The Third Man's Report

Check out our web site

Have a look at the Baulko web site. All the news about club events such as Presentation Dates, fixtures, results, ladders etc are all available at the following web site – www.baulkocricket.com.au

To see your team's results, go to baulkocricket.com.au, select 'Team Pages' then select your team. From there you can see the ladder by selecting 'Tables'.

Team Performances:

B5	Win	14/1	Win
B7	Win	13/1	Win
B11	Win	11/1	Win

Individual Achievements

Luke D	14/1	5/21	Karanbir Singh	11/1	6/15
Anoop Vaidya	11/2	6/6			

Canteen Volunteers Required

We need volunteers to man the canteen on the weekend. If you know anyone who is willing to help out for a couple of hours on Saturday or Sunday, either morning or afternoon, please get your coach/manager/captain to call Pete McLoughlin. We will also be after volunteers for Grand Final weekend, so please help if you can.

Social Committee

Grand Final BBQ - Sunday, March 20, 2005

The BBQ will be held on the Sunday night of the Grand Final weekend at the Baulkham Hills Sports Club. All senior and junior players, officials and supporters are welcome. The evening will kick off at about 5:30pm, downstairs in Charlie's.

Senior Presentation Night – Saturday, June 4

Held at the Baulkham Hills Sports Club as usual. Check the web site for details.

Junior Presentation Day – Sunday, June 5

Held at the Baulkham Hills Sports Club as usual. Check the web site for details.

Krispy Kremes Partnership Cards

As part of the fund-raiser conducted on Registration Day, the club has some Krispy Kreme partnership Cards for sale. The cards get you a free dozen doughnuts, with any purchase of a dozen. The cards are valid until 2007 and can be used up to 10 times. They are \$12, and can be purchased back at the club on Saturday nights during the Meat Raffles.

Caught in Slips (all the juicy stuff!)

Not much to report this week, apart from the excitement at the Sport on Saturday night.

Dill of the Week! Probably the B5 captain Pat Mamo. He didn't bother to pay the black and white – even after they won. Hope you don't get him again this week Pat!

Match Results and Reports

11/2 10 for 68, 10 for 45 Hills Barbarians 10 for 71, 5 for 43 Outright loss

B Hills 1st innings batting Aidan Cousin 18 Ryan Bailey 13

B Hills 1st innings bowling Anoop Vaidya 8 overs 2 maidens 6 wickets for 6 runs

Ben Graham 8 overs 5 maidens 1 for 7

Jake Bailey 8 overs 2 maidens 1 for 17

Jonathan Fulcher 3 overs 2 for 8

B Hills 2nd innings batting Aidan Cousin 10

B Hills 2nd innings bowling 4 overs 3 maidens 4 wickets for 1 run.

A terrific effort to get so close to defeating the minor premiers. Despite probably not having enough runs in the 1st innings we put in another herculean effort with the ball and in the field with superb bowling from Anoop, well supported by the other bowlers. After finishing 3 runs behind on the 1st innings, we went back into bat after quick runs but despite a couple of lusty blows from Aidan on top of his great 1st innings we finished with a moderate total of 45. But again we kept competing to the end and at one stage had Hills Barbarians on their knees at 5 for 2 but then an unbroken 43 partnership for the 6th wicket saw them achieved outright victory.

Congratulations B/Hills on a fine effort.

11/1 9 for 76 Kings Langley 10 for 69 First innings win

Kings Langley won the toss and chose to bat. Even though we knew Kings Langley was quality opposition our team was always going to be in with a good chance if we fielded well and kept our sundries to a minimum. With some very accurate bowling by all of our bowlers and disciplined fielding they were 7 for 50 at drinks.

After drinks the boys kept it very tight and Kings Langley only added another 19 runs before they were all out for 69. Great work by Tevin behind the stumps. Karanbir and Adarsh bowled well again. Special mention has to go to Asad, who in his spell of 8 overs, was very economical with 5 of them being maidens and was extremely unlucky not to take a wicket. Well done Asad.

