good jobs into a hurricane that we learnt, during the course of this virgin (DP) season, was a climatic phenomena very peculiar to the DP region. I got 3/47 and proved to the world that:

- anyone can bowl off spin, and
- Jungle has been the biggest bowling "fraud" since Chappo gave himself a bowl in Intervarsity.

Pratty's 2/56 off 22 overs was a major reason we restricted them to 291.

We started badly being 2/15 (although I've got to say I believe I got the worst LBW decision I have ever received - maybe the worst I'd ever seen, until I was unfortunate enough to be at the non-strikers end at Hawkesbury to see Spike's first ball for the club, and then my decision get trumped again 3 overs later with a marginally less dodgy one on Salsy - marginally less dodgy than Spike's, that is). However the captain's brilliant move of Salisbury to No 3, combined with a Ben Nott gem of a maiden first grade hundred, saw our next wicket fall at 212. AJ and Hayers steered us home with time to spare.

2 from 3, and we'd only won 2 all of last season. We were looking a good side with plenty of room for improvement.

UNSW 5 for 292 (B Nott 130, Salisbury 100)

beat

Wests 291 (Dixon 3/47, Pratt 2/56, Horley 2/20)

### Round 4 vs St George

This game could really have set our season alight. A loss of the toss (is that 4), a disgraceful decision against us, and the availability of their only quality bowler for one of his only games for the year, conspired against a UNSW juggernaut developing in season 1997/98.

They batted and looked uncomfortable against an attack starting to find its straps. Wazza's first fair spell for the year (after a world beating season last year) and Salsy's first quality performance with the ball were highlights. Shaker got Rummans and then had McNamara block one straight to Carso at short leg (he was about 4 at this stage). Embarrassingly (as McNamara described it later) he was given not out, went on to get 115 out of St George's 289 total, AND shielded his batsmen from Salsy when he looked like going straight through them. Not unrealistically, it is arguable the decision cost us 100-120 runs.

Chasing 170-190 makes it a different ball game particularly as we would have had valuable time batting on Day 1 on a pretty good wicket rather than the more juiced up deck we had on Day 2 (courtesy of rain, not St George).

Neil Jones bowled very well on a deck that suited him down to the ground. Knocked Slats, Notty, and Salsy over with pearlas. Carso batted very well for 32, with particular lack of respect for their young "hormone" leg spinner, Smith. He doesn't mind a spinner that Carson lad.

UNSW 144 (D Carson 32)

lost to

St George 289 (Pratt 3/52, Salisbury 2/75, Horley 2/29); and

0 for 72

### Round 5 vs Hawkesbury

Just a quick guess as to who won the toss on a very warm (fly infested) day at Hawkesbury. They decided to bat on what I would have to describe as one of the best cricket wickets I have seen. Good even bounce, a bit in it with the new ball and a bit of spin. Regardless of the location, it was a joy to play cricket on such a deck.

Simons was the only bloke who got any and you would be excused for thinking he was trying to get out - just not very good at it on this day. Everyone bowled pretty well, perhaps our main problem being a few too many loose ones. Anyway, we got them for 252, Hayers getting 5 for. Little did we know of what the umpire had in store for us in the 11 overs we had to endure that night (see above NDs report for an introduction).

First ball of the second over was Spike's first ball for his new club. Left hand bat, right-arm-over-left-ear-hole bowler (AND he almost bowls from outside the return crease), lands half way down, straight, but keeps low, hitting spike in front of leg, maybe just outside, but definitely hitting about middle, maybe middle and off with the angle. Think about the rules and physics....in fact, just think, and this is one decision that just can't be given out. Perhaps Spike's reputation as the nicest bloke in Sydney cricket worked against him. Spike's lack of reaction was the only good thing to come out of the incident, a credit to him, and a lesson to others who explode at decisions not remotely as bad as that one. But I must go on. As is typical of situations late in a day where a bowling team only has to spend a little while in the field, the not unexpected boisterous appealing for everything was brought in to play. Salsy (refusing the night watchman) became the victim. Not quite as bad as Spike's decision, but they would both be in the grand final for most inexplicable. Again, picture this. Left arm orthodox, around the wicket, right hand bat, newish ball and getting no turn, bowls arm ball, stretching a long way forward, no suggestion that not playing a shot, hit on the knee roll - out. Think about it. The rules, physics, I've had enough. We're 2/18 without doing anything wrong and the skipper displays all his years of experience and maturity in dealing with these situations, chips a wide one to cover and we finish the day at 3/22 - a good day undone.

We still could have, and should have won. Some poor batting by some young guns, Carso's run-out when he was looking the goods and a partnership with Hayers established, and a pretty fair attack, saw to that. The juggernaut was well and truly torpedoed, mainly by a tired and itchy trigger-finger. Hayers had a classic all-rounders match. His batting, in particular was reaching new heights. His last wicket partnership with Pratty was inspirational.

UNSW 201 (Hayward 68\*, D Carson 39)

lost to

Hawkesbury 252 (Hayward 5/25, Saunders 2/55)

### **Round 6 vs Campbelltown**

I was playing 2nd grade and missed this very good win and another game on a magnificent cricket wicket. This time Slats loses the toss. We bowl really well with Wazza returning to 1996/97 form. Fielding lapses let us down but we roll their strong batting order for 276.

We got to 0/20 in 2 overs that night with Pratty displaying his exquisite timing against "the mad-dog". We lose our first two wickets at 61 to bring Salsy and Slats together. The carnage then stopped at 3/272. We got the runs in 70 overs to display some of our undoubted ability after a few games in the doldrums.

UNSW 4 for 298 (Salisbury 119\*, Slater 106, Pratt 37)

beat

Campbelltown 272 (Saunders 6/54, Horley 2/31)

### **Round 7 vs Gordon**

We were growing very confident in how to play and win at DP so it was very unfortunate that, due to the VG being out of action and Gordon's lack of grounds, we were forced to play this "home" game away (Riverview).

The venue proved OK but our performance did not match. We scraped to a draw against a fairly weak side. Admittedly they scratched around like old moles for two and a bit sessions and then posted a score by smashing our tired bowlers around in the last 20 overs. We could have bowled better in the last session, and more astute captaincy wouldn't have gone astray. Salsy and Pratty bowled well early but may have been over bowled and their final overs were poor.

6 for 66 in the first 34 overs was a bad start to say the least. Some poor batting plus two "iffy" decisions from the usually reliable Arthur Watson. Carso's was probably crucial. Messrs Milliken and Hayward then posted a great 122 partnership which pushed us towards an unlikely win. Hayers may have thought he'd done enough (he hadn't) when trying to pull a yorker after taking 8 off the over already. Jackster and Wazza saw us through to a

draw deeming the slow wicket and outfield and relatively defensive fields as too risky and a recipe only for donating the opposition 6 points.

UNSW 8 for 238 (Milliken 69, Hayward 50, Horley 23\*, Saunders 18\*)

drew with

Gordon 9 decl 264 (Pratt 3/74, Saunders 2/27, Hayward 2/31)

### Round 8 vs Manly

Wooooaaahhh. What a performance!!!

Uni wisely allow Slats to skipper and an important toss is finally won. Yours truly realises, with Slats in the side, any ball wasted on me is runs foregone and so glides one early to the slips cordon. 1 for 17...2 for 263. Pratty's maiden first grade hundred was "a lifetime" coming but it was worth the wait to be scored with Slats in such a dominating and match winning way. Notty and Hayers played magnificently to guide us to the Club's first 1st grade score of 400.

They possess a few well known pea-hearts this Manly side so we eagerly awaited the very real probability of 10 points being up for grabs on Day 2. Salsy, Wazza and Jack make the early inroads to have them declaring at 5 for 144 in the hope that we'd set them a target. With 400 on the board that meant a 0 for 0 declaration was in order. We knife through their brittle (though surprisingly semi final bound) batting with some slogging by their tale adding the only respectability. Salsy went for a few but he was always going to be a trump card in any pursuit of outright.

UNSW 5 for 400 (Slater 149, Pratt 121, B Nott 65, Hayward 44), and

0 decl 0

beat, outright

Manly 5 decl 144 (Saunders 3/45, Salisbury 2/36), and

180 (Salisbury 4/88, Hayward 3/21, Saunders 2/23)

### Round 9 vs Randwick

We won the toss so guess who must have been available. Slats decided to bat on a very windy DP day, again. Downton is bowling rather rapid with the gale at his back and a pitch that's playing a little up and down (probably the only slightly sub-standard DP North wicket we had all year). Downton manages to get Slats cheaply to have us at 4 for 89. Spike and Carso then put on a gutsy and vital 58 run partnership, but we stutter again to be 8 for 197 after 61 overs. Spikes experience, guts and determination certainly pulled us through a perilous match position. Hayers and Wazza then contribute the match-winning killer blow with a magnificent 107 run 9th wicket partnership. Shaker gets a No 11

decision to finish us off that night.

Salsy bowls really well on a day far more pleasant to be in the field than that endured by Randwick the day before. They make only 172. Another highlight being Pratty turning back the clock a few years to pluck a full-blooded square drive out of the air whilst parrallel to the ground. Much dry-rooting ensued. Salsy hits the pegs a few times to mesmerise the Randwick line-up.

UNSW 304 (Hayward 83, Milliken 44, Carson 42, Saunders 41\*)

beat

Randwick 172 (Salisbury 4/30, Hayward 2/20)

### **Round 10 vs Mosman**

Slats was only available Day 2 so we naturally lost the toss and set off into the field. The boys bowl quite well but without much luck (Hayes, in particular, finding the edge of his brother's (Haywood) bat). Rain intervenes at Tea with Mosman limited to 2 for 77 off 36 overs but with S Lee due to play on the Monday (Australia Day). I venture back to 2nds with Slats return on Day 2. I understand Slats dropped the easiest dolly off Lee when he was about 10 - he went on to be the only bat to dominate in the match getting 102 off 115 balls. They get 273 off 87 overs and leave us 70 to match them on a lowish deck.

Hamish and Pratty and then Salsy get us off to a brilliant start against their much vaunted attack of Alley and Lee. At 1 for 130 we are looking good but we lose 5 for 24 and, when Spike went at 7 for 181, 12 overs to get 98, we shut up shop and took a draw which, ultimately, put Mosman out of the semis.

UNSW 9 for 204 (Pratt 67, D Carson 36\*, H Nott 31, Salisbury 28)

drew with

Mosman 7 decl 273 (Saunders 4/62)

### **Round 11 vs Easts**

With Slats available for this Sat/Sun game, my stint in 2nds saw me with a winning combination and spared the direct involvement in a 1st Grade debacle.

Slats wins the toss, bats, and we mysteriously get rolled by their seamers on a typical Waverly Oval slow turner. Spike tries to hold us together but we're out in 46 overs for 81.

They proceed to 4 for 121 at stumps and declare at 6 for 209 off 73 overs. We have been provided with a great chance to just bat out the game and deny them extra points that were up for grabs.

2 for 1 after 2 balls was hardly the desired start - including one of the more bizzare run outs (first ball of the innings) you'll ever see. Salsy bats extremely well and Spike is again

somewhat scratchy. 3/86 brings the two promising players (approaching "former" promising players) together for a match winning partnership. Benny and Carso bat so well it is, in hindsight, a little frustrating. They put on a very impressive 142 before Notty goes trying to up the tempo in the last 20 overs. We belt 114 off the last 15 overs due to Carso's awesome batting.

We should dwell on Pygmy No 2's innings for at least a few moments. From 0 to about 65 Carso just played it perfectly. Played himself in, chose his shots carefully and bided his time in accumulating runs on a wicket that (he has finally LEARNED) gets easier and easier the longer the day goes on and you are still out there. He was dropped at 66 and this sent him into his shell as the scare focussed him on that elusive maiden 1st grade ton. It was ugly through to 100 but he toughed it out and experienced what real batting and run scoring is all about. From 100 to 173 was Slateresque (in a mirror). They did not know where to bowl to him and his timing and stroke play were superb. I sense a real turning point in Carso's career and, therefore, the Uni 1st grade side's fortunes. He has always stood out as a talent that just couldn't seem to be converted into scores of substance and consistency. Carso appeared a batsman who had really not sought out what run scoring (rather than "net-style" batting in the middle) was all about. He now realises that to look and feel "ugly" in the way you may be batting at any particular time means the proverbial fuck all. While you're still out there in the middle runs are available whether they be from the middle of the bat or off the gloves over the keeper's head. While you scratch around and guts it out in a difficult patch the wicket is settling down or you are getting used to it, and the ball is appearing larger and larger. Carso played it perfectly and I don't think he will look back from here because he knows he experienced the most valuable of lessons. Congratulations Carso, it was a great innings, with plenty more to come.

Bankstown started their run chase pretty well, losing their first wicket at 101. Salsy and Jack (in particular) put some breaks on things and produced the breakthroughs that reduced Bankstown's stars to 6/177. Scott Thompson proves a thorn in our side but Shaker grabs him and a mop up is all that is required (Holdsworth got away with a few slogs to push them up to 298).

