

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.baulkocricicket.com.au To see your team's results, go to baulkocricicket.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@baulkocricicket.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@baulkocricicket.com.au by Tuesday night after the game. Newsletters will be published during the week after a game.

Team Performances:

B9	0 dec 163 (2nd inn)	13/2A	Outright win
13/1	1 for 186		

Individual Achievements

Ben Dooley	A	107 no	Jack Farrell	14/1A	3/3
Keenan Galas	A	4/5	Nick McConnell	14/1B	35 & 2/18
Jono Bocking	B2	49	Josh Balzarolo	14/1B	3/1
Brad Murphy	B2	5/39	Greg Malyon	14/1B	3/26
Steve Sarlog	B2	3/5	Tom Lockhart	14/2	54
Andrew Murphy	B7A	39	George Joseph	13/1	85
Roger Deane	B7A	4/16	Amar Subramaniam	13/1	46
Brett McLaren	B7A	3/26	Bryce Stewart	13/1	3/13
Tony Senior	B8	48	Jackson Manning	13/2A	52
Tony Senior	B8	5/27 & hatrick	Sean Svenetti	13/2A	37
Evan Platt	B8	36	Jackson Manning	13/2A	3/4
S Sebastian	B9	5/22 & 110no	James Gardiner	12/1	4/6
Adam Meakins	B10	4/18	S Fernando	12/2	4/7
Grant Korny	B10	4/26	M Price	12/2	3/9
Adam Fahey	B13	5/14	Jimmy Farrell	12/3	52
Michael Bennetts	16/1	42 & 4/24	Blake Peisley	11/1	50
D Mason	15/1	3/14	Jason Luther	11/1	30
Jack Carney	15/3	45	Dilshan Wijesena	10R	3/10
Mitchell Webb	14/1A	54	Angad Malhotra	10R	2/6
James Dallaway	14/1A	28	Shane DeSilva	10R	2/6
Joel Pienmunne	14/1A	4/21			

Team Rosters

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 7 2009	B2	14/2
March 14 2009	B8	10 Blue & White
Teams have also been rostered during the semi-finals and finals.		
March 21 2009 (Saturday)	B9	13/1
March 22 2009 (Sunday)	B10	13/2A
March 28 2009 (Saturday)	B11	12/1
March 29 2009 (Sunday)	B13	12/2

Canteen Roster – Charles McLaughlin Oval

Teams have also been rostered to man the canteen at Charles McLaughlin Oval during the semi-finals and finals. 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 21 2009 (Saturday)	No Junior Matches	14/3
March 22 2009 (Sunday)	No Junior Matches	13/2B
March 28 2009 (Saturday)	No Junior Matches	12/3
March 29 2009 (Sunday)	No Junior Matches	11/1

Meat Raffle Roster

The following teams have been rostered to sell tickets for the Saturday Night Raffle, to be held back at the club after the game. Please make every effort to ensure your team helps out in this important fundraiser for the club.

This season the raffles are only being held on the first week of every senior game.

Ticket sales are to start by 6:30pm.

DATE	TEAM
March 7 2009	B13

Junior Double Wicket Competition

This year it was a relatively small turn out of only 12 players, thanks to two weeks of wet weather and Michael Clarke Twenty20 commitments.

After some minor confusion six teams of two were quickly sorted and play got underway. All teams played two games each, the top four going into the semi-finals of the cup and the two winners playing the cup final. The plate final was decided between the teams that finished in 5th and 6th place, with positions based on for and against run totals. As we had plenty of time in the day, all round games were played to the end of each teams innings, even if a result was already achieved.

The results of the round games were as follows:

Round Games

Stephen Burns & Jasan Grewel (2/19)	Def.	Sid Gandhi & Nathan Hamilton (2/11)
Sumal Fernando & Sean Svanetti (0/29)	Def.	Luke Bertus & Sid Sanjay (2/0)
Joshua King & Chris Blinman (2/9)	Def.	Stephen Burns & Jasan Grewel (2/3)
Daniel Leafe & Jayden Stafford (2/25)	Def.	Sumal Fernando & Sean Svanetti (2/6)
Sid Gandhi & Nathan Hamilton (2/28)	Def.	Joshua King & Chris Blinman (2/8)
Luke Bertus & Sid Sanjay (2/22)	Def.	Daniel Leafe & Jayden Stafford (2/19)

As luck would have it, everyone won one game.

