

The Third Man's Report

Check out our web site

Have a look at the Baulko web site. All the news about club events, 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 'Ladder'.

The site will be updated regularly, and the club history is being added to as time permits.

There have been some changes to the committee this season. You can find a list of the committee members on the website

To all Captains, Coaches and Managers

Match Results

I need match results in **following the conclusion of the game**, so they can be submitted to the PDCA. You can either drop them off at the club or email them to me at results@baulkocricket.com.au. If no results are submitted you get **NO POINTS and may be fined!** It is up to you to get the results to me – I will not be chasing anybody. When putting in players' names, can you put in their first name as well so that I can pass this onto the PDCA.

Team Reports

Team reports for this newsletter can be put in the box at the Club or emailed to me at results@baulkocricket.com.au by Tuesday night after the game. Newsletters will be published during the week after a game.

Team Performances:

B11 15/1	Outright win 1 for 197	13/3 11/1	Outright win Tie
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Individual Achievements

Sumit Kalia	A	59	Greg Malyon	13/1M	36
Adam Marsh	B1	125	Joshua Balzarolo	13/1M	2/19
Matthew Hardy	B4	85 & 4/46	Rushil Yapa	13/3	5/10
D Tipton	B5	4/42	George Joseph	12/1	30 no
A Thomas	B12	50	Michael Robertson	12/1	3/9
N Perera	B12	5/31	Jayden Stafford	12/2G	4/18
Ben Abbott	16/1	4/24	Siddhant G	12/2M	47
Daniel Chatman	15/1	100 no	Joshua K	12/2M	40
Matheesha Gunaratne	15/1	59 no,	Hamzah B	12/2M	5/6
Tom Ortiz	15/1	7/31	R Rajapakse	11/2	3/12
Tevin Liyanage	14/1	45	C Cavalieri	11/2	2/2
Asad Rizvi	14/1	4/9	R Misra	11/2	2/4
Karanbir Singh	14/3	2/14	Michael French	10W	23
Blake Newman	13/1G	34	Jake Smith	10W	2/5
Jonathan Barnitt	13/1G	4/16			

Canteen Roster – Ted Horwood Oval

Teams are reminded to have people available to man the canteen at Ted Horwood Reserve. The canteens raise valuable funds for our club, which help us to keep the fees down. The following teams are rostered in the next few weeks –

DATE	MORNING	AFTERNOON
March 1 2008	B12	14/1
March 8 2008	B13	14/2
Semi-Finals	Volunteers required	Volunteers required

The President's Roundup

The last round is upon us this weekend, (weather permitting!!) and we have a number of teams in contention for the finals. A number of these teams are on the edge and need the right results to get into the finals. Best of luck to all teams.

The Trivia night was held last Saturday night and to say that the support was disappointing would be an understatement! There were 9 tables (even though we had bookings for 13), with around 90 attendees! By my count, there were only about 3 or 4 senior players in attendance and only 1 team – the B8's – thanks to you guys, but the lack of any others is especially disappointing! The attendance was poor, even though the event was advertised for 3 or 4 months beforehand. Last year we had close to 200 attendees and the weather was awful. Maybe the fine weather put people off attending!

It seems that the support of our social functions is getting less all the time. Maybe it is time to put a levy on all player fees and not bother to waste the time of the social committee in organising the events. The committee goes to a lot of effort to run the club and the social committee as well puts in a lot of time and the lack of support is rather upsetting.

Anyway, thanks to all teams who provided prizes or cash donations – your support was much appreciated. To those who attended, thanks for your support. To Leigh, Rick, Sally, Josh & Jeremy thanks for your help in running the night and setting up the hall. A special vote of thanks to Leigh for her work organising prizes etc.

On a happier note, I can report that David Banks is recovering well after his open-heart surgery and will hopefully be home soon. We look forward to seeing the new slimline version of Banksy back with us soon!

All those end of season tasks are approaching fast & we will be going through the list a next week's Captains, Coaches and Managers meeting - don't forget it – next Tuesday 4 March, at the Baulkham Hills Sports Club, commencing at 8pm. We can only hope that ALL teams are represented at the meeting!

The Seniors v Colts match is on this Sunday – starting at 10am. As I write this, it is pelting down and it may be that the match has to be moved to Ted Horwood Reserve. Either way it should be an interesting day.

The team photos are over and thanks to everyone for their co-operation. Thanks to Ian, Rick, Leigh, Tony and James for their assistance.

Guys, this being a leap year, it is convention that your better half may propose to you on February 29. Did we get any gals down on bended knee asking for a hand in marriage?

Peter McLoughlin
President

Junior Double Wicket Competition

Junior Double Wicket Report

We had 22 players for the Junior Double Wicket. The winners for the first round who went into the "Cup" were: Viva Raja & Trent Samuels, Brent Whicker & Milo Blagojevic, Nick McConnell & Sid Gandi, George Joseph & Josh King, Ben Eades & Michael Robertson, Jack Farrel & Hamzah Bokhari. This left Praveen Samarasinghe & Tom Waddups, Owen Smith & Greg Malyon, James Senior & Michael McConnell, Josh Balzarolo & Daniel Waddups & Luke Bertus & Michael Belam to fight out the Plate.

The knock out games provided some tight games and some super fielding. The stumps were constantly hit with direct throws and many more catches were taken than were dropped with Daniel Waddups almost taking a spectacular diving 1 handed catch in the outfield.

In the Cup semi's George & Josh beat Jack & Hamzah with George hitting an unbeaten 18 to get to the final with Nick & Sid who beat Trent & Viva. Possibly the most exciting finish was in the Plate semi between Josh Baz & Daniel v James & Michael. Josh & Daniel batted first and were bowled out for 12. At the beginning of the last over James & Michael were only on 6 with James out. With 1 ball left Michael needed a boundary to level the scores and go through to the final. Daniel dropped it short and Michael pulls it behind square where Josh looked to have it covered. Josh had to dive in the end and the ball bounced over his outstretched arm and went for 4. James & Michael luckily made it through to the Plate final.