Our innings did not get of to a flying start with Tevin run-out early and Kiveshin bowled soon after. With 20 minutes to go before the end of the days play Ash and Sam B put in a solid performance and no further wickets were lost.

Day 2 did not start so well with a first ball beamer taking out Sam B with a nasty blow on the forearm .He retired hurt bringing Jack to the wicket. Jack showed some great batting skills and determination in what would prove to be the defining innings of the match .A very much needed partnership between Jack and Ash developed adding valuable runs until Ash was caught.

With the score on 3 for 50 and 20 more runs to get, we lost the next 2 wickets while only adding 1 run .5 for 51. It was starting to get close with the next 2 wickets adding a further 14 (9 of which were form Jack's bat and 3 being sundries) .7 for 65. Jack guided the team passed Kings Langley's score.

Our score at drinks was 9 for 76 when Kings Langley conceded defeat putting us straight into the Grand Final.

Well done boys this is a great achievement by each and every one of you.

Jack D: 22 n.o.

Adarsh S: 4 for 9 off 7 overs

12/1	3 for 56	Greystanes	10 for 55	First innings win

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13/2	6 for 133	Pendle Hill Colts B	3 for 134	First innings loss

13/1 9 for 97 Norwest 10 for 96 First innings win We lost the toss and with the grass very wet from dew, it was no surprise Norwest elected to bat. Daniel and Sean opened the bowling with Sean getting the first wicket in the 6th over with a catch behind from Nick. Sean picked up another wicket in the 10th over with a brilliant catch from Trent diving sideways at point. A good start from Sean and Daniel to have Norwest at 2/16 after 10 overs. Teshan and Samira came on next with Teshan trapping the batsman infront for an lbw in his second over. Another 18 overs passed before we took our next wicket when Daniel, back for his second spell, picked up an lbw to have Norwest 4/60 after 31 overs. Over the next 16 overs Norwest ground out another partnership of 28 runs, which was brought to an end when Ben took a great catch off his own bowling. A wicket from Ben's next ball with a good catch from Sam saw Ben on a hat trick. With the hat trick avoided Ben (lbw) and Teshan (2 x bowled) took the last 3 wickets with only 8 runs added to the score to have Norwest all out in the 55th over for 96 runs. Excellent bowling from Teshan 8-0-3-14, Ben 10-1-3-27 and Sean 10-3-2-14. Good tight bowling from Daniel 10-3-1-17, Trent 5-2-1-6, Brendan 1-0-0-1 and Josh 1-0-0-1. The bowlers were supported by some very good fielding, especially from Jarryd who let nothing past him. With enough time for 2 overs Sean and Nick opened and made their intentions clear both hitting a four to be 0/9 at stumps. Day two saw the early loss of Sean (6) who was caught. Brendan came in next putting on a solid 40 run partnership with Nick which was broken when Brendan (13) was out lbw. Daniel came in next only to see Nick (29) caught out a few balls later. Well batted Nick with once again another big contribution to the score. Trent joined Daniel at the crease and showed no respect to some of the best bowling we had faced all season by belting 16 runs from the first 11 balls faced including a big six. With the score 3/83 we looked in good shape. Trent had scored 21 runs from 24 balls in 33 minutes when he was bowled. Sam came in next with the first ball faced being one of the best balls of the day getting through to the stumps. With the score at 5/83 Ben joined Daniel at the crease. Norwest's bowling was excellent, they sensed they could win the game and had not given a single sundry or loose ball for the last 20 overs. Ben played with focus taking each ball on its merit. With the field setting restricting singles, Ben tried to go over the top but unfortunately was caught on 5 with our score at 6/91. Gabriel was very ill and we decided it was time for him to join Daniel at the crease and put our nerves at ease. This ease did not last long with Daniel being caught with only 2 more runs to the score. Samira was next and we watched three more maiden overs only to see Samira lbw to be 8/93. Josh came out looking to score hitting the ball well. A slight mix up with a possible run out had the parents on the edge of their seats only to see a repeat a few balls later with Josh run out with only one more added to the score. We had now gone from 3/83 to 9/94 loosing 6 wickets for only 11 runs. The chance of loosing our first game in 3 years was real. Merryn called Nigel who said "I cant talk now, we look like we are going to loose" and hung up. Merryn had to ring one of the other parents to find out what was going on. Teshan looking quite calm striding to the crease, while him mum stressed out big time moving