For the semi-finals, the results were much closer. Games were based on 1st v 4th and 2nd v 3rd. The results of the semi-finals were as follows:

SEMI-FINALS

1st – Daniel Leafe & Jayden Stafford (1/10)	Def.	4th – Stephen Burns & Jasan Grewel (1/9)
2nd – Sid Gandhi & Nathan Hamilton (1/28)	Def.	3rd – Sumal Fernando & Sean Svanetti (0/27)

Finals were therefore decided between Joshua King & Chris Blinman v Luke Bertus & Sid Sanjay in the plate final, and Daniel Leafe & Jayden Stafford v Sumal Fernando & Sean Svanetti in the cup final. The results were:

PLATE FINAL

Joshua King & Chris Blinman (1/25)	Def.	Luke Bertus & Sid Sanjay (2/10)
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CUP FINAL

Sumal Fernando & Sean Svanetti (1/30)	Def.	Daniel Leafe & Jayden Stafford (2/22)
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The cup final was a topsy-turvy game for all of its 6.2 overs. Daniel and Jayden bowled first and had the scores of Sean and Sumal tied right down at 1/11 after three overs. Unfortunately for Jayden, Sean took to his last over blasting 19 more runs to set a total of 1/30. Chasing, Daniel and Jayden got off to a horror start with Daniel caught for nought off only the third ball of the innings. Looking like it was all over, Jayden then took to Sean with a very long handle (payback), blasting 18 runs of his first over to have them 1/21 after two overs. Needing only nine more runs from 12 balls, Jayden was bowled by a cracker of a ball from Sumal two balls into the third over, stopping the run chase at 2/22. And who said cricket was exciting!

Once again the double wicket competition was played in good spirits with all boys mixing well and taking to their partners in no time at all. With only 12 players and two batting at all times, fielding was a challenge for the remaining ten. And then came Harrison, an absolute trooper who fielded (as a sub) all day long, enjoying every minute of it too. An excellent effort by any standard and what an arm for his size!

Highlights from the day include:

- Sixes to Jayden Stafford (3), Sean Svanetti (2), Sid Gandhi (2), Nathan Hamilton (1) and Luke Bertus (1).
- Fours to Sean Svanetti (7), Luke Bertus (5), Jayden Stafford (4), Daniel Leafe (1), Joshua King (1) Chris Blinman (1), Nathan Hamilton (1), Stephen Burns (1) and Sid Gandhi (1).
- Most runs to Sean Svanetti (64).

- Batting Average to Sean Svanetti (64.00).
- Highest individual score to Sean Svanetti (23).
- Most wickets to Sumal Fernando (5).
- Bowling Average to Stephen Burns (6.00).
- Most economical bowling to Jasan Grewel (1.75 runs/over).
- Best bowling figures to Sumal Fernando (2/0 off 0.4 overs).
- Most ducks to Daniel Leafe (3).

OK, so perhaps the last one isn't a highlight, but it's just not cricket if you don't mention the duck tally. And before anyone else says anything, there were seven others ducks on the day too!

Let's hope a few more teams turn up next year, because this really is one huge day of fun. Congratulations to all winners and thanks to all who helped organise and run the day.

Intermediate Double Wicket Competition

The intermediate double wicket competition for the under 14s, 15s and 16s was conducted at Ted Horwood no. 2 on Sunday 22 February 2009. The following 26 players participated. Daniel Chatman, Omal Fernando, Haythan Shokry, Anshul Kapila, Amit Balakrishnan, Matthew Samuels, Daniel Mason, James Benton, Jack Dwyer, James Senior, Ryan Bailey, Trent Samuels, Jake Bailey, Josh Stevenson, James Galofaro, Josh Balzarolo, Chris Gunton, Sam Bennetts, Michael Waddups, Jack Farrell, Jack Carney, Jack Michie, Joel Pienmunne, Praveen Samarasinghe, Blake Newman, and Antonio Castellarin. The attendance from the under 16s was obviously constrained by the team's semi-final of the Michael Clarke Twenty20 comp. that afternoon.