A really impressive win that should suggest to some that the so-called disparity between the "top" teams and "bottom" teams is at best marginal.

UNSW 344 (D Carson 173, B Nott 65, A Pratt 24)

beat

Bankstown 298 (Salisbury 4/58, Horley 2/41)

### **Round 15 vs Balmain**

A very disappointing cricket wicket was produced for the last game of the year. It is not difficult to see how Balmain produce so many points (particularly outright results) and this issue needs to be monitored more closely by the cricket administrators.

My ability to win tosses (particularly important ones) was left at the impressive total of one

for the year as they had no hesitation in dobbing us in on a humid day and on a wicket that may (and that is definitely only a "may") have seen 3 hours rolling during the course of the season. Their attack was average but the wicket was a leveller, nevertheless it was not a situation where we should have found ourselves at 9/61. Shaker again shows his skills with the bat and he and I see us to 102 before I let him down in the pursuit of our own 10th wicket partnership record.

We bowled and fielded average except for Jack who produced a sustained spell of very sharp bowling to try and single handedly pull us through. They pass us 5 down (all to Jack) and ultimately declare at 9/241 thinking that this wicket would continue to be too much for us. Jack finished with 7/71 and the bowling performance of the year (even considering the dodgy deck).

We then just bat out the rest of Day 2 to be 5/188. Carso continuing his "real" batting, ably supported by Benny, Spike, Hamish and Hayers.

If only we had played them on a respectable deck, I believe it was 6 points stripped from us due to the lottery that is the toss of the coin and cricket on a shit wicket.

UNSW 102 (J Dixon 36, D Stephen 12\*) and

5/188 (D Carson 51, B Nott 46, Hayward 32\*, Milliken 30)

lost to

Balmain 9 decl 241 (J Horley 7/71)

## **One Day Competition**

### **Round 1 vs Sydney Uni**

We bowled and fielded sensationally on a belter of a wicket to restrict their side to 9/145 off 50 overs. Everyone's numbers looked pretty damn good. Fielding was a highlight with Hamish outstanding except for his usual mind boggling lapse into insanity to ping 4 overthrows when nothing was happening.

The simple target proved too much with some good bowling from Nikitaris, some poor batting and some even poorer umpiring. We finish 3 runs short losing the last wicket in the farcical run-out circumstances that were indicative of the fact that we were never switched on to winning this match right from the time we started to bat.

UNSW 142 (Saunders 26, Johnson 25)

lost to

Sydney Uni 9/145 (Salisbury 2/19, Stephen 2/20, Horley 2/21)

### Round 2 vs Petersham

Our batting starts pretty poorly on a belter at DP. Carso and AJ then smash them to get us to 272 from our 50 overs. Salsy smacks a few at the start, Hayers at the end.

They struggle from the word go and only get 136 from 45 overs. Everone contributing. It is unfortunate seeing a proud Club like Petersham struggling so badly. The SCA/NSWCA have a lot to answer for in their long running attempts to kill this club off.

UNSW 7/272 (Johnson 89, Carson 82, Salisbury 30, Hayward 24)

beat

Petersham 136 (Pratt 3/15, Hayward 2/22, Salisbury 2/28)

### Round 3 vs Parramatta

Absolutely unplayable bowling from Salsy plus good efforts from the rest see Parramatta muster only 125 off 46.4 overs. The captain drops a couple just to keep things interesting. Mullos and Hamish bowl very well.

Our run chase is pretty poor and only sees us home in the 48th over thanks to Jack and Mullos. A win even with a poor batting performance.

UNSW 7/129 (Horley 27\*, B Nott 25, Mullen 17\*)

beat

Parramatta 125 (H Nott 2/8, Saunders 2/16, Salisbury 2/14, Mullen 2/21)

### Round 4 vs Fairfield

Coming into the final round with a win assuring us of the semis, you would have to say our efforts in this game were disgraceful. Spike set up a winning total for us on a low slow wicket with lots of help from Benny and AJ and Pratty at the end.

Our fielding and bowling were average at best. What was disgraceful in the circumstances was the level of enthusiasm and interest generated by the team. Quite inexplicable and a performance I hope first grade never put in again. Best forgotten now.

UNSW 8/180 (Milliken 57, B Nott 34, Johnson 26)

lost to

Fairfield 5/185 (Salisbury 2/30, Pratt 2/40)



## SECOND GRADE REPORT

In hindsight, the 1997/98 season was not the typical UNSW cricket season of recent years. Pre-season started that little bit earlier, a groove appeared around the University grounds where the Leahys and the Gainsfords of the club found a new resolution to improve their fitness, sports psychologists appeared with suspicious questionnaires and Second Grade were sitting pretty by Christmas in 4<sup>th</sup> position with 5 wins from 7 games. Team confidence was high and so were expectations with the traditionally strong post Christmas run still to come. Alas, history shows only one victory and one draw were to be recorded from the next 8 outings and a disappointing finish outside the top half of the table once again did not do justice to the talent in the team.

The end result for the Second Grade season was not that much different to that achieved last year but there was considerable improvement in how the results were achieved. The recurring problem of 96/97 was our batting and this year was a step in the right direction towards becoming a top rated batting outfit. Our consistency started to improve as shown by the fact that we did not pad up for the 2<sup>nd</sup> innings at all during the season yet we inserted the opposition a couple of times in an attempt to get outright where we had the upper hand. This was a stark contrast to the previous year where we were consistently under pressure with failures in our top order which resulted in us getting knocked over for cheap scores too often.

This year, Hamish Nott proved he could play at a higher level and was the backbone of the innings before being promoted. Steve Norbury provided a highlight with his 126\* against Penrith and was the dominant batsman of our side. Many, probably "prettier" batsmen, could learn a lot from Tex's concentration and determination which were the main reasons behind why he topped the aggregate. Pete Carson stood up as a batsman at 2<sup>nd</sup> grade level with his 103\* against Hawkesbury although the grass on the rugby oval has never been the same since!! Traff finally found that elusive 50 and was steady as always, Dougie again played a few valuable cameos with Crewers chipping in a few times as well. Searly made his 2<sup>nd</sup> grade debut and showed enough to indicate his potential to secure a more permanent role and Damon Dermody proved that the gap between lower and higher grades is all about application to the task.

Once again our tail provided stiff resistance for the opposition bowlers with Capital playing some fine "Victor Trumplers" through cover and Micky Mag impersonating a higher order player a few times. Quince deserves a mention for his effort in flying down from his holidays in Queensland to play the second week in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade when we were batting, proceeded to bat out 20 odd overs for a face-saving draw and then fly back to resume his leisure activities. That kind of commitment is to be commended. While improvements were definitely made, more are to come if we are to threaten for the coveted premiership.

The lack of century partnerships, especially in the top few wickets, is very disappointing, especially when half our games were played on the excellent DP batting surface which was a credit to Ray and his groundstaff.

Our bowling, while probably not quite of the extremely high standard of last year, was again the strongest aspect of the side. Any 2<sup>nd</sup> grade side would gladly accept 2 quicks of the calibre of Gainsford and Trafford who consistently troubled opposition batting lineups, often with not enough support from the fieldsmen. Pete Carson showed some early season form with his leggies and showed enough to suggest he possesses the talent to bowl consistently at this level. Mick Mag was probably the success story of the season for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. After the previous season in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade and the first few games of this season in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, it was a big ask for Mick to replace the experienced Quince. To his credit, despite finding it tough initially, he kept improving and was rewarded with the outstanding figures of 6/53 vs Sutherland and was a valuable member of the attack. Disco did his best to beat Jungles' economy rate, Hamish bowled some fine spells of off-spin and Sludge woke up any sleepy umpires with some energetic appeals.

Our fielding was a bit volatile with some magnificent catches taken, notably Sohail and Searly vs Wests, but some inexplicably poor sessions occasionally endured. Maybe a bit more time could be devoted to this aspect of the game through the ~~entire~~ season. Dougie Morson appropriately enters the club's record books with the most wicket keeping dismissals for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade with 32. He has been outstanding with the gloves for the past few seasons. All in all, the effort and dedication of all team members is to be commended and the co-operation of all concerned made the season extremely enjoyable on and off the field (note that 2<sup>nd</sup> grade won the sculling at the Cricket Olympics!!). Finally, I would like to pay tribute to all those involved in the general running of the club this season. Vast improvements have been made, from Cafe DP with JPC to training with Livo and Henry. With the new "state of the art" Village Green back in action next year and a similar work ethic to this season, improvement will undoubtedly turn into success.

Mullos

**1997/1998 SEASON-MATCH RESULTS**

- Round 1 Northern Districts 260 def. UNSW 196  
H Nott 3/34
- Round 2 UNSW 8/322 def. Penrith 238  
S Norbury 126\*, D Trafford 48, D Stephen 3/38
- Round 3 UNSW 8/286 def. Wests 113 & 2/125  
R McLachlan 52, P Searle 49, M Morson 47, M Mullen 3/30,  
P Carson 3/23
- Round 4 St George 7/247 def. UNSW 243  
M Leahy, D Trafford 55, D Gainsford 3/44
- Round 5 UNSW 9/345 def. Hawkesbury 206 & 2/142  
P Carson 102\*, D Trafford 47, M Mullen 41, M Mullen 4/45
- Round 6 UNSW 176 def. Campbelltown 163  
H Nott 54, D Gainsford 4/34, H Nott 4/38
- Round 7 UNSW 8/258 def. Gordon 126  
H Nott 71, S Norbury 57, P Urquhart 45, M Mullen 5/44,  
D Gainsford 3/29
- Round 8 UNSW 9/258 drew Manly 330  
P Searle 49, D Trafford 4/52, M Mullen 3/65
- Round 9 Randwick 8/184 def. UNSW 183  
H Nott 49, M Leahy 47
- Round 10 Mosman 256 def. UNSW 236  
M Mullen 51, M Mullen 6/45
- Round 11 UNSW 5/141 def. Eastern Suburbs 139  
A Johnson 41, M Mullen 3/15
- Round 12 North Sydney 299 def. UNSW 283  
M Mullen 79, M Morson 75, M Mullen 4/52

- Round 13 Sutherland 252 def. UNSW 178  
S Norbury 42, M Mag 6/53
- Round 14 Bankstown 5/260 def. UNSW 254  
S Norbury 76, M Leahy 52, D Dermody 40, M Mullen 3/59
- Round 15 Balmain 200 def. UNSW 111  
D Gainsford 4/35, M Mag 3/62

**BATTING**

Name	M	INN	NO	HS	Agg	Ave.	100/50	C/S
S Norbury	13	13	2	126*	437	39.7	1/2	4
M Mullen	14	14	1	79	350	26.9	-/2	7
D Trafford	15	15	0	55	344	24.6	-/1	5
M Morson	14	13	0	75	292	22.5	-/1	27/5
R McLachlan	15	15	0	52	281	18.7	-/1	7
P Carson	14	13	4	103*	257	28.6	1/-	5
M Leahy	11	11	0	73	236	21.5	-/2	4
H Nott	7	5	0	71	217	43.4	-/2	3
P Urquhart	10	10	0	45	163	16.3	-	1
P Searle	6	6	0	49	143	23.8	-	2
D Gainsford	15	12	7	30*	111	22.2	-	3
A Johnson	6	6	0	41	93	15.5	-	4
M Mag	10	9	3	17	65	10.8	-	0
D Dermody	3	3	0	40	65	21.7	-	1
S Mohideen	2	2	0	26	35	17.5	-	2
M Kovacs	1	1	0	20	20	20.0	-	1
J Dixon	3	2	0	8	15	8.5	-	0
D Quinlin	5	3	2	10*	12	12.0	-	2
T Hoare	2	2	0	0	0	0.0	-	0
G Dennis	1	1	0	0	0	0.0	-	1
G Lawson	1	1	0	0	0	0.0	-	0

**BOWLING**

Name	Overs	Maidens	Wickets	Runs	Average	5w/Inn	Best
M Mullen	196	56	39	580	14.9	2	6/45
D Gainsford	189	33	23	640	27.8	-	4/34
D Trafford	203	34	21	697	33.2	-	4/52
M Mag	132	31	16	443	27.7	1	6/53
H Nott	72	18	10	176	17.6	-	4/38
P Carson	104	16	9	431	47.9	-	3/23
D Quinlin	53	11	6	181	30.2	-	2/38
R McLachlan	37	8	5	128	25.6	-	2/29
D Stephen	16	6	3	38	12.7	-	3/38
J Dixon	28	15	3	40	13.3	-	2/27
G Dennis	14	1	1	47	47.0	-	1/47
G Lawson	8	1	0	28	—	-	0/28
M Morson	2	1	0	1	—	-	0/1
S Norbury	1	0	0	9	—	-	0/9

**PARTNERSHIPS**

1 <sup>st</sup> Wicket	McLachlan[33]	Searle[49]	78	vs Manly
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wicket	Searle[49]	McLachlan[52]	84	vs Wests
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wicket	Leahy[52]	Norbury[76]	67	vs Bankstown
4 <sup>th</sup> Wicket	Searle[17]	Norbury[126*]	58	vs Penrith
5 <sup>th</sup> Wicket	Mullen[27]	McLachlan[28]	62	vs Nthn Districts
6 <sup>th</sup> Wicket	Trafford[48]	Norbury[126*]	92	vs Penrith
7 <sup>th</sup> Wicket	Trafford[39]	Morson[47]	70	vs Wests
8 <sup>th</sup> Wicket	Mullen[79]	Morson[75]	84	vs North Sydney
9 <sup>th</sup> Wicket	Mag[15]	Carson[102*]	69	vs Hawkesbury
10 <sup>th</sup> Wicket	Gainsford[30*]	Carson[102*]	86*	vs Hawkesbury

### THIRD GRADE REPORT

A rebuilt third grade side started the season with a 60 over contest at Northern District's Somerville Oval. My first official duty as Captain was to call correctly and choose to bat. A solid performance by the top order guided us to a total of 5/212 after overcoming the effects of the early morning dew.