In the Plate final James & Michael batted first and put on 18. Praveen had been batting well and James wasn't sure they had enough runs. Praveen and Tom hit 8 off the first over and Praveen finished it with the biggest 6 of the day.

In the Cup final Nick & Sid batted first and put on 19 with Nick making 15. George & Josh took 7 off Nick's first over and were looking good before Josh got runout. Three balls later and George gets caught and Nick & Sid win by 10 runs.

The day was a lot of fun and wouldn't have been possible without the help from Ram Raja, Venkat, Phil Waddups, Kev Balzarolo & Howard Malyon. Many thanks to those guys who made it a lot easier for me to bluff my way through. Also thanks to Pete McLoughlin and co who cooked the BBQ and manned the canteen.

Congratulations to Nick McConnell & Sid Gandi the Junior Cup winners and to Praveen Samarasinghe & Tom Waddups who won the Plate.

Intermediate Double Wicket Report

A good roll up of 22 players for the Intermediate Double Wicket. The winners of the first round going into the "Cup" were Myles Burgin & Christian Millgate, Udit Pillay & Nick Bertus, Jack Carney & Daniel Chatman, Jake Bailey & Omal Fernando, Luke Woodman & Samuel Bennetts and Michael Bennetts & Sam Shiel. Going into the "Plate" from the first round was Julian Wood & Blaine O'Brien, Matthew Samuels & Chris Gunton, Gabriel Joseph and James Galofaro, Riley Astill & Ryan Bailey and Daniel Mason & Ornob Abedin.

The results from the first round of the Cup were - Udit & Nick (32) def Myles & Christian (16), Daniel & Jack (25) def Luke & Sam (1), Michael & Sam (10) def Daniel & Ornob (10) (both teams lost two wickets with Michael & Sam hitting the only 4), Myles & Christian (16) getting a second chance as the highest scoring losing team. The Cup semi final saw Jack & Daniel (26) def Myles & Christian (0) and Michael & Sam (6*) def Udit & Nick (5). Michael & Sam (32) batted first in the Cup final with Michael hitting some big runs scoring 29 of the total. With Jack out early the pressure was on Daniel, needing 10 off the last over, then 2 from the last ball, which he hit for 4 with him and Jack winning the trophy.

Gabriel & James got a Bye in the first round of the Plate as the highest scoring losing team in round one. Julian & Blaine (24) def Matt & Chris (4), Daniel & Ornob (23) def Riley and Ryan (12). Riley & Ryan also went through to the semi final as the highest scoring losing team. In the Plate semi final Gabriel & James (52) def Julia & Blaine

(15) and Daniel & Ornob (11) def Riley & Ryan (5). Daniel & Ornob batted first scoring 21 runs. Gabriel took to the bowling hitting 3 sixes to reach the score in just two overs with him and James winning the Plate.

Highest individual scores – Gabriel Joseph (45), Daniel Chatman (30, 28 & 22), Michael Bennetts (29, 22 & 19), Nick Bertus (27 & 25) and Ornob Abedin (18)

Highest Team Total - Gabriel Joseph & James Galofaro (52)

Sixes scored 14 – Gabriel Joseph (6), Michael Bennetts (3), Daniel Chatman (2), Nick Bertus (2) and Matthew Samuels (1)

Most catches – Daniel Chatman (5), Christian Millgate (3), Luke Woodman (3), Sam Shiel (2), Ryan Bailey (2), Matthew Samuels (2) and Omal Fernando (2)

Thanks to Nigel and Merryn Bertus, Richard Woodman, Chris Springall, Sally Rich, Peter Gunton, Correne & Brad Astill, Robert Galofaro, Krishnan Pillay, Peter McLoughlin and all the others that did a magnificent job helping to make the day a lot of fun for the players and parents.

Congratulations to Daniel Chatman & Jack Carney our Intermediate Cup Winners and Gabriel Joseph & James Galofaro the Intermediate Plate winners.

Junior Representative Players

On Sunday the 17th the following boys from the U13/1 Gold represented Parramatta in the Cawsey and Gee Shileds finals, both of which Parramatta won.

Cawsey Shield: Blake Newman

Gee Shield: James Dallaway, Jack Delaney, Jack Michie, Joel Pienmunne and Mitchell Webb

All boys represented the Club and the District with distinction, the best performances being:

Blake Newman as captain of the Cawsy Shield team scoring 41 of the team's total of 76.

Gee Shield:

James Dallaway 3/29

Jack Delaney 44 (four 6s and two 4s)

Joel Pienmunne 1/2

Match Results and Reports

10 Blue	5 for 80	Kings Langley	9 for 93	Win on averages
No report submitted.				

10 Red	13 for 99	Winston Hills	9 for 114	Loss on averages
Stephen Burns 2/3 Dilshan Wijesena 2/8 Sanjit Vijaykumar 2/9				

A great toss to win & bat. A nice & dry ground for a change. We batted well with just about everyone pitching in with a few runs against a very good bowling & fielding team. Our running & calling between the wickets was excellent. Posting a total of 99, we thought that we were in for a good chance of defending this total. Week 2 saw an even drier ground & shorter grass which saw the ball go like a rocket. We had them under control until two of their batsmen carved us up with some big hitting. Some big positives came out of this game. Armaan bowling his best spell of the year. We could not believe that he did not get any wickets. Tim Peters with a great spell of 1/5. Also his best bowling of the season. Sanjit taking a few wickets. Stephen & Dilshan putting the brakes on with some great fast bowling & our fielding stepping up a notch with a lot better ground fielding & returns to the stumps. Well done boys.

10 White	9 for 145	Wenty Leagues	10 for 85	Win on averages
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The end of the second round games saw the Whites up against Wenty Leagues. Their first encounter in Round 5 resulted in a close win to the White's (Ave 8.88 to 7.22) but there has been considerable improvement since then. Although a big win was being targeted this game – BEWARE, Wenty leagues are probably the best all round fielding side in the competition (their throwing is outstanding!)