As in previous years, first round losers progressed to the Plate with first round winners going into the Cup. The Plate semi-finals saw Ryan Bailey and Trent Samuels 27 defeat Matthew Samuels and Amit Balakrishnan 19, and Jake Bailey and Josh Stevenson achieved the 18 run victory target set by Jack Carney and Jack Michie. This set up a Bailey v Bailey final. In the Plate final, Ryan Bailey and Trent Samuels batted first and reached 1 for 19 off their 4 overs. Jake Bailey and Josh Stevenson weren't able to keep up with the run rate required and were eventually dismissed for 12 with only 4 balls remaining.

The first Cup semi-final saw Blake Newman, and Antonio Castellarin score 27 runs which they were able to defend by dismissing Jack Dwyer and James Senior for 20. The second semi-final saw the revised pairing of Haythan Shokry and Anshul Kapila taking on James Galofaro and Josh Balzarolo. Haythan and Anshul coming together following the departure of their respective partners, Daniel Chatman and Omal Fernando. Haythan and Anshul put up a great effort to score 10 in their innings. However, James and Josh were able to achieve the 11 runs needed for victory in the third over.

This resulted in a Cup final contested by Blake Newman, and Antonio Castellarin verses James Galofaro and Josh Balzarolo. Antonio and Blake batted first and reached 1 for 23 off their 4 overs. Given the relatively slow outfield, this was a challenging target. Unfortunately for James and Josh they were quickly dismissed for only 2 runs in the first over. Blake and Antonio running out worthy winners of the Cup.

A total of 20 6s were hit on the day. Multiple 6 hitters being Antonio Castellarin, Jack Dwyer, Omal Fernando, Matt Samuels, and Trent Samuels, not to be outdone by his older brother.

Special thank you to Peter Newman, Tony Senior, and Peter McLoughlin for umpiring, Jyrki Pienmunne, and Rob Galofaro for scoring, and Ian Chatman for general organisation and preparing the score sheets.

The President's Roundup

With just one more round to play and sadly for some times, that will be the end of 2008/2009. To all those players, coaches, managers, senior captains, parents and friends, thanks for your support this season. BUT, you don't have to stop there! Get along to the semis and finals over the last two weekends this month and support the Baulko teams in contention for the premierships. To the mighty midgets in the U10's, we hope you enjoyed your season and hope to see you all back next season.

Coming into the last round, we had 9 of our 10 senior sides either in the semis or in contention. In juniors, we had 9 teams in contention for finals, with another few a chance of making it. Good luck to all teams this round.

To those teams who miss the semis, just a reminder that you may have to provide an umpire for the semis. Be ready and have someone lined up. The same will apply to any team losing the semis (hopefully none)!

The last round was a bit up and down, with both wins & loses. But a highlight was a maiden century in A Grade to Ben Dooley, who made 107 not out. A Grade, under the leadership of Sumit Kalia, has been consistent performers all season and we wish them luck in the finals (and all other teams too!).

The Seniors v Colts match planned for this Sunday, 8 March, has been cancelled. We were unable to get enough players to fill the teams, so we will look at holding it in the first half of the 2009/2020 season.

The Trivia night was held last week at the sports club. The attendance was reasonable and all present seemed to have a good night. Thanks to all teams and individuals who donated prizes. Your donation helped make the night a success and we raised around \$1200 for the club. It will help with the provision of equipment etc for next season. Thanks to the Social Committee who worked very hard to make the night a success and also to the markers – Leigh, Rick, Karyn & Chris, as well as super computer operator Sally!

Junior team photos were completed last Saturday and so we look forward to all those smiling faces. What were some of the calls by the photographer – “legends, undies?” Thanks to all team officials for your assistance. Your co-operation helped the event to run smoothly.

The 90th Anniversary dinner is fast approaching – Saturday 14 March is the date and bookings can only be accepted until this Sunday – 8 March. So get in or miss out on hearing Kerry O’Keeffe as our guest speaker. The event will be held at the Baulkham Hills Sports Club, commencing at 7.00pm. Tickets cost \$60 each and this price includes a three-course dinner and some of our special 90th anniversary wines. Get in soon to avoid disappointment. Contact Peter McLoughlin or Rick Thomas to book.