Paul Searle and Sohail (Damage) Mohideen led the way with 70 and 69\* respectively, with Daniel Bowcock (27) and Alex Williams (18) making a good contribution during the happy hour.

In the 12 overs before tea, Northern Districts reached 1/68 in a loose display from the new ball bowlers. From here, it was always going to be tough. Mick (Porno) Mag, making his debut up from 5th Grade last year, then blowed 23 overs, 6 maidens to take 5/65. He, along with Alex Lamb, 11/3/1/28 bowled us back into the game.

From 3/161, Northern Districts eventually passed us in a dramatic penultimate over, with only their last wicket in hand.

Game two against Penrith allowed us to field a stronger side with Steve DeBello & Michael Kovacs coming aboard. With us bowling first, Penrith were soon in trouble as they limped to 6/117 at tea. Greg Dennis (Groggles) bowled superbly, although unluckily and was supported well by the experienced Micky DeBello 12/2/2/29. The unlikely Paul Searle cleaned up the tail to finish with 2/6, to stop Penrith at 202. With 25 overs to stumps, our score of 2/51 was an adequate result.

Day two began disastrously with a baffling run out in the first over, soon followed by another wicket, that saw us 4/71. But Damage (27), the man with a stance and shot selection that answers the dreams of all out swing bowlers, gave good support to a match winning innings from Alex Williams (71). A comfortable 5/177 at tea soon became 8/193, with runs hard to come by. A nail biting crawl saw us pass them 8 down and then eventually bowled out for 254. Micky DeBello carved an enertaining 35 not out to complete a good all round effort. Win number one for the food guys. Unfortunately, the game turned sour when with 12 overs left, the Penrith Captain, Mr Sullivan, made us field for a second time. They scored 10 runs in what was probably the most boring session of grade cricket I've ever been a part of. Future 3rd grade captains, please take note!!

Game three saw us host Wests for our first home game, who decided to make use of the perfect batting conditions. To be competitive, our slow bowlers had to bowl well, and that they did. Porno once again displayed his improving skills to finish with 26/2/4/79. Not to be outdone, Lamby at the other end bowled 20 overs of medium pace top spin to take the honours with 20/8/4/48. 227 in these conditions seemed a comfortable target. However, the 7 overs before stumps saw us slump to 2-9 after 2 interesting umpiring decisions. The now traditional run-out early on day 2 opened up the contest. An initially scratchy Greg Hackney (65) fought hard to eventually top score, but it was his partner, Dan Bowcock who got the ball rolling with a typically attractive 51 in short time. Alex Williams continued his good form with 40, again in quick time. 3 quick wickets then saw us fall to 7/187, still 42 short. 2 more wickets saw us struggling at 9/206, with the unknown Groggles batting jack. But the invaluable experience of Kurly Kovacs guided his partner over the line for yet another nail biter that gave the good guys 2 wins out of 3.

Game four saw the failure of me to convince my big sister to get married in the winter. UNSW bowled St George out for 201, with Porno again taking the honours with 22.1/11/4/27. He was well supported by North Coast recruit Adam Kinkead (8/1/3/20) and Bruiser (14/2/2/55). The chase was shaky at times but when Kurly and Porno got together 7/167, they again safely saw the side through to victory. Kurly made 29 not out, Dan Bowcock, 59 and Crewers 42.

At Hawkesbury, for game five, I lost the toss and we were asked to bowl on the hard, flat wicket prepared for us. My pre match pep talk was disrupted by the efforts of my late arriving opening bowler, attempting the simultaneous tasks of eating a sandwich and lacing up both boots. I then decided it was time for a come back.

A fierce opening spell by Groggles allowed me to mop up the pieces. At 9/69, it took a bazaar injury to end the innings, when the star not out batsmen fell over and called for an ambulance on 33. 9 declared for 113 was the total required in the 37 overs left for day one. I rediscovered the fun of new ball bowling to finish with 15/5/6/33, set up by a great spell from Groggles 12-5/5/2/26. The total was passed with 32 runs coming off the last 4 overs of the day as Paul Urquart (71) lead us to 3/114 at stumps. Day 2 was a chase for fast runs with Hackers (36\*) and myself (38) enjoying a quick slog to reach 6/209, 95 in front.

We disposed of Hawkesbury a second time for 161, with the best numbers coming from Quince 15/6/2/33 and Lamby 9/3/3/25.

This left us 67 to get in 6 overs. A brave effort saw us reach 3/39. As the season turned out, another 4 overs in this match may have been all we needed.

Our next opponents, Campbelltown produced the most dramatic game of the season. Batting first at a hot hard DP, we were unbelievably soon in trouble, and were bowled out for a dismal 82. The amazing reply saw Campbelltown move from 3/58 to 7/77 and eventually all out for 82. A first innings tie. The last man being stumped by Kurly off Porno (the batsman making the fatal mistake of dancing down the wicket and playing for spin). I still can't believe that in those conditions, (next door, first grade bowled well to restrict Campbelltown to just under 300) how they could not manage to squeeze another run from somewhere. That is the beauty of the game we play. The stars with the ball were Groggles 7/2/4/18 and Porno 4/1/3/11. Our second attempt saw us reach 3/127 at stumps off 31 overs.

I ended our second innings at 4/255 after 57 overs, with Crewers making 128 not out and Damage 55. This left a generous target of 256 off 56 overs in very favourable conditions.

The visitors were soon in trouble at 4/23, but some good middle order batting saw the score reach 4/122 off just 25 overs. The target suddenly looked rather close. We had a game on our hands. That was until Kinky hit the crease to take 3/11 off 8 overs. With one wicket needed for a memorable victory, the visitors held out the last 15 overs to leave us wondering if we would ever get an outright!

The next game against Gordon saw us again batting first in very favourable conditions at DP. Things were looking pretty awful until Kurly led a rear guard action, making it look easy on his way to 60 not out to help us to 186.

The 15 overs before stumps gave us a chance to fight our way back into the game with one or two quick wickets. For not the first time during the year, Lamby pulled off a breathtaking catch at short leg to grab the crucial first wicket and swing the balance of the game. This gave us the momentum we needed and 3 more quick wickets before stumps saw Gordon at 4/51.

A broken finger to Kurly was a big blow to the team, but after an unlucky start, where Gordon reached 83 in quick time, wickets fell pretty quickly, with the 10th falling at 132. Another great win to the good guys. Groggles, Bruiser and myself shared the honours with 10/1/3/48, 8/1/2/36 and 16/3/3/39 respectively.

Our good form carried over to our next game at Manly. Bowling first, we soon reduced the home side to 5/46. A middle order recovery, eventually broken by Lamby just before



tea, saw Many to a total of 151. Lamby again showed his value in cleaning up the tail with 3/16 off 6 overs along with another sharp catch at short leg.

The 25 overs before stumps saw us reach 1/89 with the experienced Jebby leading the way. We eventually declared at 8/227 on a damp day two with Jebby 60 and the debutant, Tim Martin 31. Alex Lamb topped off another good all round effort with 31 not out.

The game was put out of its misery with Manly 1/51 in their second innings.

Before our next game against Randwick I thought I'd try a little experiment to see how far my ankle would bend. The results were surprising but the consequence diastorous. Due to the relative difficulty in batting with crutches I handed over the reins to Henry for this 60 over contest.

A superb start of 9 runs from 6 overs by Groggles on a traditionally flat DP would unfortunately bear no fruit as Randwick steadily built the foundation of their innings. The word had quickly got around that the ex test great, Geoff Lawson was playing at DP and there were soon three or four people spread all around the ground hoping to catch a glimpse.

Once again, the introduction of the slow men tightened things up, with Lamby and Quince bowling well before lunch. Two run outs in the three overs after the break turned the innings around and eventually enabled the UNSW boys to bowl Randwick out for 215 in the last over. With three run outs, the best of the bowlers were Bruiser 6/0/1/16 and Lamby 12/3/1/26.

The reply started poorly, with the score slumping to 4/28. Lamby and Bowie then combined in a steady partnership that took the score to 101, when Bowie fell for 32. Lamby, who had started to show some good form in his last few outings played a responsible, attractive innings of 80 which swung the game. He came to the wicket at 4/28 and departed at 7/191 with 7 overs to go.

Henry's match winning innings of 56 not out saw the UNSW boys home with 5 balls to spare. Henry showed the maturity and experience equal to his years in guiding the side home to our eighth win on the trot.

Another home game against Mosman was our next encounter. Heavy overnight rain saw a delayed start, with the rain having little or no effect on the superb playing surface at DP. Mosman decided to bat first and Groggles again started strongly, taking the first two wickets. Unfortunately he lacked support, with the captain still limping around on a heavily strapped ankle. Mosman (although very slowly) made the most of the easy conditions and finished day on 3/141.

A quick slog and a declaration was expected early on day two, but it wasn't to be. Even with the lunch score on 6/273 after 86 overs, they continued with no urgency. Luckily, the three wickets after lunch came pretty quickly and left us with a target of 292 off 72 overs after they had batted for 92 overs. Groggles worked hard throughout the long innings to finish with 26/6/3/63 (despite 13 no balls).

Paul Urquhart and Searly got us off to a great start posting 81 in the first 20 overs. Todd Hoare batting at number three came to the crease with 211 required off just 52 overs. Todd began cautiously, and then set about the run chase in an epic display that showed great technical skill along with outstanding powers of concentration, patience and temperament for a man of just 18 years. We still required 41 runs off 5 overs when Todd reached his deserving hundred. With the job only half done, Todd along with Lamby, continued to steer the side home to a deserving victory.

Todd played shots to all parts of the ground and an innings that combined solid defence with aggressive, attractive shotplay. His 126 not out included 11 fours and 2 sixes. Other major contributions came from Searly (60) and Urqs (30).

Another entertaining finish, another win, the ninth in a row, which took us to the top of third grade with just five games left. Time to possibly reschedule those planned Easter holidays ??

The 60 over contest against Easts was always going to be a spiced up affair. On a slow low turner, Easts scrambled together 192. All the bowling stats were helped by the slow out field and difficult wicket, but there were good contributions from Searly 10/2/3/27 and Quince 12/3/1/23.

Once again, early wickets allowed our opposition to apply pressure during the chase. Scoring runs was hard work with boundaries along the carpet a virtual impossibility. At 5/77 we were in all sorts of trouble. Lamby and I put together a hopeful partnership of 57. Matt Sanders then gave us a ray of hope with a typically quick fire 28 that took the score to 172.

We eventually fell just 14 runs short in a disappointing performance.

We approached the next game against North Sydney, who were struggling near the bottom of third grade, with renewed determination. We had played good cricket all year and didn't want the loss of the last game to interrupt our charge for the finals.

As it turned out, this game, our twelfth game of the season, was the first game in which we were comprehensively outplayed over the two days. North Sydney decided to bat first on a well grassed wicket containing plenty of juice. We once again went into the game a little under strength in the seam bowling department. Although Groggles beat the bat many times, he probably lacked a little experience in not forcing the batsmen to play more often when the wicket was helpful early on. This is perhaps being a little harsh on Greg who has bowled consistently well all season, however, the valuable lesson to be learned is to make hay while the sun shines.

It was again the unlikely hero in Paul Searle who picked up the first two wickets, but the batsmen fought well in the difficult conditions, helped along by a little wayward bowling from us.

Greg returned to the attack and deservedly picked up a couple of wickets, but more importantly gave good support to Quincy at the other end who finished up with 27/7/5/60 despite being hit for some rather large sixes. Greg finished up with 22/4/2/45 and Searly gave good support with 8/1/2/28.

A total of 222 proved difficult to chase with their 'experienced' lineup making good use of the healthy mat of grass on the wicket, bowling a full length and a tight line. We were soon in trouble at 4/16, and slipped further to 5/35. Lamby continued his good form looking easily our most comfortable batsman and top scoring with 35. Our only hope was our partnership of 40, but when I fell and Lamby soon after the game quickly slipped away. We were eventually bowled out for 115.