With Wenty Leagues' having graciously agreed to shorten Round 5 to a one day match due to a father and son soccer camp that affected six of the White's players (Nov 07), it was only fair to return the favour and assist them in playing this game with their reduced but enthusiastic team of 6/8 players (week 1/week 2 respectively). Thanks to all those White's who helped Wenty Leagues out in the field during week 1, and I'm sure their 8 batsmen enjoyed batting for an extended 27 ball innings instead of the usual 18. Efforts like this are a good lesson in true sportsmanship.

Oliver was Captain for this game. After winning the toss he elected to bat. It must have felt pretty strange for our batsmen to look up and see several team mates staring back at them from the field.

A big thanks goes to Ian Peisley for taking over the scoring duties during the manager's unavoidable absence. (Something about a weekend work conference – sure you say, but alas it was true). Brandon was thirteenth man for this game (2nd time this season), as he was feeling ill.

With the White's having now batted second in 7 of their 9 games so far it was a pleasant change to be setting a target rather than chasing one. After returning to the winning ranks following a Round 8 loss (only one so far) the White's were again confident of a good batting display (since when are nine year olds not confident?).

Scott (7 runs) and Patrick (3 runs) opened the batting. Both put on a steady opening stance with the loss of only one wicket – Scott dismissed caught, out for only the first time this season but also achieving his highest score for the year. Patrick has only been dismissed once this year also, and that was back in round one. Obviously both boys value their wicket highly, which will be especially important next year.

Oliver (4 runs) and Brendan (1 run) were the next batting pair. Both Oliver and Brendan continue to improve as the season progresses. Oliver enjoyed equalling his highest score (set in round nine) and the manager has already placed a bet (don't let me down!) that this will be beaten next game. Brendan was not so lucky this game, losing his wicket whilst trying to bat a little more aggressively. Not to worry though, as we should always remember that it's the 'not so good' games that make the 'good' ones even greater and next round is a whole new game.

Tarush (7 runs) and Nathan (5 runs) were next to bat. Tarush's batting continues to improve steadily and like Scott, he also produced his highest score of the season and did so without getting out. Nathan found batting slightly harder due to more than his fair share of wayward bowling but the effort to try and score is definitely there. Nathan was run out once.

Jason (10 runs), Jake (17 runs) and Michael (23 runs) followed as batsmen seven to nine. Each got off to a good start, especially Michael who hit three fours from his first four balls. All three boys batted with fine style and displayed a controlled aggression that our opposition is coming to fear. Combined, this trio produced 50 runs off the bat along with 13 extras in just

nine overs, a run rate of 7 per over without losing a wicket. Michael's performance comes as no surprise as his net sessions of the past few weeks have been very impressive, particularly his offside footwork and cover driving. His timing is excellent and there is no doubt he is currently enjoying a 'purple patch', he too producing his highest score for the season. Not to be out done, Jason also achieved his highest score of the year and did so with an innings of good patience. Jake once again batted well but was hampered by some wayward bowling that saw him face a total of 1 wide and 7 no balls from his 18 deliveries.

The last three to bat were Arsh (4 runs), Blake (9 runs) and Chris (11 runs). Once again all three boys batted well, losing just one wicket when Chris was run out trying to push the score along (perhaps a little too much). All up these three rounded out a good batting effort that saw a team result of 101 runs scored off the bat in a total of 145 runs for the loss of nine wickets.

Bowling Allowing Wenty Leagues to extend their batsmen's allotted deliveries from 18 to 27 meant that all boys got to bowl their full three overs each (and why not reward the Wenty batsmen with some extra batting when week after week they have to play with just half a team – their scorer expressed his thanks several times).

Scott (0/12) and Patrick (0/10) opened up our attack and both bowled quite well despite a couple of wayward balls. Neither was lucky enough to snatch a wicket, although both went close on more than one occasion.

Oliver (0/8) and Brendan (1/11) bowled next and like Scott and Patrick, made scoring difficult. Brendan added one more to his wicket tally for the year when Blake took a good catch at fine leg. Although Oliver didn't take a wicket the runs he concedes when bowling continues to improve tremendously.

Tarush (1/6) and Nathan (1/5) were bowlers five and six in our line up. As their figures suggest, both bowled economically and were rewarded with a wicket each. Tarush managed a caught behind to our first half wicket keeper Arsh and Nathan a fantastic caught and bowled for a great single-handed effort. Most impressively, this pair bowled only one no ball and no wides – truly a fine display of line and length bowling.

Jason (0/4) and Jake (2/5) were next and each tightened the screws on the Wenty Leagues run rate. Jason's bowling saw all his runs come in sundries, which is a little uncharacteristic of him, but even with a few sundries he managed to keep the Wenty batsmen scoreless from his three overs, which is no mean feat. Jake bowled well and after a couple of wayward deliveries found his rhythm grabbing two wickets just when the team needed them. His first a fine catch to Michael off a lofted straight drive and his second, a well-pitched delivery that crashed through the stumps.

Michael (1/3) and Arsh (0/5) followed on and kept Wenty's score from ticking over. Both boys bowled exceptionally well, Arsh getting through his three overs without a single no ball or wide. Together they bowled three maiden overs out of six and kept the pressure on Wenty with each and every ball they bowled. Michael managed one wicket when he knocked over the furniture with a terrific delivery that sent the bails flying. Arsh seems to be a little unlucky of late, his bowling deserving more wickets than he's getting.

Our final two bowlers were Blake (0/11) and Chris (0/4). Like the rest of the team Blake and Chris bowled well and minimised the scoring opportunities for Wenty. Blake didn't manage to get a wicket this game but with a sound batting effort, two run outs and a fine catch we might just let him off the hook. Chris too went without a wicket but could so easily have had a few with many balls looping off the bat just wide of several fieldsmen. Chris' bowling is really starting to develop with deliberate spin and varied flight and pace slowly creeping into his repertoire.

In total, the Whites produced a good bowling effort that showed consistency throughout the full 36 overs. The six wickets taken by our bowlers (including catches to Nathan, Arsh, Michael and Blake) tumbled regularly throughout the innings and were spread across five bowlers. Four run outs added to the wicket tally, showing the importance of good fielding to back up the bowlers' efforts. Although the averages at times were close, it never looked like anything other than a win to the White's. Well done to all!