The U16's played in the final of the Michael Clarke Twenty/20 competition at the SCG last Sunday. Although they were beaten, they put in a fine performance and just to get the chance to play on the SCG was fantastic. I attended the game and it was a thrill to see Baulkham Hills playing on the SCG! And there were quite a few Baulko supporters in attendance as well. Plenty of photos with the boys names on the SCG scoreboard. How good would it be to say I took a wicket or scored runs on the SCG! For me, a duck would be inevitable, but then again, Glenn McGrath and many other famous players have done that! Well done to the team and coaches Ian Chatman and Geoff Newsome.

Last time I mentioned that Sean Abbott had made AIS Development Squad in 2009. Since then Sean has been selected in the Australian U19 team to play India in April. Sean has also been selected in a 31 player preliminary squad for the 2010 ICC U19 World Cup. Well done Sean, it is well deserved.

Don't forget our member's badge draw and meat raffle. There are 3 dates left – Saturday 7 March, Saturday 21 March and the Grand Final BBQ on Sunday 29 March at the Sports Club. Your name and membership number must be registered with Rick Thomas, so do it now for a chance to win \$100 or even \$300 on the last date!

Last, but certainly not the least, our Junior Secretary Ian Chatman is standing down at season's end, after 4 years in the job. Ian has done a marvellous job and before he took over the role he helped George for a couple of years. Ian's contribution has been very much appreciated by all and especially me. Thanks for the super effort Ian.

Remember, your club is only as strong as the committee who run it and we need to ensure we have a good committee. So, please think about joining the committee for the upcoming season.

Don't forget the end of season duties – you will be getting a checklist soon. Please carry out all those duties ASAP after you season is complete.

Peter McLoughlin
President

Child Protection Issue

The following email was received from Cricket NSW on Tuesday and was read at the monthly meeting. Please take note of it and refer any instances of trouble to one of the committee immediately if you experience a similar problem.

Dear cricket team manager and/or coach,

An unauthorised, adult male was seen at an u15 cricket match on Saturday 28th February 2009 in the Manly area seeking names of particular players. When approached, his explanation of being a talent scout for Cricket Victoria has again proved to be incorrect.

This is the same explanation given by an observer of junior cricket on Sunday 23rd November 2008 in the Manly area and Saturday 29th November in the Concord area [thought to be driving a BMW].

Please be more vigilant than you usually are for uncharacteristic viewers of any junior cricket you are involved in. If in doubt, request an adult [ideally a ground manager, if appointed, or home team coach/manager] to politely approach the person concerned and seek an explanation for his presence. If unsatisfied with the response and the person concerned does not leave the ground, ensure the immediate well-being of players and spectators, then undertake one of the following 2 options -

1. Council Rangers are often on-call on weekends, their numbers listed in most Council directories.
2. Ring the local Police Station, their number also listed through most phone directories [accessible by mobile telephone].

Please also report the events to your cricket Association and onto their administering body, likely to be the NSW Districts Cricket Association.

I trust none of these measures need to be taken, however, in situations like those described above it is far better to be forewarned.

Match Results and Reports

10 Blue	14 for 99	Wenty Leagues	22 for 136	Win on averages
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Our skill level is high at the right end of the season. The guys are all obviously enjoying their season so far. We still have a bit of work to do with our field positioning, but overall a great win.

10 Red	11 for 51	Kings Langley	18 for 96	Loss on averages
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Dilshan Wijesena 3/10, 2 catches, 2 stumpings & 1 run out.

Angad Malhotra 2/6

Shane DeSilva 2/6

A great toss to win with long wet grass, made it an easy option to bowl first. Some cowboy hitters in their side found the boundaries but we pegged them back with some tight bowling & only 3 of our bowlers did not pick up a wicket. Dilshan stood out with 2 great caught & bowled & general energetic fielding. The best thing to come out of week one was the way we adapted to the ridiculous condition of this ground & coming away virtually injury free. To keep them under a total of 100 was a great effort. Week 2 saw us lose this game before we even walked out to bat. With 2 players calling in sick on game morning & big thick clumps of grass everywhere made it an almost impossible task. Our batsmen got frustrated at not getting value for their shots & started playing shots that they would not normally play trying to get runs. Several run outs cost us dearly as the ball just stopped after being hit really hard. To lose this game after being undefeated all year was very disappointing. A game where local knowledge & how to bat to the conditions cost us the game. The same game on our ground would have seen an easy win for us.