away from the field as should could not watch the game. A lot of dot balls passed by from each end until Gabriel managed to place the ball for a single. Teshan soon put us out of our misery guiding the ball through the vacant slip area for an easy two runs. A very tough game, the closest we have ever had as a team. Well done Teshan, three wickets and the winning runs. See you in the Finals.

14/1	4 for 121	Kings Langley	10 for 117	First innings win

Kings Langley won the toss and elected to bat. Their openers and top order had been in scintillating form, winning their last few games easily.

Our opening bowlers, Azaan and Alex, ignored the very wet and slippery run ups to bowl a very tight line restricting runs and putting doubt in the openers minds. A brilliant tactical change by Luke M, our captain, saw Tom come on earlier than normal and snare the prized wicket of Andy, their free scoring opener.

Luke D was bought into the attack in the 18th over and he wreaked havoc. Two wickets in his first over and another in his second, saw Baulkham Hills start to assert its dominance.

K.L's big scoring rep batsman was now at the crease. He was starting to look dangerous. A pre match plan saw Luke M bring our spinner, Hari and our medium pace swing bowler, Evan into the attack. Evan bowled 5 overs, consistently hitting the spot outside off stump frustrating Jasons attempts to score (0-12). Meanwhile Hari was taunting him at the other end daring him to attack. Eventually he charged one he shouldn't have, Hari beat him in flight and Andrew completed the stumping.

Tom, Owen, Alex and Luke D took the remaining wickets to restrict KL to 117. Special mention must be made of Luke D who finished with figures of 5/21 off 8.1 overs. He bowled extremely well and had the happy knack off taking a wicket every time a partnership look like it was starting to form.

Our new openers, Azaan and Hari, survived three overs on day one to finish 0/6.

We turned up on Sunday very excited and determined to follow up a great display by our bowlers. The KL bowlers obviously were taking notes on Saturday because their bowling was excellent. The followed our lead in not giving away cheap runs.

Fortunately our batsmen showed great maturity and patience and built our total slowly without taking any chances. It wasn't until the 26th over that our first wicket fell- Azaan for a brilliant 25. Our next two batsmen (Owen-9 and Alex-14) scored runs more quickly but waiting to bat for so long had taken its toll and I feel they were a bit mentally exhausted when they took the crease. Hari was the next to go for a patient 13; he had done his job of seeing off their main bowlers.

We now had Tom and Luke D at the crease. They were a pleasure to watch. They defended the good balls and showed no mercy to the bad ones, which were now starting to creep into the KL bowling. Tom finished on 11no and Luke D 26no. We passed their total with 5 overs and 6 wickets to spare.

It was a great team victory set up by a brilliant first day in the field. We used 8 bowlers who all did a fantastic job. I can't recall one expensive over all day. All fielders were superb also. We didn't give the opposition any cheap runs.

If we repeat this performance in the grand final we will be very hard to beat.

B14	10 for 49, 10 for 13	Pirhanas	10 for 81	Outright loss
B12	10 for 60, 10 for 115	Winston Hills	10 for 97, ? for 138	Outright loss