Our wicket keepers this game were Arsh and Tarush, who both performed a difficult task admirably. Everyone's fielding was also of a high standard.

Man of the Match: Patrick & Scott (with so many good performances we couldn't pick just one)

Encouragement Award: Nathan & Oliver

Round 11 (1 & 8 Mar): Our Final Game for Season 2007/2008

Wenty Waratahs at Pitt Park – Frances Street, South Wentworthville.

Back where it all started.

11/3	10 for 23	Hills Barbarians	8 for 63, 3 for 59	First innings loss
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Day one, Baulko loss the toss and the Barbarians took the opportunity to bat first.

Our boys proceeded to put on their best bowling performance of the year restricting the opposition to 8 for 63 off 54 over's. This included an incredible 20 maidens bowled by Baulko, a monumental improvement from past matches.

Congratulations to all the boys beginning with Conner Ryan who opened the bowling and finished with figures of 0 for 3 off 6 over's including 4 maidens.

Jamie Bugden, 0 for 3 off 3 over's including 1 maiden.

Mitchell Gapper, 0 for 4 off 6 over's including 3 maidens.

Jimmie Farrell 0, for 6 off 6 over's including 4 maidens.

Cameron Olijnyk, outstanding 3 for 3 off 6 over's including 2 maidens.

Francis Farrell, 0 for 1 off 6 over's including 5 maidens.

Mark Johnston, 2 for 8 off five over's including 2 maidens.

Thomas Andrews, 1 for 6 off 5 over's including 2 maidens.

Nelson Bennett, 0 for 10 off 3 over's.

Sameer Ziae, 1 for 7 off 3 over's.

Mark Fosket, 0 for 2 off 3 over's including 1 maiden.

The whole team showed a level of enthusiasm on the field that had not been seen before and went home at the end of play looking forward to day 2 and the chance of recording their first win.

Day 2 did not go to plan and unfortunately the boys were bowled out for 23 runs in just over an hour of play. The scorer believes that the nerves played havoc with the boys anticipating that this could have been the day.

The opposition returned to the crease and decided to stay there, unless bowled out, rather than go for the outright win. Baulko managed to remove 3 of the wickets for 59 at the end of play with wickets to Nelson Bennett, Sameer Ziae and Mark Fosket. Congratulation boys, great bowling.

Next week we are at home for day 1 of our last match against the Pendle Hill Colts. Good luck to all the boys and we are looking forward to another great display of bowling and some patient batting.

11/2	10 for 44, 6 for 52	Seven Hills RSL	10 for 67	First innings loss
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What a match! Rohit was the Captain for this match. He duly won the toss and elected to bat on a wet pitch. We paid the penalty as we got out very cheaply, in spite of some excellent batting efforts by our team!

Then Seven Hills went into bat and made all the runs in no time. They needed just 13 to win on First Innings lead! Fortunately, the day one play ended. On day 2, it was bright and sunny and with only 10 players on board it was a tough ask to get 7 wickets within 13 runs. But we did manage a couple of wickets and they easily breezed past our total!

When we relaxed that they will soon end this match, to our horror, Tony, the Seven Hills Coach shocked us by revealing his intentions to go on for an outright! We didn't expect this! But we swung into action and with excellent spells of bowling from Ramal, Ritwick, Cameron & Jehan and spectacular catching efforts by James, Viva & Rohit, we were able to get them all out soon! (Oh! how I wish, we had displayed such a fight, on day one!)

Soon, it was our turn to bat and all players were clamouring to have a go for revenge! I had a tough time in selecting the openers and they did well to bat well and we soon cruised past the deficit! But that is not enough! We have to bat on to avoid them getting the outright. It was a very tough ask, but all the players responded wonderfully. Ritwick and Cameron played like seasoned professionals! Bravo guys! I have never seen such a disciplined batting! Cameron kept on asking me after every over, "can I start hitting?". Soon we managed to accumulate enough runs to discourage the over ambitious Tony to say that there is no way they could get their outright! Well done team! You all can be proud of yourselves.

Though everyone deserves an award, I have the tough task of naming a few:

Best Batting Award goes to Viva.

Best Bowling Award goes to Ramal.

The Super Catch of the Match Award goes to Viva for his spectacular diving catch at mid-on!

The Thriller Catch of the Match Award goes to James for a blinder of a catch at mid-off!

Next week, we are hosting Kellyville at our home ground. Bring it on!

11/1	10 for 89	Wenty Leagues	8 for 89	Tie
Well, an incredible game of cricket which left everyone with high levels of mixed emotions. On the one hand, we salvaged a backs-to-the-wall result which maintained our undefeated status when circumstances were very much against us. On the other hand, it was a game that we could/should have won if we had played to the best of our ability.				

It started with us batting first, and due to all the wet weather, it was the first time we had picked up the bat since early December. The rusty strokeplay was evident from the start, and our lack of time in the middle meant some seriously poor batting ensued. The outfield was long and wet, which hampered free run-scoring, but the opposition let us out of jail with some wayward bowling. In the end, we only managed a total of 89, which included 5 ducks, and 50 of those runs coming from sundries! More tellingly, we were all out in the 47th over, which handed Wenty an extra 8 overs with which to chase our score. In the batting department, Michael McConnell (12) showed glimpses of his immense talent, and Liam Dunshea (9 no), Tim Anstee (7), Daniel Waddups (4) and Nicholas Andrews (4) showed what can be done when patience is applied.

Wenty had 63 overs to score the required 89 runs, and they used every one of them.

With some good tight bowling and fielding, we had Wenty 1 for 8 after 8 overs to end Day 1, and it turned out that keeping them to the 1 run-an-over rate was maintained for long periods in week 2. In a disastrous start for us on Day 2, our opening bowler Liam was unavailable due to illness. However, I can proudly say that our bowling attack stepped up to the mark to strangle the run-scoring and apply significant pressure to the Wenty batsmen. We had them 4 for 34 off 40 overs, and 4 for 51 off 50 overs – which meant they needed 39 runs off the final 13 overs to win the game.