The next game was at home against Sutherland who were only one point behind us in fourth position. We batted first in good conditions and again our top order failed which left us struggling at 5/68. Most batsmen struggled, apart from Crewers, who was aggressive and dominate. However, when he fell for 37, this left us 6/104. Quince then came to the crease and for 50 overs he had the answer to every physical and verbal challenge the Sutherland boys could throw at him.... and that was to BLOCK ! Quincy's

determined, fighting, patient innings would only yield 19 personal runs, but more importantly, he held up one end and contributed to several partnerships that helped us post a moderately competitive score of 210.

Some rain during week two saw us start 30 minutes late and juiced up the wicket just a little. Groggles had earned a promotion to second grade which made room for the debutant, Eric Zenner (Hagar). Hagar was on soon after a failed attempt by myself to open the bowling. Hagar's first spell was impressive. He moved the ball both through the air and off the responsive wicket at a nice lively pace and was rewarded with two early wickets. One Sutherland batsmen played and missed many times early on off Hagar but survived to go on and eventually play a match winning innings of 83. Micky DeBello came back well in his second spell to give us a ray of hope at 5/178, but it wasn't to be as Sutherland eventually passed us 6 down. The best numbers were from Hagar 20/1/3/54 and Micky 20/4/2/46.

At home against Bankstown we thought was our last chance at a semi final spot after our last three losses pushed us out of the top four. Bankstown won the toss and batted first on yet another perfect DP track in uncomfortably windy conditions. Despite a good opening spell from the trio of Groggles, Hagar and Micky, Bankstown built a solid platform with an opening partnership of 149 after some easy chances were missed.

A good fightback late in the day could not restrict the visitors declaring at 9/302 with 6 overs remaining. At stumps we were 19 for no wicket.

Kurly, promoted to open the batting (as nightwatchmen only !) was out early on day two. Runs were never a problem but wickets fell rather constantly. We were 3/90 off 29 overs when Todd Hoare fell. Sohail and Lamby then put on an encouraging 52 before they fell for 23 and 45 respectively. At 6/184, Hagar and I put on 40 before Hagar fell for 14. With 82 needed off the last 20 overs, wickets in hand was the key. At 9/278 I was joined by Quince with 25 needed in 5 overs. Unfortunately we fell 23 runs short in another exciting finish.

The loss last week of fourth placed Sutherland gave us a mathematical chance of making the finals. The last game of the season was another 60 over contest against Balmain. Unfortunately the game was spoilt by the nature of the wicket at Ryde. At the end of the hottest, driest summer for fifty years we were presented with a soft, uneven, grassless strip cut from a beautifully lush square. It played worse than it looked. In a disgraceful game of village cricket, Balmain were soon in trouble at 8/89, but managed to slog their way to 157. This was more than enough as we slumped to 5/28 in reply as our top order batsmen found themselves defending their noses from their medium pace trundlers. After the last

four losses it was obvious we didn't have the fight or fortune left needed to get us through this one. We were eventually bowled out for 111.

Despite our disappointing end to the season we have a lot to be proud of. During this season, we won two or three of the most exciting, tense games I have ever played in. The first innings tie against Campbelltown, the one wicket victory against Wests and the tough run chase against Mosman. Add to this our many other close games; the one wicket loss to ND's, the nail biting finish at Penrith, the hard fought win against Gordon, the 5 balls to spare against Randwick, even the unsuccessful chase against Bankstown. These were great games. Good fun and hard fought.

In the end we finished on 51 points, a vast improvement on last years effort of 6. Generally, the success was a result of 11 guys playing well as a team. This is evidenced by the fact that no bowler took more than 30 wickets, and no batsmen scored more than 330 runs, yet we won nine out of fifteen games.

However, there were a couple of consistent individual performers who made a great contribution over the season.

Greg Dennis lead the bowling from the front. He consistently troubled top order batsmen on one of Sydney's best batting wickets, DP. He finished with only 28 wickets, partly due to his failure to really cash in when the conditions suited him (no five wicket hauls and only one four wicket haul), and partly due to the fact that he was often very unlucky. It's quite often that these types of bowlers take more wickets in the higher grades.

Porno came and went taking 19 wickets at 14.73 in just five games. His improvement over the last two years has been outstanding.

Alex Lamb had a superb around year. He is a captains dream. He had a major influence on many games either with the bat, the ball or in the field. He scored 312 runs at 24, with a top score of 80. He also took 16 wickets at 18.75. To top that off, he took 11 catches, about half of which would have been once in a lifetime stuff for all of us average cricketers. Lamby's ability to pull off such brilliant pieces of fielding was a great lift to the side, and a kick in the guts to the opposition. Lamby often gave our side the initiative and momentum to push home the advantage while in the field.

Lamby is very closely followed, if not matched, in the field by Sohail. Sohail topped the third grade aggregate with 325 runs at 23.21, but is also a major asset in patrolling the covers. Sohail often allowed me the luxury of leaving only one man in front of square because of his great skills. He was deservedly awarded the club fielding award at the annual dinner. He held 9 catches and executed 2 run outs during the season.

Bowie also chalked up 314 runs for the season but failed to post a big score. Bowie is one of our most free flowing, fast scoring batsmen when in touch, which is such a valuable asset at the top of the order. Some hard work on shot selection, I'm sure, will see him achieve better things.

Last but not least, the return of Kurly Kovacs was a great asset for us. Apart from his keeping and batting skills, the wise, experienced head on his shoulders made a major contribution to several of our great victories this season.

To all the other guys who played third grade, thankyou for your contributions. I enjoyed the season immensely. After a season like that, anyone who is not looking forward to next year is either very hard to please, or is just plain stupid !

Tim Buckett

**BATTING**

Name	M	Inn	NO	HS	Agg	Ave	100/50	C/S
Sohail Mohideen		16	2	69*	325	23.21		9
Daniel Bowcock		16	0	59	314	19.63		6
Alex Lamb		16	3	80	312	24.00		11
Tim Buckett		12	0	58	253	21.08		4
Paul Searle		11	1	70	245	24.50		8
Mark Leahy		6	1	128*	224	44.80		1
Todd Hoare		8	3	121*	206	41.20		3
Alex Williams		4	0	71	139	34.75		0
Michael Kovacs		8	0	60*	132	26.40		11/ 1
Greg Hackney		6	1	65	129	25.80		1
Paul Urquart		3	0	71	124	41.30		3
David Jebb		7	0	60	102	14.57		1
David Quinlin		7	1	19	76	12.67		1
Adam Kinkead		9	0	24	70	7.78		3
Matt Sanders		5	0	28	63	12.60		4
Geoffrey Lawson		1	1	56*	56	-		0
Greg Dennis		8	5	15*	41	13.67		6
Steven Debello		5	3	35*	39	19.50		2
Michael Mag		4	1	12*	35	11.67		2
James Bruce		5	1	14	35	8.75		3
Eric Zehner		3	0	14	33	11.00		1
Tim Martin		1	0	31	31	31.00		0
Simon Gerber		1	0	16	16	16.00		1
Andrew Johnson		1	0	0	0	0.00		1
Mark Robson		0	0	0	0	-		0

**BOWLING**

Name	Overs	Maidens	Wickets	Runs	Average	5w/Inn
Tim Buckett	154.3	33	28	411	15.75	
Greg Dennis	224.8	41	28	669	23.89	
Mick Mag	105.1	30	19	280	14.73	
David Quinlin	155	32	18	446	24.78	
Alex Lamb	105	23	16	300	18.75	
Paul Searle	42	7	10	118	11.80	
Adam Kinkead	37.5	7	10	126	12.60	
Steven Debello	93	15	8	262	32.75	
Eric Zehner	38	5	4	127	31.75	
Geoffrey Lawson	9.2	1	2	37	18.50	
Mark Robson	9	0	0	44	-	
James Bruce	1	0	0	4	-	
Todd Hoare	1	0	0	4	-	

**PARTNERSHIPS**

Wicket	Runs	Player	Player	Opponent
1ST	81	Paul Searle	Paul Urquart	Mosman
2ND	85	David Jebb	Tim Martin	Manly
3RD	98	Todd Hoare	Sohail Mohideen	Mosman
4TH	53	Sohail Mohideen	Daniel Bowcock	Northern Districts
5TH	84	Greg Hackney	Alex Williams	Wests
6TH	71	Greg Hackney	Tim Buckett	Hawkesbury
7TH	69	Alex Lamb	Geoff Lawson	Randwick
8TH	42	Matt Sanders	James Bruce	Easts
9TH	38	David Quinlin	Michael Kovacs	Gordon
10TH	26	Steven Debello	Greg Dennis	Penrith



# AROUND THE TRAPS





### FOURTH GRADE REPORT

Another frustrating year with the team just missing out on the semi finals. In hindsight I think it is fair to say that we never really reached our full potential AGAIN and as a result did not contest the final series as we should have. It is frustrating because I know that this 4<sup>th</sup> grade team once again had enormous talent and unfortunately this talent was not transferred at times onto the field. It is totally perplexing when I look back at the players I had at my disposal this year and face the fact that we were not premiers. Perhaps it might be time that I have a long hard look at my captaincy because the Club needs another title and this 4<sup>th</sup> grade team should have given the Club that title. I just cannot put my finger on the cause of why we are stumbling at the wrong times. What is going wrong? Dermody at 81.8, Stamm at 56.3 and Gerber at 41.8. Batting appears OK. Robson 41 wks at 11.46, Stark 30 at 11.46 and Calver 25 at 17.68. Bowling also appears fine. The final analysis tells us that three losses to three bottom ranked teams proved costly but there is more to it than that. I can remember after the Campbelltown game (one we should never had lost) saying that this game will come back to haunt us at the end of the season. I suppose not too many will remember what I said because Jebby was the only one in the dressing room listening that afternoon. I can also remember sitting in the dressing room after the Bankstown game (another that we should never had lost) totally gutted because I knew that we had effectively given up any hope of making the semis, and blokes are walking around more worried about getting on the piss than being beaten by an inferior team. Perhaps this is where the problem lies. I hate to lose and people that have known me over the years can attest to this fact. I take a loss personally and it hurts. People can say it's only a game. I know that but I still love winning and losing gives me the shits. I'm not advocating a state of depression every time we lose but I would like to see some form of suffering being displayed. You can see the pain in certain people. Jebby is one that takes defeat badly. So does Jungle. I'm not implying that these blokes are bad losers, far from it. It is just that they take their cricket seriously and their records are testament to this fact but they definitely show the pain of defeat. I like that trait in a sportsman. Greig Robinson instilled upon me the importance of winning and that there is no disgrace in losing against a superior opposition but there is no excuses for losing against inferior opposition. Maybe I'm too archaic in my thinking and should move with the times and see things differently but it's hard to change when you are so emphatic about something. Anyway that is just a personal observation and by no means am I denegrating any of my team mates because I was satisfied that everyone tried their best and I cannot as captain ask for anything more.

I'm off my soap box now and into the praising stage of my report.

Damon Dermody: Brilliant. Club record, two tons , superb fielding, tidy bowling, the consummate cricketer. Did play and will play higher grades. Mentally tough and the perfect man for a crisis. His innings against Easts was breathtaking and against an attack that could have quite easily slotted into a much higher grade

Simon Gerber: Started the season like a house on fire but unfortunately someone contacted the fire brigade and put him out after Christmas. Simon plays the game hard and if he just temper his approach somewhat has the ability to do anything. His innings against St George was right up there with Damon's knock against Easts.

Jeremy Stamm: Jean Claude had an magnificent debut season for the Club. His natural athleticism was a sight to behold. There was no-one happier than myself with the success that Jean Claude achieved this season. My much publicised and wrongly quoted appraisal of Jeremy was proven incorrect and he moulded himself into the corner stone of every 4<sup>th</sup> grade innings. His concentration improved along with his shot selection and he was my Mr Consistency. Added to this is the fact that Jeremy is one of nature's true gentlemen and I wish him a long and successful career with UNSW.

Jim Robson: Jungle did not star with the bat this season but did with the ball. A new 4<sup>th</sup> grade bowling aggregate and average record and still had a season with the bat that most blokes would be happy with. If everyone played the game like Jim we would be Club champions. Once again I thank him for his total support this season and his words of encouragement are most welcome even if most of his theories are not.

Ben Calver: Benny had a season that I believe will be the turning point in his career. Ben was a genuine wicket taker this season and as the season went along his control tightened up. An excellent line and length all year saw him well rewarded with his 25 wickets at the excellent average of 17. One of the best lower order batsmen in the Club, good field and a burning desire to win make Ben an integral part of any team. I predict much higher grades for Ben this year.

David Jebb: Jebby's astute knowledge of the game makes him a captain's dream. Very perceptive and very supportive. Dave's batting this season gave a solidarity we needed and his running commentary on the state of the game made slips fielding a dangerous proposition with tears running down your face. Dave's contribution this year in 4<sup>th</sup> grade went deeper than mere stats and I thank him for his support and feedback.