B11 10 for 80, 3 for 134 Norwest 10 for 77 First innings win

Adam Fahey - 18 runs and 5-37 from 21 overs

Dane Sparks - 25 runs and 16 runs and 2-35 from 18 overs

Matthew Vecchiato - 13 runs and 2-1 from 13 balls

Greg Leeson - 6 catches and 67 runs

Ian Renton - 37 not out

After conceding 291 runs against Norwest last week, we needed to bat well. Our cause was not helped when we lost our team's second best batsmen in Don Crawford to a knee injury during the week. The captain won the toss and elected to bat despite several batting collapses this year when batting first. The new opening combination of Ian Cox (7) and Dane Sparks (25) took the score slowly to 24 but they laid a platform for a big score. Ian Cox's dismissal for 7 was quickly followed by Greg Leeson's dismissal for 0. Ian Renton followed soon after for 6. With Don Crawford not playing and B11's two highest runscorers for the season out cheaply it was not looking good at 3-37. But it got worse. Brad Boyle was unlucky to be adjudged lbw for 5 and when Dane Sparks' impressive innings ended on 25 we were in big trouble at 5-43. Adam Fahey (18) and Matthew Vecchiato batted aggressively to take the score to 5-75. However, Matthew's dismissal for 13 saw us lose our last five wickets for just five runs. It was disappointing to make just 80 runs on a hot, sunny day against what is essentially a batting team. The one consolation was that the pitch was displaying a lot of bounce. A couple of our batsmen were caught unawares by some surprising bounce.

We still had about one hour and 45 minutes to bowl so to have any hope at all, we needed to take wickets with the new ball as during the season our change bowlers have been able to regularly take wickets against the top order with an older ball. A lot rested with Adam Fahey and Dane Sparks. Neither are what you would call real fitness fanatics. Adam doesn't possess the slim build of Glenn McGrath and Dane Sparks is not quite the athlete that Brett Lee is but nevertheless both are capable of bowling accurately and coming into this game had 62 wickets between them. The question was how long would they be able to bowl for and could they get enough early wickets.

After six overs, the Norwest openers looked in no trouble but were only 7 runs. It was just possible, that they were a little nervous chasing our meagre total of 80 runs. In the seventh over - finally, a breakthrough. A great legside catch by Greg Leeson off Dane Sparks lifted our team's hopes but at 2-8 the game was still in Norwest's favour. Two more wickets soon after had Norwest struggling at 4-21 and for the first time in the match we felt we had a chance of winning. However, all teams have a big hitting batsman and Mr George from Norwest had already despatched Dane Sparks for two boundaries. To have any hope of winning, we needed to get Mr George out quickly. It was then that we witnessed one of the more bizaar incidents you are ever likely to see on a cricket field. The ball was hit over mid-off. Nothing unusual about this. Paul Morris ran to retrieve it. It was returned to Adam Fahey at the bowler's end. Adam missed it. By this stage there was a loud call to throw the ball to the keeper. Somehow, both batsmen headed for the bowler's end. Mr Ratjens, Norwest's other batsmen, was determined not to be run-out so he headed for the bowler's end. Chris Mills retrieved the ball after Adam missed it. Chris underarmed the ball - Damien Fleming style to the wicketkeeper, Greg Leeson. With Mr George now lying prone on the goal near the bowler's end and the ball heading towards the keeper. A run-out seemed an absolute certainty. Not so. Matthew Vecchiato, our likeable all-rounder, has Italian and Maltese ancestry. So as you can imagine he can get quite excited at times. Matthew decided, it would be in the best interests of the team if he ran in from point to help out at the keeper's end. Matthew managed to deflect the ball away from Greg. Brad Boyle had also come into assist. Brad dived for the ball but at first missed it. By this stage, Mr George had decided to get up. He could not go to the bowler's end because Mr Ratjens had already claimed this for himself. Reluctantly, Mr George then decided to head for the keeper's end. Fortunately for us, Brad Boyle had time to get up and from two metres away and at a 45 degree angle, he threw down the stumps to leave Mr George about a metre short of his ground. Mr George is of Indian extraction and saw himself as the senior batting partner and he did not take too kindly to being run-out by Mr Ratjens. Instead of heading for the dressing room, Mr George went straight to Mr Ratjens. After shouting at each other for a few moments, the game was able to continue. Norwest were now 5-21 and we were in with a big chance. However, Mr Ratjens began playing his shots and at 5-44 the game had swung back in Norwest's favour. By this stage, Adam was looking for a rest. At 5-44, the ball was skied to Paul Morris at mid-off. Less than two hours early, Paul had dropped 4 out of 5 simple practice catches but the game now rested in his hands. Paul claimed the catch and with Norwest at 6-44 we were back on top. Adam then claimed his fourth wicket and Greg his fifth catch to leave Norwest at 7-53 overnight. The match was evenly poised at stumps. However, Mr Ratjens was still there and the unknown question was how were Adam and Dane going to pull up the next day after each bowling 12 overs straight. Adam was complaining of a sore back and Dane was stiff all over and almost fell asleep in a chair at the ground after the game. Dane and Adam also topscored with the bat. Dane was hard to say earlier, " I wish I didn't smoke so much."