10 White	11 for 131	Hills Barbarians	7 for 125	Loss on averages
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Baulko won the toss and decided to bat.

Malachi (19) and Tom (17 no) opened the batting and got us off to a great start. Next in to bat was Nicholas (7) and Harrison (15 no) who kept the score moving along nicely. They were followed by Blake (11) and Sheehan (16) who both continued the good batting displayed so far in the innings. Next in was Johan (10) and Jaelyn (8) followed by Eric (3), Binara (9 no), Yasith (12) and Sarthak (4). During the latter part of our innings we lost 5 wickets to run outs, and while these were mostly due to some good fielding from Hills Barbarians they could have been avoided, and they ultimately proved very costly to our chances of winning the game. Nevertheless we ended up with a competitive total and if we bowled and fielded well we were in with a chance to win the game.

Baulkos turn to bowl and Eric (0 for 12) and Yasith (1 for 15) opened the bowling and did a great job, Yasith taking a wicket with his very first ball. This was also Eric's best spell of the season. Next to bowl were Jaelyn (0 for 7) and Binara (1 for 9). Jaelyn, in particular bowled very well and was unlucky with 2 catches put down off her bowling, while Malachi made a smart stumping off Binara's bowling. Sarthak (0 for 13) and Nicholas (1 for 16) kept up the pressure with good line and length and during this spell we achieved a run out when Binara combined with Malachi to catch the Hills Barbarian batsmen short of the crease. Next to bowl was Tom (0-15) and Sheehan (1 for 9), followed by Blake (0 for 11), Harrison (0 for 16) and Malachi (2 for 2). Although we scored more runs than Hills Barbarians their average was better as they lost fewer wickets than us.

Best Performances:

Batting – Malachi 19; Tom 17 no; Sheehan 16; Harrison 15 no

Bowling – Malachi 2 for 2

Fielding – Sheehan 1 catch; Malachi 1 stumping; Binara 1 run out

11/2	10 for 85	Pendle Hill Colts	7 for 271	First innings loss
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No report submitted.

11/1	3 dec 116	Wenty Leagues	10 for 65, 8 for 16	First innings win
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Our good fortunes roll on and our form continues to improve. How close this was to an outright victory. Michael French was captain this round and in winning the toss he elected to bowl on what was a wet and longish field. This turned out to be a good choice.

Continuing with the team's practice of giving everyone a fair go, batting and bowling orders were again shuffled to ensure input remains as even as possible.

Patrick Hassarati and Blake Peisley opened the bowling and it wasn't long before the wickets began to fall. In fact it took just four balls for Patrick to snag the first wicket in the first over of the game. Blake soon followed with wickets in the fourth and eighth overs to make it 3/9, and it seemed our opening pair was determined to make it a short day in the field. Pat also came

back at the end of the innings for a brief cameo picking up a second wicket with accurate bowling.

Luke Jerome and Jake Smith bowled as first changes at each end. Both did a good job of holding back the runs but neither quite getting the break through. Luke yet again showed how hard it is to score off his bowling with all three runs from his three overs being sundries. Jake dropped a little short, ruffling up a few of the Wenty batsmen who clearly didn't like the extra bounce.

Luke McGuinness and Chris Blinman followed suit and together bowled another seven overs for just six runs. Although Wenty were unable to score a single run off the bat during these overs, the five wides and one no ball meant the sundries tally was really starting to climb.

Nathan Hamilton and Michael French came on next and finally the fourth wicket fell in the 21st over thanks to a great catch to wicket keeper Jason from a swinging ball from Nathan. Runs were again limited but extras continued to mount in what was now becoming an unnecessary donation of runs.

Ibteeda Masud, Arsh Kapila and Ramal Rajapakse were our last three bowlers. Thankfully the sundries slowed and the wickets flourished. Ibteeda claimed a wicket after a fine catch to Luke M. Luke M also got a fantastic run-out following some quick thinking in the field. Luke M backed up the stumps at the keepers end when our keeper fielded a ball, Luke claiming the return one-handed and dislodging the bails in no time at all.

At the end of the innings Wenty were dismissed for 65 runs from 38 overs. Unfortunately, the sundries tallied 43 runs with 25 wides and 13 no balls. Although our bowling was good, discipline was lacking.