Unfortunately we put down 5 catches, missed 2 certain run-outs, and bowled far too many wides/no balls/byes (47 sundries), which assisted Wenty towards the total. Taking any one of the chances would have meant the game was ours. Wenty's top rep-playing batsmen scored 19 no (19 singles) from 50 overs, which, together with our 5 run-outs, illustrates the pressure we were able to apply to the Wenty batting line-up as they tried to run down our meagre total. We were just not able to make the killer blow. In the end, Wenty need 5 to win off the final over, but through some great bowling and fielding, we restricted them to 4 singles and a total of 8 for 89 – the match ending all tied.

Special credit should go to Michael McConnell for taking the responsibility to bowl the final over when we had used up all of our frontline performers. It was a majestic over when the pressure was well and truly on. Well done mate! Also, to the following bowlers for their tight and accurate bowling, some of who don't always get to bowl so many overs – James Gardiner (0 for 9 off 8), Owen Smith (1 for 9 off 8), Ryan Chelvarajah (1 for 7 off 8), Brad Rips (1 for 7 off 6), Michael Bellam (0 for 4 off 8) and Liam "We Missed You Week 2" Dunshea (0 for 1 off 3).

I've got to feel a little sorry for the Wenty coach. This was their 3rd tie this season! Unbelievable. We remain undefeated, but have a hell of a lot of work to do if we want to go all the way this year. Only one game in the season proper to iron out our kinks. Hopefully we will have sunshine all the way to the end of March.

12/2 Maroon	5 for 159	Kings Langley	10 for 62, 3 for 13	First innings win
Kings Langley won the toss and elected to bat.				

Utkarsh (0 for 11) and Hamzah (5 for 6) opened the bowling and soon had Kings Langley in trouble with both openers being dismissed by Hamzah with few runs on the board. However the Kings Langley batsmen dug in and despite some very accurate and tight bowling we were finding it difficult to take wickets. Then Hamzah came on for his second spell and had immediate success, ending with the very good figures of 5 for 6. Other bowlers to take wickets were Luke (1 for 12), Siddhant (1 for 1) and Ravi (1 for 3). Catches were taken by Utkarsh (2), Hamzah and Joshua and Sean made a good run out when fielding in the covers. Kings Langley eventually being dismissed for 62 in the 51st over. With plenty of time left we had 4 overs to face before the end of the days play. Luke and Siddhant opened the batting and at the end of the 4 overs we were 0 for 2.

The second Saturday saw Luke and Siddhant continue their innings. We lost our first wicket at 15 when Luke was caught in the gully. Ravi was in next and hit a good 4 before being bowled for 5. This saw Kunal come to the crease and unfortunately he was bowled for 1 soon after. Joshua's turn to bat and together he and Siddhant put on a 94 run partnership which saw us pass Kings Langley's score and put us in a position to go for an outright win. Joshua scored 40 and Siddhant 47. Sean made a quick fire 22 not out and Utkarsh was 1 not out when we declared at 5 for 159.

Kings Langley showed some good determined batting and were 3 for 13 in their second innings when play ended for the day. Bowlers to take wickets were Utkarsh (2 for 2) and Luke (1 for 3). Catches were taken by Utkarsh, Joshua and Kunal.

This was a very good effort by the boys, particularly in the field, and we witnessed some very good performances by Hamzah, with his bowling in the first innings with figures of 5 for 6, and batting from Siddhant (47), Joshua (40) and Sean (22 not out).

Player of the match went to Siddhant for his 47 and bowling figures of 1 for 1 in the first innings.

12/2 Gold	10 for 71, 10 for 57	Rouse Hill Rams	10 for 130	Outright loss
No report submitted.				

12/1	6 dec 81	Wenty Waratahs	10 for 35, 6 for 49	First innings win
No report submitted.				

13/3	10 for 30, 3 for 68	Kellyville	10 for 36, 10 for 59	First innings loss, Outright win
No report submitted.				

13/2	10 for 67, 8 for 40	Rouse Hill Rams	4 dec 129	First innings loss
This was always going to be a challenging game against the top of the table team. Rouse Hill won the toss and sent us into bat, on a slow outfield due to long and damp grass.				

The boys started cautiously and tried to build an opening partnership but the slow ground and accurate bowling made acquiring runs hard work. Unfortunately we lost some quick wickets and soon fell to 4-19. The middle and lower order battled hard to get a score on the board but unfortunately the team never really recovered and was bowled out for 67. The highlight of the innings was an excellent 32 by Tom Lockhart. Tom produced a mix of deft touches and powerful strokes and showed why, on his day, he is one of the very best batsmen in the side. The bowling today was very tight and quick – clearly the best bowling attack we had faced all year. At stumps Rouse Hill were 1-21 in reply.

The second day was also Rouse Hill's. By the drinks break they had built a lead and declared at 4-129. The bowlers worked hard but didn't have much luck. One wicket was taken by each of Nevin Arora, Ruben Robertson and Thomas Connell. Probably the highlight of the innings was a spectacular run out from a direct hit from cover by Ruben when Rouse Hill was taking a sharp single.

Forced to bat a second time the boys showed great character in trying to hold out a very good, disciplined and fast bowling attack. Wickets fell progressively but the focus was on defence and trying to hold wickets in hand. Despite a few heart attack inducing dismissals in the last half an hour, the guys showed tremendous resolve to hold Rouse Hill out. From the look of satisfaction on their faces you'd almost have thought we'd won.

The game was played in great spirit and we look forward to the last round against Kings Langley before (hopefully) moving into the finals.

13/1 Maroon	8 for 127	Wenty Waratahs	7 for 280	First innings loss
We sent Wenty in and bowled. They got on top of us and we were a bit short. Wenty batted very well and scored a very good 280. Josh Balzaro (2/19) and Matt Sibley (2/38) were the best although Greg Malyon bowled very well and was unlucky not to pick up wickets. We gave Wenty too many chances and they took the opportunity and posted a very good score.				

Our first goal in batting was to bat through the innings, which we did. In the context of the game, it wasn't a bad performance, although we need to learn how to score more runs and take the opportunities. Greg Malyon sealed an all round excellent performance with a top score of 36. Nick McConnell and James Senior were very good on 23 each.