On Sunday, Norwest batted cautiously. It was obvious they were nervous. It was just a matter of which team would crack first. Mr Ratjens was not looking as good on the second day. Most of his runs were off the edge and he was not batting with his usual aggression. Was he going to be good enough to hit the winning runs for his team? With the score at 7-76 it seemed he would be good enough. It was time for a bowling change and Matthew Vecchiato was the man the captained turned to. Matthew likes to bowl in spells of three overs so this was the perfect time for him to come on.

Since we finished fourth, we could not concede a boundary since a tie was no good to us. Matthew clean bowled Mr Ratjens for 27 in his first over to bring us back into the game. Next over, Adam took his fifth wicket with Greg Leeson taking yet another catch behind the stumps. Norwest took one run off the next two overs. With the first ball of his third over, the big lbw appeal went up. The umpire took longer than Steve Bucknor to make his decision but finally the decision went our way. And Matthew was pleased with his bowling effort.

The win was not sealed. We needed to avoid another batting collapse. By this stage Adam could barely walk so bowling again was not going to be an option. In the second innings, Dane Sparks again batted well for 16 runs and a third wicket partnership of 107 between Greg Leeson (67) and Ian Renton (37 not out) ensured the B11's go through to the Grand Final against Parramatta Leagues.

Man of the Match - Adam Fahey

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B8	10 for 101	Parramatta Golf	10 for 105, 4 for 56	First innings loss

B7	10 for 124, 1 for 19	Guildford Bowling	10 for 119	First innings win
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Performances:

B. King - 40 and 22*

R. Deane - 8/29 (yes, eight!)

J. Billings - superb keeping despite a black eye and possible concussion!

Our first home semi-final and up against our bogey team, Guilford Bowling. They had humiliated us in Round 13, bowling us out for 50 and they wasted no time in putting us in upon winning the toss. However, thoughts of a repeat performance were dashed when Brian and Roger put on 47 for the first wicket, seeing off Guildford's opening bowlers with minimal loss. However, we didn't really capitalise on this great start and were bowled out for 124. Brett Stapleton got 24 and Darren compiled 19, but the last four wickets went down for just two runs.

With about 45 minutes to play on Day One, we took to the field eager for wickets. Roger supplied one immediately, but then our keeper, Jeremy, took a terrible blow when an edge glanced off his gloves and into his face. Obviously concussed, we took him off the field and Darren filled in behind the stumps. Not a great day for Jez: a duck, a black eye and even worse in his opinion - a dropped catch!

When the last over of the day started, Guildford were 2/32 and the game was probably in their favour. At the end of that over, they had been reduced to 5/41 and we were on a roll. Roger was the provider of this destruction, bowling straight, fast and full. Dave took a catch to start the rot, then we had a LBW on the fifth ball and finally, Roger clean bowled the next batsman on the last ball of the day.

Rog took up from where he left off on Sunday, and soon had all eight of the wickets to fall: he had 8/22 and Guildford were 8/59. However, the last couple of wickets proved incredibly difficult to shift: the ninth wicket fell at 89 when Cameron bowled Guildford's number 10, but we just couldn't end the innings. With gritty defence and good running, Guildford edged closer and closer to our score. With less than ten runs remaining, Dave turned back to Roger and Dean, and Dean didn't disappoint, sending the stumps flying and us into a celebratory frenzy.

Guildford sent us back in, but time was very definitely against them and the match was called off at 1/28 when Brian hit a massive six and the ball couldn't be found. A hard fought victory by just five runs, but the other semi-final was a TIE, meaning we're up against Seven Hills at Morgan Power. We've beaten them twice this year, but we are taking nothing for granted.