A welcome return to form by Alex Williams was highlight of the season for myself. A distraught Alex confronted me during the Campbelltown game and stated his desire to retire. After a bit of a chat Alex was coerced to continue on and played some scintillating knocks. I classify his 46\* against ND's as the best short innings I've witnessed in lower grades. Keep those retirement plans well shelved Alex.

Eric Zehner will prove to be a fine bowler. A little more work in the nets and a little more work mentally will see him play higher grades. When Hagar is on song he bowls genuinely quick and swings the nut all over the place. Could develop into a solid physcho.

This year I have promised myself not to bag anyone in my report so I thank my fellow selectors, Greig Robinson , Greg Livingstone, Geoff Lawson and anyone else who supports this great Club. And a quick plug to mine host of Café DP, Jimmy P-C. Box of birds Jimmy, box of birds.

**ROBERT STARK**

**BATTING**

Name	M	INN	NO	HS	Agg	Ave	100/50	C/S
S Gerber	9	10	-	158	418	41.8	1/2	4
D Dermody	5	6	1	132*	409	81.8 <b>Rec</b>	2/1	-
J Stamm	12	12	5	117*	394	56.3	1/3	2
J Robson	14	14	2	68	335	27.9	-/1	1
D Jebb	7	8	-	91	236	29.5	-/2	1
A Williams	8	10	2	46*	225	28.1	-	3
C Vonwiller	6	7	2	58*	146	29.2	-/1	3
G Hackney	6	6	-	47	107	17.8	-	2
B Calver	7	7	4	45*	98	32.6	-	3
P Mitchell	9	10	1	24	89	9.9	-	1/2
Z Zavos	4	4	1	41	81	27.0	-	1
A Lindsay	3	3	-	35	74	24.7	-	4
A Kinkead	6	6	-	35	70	11.7	-	-
J Bruce	7	5	2	24	52	17.3	-	3
R Stark	10	4	1	13	36	12.0	-	12
M Sanders	5	4	-	9	21	5.3	-	2/4
S Debello	6	3	1	11	16	8.0	-	2
R Bennett	2	2	-	11	15	7.5	-	1
T Martin	2	3	-	12	14	4.6	-	2
M Robson	1	1	-	10	10	10.0	-	-
R Thomas	4	4	3	2*	5	5.0	-	-

**Best Batting**

D Dermody	132	vs	Eastern Suburbs
	117	vs	North Sydney
	74	vs	Manly

S Gerber	158	vs	St George
	75	vs	Western Suburbs
	64	vs	Hawkesbury
J Stamm	117*	vs	Manly
	72*	vs	North Sydney
	62	vs	St George
	51	vs	Sutherland
D Jebb	91	vs	Penrith
	59	vs	Northern Districts
J Robson	68	vs	Sutherland
C Vonwiller	58*	vs	Northern Districts

**BOWLING**

Name	Overs	Maidens	Wickets	Runs	Ave	B/B	5w/Inn
J Robson	271	92	41(Rec)	470	11.46(R)	6-26	2
R Stark	160	62	30	344	11.46(R)	6-40	2
B Calver	138	19	25	442	17.68	4-39	-
S Debello	91	21	11	259	23.54	3-42	-
M Gregg	46	8	9	159	17.6	2-4	-
R Thomas	44	7	7	166	23.71	4-45	-
E Zehner	61	17	6	155	25.8	2-50	-
D Dermody	42	7	5	150	30.0	3-32	-
J Bruce	61	10	4	233	58.25	1-14	-
C Vonwiller	17	4	2	61	30.5	2-42	-
D Quinlin	15	1	2	63	31.5	2-34	-
A Kinkead	34	4	-	176	-	0-16	-

## FIFTH GRADE REPORT

9 x 1<sup>st</sup> innings wins, 1 outright win, 4 x 1<sup>st</sup> innings losses and 1 draw spells out what on paper should have been a successful year. Following two very good years, 5<sup>th</sup> grade had good reason to be confident. With considerable talent in the lower grades it was looking promising. An indifferent start preceded a period of 9 wins in a row, including the one outright, which put us on top of the ladder. From this position it is still difficult to understand how we would go on to miss the semi-finals. With four rounds to play and fives leading the charge an unexplainable pattern of low scores stumped our progress. An interesting observation was that, other than the regulars, there was a general lack of attendance at training by fifth grade players seemingly vying for a position in the finals squad. Was this the cause of our poor finish?

Prior to the Christmas break fives failed to score 200 runs or more on only one occasion, that being due to a declaration (3-192). While after the break our batting dropped away, our fielding and bowling didn't. In nineteen innings where we fielded, only on three occasions did the opposition score over 200 runs against us. This was the result of excellent bowling and high quality fielding throughout most of the year. Glenn Shepherd was certainly the stand out fielder in fifth grade.

Some performances that should be highlighted include:-

### Batting

<b>JEREMY STAMM 211 N.O. V'S WESTS (259 OFF 2 INNS @ 259.00)</b>			
Zack Zavos	112	v's Penrith	(380 off 7 inns @ 63.33)
	101 n.o.	v's H'bury	
Matt Plunkett-Cole	100	v's Wests	(281 off 12 inns @ 23.42)
Mark Dorge	101 n.o.	v's Manly	(219 off 9 inns @31.29)
Damon Dermody			210 runs, 9 inns @ 70.00



## Bowling

Eric Zehner	6-43	v's Wests	(21 wkts @ 12.71)
Christoph Vonwiller	4-29	vs Balmain	(20 wkts @ 10.00)
Lachlin Taylor	5-68	v's Easts	(18 wkts @ 12.39)
Mike Gregg	3-41	v's S'land	(15 wkts @ 27.60)
Glenn Clark	3-19	v's Nths	(14 wkts @ 11.71)

I was lucky enough to witness Jeremy Stamm score 201 no v's wests at DP South. This was a fine innings where Jeremy put great value on his wicket early and accelerated when required with continuous thumping boundaries later in his innings. Jeremy has been an excellent pick up for the club this season and we hope he can carry that form into next season.

Zack Zavos had a solid season and toward the end of the season was the most consistent batsmen in fives. Mark Dorge had a fine season with the bat and with the gloves behind the stumps. Mark's commitment to the club is unquestionable and it was always a pleasure to have mark in my side.

Eric Zehners' elevation up the grades was well deserved as his figures suggest. Lachlin Taylor again bowled some inspirational spells, most with injury, and did nothing to dispell his reputation as a genuine psycho.

Glenn Shepherd produced many instances of brilliance in the field. His effort was as usual never short of 100% which always lifted the side. Glenn's contribution to the side is included some crucial innings when we were in trouble and steady bowling when required.

Christoph Vonwiller had a disappointing year with the bat , however excelled with the ball. If Christoph fully utilises his talents with bat and ball next season he will force his way up the grades and be a valuable team man.

Glenn Clark as always took crucial wickets or made much needed runs when required. Glenn's innings at Campbelltown was a match winning innings that some in the team should learn from. Glenn's contributions on and off the field continue to be of great value to the club as a whole.

A. Williams	1	1	0	0	0	0.00	-
J. Yerbury	1	1	0	30	30	30.00	-
Z. Zavos	7	7	1	101*	380	63.33	2/1
E. Zehner	5	2	1	17	25	25.00	-

**BOWLING**

Name	Overs	Maidens	Wickets	Runs	Average	5w/Inn	Best
M. Agrawal	4	0	0	35	-	-	0-35
B. Calver	54	15	8	131	16.38	-	3-13
G. Clark	69.5	21	14	164	11.71	-	3-19
D. Dermody	67.5	19	9	173	19.22	-	4-8
J. Finlay	54	11	4	156	39.00	-	4-9
M. Gregg	182	50	15	414	27.60	-	3-41
G. Harris	10.1	5	0	30	-	-	0-10
M. Johnson	13	5	4	22	5.50	-	4-22
A. Kinkead	4	0	1	9	9.00	-	1-9
P. Levett	6	0	0	29	-	-	0-29
A. Liu	5	0	0	12	-	-	0-12
A. Muller	32.5	4	1	109	109.00	-	1-40
M. Robson	104	22	12	219	18.25	-	2-15
G. Shepherd	71.4	16	9	179	19.89	-	4-24
L. Taylor	61	8	18	223	12.39	1	5-68
R. Thomas	38	10	4	78	19.50	-	2-15
C. Vonwiller	81.2	17	20	200	10.00	1	6-60
D. Wellmen	10	4	1	19	19.00	-	1-19
E. Zehner	93	19	21	267	12.71	1	6-43

**PARTNERSHIPS**

1 <sup>st</sup>	107	Z. Zavos 112 – S. Gerber 58	vs Northern District
2 <sup>nd</sup>	146	J. Stamm 201 n.o. – M. Plunkett-Cole	vs Western Suburbs
3 <sup>rd</sup>	120	Z. Zavos 101 n.o. – D. Dermody	vs Hawksbury
4 <sup>th</sup>	118	J. Stamm 201 n.o. – C. Jameson 29	vs Western Suburbs
5 <sup>th</sup>	153	G. Harris 95 – J. Stamm 58	vs Gordon
6 <sup>th</sup>	61	G. Clark 55 n.o. – M. Dorge 25	vs Cambelltown
7 <sup>th</sup>	82	G. Clark 55 n.o. – B. Calver 27 n.o.	vs Cambelltown
8 <sup>th</sup>	46	G. Shepherd 75 – L. Taylor 10	vs Eastern Suburbs
9 <sup>th</sup>	41	G. Shepherd 75 – E. Zehner 8	vs Eastern Suburbs
10 <sup>th</sup>	24	M. Dorge 101 n.o. – J. Finlay	vs Manly

## SIXTH GRADE REPORT

On its face the 1997-98 season was a difficult season for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade. The team finished out of the semi-finals of the Moore Park & South-East Cricket Association First Grade competition for the second year in a row, winning just 4 games and losing 9, with one draw. Several of the defeats were heavy, and the team played one or two short on several occasions. And to add insult to moderate performance, the powers that were at Association level saw fit to penalise the team 6 competition points for a trivial delay in paying a trivial fine for a trivial 'offence', i.e. missing a routine Association meeting. This resulted in the team occupying next to last position on the table.

However this is to paint too negative a picture. In previous seasons I have written that the characteristics of 6<sup>th</sup> Grade mean match results cannot be an exhaustive test of success. Rather, success is a combination of factors, of which our scoreboards are but one. Other, arguably more important, factors are the success of 6s as a feeder for the Grade teams and the ability of the club simply to field 6 teams week after week, even in holidays. Most important of all is the enjoyment that the players gain when they get out of the house and onto the field on a Saturday afternoon.

So analysed, the season was, on balance, a success. The route to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade was not well travelled, although Mark Dorge became a regular there this season. And as already noted, the team was also short of players at times, partly (paradoxically!) due to the lack of a 7<sup>th</sup> Grade side. However the team which emerged thoroughly enjoyed its cricket – and off-field activities – and played competitively when not short-staffed.

Season highlights were many. From a team perspective, most satisfying perhaps was the Round 7 win against Costello's, when an afternoon's tight bowling and fielding saw off the then undefeated competition leaders, despite a modest UNSW total. Not far behind was the win at Kensington against Randwick, if only for the rare majesty of a Jason Finlay 50. Anthony "Knoll" Greenhill on a seaming track provided an economical – and extremely effective – sideshow.

Individual performances of note were Ruche Wickremasena's century against a rather unpleasant Pagewood Hotel (plus a 50 against Glebe), dual 50s by Andrew Cavill and Anthony Wunsch, as well as half-centuries by 50s by Andrew Simmons, Dean Wenke, Chris Jameson and the transient Brett Laybutt and Andrew Rooke. Anthony Greenhill (twice) and Dean Wenke picked up 5 wicket hauls, while Anthony Wunsch, Ben Vonwiller and Martin Dilger all performed strongly throughout the season. Johan Rayappu also bowled well in at times difficult circumstances.

Overall, the team was slightly constrained by lack of batting depth and perhaps lack of bowling variety – 8 right arm medium pacers in one game may be slightly too many! However it is again worthwhile to stress that the best measure of the team's success was the enjoyment we had on and off the field (including a club best-practice performance at the Harbour Cruise). It was a pleasure to be a part of the team.

Leading roles among the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade cast of 10s were played by:

**Chris Anderson:** Ando's season was once again a mighty battle between the embedded magic of a 30+ year old "Don Bradman" bat and a 0.30 blood alcohol level 8 hours before game time. (Against Glebe, the hangover arrived after he was out!) The hangovers won narrowly, the battle to be resumed on the rugby field.

**Andrew Cavill:** Cav's role changed this season from off-spinning all-rounder to specialist batsman and handy sledger. Unlucky not to be given more opportunities with the ball (denied by a multitude of medium pacers), Cav nevertheless picked up a wicket or two in the mid-season friendlies (held offshore but not all overseas). Cav also scored two fifties, including a thunderous 68\* in 10 overs against Botany.