We play BHCC Gold in the last round and look forward to a good game before (hopefully) the semi finals.

13/1 Gold	10 for 121	Kings Langley	5 for 178	First innings loss
Blake won the toss and elected for us to bat. Our innings did not get off to the best of starts, James being caught for a duck in the second over. Mitchell and Jack Michie set about restoring the innings and patiently got the score to 16 before Mitchell was out for 7. This brought in Blake, who played a typical captains innings scoring 34 with one 6 and three 4s. Blake and Jack Michie put on a 30 run partnership in 10 overs before Jack was run out pushing the score along. Our middle order was out of sorts and managed only a few runs each. Jack Delaney, hampered with a sore ankle, made a quick fire 10 (with one 6), Taseen 7 and Jonathan a duck. Seven down and only 75 on the board with plenty of overs to come, we were in trouble. Fortunately the tail 'wagged' and put on 46 run for the last three wickets. Brent was at his best with 24 valuable runs and shared good partnerships with Jack Farrel (6), Joel (2) and especially Anoop (4) to take the score to 121.				

We had a small total to defend and needed to bowl tightly and hold our catches to have any chance of a positive result. Although our bowling was quite good in the main, the occasional loose ball was enough to allow the King's Langley openers Alex and Mark to score at a reasonable rate and without any real pressure. They passed our 121 in the 27th over and made 115 and 44 respectively. Kings Langley batted on to the 40 over mark before calling a halt to the proceedings. Excellent bowling performances in a losing battle by Jonathan (4/16), Anoop (0/8), James (0/11) and Jack Farrel (0/12).

14/3	10 for 59, 10 for 37	Guildford Leagues	4 dec 117	Outright loss
No report submitted.				

14/2	8 for 96	Seven Hills RSL	7 for 177	First innings loss
Seven Hills won the toss and elected to bat. After taking 2 early wickets, some dropped catches and the occasional waywood over meant that the team did not maintain sufficient pressure on Seven Hills and they were able to reach the highly respectable total of 7 for 177. Ryan Bailey and James Galofaro were the pick of the bowlers, finishing with 2 for 20, and 2 for 28, respectively, both off 10 overs.				

Despite some useful starts, none of the early order batsmen were able to go on to the big score needed to chase a total of this magnitude. The position was not helped when Ryan Bailey was struck on the arm by a return while completing a run before he had scored and had to retire hurt. We slumped to 7 for 51 before Ryan returned and was the mainstay of the innings to finish with 24 not out.

The team now must win the last game against Rouse Hill Rams to make the semi-finals.

14/1	9 for 92	Pendle Hill Colts	10 for 84	First innings win
No report submitted.				

15/2	10 for 47, 4 for 35	Seven Hills RSL	7 dec 97	First innings loss
No report submitted.				

15/1	1 for 197	Pendle Hill Colts	10 for 172	First innings win
We sent Pendle Hill in on after winning the toss. Early wickets and runs were difficult to come by. Pendle Hill scored slowly but also had wickets in hand.				

The turning point in our bowling innings was when Tom Ortiz came on for his second spell taking 6 for 24 to give him final figures of 11 overs 2 maidens 7 for 31.

Tom was supported by Riley Astill taking one wicket and a run out each to Luke Woodman and Michael Bennetts.

We batted in the second week with Reece Wilde and Mathesha Gunaratne opening the innings. Reece was out in the 13th over for 14 runs which brought Daniel Chatman to the wicket.

Daniel and Matheesha saw us through to the end of the innings with Daniel ending with 100 not out from 118 balls and Matheesha finishing on a really solid 59 not out from 191 balls

A good solid win.

16/2	10 for 79	Winston Hills	10 for 185	First innings loss
No report submitted.				

16/1	10 for 109	Hills Barbarians	10 for 107	First innings win
No report submitted.				

B13	BYE	BYE		
Nothing to report.				

B12	10 for 187	Western Tigers	10 for 154	First innings win
No report submitted.				

B11	10 for 158, 0 for 32	Kellyville	10 for 78, 10 for 101	Outright win
Fantastic. That's the only way to describe our last match.				

At Sydney 2000 during the 100M finals the public announcer said, "Ladies and gentlemen, what a night. It's not often that we get to see history in the making let alone be a part of it. Tonight you will be a part of history..." He was right. What followed was beyond description – you had to be there.

Last Saturday's game was similar. You had to be there. For those who were there, it will be a game they will not forget easily. For the rest of you, well, this will have to do...

Let's start at the beginning. On the first Saturday the main surprise was that we got a game – the rain stopped long enough to Baulkham Hills Cricket Club

get a game. The second big surprise was to see Charuka's name on the team sheet as 12th man. The official story was that he was getting a well deserved rest from the rigours of grade cricket. In fact the press release stated that current player commitments to cricket and the launch of the IPL tournament was leading to significant player burn out, so a rotation policy had been adopted to give players the required time out from the hectic demands of park cricket.

However, as we all know press releases are not worth the paper they are printed on. Reading between the lines, it was clear that Charuka was asked by the chief selectors (C. Abhayawickrama) to clock up some runs in his back yard before putting his hand up for selection. Hence he brought entourage (batting coach and psychologist) to the ground to give him a work over in the nets. Batting coach Natasha and psychologist Charuni worked on him hard.

Meanwhile Atif was playing his farewell game in front of a packed house before heading out to Asia to join a rogue league in Singapore. He admitted they were paying him an obscene amount of money. He was going to hang up his cup after he had a bat and bowl on the first Sat, to be replaced the second Sat by superstar Sam David who has created a new cult known as "THUC" (Trigger Happy Umpire's Club). But as with all other team retirements Atif's was no different – he showed up on the second Sat in his whites for a game.

Before the game started Ricky had his hand up. When asked what he wanted, he said he put his hand up to be named man of the match at the end of the game. All the journos in the press booth diligently noted this down. Baner just sat quietly with a smile that said "we'll see about that".