B6	10 for 77	Hills Barbarians	10 for 165	First innings loss
D <i>5</i>	2 for 160	Wanty Languag	10 for 164	First innings win
B5	3 for 169	Wenty Leagues	10 for 164	First innings win

B4 10 for 86 Erskine Park 10 for 280 First innings loss

Damn this is hard to write losing just doesn't go down well with champions and this is a bitter pill to swallow. There is this weird empty feeling that hit when all went quiet on Sunday night. We haven't felt that in 4 years and I can tell you, it doesn't sit well. So here goes.

When we are hot, we're hot, when we're cold we're frozen. We were looking for the knockout punch in the early rounds but didn't have the power to go the distance. Although we went into this game without our top run scorer and quality all rounder, this game was on a level playing field and on paper, we still had the team to put the runs on the board. But hats off to the Erskies, I guess they just wanted it more than we did and were better mentally prepared.

Excuses, trying hard to find one and regrets, I've had a few but this is all that I could come up with. I can only think that this year has been too easy for us and we have suffered at the business end of the season. There is something to be said about being trained to the minute and winning games by hundreds of runs throughout the year left us treating our opposition with contempt and measuring head sizes for the forthcoming caps. With only one tight game played all year we didn't know how to scrap and fight through the tough periods and that cost us. I can honestly say that this team has the talent to take us right to the top next year and we will be better for the run.

Losing the toss and being sent into the field wasn't our first choice but you have to take setbacks on the chin and we were confident of giving the Erskies a run for their money. We had the start we were after with the first 3 wickets falling cheaply, but in slow time. What ensued was nothing short of a disaster as we failed to turn up the intensity and dig deep when the pressure was on.

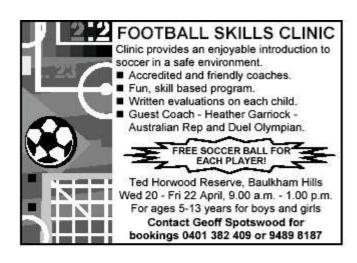
Records are made to be broken and I am convinced the opposing captain can now be called the luckiest man in the world, getting clean bowled off a no-ball, surviving a very close run out chance (just quietly, he was out) and being dropped more times than Rod Stewart. If you hear this bloke talking up his 85 against the champions, don't believe a word of it as he is deadest the luckiest number eleven to ever bat at first drop. He and his mate (who actually batted well) took the game from us on Saturday evening as we went through the motions only to realise after the pain had finally ended that catches actually do win matches. We failed to take the opportunities that were presented to us and this turned out to be the difference between the two teams.

In a nutshell, the battle was lost on the Saturday with our window of opportunity passing. This was a game of two halves and unfortunately for us, they won both. Chasing 281 runs is a tall order when you spend the full day prior in the field and without the hot start from our top order that we have come accustomed to, we were behind the eight ball from the beginning of our innings. We lost wickets at regular intervals with only Rock Delfino, Philbo Woods and Teflon Smith holding their own. In the space of two hours, all our top efforts throughout the year were undone. Mental note for next years finals series is just how quickly a competition can be lost and that on any given day, any team is capable of beating any other team.

We have to give full credit to our opposition who were the best team on the day and outplayed in every aspect of the game. Next year we may have to reinvent the wheel to continue our winning formula into the semis and not forget what got us there. However, we will live to fight another day and return bigger and better next year. Although I am not too impressed about having to take anti-depressants for the next six months until the 2005-06 season starts.

I guess it is back to the drawing board and I hope our guys remember the highs of the season, as the score in this game is not a true indication of our worth. Thanks for a great season guys and as minor premiers, we can put this loss behind us and still hold our heads high. I hope you all return next year so we can go one step further.

B2	10 for 155, 10 for 78	Kellyville	10 for 90, 5 for 145	Outright loss
A	10 for 158	Guildford Leagues	6 for 362	First innings loss
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