**Martin Dilger:** Pickles made a big impression in his first season with the club, both with his pace and with his in-depth knowledge of the Harold Park form. Genuinely quick at times, his company was often enjoyed significantly more by team-mates than by batsmen. Marty also shared the partnership of the year, making 16\* not out (if you believe the umpire) as Finlay raced to 50.

**Jason Finlay:** 100/1 represented both Jase's ratio of runs conceded to wickets taken and the odds of him making 50. However at the recently renamed Finlay Oval (nee Kensington), Jase cracked an extraordinary 56 not out to take the team from the brink to a winning position. His straight driven four of the back foot through lush grass will live in the memory.

**Anthony Greenhill:** 'Knoll' returned to the fold this year after an extended holiday the previous season, and was once again the mainstay of the attack. With 25 wickets at 15, Knolly once again proved that tailwinds, run-ups and high front shoulders are all over-rated.

**Andrew Jones:** Miscellaneous work, family and dental commitments saw the erstwhile skipper miss just about every second game for much of the season. These and an undoubted giant international conspiracy denied him the opportunity to play himself into form, score centuries, play for Australia etc.. Fortunately, however, Ben (and Christoph)Vonwiller also denied him the opportunity to make as many cricket-related phone calls as in previous years, for which he is very grateful. How else would he have found the time to run Warbs out?

- Brett Laybutt:** Spoke at the pace Warbs runs, and approximately as often. Rolled his own cigarettes, and also manufactured late cuts at strange times. The form batsman of the opening rounds, Brett disappeared after Christmas in circumstances not yet fully understood.
- Patrick Mills:** Young English redhead whose scoring ability was manifested mainly in off-field activity. Loose shots aplenty!
- Johan Rayappu:** His early-season opportunities limited by a glut of medium pacers, Johan showed admirable perseverance to come back in the second half of the season and be a valuable member of the team, both on and off the field. If he pitches the ball up a little more often, Johan will take a lot of wickets in the park.
- Andrew Simmons:** Able Seaman Simmons contributed strongly early on, but became elusive as the season progressed. This may have had something to do with his questionable navigational abilities, which saw him trying to find Booralee Park, Mascot, by first heading to Wollongong. If he doesn't go AWOL, or inadvertently invade New Zealand, Simmo will score a lot of runs for the club.
- Ben Vonwiller:** Kombi lived up to his nickname this season, not being particularly fast, but moving people around very effectively, both with the ball in hand and as stand-in skipper. Under-rewarded in wickets, and in partners who stuck around, Ben also carried the bulk of the administrative burden this season, for which the team owes him a huge thank-you.
- Ben Wakeford:** The other Pom, Ben was certainly older and probably somewhat wiser than his hormonal compatriot. Nonetheless, he found the methods of unorthodox attack employed by many Moore Park batsmen a challenge to comprehend. Despite this, and despite the unfriendliness of astroturf relative to the average Surrey greensward, Ben was a useful contributor with bat and ball, and we trust he enjoyed his season with the club.
- Matt Warburton:** "Shorts" was a Moore Park revelation, in look if not in batting style. A useful contributor with the bat (and wit), Warbs would have scored more runs had he not been run out twice late in the season. However, for a political strategist, he showed an unusual aversion to backing up.
- Dean Wenke:** One of the "Three Ws" of the bowling card, Deano made a big impact in his first season. Swung the ball both ways, and did a little off the field wicket as well. The new Knolly, just waiting for a wind to bowl into.
- Ruche Wickremasena:** On the field, Ruche shows good technique, but at times poor shot selection. Off the field, .... Anyway, Ruche had a good season - he scored a fair number of runs, smashed a great hundred against Pagewood and kept wicket well. Most of all, he was on time to almost every game! However to go further he needs to keep his drives down, especially late on Saturday nights.

Anthony Wunsch: Same, same. Lots of wickets and lots of runs, exceeded only by attempted sledges of Cav. Wunsch even tried to increase his sledging opportunities by offering his long-time team-mate a job! As ever, Wunsch was consistent with bat and ball, and would have been the team's player of the year, were it not for some dubious off-field performances involving early nights, sobriety and proper behaviour.

*Andrew Jones*

## RESULTS

173	v Randwick DCC	7/231	Lost by 58 runs
45 & 73	v Coogee Rebels	133	Lost (outright) by an innings & 15 runs
180	v Souths Juniors	9/290	Lost by 110 runs
8/205	v Glebe	6/207	Lost by 4 wkts
4/180	v Pagewood Hotel	161	Won by 19 runs*
5/194	v Botany United	5/202	Lost by 8 runs*
188	v Costello's	171	Won by 17 runs
9/170	v Randwick DCC	93	Won by 77 runs**
8/210	v Coogee Rebels	179	Won by 31 runs
52	v Souths Juniors	8/196	Lost by 144 runs*
103 & 2/89	v Glebe	6/164 (dec.)	Lost by 6 wkts
6/236	v Pagewood Hotel	6/342	Lost by 106 runs
192	v Botany United	-	Drawn (pitch vandalised)
7/117	v Costello's	6/119	Lost by 4 wkts*

\* Denotes one-day game - 40 overs a side

\*\* Denotes one-day game - 60 overs a side

**BATTING**

Name	M	Inn	NO	HS	Agg	Ave	100/50s	C/S
A Wunsch		8	1	67	251	35.9	2	
R Wickremasena		9	1	104	233	29.1	1/2	
A Cavill		9	1	68*	191	23.9	2	
A Simmons		6	1	58*	157	31.4	1	
B Laybutt		8	0	63	155	19.4	1	
M Warburton		10	0	47	118	11.8	-	
C Anderson		6	0	49	112	18.7	-	
A Jones		10	1	31	109	12.1	-	
D Wenke		5	0	50	69	13.8	1	
P Mills		5	0	29	66	13.2	-	
B Wakeford		6	2	17	61	15.3	-	
A Greenhill		10	2	19	59	7.4	-	
B Vonwiller		11	6	11*	45	9.0	-	
M Dilger		9	4	16*	40	8.0	-	
<b>Also Batted</b>								
R Guest		2	0	88	110	55.0	1	
J Finlay		3	1	56*	79	39.5	1	
C Jameson		3	1	50*	74	37.0	1	
M Dorge		3	0	37	63	21.0	-	
A Rooke		1	0	60	60	60.0	1	
C Neal		3	0	17	31	10.3	-	
A Liu		3	1	23	27	13.5	-	
R Bennett		1	0	27	27	27.0	-	
A Muller		1	0	13	13	13.0	-	
P Child		3	0	7	11	3.7	-	
S Schirmer		1	0	10	10	10.0	-	
M Agrawal		3	1	6	7	3.5	-	
Z Zavos		1	0	7	7	7.0	-	
G Power		2	0	5	5	2.5	-	
J Rayappu		4	1	0*	0	0.0	-	
P Levett		1	0	0	0	0.0	-	



**BOWLING**

Name	Overs	Wickets	Runs	Average	Sw/Inn	Best
A Greenhill	126.4	25	370	14.8	2	23-11-28-6
A Wunsch	95	14	261	18.6	-	12-3-25-4
D Wenke	53.4	12	182	15.2	1	12.4-0-39-5
M Dilger	70	10	264	26.4	-	12-3-35-3
B Vonwiller	94	10	279	27.9	-	11-3-40-3
J Rayappu	35	9	171	19.0	-	7-0-18-4
B Wakeford	59	6	206	34.3	-	23-1-70-3
<b>Also Bowled</b>						
M Agrawal	18	3	111	37.0	-	11-1-63-2
A Cavill	5	2	18	9.0	-	1.2-0-16-1
R Silva	6	2	22	11.0	-	6-0-22-2
A Simmons	14	2	78	39.0	-	5-1-14-1
A Muller	8	2	37	18.5	-	8-0-37-2
J Finlay	34	1	100	100.0	-	14-1-37-1
P Child	17	0	64	-	-	-
G Power	13	0	63	-	-	-
R Miks	7	0	30	-	-	-
M Warburton	6	0	46	-	-	-
A Jones	3	0	20	-	-	-
A Liu	1	0	12	-	-	-

**BEST PERFORMANCES****Batting**

R Wickremasena	104	v	Pagewood
R Guest	88	v	Botany United
A Cavill	68*	v	Botany United
A Wunsch	67	v	Botany United
B Laybutt	63	v	Souths Juniors
A Cavill	61	v	Costello's
A Rooke	60	v	Randwick DCC
A Simmons	58*	v	Pagewood
J Finlay	56*	v	Randwick DCC
A Wunsch	54*	v	Coogee Rebels
R Wickremasena	53	v	Glebe
C Jameson	50*	v	Glebe
D Wenke	50	v	Coogee Rebels

**Bowling**

A Greenhill	23-11-28-6	v	Randwick DCC
D Wenke	12.4-0-39-5	v	Coogee Rebels
A Greenhill	16-2-66-5	v	Souths Juniors
J Rayappu	7-0-18-4	v	Randwick DCC
A Wunsch	12-3-25-4	v	Costello's

## POIDEVIN-GRAY REPORT

Season 97-98 was never a dull affair for the members of the Waley's PG XI.

On field we achieved the best results for the Uni for quite a few years, winning 3 from 6. During these games we experienced the full spectrum of the game of cricket, either comprehensively slaying teams or getting slayed.

Off the field we worked exceptionally hard on our team bonding skills. These sessions were usually held in the comfort of the Labor Club. Naturally, these social outings allowed us to gel as a group and, of course, to discover one another's dark sides. This was a major factor in our continued improvement as the year progressed.

### **Adam "Thrifty" Kinkead**

Adam displayed his desire to dominate the bowling at the top of the order with some aggressive innings. These included a dashing 41 against Bankstown, which laid the foundation for a mammoth and unassailable score to be compiled. "THRIFTY" also proved invaluable to pick up the odd vital wicket when it was required. Throughout the course of the year "Thrifty" earned a multitude of nicknames due to his bizzare/unexplainable behaviour both on and off the field. On social occasions, "the Phantom" displayed an uncanny ability to disappear home mid-shout, so beware.

### **Chris Jameson**

Jamo continued his devil-may-care attitude to life in his batting. On more than one occasion he got us off to a quick start by asserting his authority on the game at the earliest point, usually in the first over. In fact, in 2 out of our 3 wins Jamo had successfully laid the platform for our batsmen to follow. As in previous years, Jamo and Lamby were the instigators behind our teams "all night affairs" in the city, in which many unspeakably seedy acts were committed.

### **Todd Hoare**

Due to the HSC and a broken bone in his hand, "Two Bit" was only able to play 2 of the 6 competition games. In both these games he displayed what a quality batsman he is. [His 101 against Campbelltown was an innings of patience and controlled aggression which was a pleasure to watch - this innings enabled us to amass a hefty total, providing us with 1 of our 3 wins]. "Two Bits" other innings of 62\* against Wests assisted us in reaching their total of 190 in quick time. This was the second of our 3 victories.

### **Alex Lamb**

Throughout the 6 games "Legga" displayed the hard-nosed edge to his game on most occasions. His competitive nature was clearly obvious when discovering his love of engaging in idle banter with the opposition players out in the middle. "Legga's" merciless century (105\*) against Bankstown was a significant factor contributing to our crushing victory against our favourite opposition and displayed what he is capable of when pressed.

### **Pat Mills**

"Pommy" Pat was our most colourful team member. Pat was often seen in the sheds cursing Australia's summer heat whilst laying in a pool of sweat, hungover on the field, Pat strived to perfect sledges with an Aussie accent, which he did quite proficiently.

### **Tim Martin (aka Zorro)**

"Zorro" came to the Club following completion of his HSC, immediately displaying his preferred batting method against St George in the first game: confident and aggressive. A few other cameo innings in other games will undoubtedly give "Zorro" confidence to continue working hard next season and work up the grades.

### **James Bruce**

In all games Brucey led the way for the bowlers. His desire to put in when the "going was toughest" and desire to compete often inspired the team and played a vital hand in us winning our 3 games. Of particular mention was Brucey's 5/44 against Bankstown when he destroyed the top order with aggressive fast bowling. This first spell effectively ruined Bankstown's chance of a victory and gave us yet another reason for celebration.

### **Eric Zehner**

Hagar was the surprise packet of the PG season. As each game progressed Hagar continuously improved his control of those viciously swinging deliveries and continued to claim some prized scalps. Most amazing was his final game performance. After a bowling session with Henry on the Thursday before the game, Hagar mysteriously gained approximately 2 yards of pace! In this game he duly destroyed the top order with 3/22.

### **Russell Thomas**

Rusty used his X,Y,Z co-ordination system of marking his run-up out to full effect, producing some top class spells of fast bowling.

### **Mark Retter**

Mark was the youngster of the PG line-up, coming straight from the Sydney High School cricket team into the Waleys line-up. "The Retter" displayed what a player of the future he is with some fine bowling performances as well as excelling in the social side of the game.