The opponents, who always choose to bat first in the hope that they will be able to recruit four passers-by to bat for them during the course of their innings, won the toss and chose to do exactly that. They immediately sent in the night watchman along side their only real batsman and bowler – the skipper. The night watchman's duty was to simply stay there as long as possible so that they could recruit as many pedestrians as possible.

This was great for us because finally our opening bowlers had found two batsmen that made them look good. They pretty much left anything that was not heading straight for middle stump, which was pretty much everything. The scorer's had already filled in dots in advance in about 20 overs. Sam is considering a position with this team as their official scorer next year.

When the night watchman stuck his bat out he managed to get a huge edge that saw the ball go straight to second slip. Fortunately for him, our second slip, Atif, had no intention of catching it and promptly moved himself to the vacant third slip position. The ball, however, followed him. He managed to protect himself by deflecting the ball to the ground in a move that any black belt karate expert would have been proud of. The rest of his team mates clapped as he took a bow.

The very next over, the other opener also presented a dolly, again to Atif. This time he was not able to get out of the way in time and was forced to take drastic defensive measures – he first used his right hand and then his left to knock the ball away when it refused to go down the first time. Atif said he was intent on not even catching a cold since he had to travel soon ...

The dropped catches were not a problem because no runs were being scored anyway. In fact the fielders were getting bored of watching the grass grow.

Atif was given the ball as the crowd had been chanting to see Atif bowl one last time. Interesting he cut his run up and pace down by half. Polite inquiries into the reasoning behind this revealed that he had sold his car and was now going through life at a much slower pace. Although the pace was so slow and he was in danger of being ticketed for being well below the required minimum speed, the batsmen chose to leave everything alone.

With wickets being very scarce a couple of senior players had a quiet word in the skipper's left ear and then the right ear. The skipper shook his head in disagreement. The senior players swapped sides and repeated their suggestions, this time starting with the right ear and then the left ear. This time the skipper nodded in agreement that we needed to chase some runs to get some practice for the next match. We decided to unleash our secret weapon.

Against his better judgement he threw the ball to Ricky. All the fielders scattered. The skipper who was bored of bowling dot balls decided to don the wicket keeping gloves. Ricky had the batsman in stitches after he finally found page 2 of his bad joke book and cracked a couple of new jokes. He then tossed the ball up and let another joke rip while the ball was mid-flight. The batsman only managed to hit the ball straight up in the air and Ricky bagged the prize wicket with a caught and bowled.

Ricky quickly pointed at the press box and put his hand up. He felt he had done enough to be named man of the match.

But Dilshan felt he deserved the man of the match check instead after pulling off a couple of blinding catches. When he was unable to get out of the way of the ball that was travelling at pace, he stuck his hands out to protect his crown jewels and found the ball firmly lodged between his fingers. However, third time round he was not so lucky. The ball was hit for a six and the

only thing standing in the way of the ball and the boundary was Dilshan's future generation. He was standing less than 10 feet away from the batsman. Suffice it to say that Dilshan's future son has already dropped his first catch. Dilshan was disappointed with his future son's performance, so much so that he decided to lie down on the ground and hold the match up for a good 10 minutes before storming off the field, uttering incohesively and refusing to play for another 20 minutes.

The skipper had seen enough and decided it was time to put the gloves aside and bowl again. He took the ball and immediately found himself on a hat trick. Although he failed to get the hat trick he did manage to wrap up the tail very quickly, leaving us a target of 78 runs to get with about 25 overs of the day to go...

As we all know, 78 runs is about 50 runs more than what we are normally comfortable chasing. Sam who was also on the team rotation schedule had shown up at the grounds to provide some support. When we were struggling to find a volunteer for umpiring duties, the skipper asked Sam if he would like to do the honours. Surprisingly he turned down the opportunity but offered to teach a couple of the young guns (Aiyesh and Ricky) the art of raising the finger.

The batting got underway and we managed to slowly edge our way towards about 30 runs before the inevitable happened. The bowler, who normally plays for his school's under-12 year managed to get the ball to swing to the right and then to the left before going straight pass the batsman down the leg. The ball clipped the batsman's rear end on the way to the keeper. The batsman admits to having had a healthy dose of masala dossai the previous day, but vehemently rejects accusations that he made an undue sound as the ball passed him. However, there was a sound and the opponents all cleared their throats in unison. The umpire failed to realise these boys were simply practicing for the school choir and immediately raised his finger in Sam-like fashion.

Sam was seen on the side lines sporting a very proud look ... The batsman was completely baffled and stood his ground, not sure if the umpire was asking the bowler to leave the field for excessive appealing. When the batsman was told to get on his bike, he walked off in a daze and was so confused that he walked straight past the pavilion and ended up in the kids play ground. He was unable to speak for a while.

Atif was given a promotion, after he announced his retirement. He got off to a good start before walking down the pitch and having a ball that would have been a wide down leg hitting him on the pad when he was half-way down the pitch. The bowling side decided to clear their throats again, following the success of the first appeal and sure enough, the umpire's finger went up in Sam-like fashion.

The umpiring standard has prompted complaints to the cricket board, with the BCCI (Baulkham hills Cricket Control Inthepark) threatening to force the ICC to send these two umpires into exile to join Bucknor. The ICC has slapped the two umpires with a fine for a Level 1.6 offence under the ICC Code of Conduct regulation. That section relates to "pointing or gesturing towards the pavilion in an aggressive manner ... upon the dismissal of a batsman."

Prasad and Lasith then came together to move the team towards the required total until Lasith managed to get himself out in a very uncontroversial manner. This gave Dilshan an opportunity to come out and get us over the line before the end of the day. At this stage we had to get about 25 runs in half an hour. As soon as Prasad got wind of this he went nuts and started knocking everything. In two overs we were home.

Dilshan was then asked by Prasad to block out the remaining over so that he could open the batting the following week and have a go. He nodded firmly. He got out the next ball looking to block the ball over the cow-corner boundary. This resulted in a small dilemma as all the batsmen who had been padded up had already changed their gear and were ready to go home.