### **DAVID CARSON - Captain**

**BATTING**

Name	M	I	NO	HS	Agg	Ave	C/S	50/100
Alex Lamb	6	6	1	105	210	42.00	3	-/1
Todd Hoare	2	2	1	101	163	163.00	-	1/1
David Carson	6	6	-	62	153	25.50	5	2/-
Chris Jameson	6	6	-	59	126	21.00	1	1/-
Adam Kinkead	6	6	-	41	115	19.17	1	-/-
Tim Martin	6	6	1	45	104	20.80	9	-/-
James Bruce	6	4	-	11	34	8.50	4	-/-
Mick Cronin	2	1	1	34*	34	-	1/1	-/-
Pat Mills	4	4	1	19*	24	8.00	1	-/-
(Also Batted)								
Michael Johnson	1	1	-	3	3	3.00	-	-/-
Eric Zehner	3	3	1	5	6	3.00		-/-
M Retter	3	3	3	6*	9	-		-/-
David Wellman	1	1	-	17	17	17.00		-/-
C Harriman	2	2	-	15	19	9.50		-/-
M Agrawal	2	1	1	0*	0	-		-/-
Fitzharding	1	1	-	0	0	0.00		-/-

**BOWLING**

Name	O	M	W	Runs	Ave	Best	5WI
James Bruce	60.4	5	13	279	21.46	5/51	1
Eric Zehner	35.2	2	9	203	22.55	4/31	-
Adam Kinkead	56	5	8	205	25.62	2/21	-
Alex Lamb	42	6	8	135	16.88	4/23	-
David Carson	46	4	4	198	49.50	2/17	-
M Retter	18	3	3	88	29.33	2/12	-
M Agrawal	13	-	3	93	31.00	3/48	-
Russell Thomas	17	2	2	75	37.50	1/34	-

Also Bowled

P Mills 9-0-70-0  
T Martin 3-0-30-0  
D Wellman 3-0-26-0  
M Johnson 12-0-50-1

PLAYING SUMMARY

St George	198	d	UNSW	90
Easts	6-350	d	UNSW	146
UNSW	4-338	d	Bankstown	185
Fairfield	6-433	d	UNSW	154
UNSW	7-269	d	Campbelltown	187
Wests	190	lost to	UNSW	4-191

PLAYED 6      WON 3    LOST 3    WASHED OUT DRAW 1

POINTS 21

FINISHED 3RD IN SOUTHERN GROUP

## WOMEN'S REPORT

We were glad to have a few new faces (thanks in part to the UNSW softball club) in the 1997/98 season which resulted in the not often before seen full team becoming a regular occurrence. The talent of these newcomers was definitely appreciated, if not demonstrated by our results, which were bordering on poor at times.

Gemma Connelly was a particularly handy recruit, ending the season with 22 wickets at an average of 10.64 and 191 runs, being the only one this season to have to retire. She can also sing.

Anne Casamento and Anne-Marie Pezzulo were also important both with some unconventional yet effective bowling and with their softball style belting of the ball all over the field resulting in two arms being raised on more than one occasion.

Kay Askew, our other new talent was invaluable in the field, as was Anne Van Oploo who rarely ended a game without blood pouring down her shins; and Chrissy Hooper who risked life and limb plucking speeding balls out of the air as they nearly knocked her block off at silly mid-off.

Good form was had as usual by Wendy Cox, our always reliable wicket-keeper; Louise Mathew, our opening bowler; and Lisa Wallis with the bat.

Caroline Hannah and Ang Sanders opened the batting well, with Ang having some unfortunate decisions hampering her potential at times. Celene Harris improved greatly with the bat achieving her highest score, and El Fletcher improved as an all-rounder, also achieving her highest score with the bat, as well as bowling extremely well under pressure.

Christie Zeppos played just a few games, but is already showing the talent already illustrated by her sisters.

Altogether, apart from not having very favourable results, I'm sure all the girls would agree that we had a great time this season, and hopefully everyone will return for the next one. We have the potential to do a lot better next season, so we just have to concentrate and try to all excell on the same day, instead of only one or two players having great games at a time.

See you all for 1998/99.

## 1998 BARR TURN

Those of you fortunate enough to witness Tim Buckett's 1997 Barr Turn speech would agree that it was a memorable one. As well as including the obligatory review of Club shockers from the previous season, it bravely pioneered the use of live music and erotic audio visuals. This was a resounding success with many of those present.

However Tim's presentation and final Barr Turn selection did not meet with everyone's approval. Aside from the many who felt they didn't need to see his slide show it was also apparent that many of the Club's Old Guard, while acknowledging that my declaration on a 98 not outed Alex Williams was in keeping with the spirit of stupidity intended for recipients, the other reasons given were not and threatened the identity of the award. Greg Livingstone in particular took the selection as a personal affront, maintaining that it was the culmination of a "shit speech" and had been made to someone for being "normal", perhaps even seeing this as some sort of slight on his own existence. I would normally treat such an offering as just another manifestation of Livo's bitter and twisted character and let it through to the keeper but I was forced to play a shot when Club El Supremo Greig Robinson took me aside, explained the history of the Barr Turn and affirmed that the award should be made for on field incidents. Not for settling down. Not for lack of personal integrity. Not for porking adventures, unless of course you managed one during a game.

I view cricket's traditions as dubious. I am firmly convicted that it is an individual sport dressed up as a team game and that its outdated traditions help gloss over the fact that it is riddled with selfishness, hypocrisy and cheating. Arguments against this thesis are spurious and naive. However for some reason I took Robbo's words to heart. Perhaps because as Chairman of Selectors he straddles the Club as a colossus of integrity, I was persuaded that tradition had its place in the Barr Turn and that in my search for candidates I should concentrate on on-field incidents. Well, so much for resolve. My look back begins with an incident which occurred some three months before the playing commenced.

In July last year the Sydney Cricket Association called a meeting of lower Grade and Shire captains to discuss the coming season. This was the same Association that had recently attempted to add us to their scrapheap and had at one stage reduced us to an old fashioned whip around for anticipated legal costs. Many of us had felt that soon we would be faced with the absolutely unthinkable - the choice between life without Grade cricket or life at another Club, playing alongside people with whom we had naturally developed a poor relationship through years of opposition, macho posturing and more recently, their consideration of the issues regarding the future of the competition, which could be summarised as a vague notion that there should be less Clubs, that they shouldn't be the ones to go and the smart arsed students who did dodgy declarations should be.

It is history now that due to the efforts of Andrew Jones, Chappo, Orca, Livo, Henry, Disco and many others we survived, but it was time for the Club to truly get our house in order so that such a threat wouldn't repeat itself. One area immediately targeted was administration. The Club had a proud tradition of an effective but somewhat casual approach to this area. Finances were creatively and expertly controlled but not always documented. Assets were definitely held but exactly where was sometimes uncertain with



# SOCIAL OCCASIONS





investigation invariably unearthing a haphazard trail of back sheds and garages with pissed off wives to match. This form of administration relied heavily on anecdote and while this kept faith with the Club's larrikan traditions and made for tremendously entertaining committee meetings, the time had come for us to toe the line a bit more, empty out all the pockets of Jacky Jourdain's trousers and start getting our forms in on time.

So back to the meeting in July. Our Club was represented by the three lower Grade captains from the previous year - myself, Rob Stark and Matt Sanders. Unquestionably this was a good start to the Club's new era - 100% attendance at the first Association meeting and after a couple of cheap beers in the tasteful surroundings of the NSW Cricketer's Club we felt ready to contribute, to be constructive and to be heard.

Unfortunately the meeting proved to be a physical and emotional ordeal. It became apparent early on that the Grade and Shire Clubs did not share common problems and that much of the night would be spent with half the room wondering what the other half was going on about. This coupled with the Association's version of the Channel Nine commentary team in charge of proceedings, made for an excruciatingly boring evening. It was the unique form of boredom that was dished up regularly during our childhoods. It was the same feeling you got when you went shopping for furniture for three hours with your parents. The same feeling you got when you had detention after school or religious commitments on perfect sunny days.

The discussion dragged remorselessly on, eventually moving onto one day games. The Shires captains were pushing for a reduction in overs from 120 in a day to 100, their arguments being that many teams were incapable of batting for 60 overs and that the early start meant that many players were unavailable.

I would say that while most of the Grade captains found these reasons preposterous, emotional exhaustion was pushing us to agree to the change. Then, a dissenter. With a loud "excuse me" up shot Rob Stark's hand. "It seems to me that we are all missing the point here" he said as he climbed to his feet. "No one seems to realise that 50 overs per innings will mean less hours of cricket and therefore less time away from the missus .....and if you've got a missus like mine you'd know what I mean". As the room went into a second of shocked silence and then uproar he headed out the door in the direction of the bar and then reappeared in another doorway closer to the Channel Nine commentary team. "Thank you" he said, and disappeared.

That wasn't all. Later in the evening the subject of player awards was discussed. Nothing of great significance was suggested until Starky again piped up. "I reckon for any bowler who takes five wickets in an innings ...the Association should buy him a root" was his offering. Not long after we made our apologies and took an early exit, Starky suggesting it was a good night to drink drive because it was pissing down. His effort had saved the night in one sense but perhaps left us with the feeling that our new administrative era was on hold for a bit.

Our first pre season training confirmed that many things were back to normal. On 12 July Capital and Guava began lobbying for higher spots in the batting order. Livo had calmed down after his computer course or whatever it was that had encouraged him to produce

truckloads of paperwork for us to fill out the previous year and announced that we would be concentrating on skills this season. We liked the sound of this and we very happy to help him unload his mountains of witches hats and tennis racquets, so long as it meant we never had to do written homework about our failures again.

The Club's pre season trip to Dubbo was a success and although we actually didn't play any real cricket, we got the chance to parade our fashionable new Club clothing. As we proudly walked down the main streets of the town in uniform one word screamed itself to anyone watching -Professionalism. The highlight of the weekend was a probably a distinctly unsober local's exchange with a distinctly sober Henry after recognising him in the pub as "you don't have to tell me who you are...Geoff... er... don't tell me, .....Geoff er don't tell me .....er..... Jeff Thomson !" He then recognised Tex Norbury "from the TV" before we felt we had to stop him. There was also Dave Carson being hit in the head without playing a shot at practice and Matt Hayward slowly disrobing during fielding drills within view of the Club's coaching clinic for Dubbo's up and coming juniors worth a mention and as it turned out, a sign of things to come.

The season proper started with a one dayer against Northern District with our flagship team, Fifth Grade, returning to the top of the table despite recently appointed captain Gav Harris embracing his new responsibilities by declaring himself unavailable. In First Grade we paraded our new signing Ian Salisbury and manufactured a dream game with Slates winning a head to head with the Test Captain to the tune of 152 to 30-odd and perpetual big kid Disco getting 50. The day was also remarkable for Darren Stephen taking his first Test wicket and later superstitiously sitting in the same exposed and windswept spot on the hill at Asquith Oval throughout Slate's innings. Shakin' only allowed himself a quick break at afternoon tea before sprinting back to the same windswept spot just in time for the resumption of play. It must be a concern that Shakin's occupation is teaching. Does he tell his students that they will pass their exams if they wear the same socks and underpants they had on the last time they passed one ? Does he acknowledge that ability and preparation might count for something ? Do his students lapse into depression when their favourite pen runs out of ink, convinced that they will never write anything decent again ?

With the season underway there were more signs that things were back to normal. The opposition had stopped saying that we wouldn't be playing in the competition next year and had returned to saying that we shouldn't be. And there was also the sight of Zac Zavos peddling his hand made cricket bats, allegedly supplied by one of his connections in England. There was a distinct lack of interest from our Club despite assurances from Zac that they were quality, with most of us taking him at his word but finding it hard to part with our cash because we harboured secret thoughts that while they looked fine, they sounded like something you knocked up in Year 7 Woodwork and consigned to use with tennis balls only after a couple of nasty jarring incidents. Early in the season Zac bravely asked Disco to give one a test run and in doing so sparked one of the first of a couple of hundred abusive and fruitily languaged E-mails sent by our First Grade captain over the next six months. Not to be deterred, Zac, like some sort of modern day Dennis Lillee, continued to market his bats and use them in the middle. This ultimately restricted him to only two hundreds before Christmas and it was no surprise when he mysteriously declared himself unavailable for an alleged overseas trip, no doubt accepting that the whole project

had gone horribly wrong and that it would be wise to lie low for a while. Well I put it to you tonight Zac Zavos that the bats you used to score those hundreds were made in England by craftsmen and the bats you tried to sell us looked identical but were more likely put together in a back shed in Queens Park by you.

In our run up to the Christmas break we showed a significant improvement over the previous season with five Grades still realistically entitled to fight off any suggestion from our loved ones of a weekend away at the end of March. However this new dimension of regular winning lifted the lid on the pressure cooker and gave some of us the chance to show another side of our characters. Beetle Von Willer was a good example. After Fourth Grade were cruelly robbed of a win against Gordon by the sort of inefficiency unique to Councils and other public sector utilities during the festive season, Beetle pursued justice through official channels and won. As we gazed fondly at the six points he had single handedly secured for us it was easy to forget that the same passion which led to this remarkable and sensible result had left some of us astonished and embarrassed on the field only months before. On the first day of an early game against Penrith in Fourth Grade it was the yahoo session after tea at Dave Phillips. Jungle was bowling to a young hormone who had done the hard work earlier in the day and was now sailing down the aisles filling his shopping trolley with easy runs. One shot sailed long and straight towards the sightscreen at long on only to be intercepted by a careering Beetle very close to or perhaps on the boundary line. For a fleeting moment he had his hands on the ball but to say there was any measure of control over events was to merge small measures of truth with large measures of fantasy. Showing his experience Jungle set about waving his arms in characteristic fashion and "negotiated" two runs instead of six with the umpire and the batsman while running in to bowl the next ball before anyone was ready. However while all this was happening, Beetle was extracting himself from the undergrowth behind the sightscreen and mustering the bare faced affrontery to claim a dismissal. On the field we could hear him shouting about something down amongst the shadows at the end of the ground but none of us believed for a moment that he could be possibly appealing for a catch. "He's given two, don't worry about it" we reassured him. "I caught it....he's out" was his frantic response. Beetle will no doubt still claim that the catch was legitimate, that control can be measured in microseconds and that benefit of the doubt should be thrown completely out of the window. But at that moment last October at least ten fair and balanced people thought the Barr Turn had been sown up and that anyone given out as a result of Beetle's acrobatic efforts would have been entitled to be a bit pissed off.

Another incident worth repeating from our successful first half occurred in Fifth Grade against Hawkesbury. After a late start due to rain Fifths bowled Hawkesbury out for 90, leaving Zac Zavos and Andrew Lindsay to negotiate the opening batsman's nightmare- a short bat in fading light with dismissal carrying with it the prize of another trip to Hawkesbury next week to do not much more than score, get the drinks and watch your team mates bat in perfect conditions. Mercifully for them huge black clouds rolled in and the umpires took them off, commenting in expert fashion as some umpires do that they couldn't see them getting back on that day. However it hadn't yet rained and the stumps were left in. Not long afterwards a meteorological miracle was complete and the clouds had passed without leaving a drop of rain behind. Before long the umpires had their hats back on and let captain Gav Harris know that play would re-start in 10 minutes. This all

seemed fairly routine for Gav until he was faced with Lindsay and Zavos clad only in underpants refusing to return to the field. They were adopting the position that the umpires' comments when leaving the field were binding and they would not move another muscle (and given their state surely everyone present was going to be able to verify this) until stumps were drawn. Ten minutes of negotiation produced no joy for the Uni captain and before long he found himself giving a delicate explanation to the umpires as to why his batsmen weren't ready. As the fielding side looked on some sort of sanity eventually prevailed with the re-appearance of two hastily equipped openers still vehemently protesting the injustice of it all. Lindsay was dismissed before stumps and read every word of the following Saturday's Sydney Morning Herald, while Zavos survived and went on to score a century on Day 2, despite every shot sounding like it had been hit with a fence paling.

The Club also got on the Internet this season. I have mentioned Disco's ever expanding use of

E-mail which had many in the Club and Dave Quinlan in particular wondering when he got a chance to do any work. His exchanges with Matt Hayward which dealt almost exclusively with Hayward's turkey neck-like genitalia sparked some controversy when they were published in a sealed section of the Club newsletter. While some objected to the content, the vast majority of complaints came because Hayward, in faxing a copy of the exchange for publication, had deleted all mention of his own name and E-mail address.

One member of the Club was moved to write a letter to the editor complaining of the sealed section's content. This was astounding in its hypocrisy because it was signed Rob Stark who for years had been a prolific contributor to the newsletter of reports littered with profanity and sexual innuendo and who only recently had gone on record as the second person in the history of the Sledge to be censored for bad taste.

The season saw the Club field an Under 16 side in the prestigious Green Shield competition for the first time. To manage the side the Club appointed a four man team of cricketing misfits who offered a wide diversity of approaches to the game. In Sohail Mohideen we had a gentleman cricketer belonging to an era long gone, an idealist obsessed with fair play who no doubt hoped to produce a team who walked without fuss when they were dismissed, steadfastly refrained from sledging and gave their wickets away to deserving bowlers once they scored a hundred. In Paul Urquhart we had a player who had carefully examined the game and decided that it had only one shot worth playing - the pull. For many years he had made his personal mission to play the shot at every opportunity to every type of ball and now was his chance to spread his gospel at grass roots level. In Paul Searle we had the nineties breed of cricketer who had a cynical view of human nature, played it hard and could do a bit of everything. And in Alex Lamb we had a passionate, driven perfectionist who didn't rate any opposition and was always keen to articulate these feelings to them.

Initially outsiders observed a fascinating battle of wills between the four managers for dominant influence on the team but by the end of the competition there was little doubt that Lamby had prevailed. To anyone watching it seemed that there was a team of little Lambies out there. Wide eyed crazy cricketers who had been sent out to war. A half fit

wicketkeeper repeating "Lamby said no pain no gain" as he walked out to the middle swathed in bandages. Players appealing excitedly from all parts of the ground on every occasion the ball came into contact with pad. And Lamby himself doing his bit on the other side of the boundary by sidling up to opposition batsmen to give appraisals of their inability to handle the pressure. Things like "You're gonna get out mate. You're not good enough. You're not going to be able to handle it out there mate".

Our season's second half was anti-climactic on the field after promising so much. However our packed, well organised and memorable social calendar provided other cause for celebration. In particular the Cricket Olympics gave us somewhat surprisingly our first nude participant - Darren Stephen who finished off his leg of the First Grade Stumps relay with a tastefully scrotum baring forward roll beneath the well lit and heavily populated Café DP private boxes. And we saw our inaugural Veterans' handicap sprint winner - Jungle who warmed up by running phantom in the open hormone's event. A little known fact about this night is that Mike Gregg lied about his age to his disadvantage thinking that he would not need the 18 metres start he was entitled to in the handicap only to lose to Jungle by half a metre.

As this dinner approached I received plenty of advice about who should receive the award but mostly these suggestions came from people who had a general feeling that a particular individual was a psycho. Many people suggested Capital but couldn't point at anything in particular. I did at least get one good story. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade season there was some healthy competition between the squad of fast bowlers in the team. This group is perpetually in a state of punchiness about the batsmen in their team not getting enough runs and their fieldsmen not hanging on to their catches. These topics are to be avoided if you find yourself in conversation with them, unless of course you are fascinated by the statistics they have stored in their heads ready for quick release if the opportunity presents itself. Before one game it was noted in the dressing room that Capital was one wicket in front of Traff. Traff then took the first wicket to fall that day so Sludge thought it would be a good idea to use this as a motivational tool for Capital at the start of his next over. With Capital at the top of his run Sludge called from slip "Come on Capital - Traff's equal with you now." This was too much for Capital. He called back from the distance of 50 or so metres "Well if you could catch he'd still be two behind".

Others said Tim Martin and Simon Gerber deserved it for again just being themselves. Give me a story I pleaded. Some wanted Jim Plunkett-Cole to get it for charging a dollar for one of these (HOLD UP 20g BAG OF CHIPS) at Café DP and attempting to charge an opposition team \$60.00 for a slab of VB (24 cans at \$2.50 each) but to me to nominate Jim would have ignored his status as the Club's financial and cultural messiah.

No, to make my choice I need to revisit Sybil Slater. Due to his controversial continued omission from the Australian side we were fortunate to have Sibyl more regularly available on and sometimes off the field. Off the field it gave him the opportunity to show us that there is a scientific equation for the amount of time for which people were willing to put up with dreadful singing and guitar playing and that contained in that equation was the multiple of the number of Test matches you had played.

THIRD GRADE

Highest Score	4/342	v	Mosman	1982/83
Batting Aggregate	625		D. Meagher	1988/89
Batting Average	71.0		M. Boyer	1990/91
Record Score	163		D. Coots	1988/89
Bowling Aggregate	41		W. Hetherington	1980/81
Bowling Average	9.6		A. Clements	1987/88
Record Figures	9/22		J. Bolton	1979/80
Most Catches	15		D. Pratt	1979/80
Wicket Keeper	25/0		D. Cummins	1987/88

FOURTH GRADE

Highest Score	5/373	v	Sydney University	1990/91
Batting Aggregate	767		J. Martel	1989/90
<b>Batting Average</b>	<b>81.8</b>		<b>D. Dermody</b>	<b>1997/98</b>
Record Score	212*		J. Martel	1989/90
<b>Bowling Aggregate</b>	<b>40</b>		<b>J. Robson</b>	<b>1995/96</b>
<b>Bowling Average</b>	<b>11.46</b>		<b>J. Robson</b>	<b>1997/98</b>
			<b>R. Stark</b>	<b>1997/98</b>
Record Figures	10/19		P. Besgrove	1975/76
Most Catches	12		A. Epstein	1973/74
			<b>R. Stark</b>	<b>1997/98</b>
Wicket Keeper	21/4		J. Barford	1976/77

FIFTH GRADE

Highest Score	3/445	v	North Sydney	1996/97
Batting Aggregate	590		A. Lindsay	1996/97
<b>Batting Average</b>	<b>259.00</b>		<b>J. Stamm</b>	<b>1997/98</b>
Record Score	222		D. Bowcock	1996/97
Bowling Aggregate	41		M. Gregg	1986/87



FIFTH GRADE (Cont)

Bowling Average	8.55	G. Holt	1981/82
Record Figures	8/48	D. Graham	1987/88
Most Catches	11	A. Epstein	1975/76
Wicket Keeper	29/2	J. Barford	1981/82

SIXTH GRADE

Highest Score	6/416	v Sutherland	1977/78
Batting Aggregate	504	A. Epstein	1981/82
Batting Average	300	M. Mullen	1990/91
Record Score	231*	M. Mullen	1990/91
Bowling Aggregate	40	W. Hetherington	1977/78
Bowling Average	9.1	W. Hetherington	1977/78
Record Figures	8/30	S. Hamilton	1976/77
Most Catches	12	S. Gonski	1976/77
Wicket Keeper	29/8	D. Hughes	1986/87

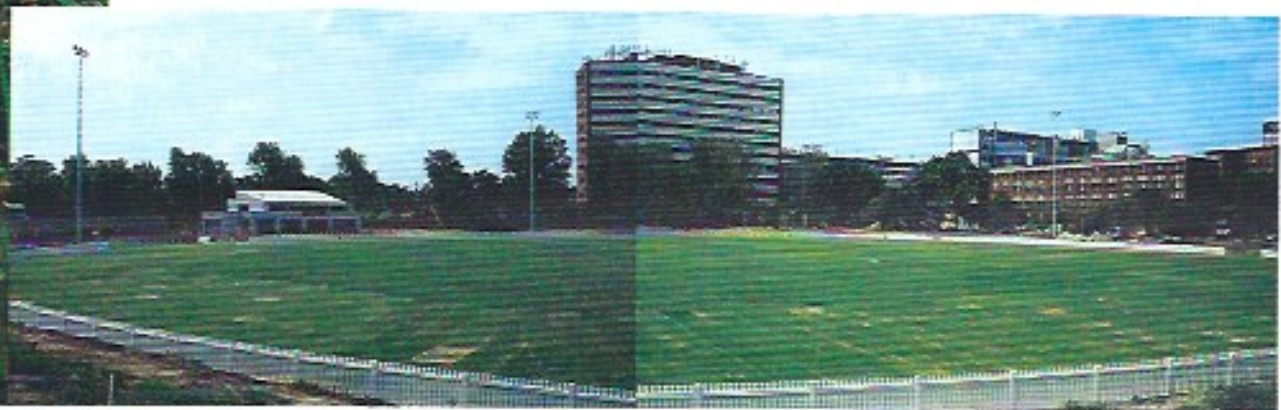
LADIES

Batting Aggregate	566	J. Van Ardenne	1990/91
Batting Average	87.0	S. Zeppos	1995/96
Record Score	108	J. Van Ardenne	1990/91
Bowling Aggregate	44	J. Van Ardenne	1990/91
Bowling Average	7.5	J. Van Ardenne	1990/91
Record Figures	9/34	J. Van Ardenne	1990/91
Most Catches	15	W. Newin	1990/91

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES CRICKET CLUB**  
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MAY 1998**

<u>1997</u>	<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>1998</u>
<u>£</u>		<u>£</u>
5,233	Cash at Bank	11,113
18,039	Investments	1,029
4,893	Stock on Hand	8,320
2,450	Receivables	2,450
<u>30,615</u>		<u>22,912</u>
	<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
5,287	Creditors	11,626
<u>5,287</u>		<u>11,626</u>
<u>25,328</u>		<u>11,286</u>

# VG UPGRADE



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