Baner got an immediate promotion and five of the guys helped him pad up, similar to an F1 car doing a pit stop. Baner was sent out to the middle without a guard and asked to see the last two balls of the day out. All the fielders were placed around the bat. The first ball was a ripper and Baner played a beautiful forward defense that even Tendukar would be proud of. The second ball was a full toss that got the treatment.

The day ended well and Baner was pumped to open the batting the following week. More on this to come...

The following week came and Baner faced up. It only took the bowler a few balls before Baner managed to get one to swing to the left, then to the right and then instead of swinging back to the left it just disappeared between bat and pad. This foxed the old master and he was on his bike.

Chani then made the walk out and realised it was far too hot to bat, so he walked back. Prasad agreed with Chani and also made his way back. This left Rav, Aiyesh, Ricky and Sacha with the usual job of finding a way to give the bowlers something to bowl at. Nirav, however, cool and calm as usual was confident we had enough runs, so he left it to Aiyesh and Ricky.

Ricky asked the umpire for the off stump guard so he could claim everything that was plumb was going down leg. Aiyesh was Baulkham Hills Cricket Club

going well, hammering everything for quick singles. Aiyesh had his sleeves rolled up as usual all the way to his shoulders to intimidate the bowlers. He kept telling Ricky to use his brain, rather than his bat. This confused Ricky.

Then Aiyesh got one of those balls that pretty much went straight but will go down in the books as swinging right, left and cutting off the pitch at a 90-degree angle to take off middle stump. This put all the responsibility of batting on the shoulders of Ricky. Sacha came out and eyed the boundary. Ricky also decided it was time to find the boundary and swung wildly at the next delivery. The ball literally broke the middle stump in half and Ricky and Sacha did find the boundary on their way back to the pavilion as they carefully crossed over it without tripping.

With a 70 run lead, the opponents took the field and provided some good resistance. When the opening bowlers failed to make a dent, Aiyesh started his chant “at his toes and up his nose”. No bowler has yet figured out how to do this and it was suggested that Aiyesh find another page from that book he has been quoting all season.

Atif who had come out of retirement for one last hurrah was given the ball. Then Ricky was thrown the ball as well to buy some wickets. In a completely unusual turn of events, the team started catching everything that came their way and we finally started making some inroads.

When the last pair was at the crease, they still needed six more runs to make us bat again. This last pair proved to be their best batsman as they kept going and going and going... Everyone was given a bowl and no one looked like getting them out. That's when skipper Nirav decided it was once again time for him to show how it was done...

He finally removed the last pair with another peach of a delivery. Only problem was that this partnership had put them 22 runs ahead of us and there was only enough time for 2 overs in the match. This meant we needed 22 runs in 12 balls on a ground that only permitted sixes and singles because the grass was so thick. The equation was simple – two runs a ball. The opponents had an equally simple equation and were odds on favourite to win as they only needed 10 wickets and had 12 balls to get them in.

The regular openers were asked to pad up and be ready at # 10 and 11 so they could draw the match in a last wicket stand. Meanwhile, skipper Nirav took Prasad out to the middle with him with one simple order – swing like mad and run like mad.

Rav took leg stump guard and then stood two feet outside leg. He tonked the first ball to the boundary, but it only got as far as mid-off. We managed to get 2 runs out of it. We were on target. The second ball also got tonked and Nirav then managed to hit one for 4. Prasad hit a skier which was dropped close to the boundary, resulting in two more being added to the score and at the end of the first over we had 11 runs on the board. On target.

The second over started with Nirav hitting a solid drive in the air for 4. He then clocked the next one for 6 and the scores were level. The third ball then got hit out of the park in Jayasuriya like fashion. We still had three balls to spare! Ricky who was umpiring at the time had his finger raised but fortunately no one was paying attention.

All in all, it was definitely a captain's knock with the bat and a captain's performance with the ball. Ricky still had his hand up to be named man of the match. And although the committee struggled between the seven potential man of the match performers (R Kapoor, N Goradia, D Fonseka, N Dias, N Dias, N Dias, N Dias), the award was given to Nirav for that incredible performance. Prasad did point out that without his running between the wickets we would have been about 3 runs short. Ricky also rightly pointed out that without his umpiring effort at the end we would have been one umpire short. Dilshan who had already left did not have a chance point anything out.

All this controversy aside, it was a match that will not be forgotten easily... it's the kind of match you would pay good money to see... Well done, boyz...

B10		BYE	BYE	
Nothing to report.				
B9	10 for 65, 10 for 51	Seven Hills RSL	10 for 96, 0 for 18	Outright loss
No report submitted.				
B8	10 for 97	Guildford Leagues	10 for 135	First innings loss
No report submitted.				
B5	10 for 22, 10 for 81	Rouse Hill Rams	10 for 146	Outright loss
No report submitted.				

B4	10 for 170	The Bulls	9 for 180	First innings loss
No report submitted.				

B2	10 for 115, 5 for 107	Seven Hills RSL	7dec 171	First innings loss
No report submitted.				

B1	10 for 211	Inka Warriors	10 for 146	First innings win
No report submitted.				

A	10 for 153	Seven Hills RSL	10 for 112, 1 for 94	First innings win
Baulkham Hills won the toss and elected to bowl. On a pitch where there was movement early on, our bowlers did well against our arch-rivals (also the chance to end their season) to restrict and bowl them out for 112. We held all our catches and bowled tight lines. At the end of Day 1, we were 2/45.				

Bowlers:

Sumit Kalia 3/3 from 5

Trent Hession 2/10 from 6

Day 2 saw a flat pitch and ideal batting conditions with our team taking full toll on a weak seven-hills bowling line up. The plan was to get the runs ASAP and we did that in the 1st hour. Our decision to bat on was welcomed with un-educated sledging from the opposition. With quick runs on our mind and time running out, our batters squeezed out a 40 run lead and gave us 90mins at them. This soon fizzled out to a 2nd innings draw as they posted quick runs on a flat/dead wicket.

Batters:

Sumit Kalia 59

Chris Marj. 47

With 1 round left, a win would guarantee us a semi-final spot and a shot at the title. Great effort by the team, good all-round performance!