A brief stint with the bat before the close of play on day one saw Blake and Nathan stride to the crease with the orders of not getting out and for Nathan to have a go due to his impending absence for week two. After eight overs we finished the day at 0/17, Nathan getting a quick fire 13 after playing himself in for an over or two.

Week two came and Ibteeda replaced Nathan at the crease, as Nathan was no doubt sunning himself somewhere in Fiji. Unfortunately, Ibteeda didn't last long, skying an early ball for a catch with the score only one run advanced. This brought Arsh to the crease.

Arsh and Blake set about putting together a solid partnership, each playing excellently in defence and punishing the loose ball for four or six. Although Arsh seemed to be in complete control, a fantastic delivery saw him bowled for 10 by an out-swinging yorker. At 3/32 we were only half way there.

Jason was our next batsman and after a couple of overs it seemed as though we had no more worries in reaching a solid score. Jason played a fine knock for an understated 30 not out, a personal best, scoring freely from most balls and supporting Blake who eventually retired on 50 not out. This is Blake's highest ever score and was by far his most impressive batting effort this year. Blake is proving himself to be difficult to dismiss and finally started using those shoulders to put wayward balls over the fence.

Michael French also chipped in with a brief knock of 1 run from five balls before the coach declared the innings closed at 3/116, a lead of 51 runs.

With only an hour and ten minutes left in the day we once again went to field with the aim of getting 10 wickets in 70 minutes, a very difficult task indeed. Using our top five or six wicket takers for the season we managed to push through 24 overs of outstanding bowling and fielding ending the days play with Wenty reeling at 8/16, and a ninth retired hurt. All six bowlers were unbelievable with wickets to Arsh (1/5 from 4 overs), Ibteeda (2/3 from 4 overs), Chris (1/0 from 5 overs), Jason (2/1 from 4 overs) and Jake (2/1 from three overs), all this and not a single wide or no ball. Five catches went to Arsh (1), Michael (2), Ibteeda (1) and Luke J (1). Arsh's catch being the standout when a ball was skied almost straight up and a mile high but there was no way Arsh was missing it. All catches were good but Arsh's was in another league.

At the end of play Baulko won on 1st innings, although an outright was surely only an over or two away. Most impressive this game was our commitment during our batting, our outstanding bowling and our improvement in fielding and catching. We are now starting to get close to the form of just prior to Christmas and at the right time of the season too. Next game will be against Greystanes, the winner taking the minor premiership. We already have a home semi-final. A win against Greystanes next game would ensure us a home final if we can manage a semi-final win.

12/3	7 for 117	Wenty Waratahs	10 for 97, 7 for 33	First innings win
No report submitted.				

12/2	10 for 60	Rouse Hill Rams	10 for 62	First innings loss
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No report submitted.

12/1	10 for 50	Wenty Leagues	10 for 41, 2 for 34	First innings win
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No report submitted.

13/2B	10 for 35, 10 for 45	Baulkham Hills A	4 dec 146	Outright loss
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No report submitted.

13/2A	4 dec 146	Baulkham Hills B	10 for 35, 10 for 45	Outright win
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No report submitted.

13/1	1 for 186	Hills Barbarians	9 for 141	First innings win
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Baulko lost the toss and was sent to field. The outfield was slow and slightly damp. Hills started off scoring slowly and was scoring around 2.6 runs per over when they lost their 1st wicket in the 25th over when Joe claimed the wicket of the Hills Barbarians' top scorer. Bryce was introduced subsequently and he claimed the next 3 wickets in his successive overs. George, Sachin, Ishmam & Josh Koski claimed one wicket each and Barbarians finished their innings at 9 for 141.

Baulko innings right from the start went on without any kind of pressure from the bowlers and both Amar & George played with ease and kept the scoreboard ticking well. First 10 overs saw 50 on board, the next 10 overs witnessed another 50 runs and by the drinks break the match was truly in the hands of Baulko. Hills Barbarians fielding could have been better and their sundries, almost a third of the required runs made the match look one sided in favour of Baulko. At the 35th over Amar drove a ball and found himself run out when he tried to take a run. When he got out he was on 46, his highest score of the season. The match was ended with the 1st wicket fall where George also with his highest score of the season with 85 not out.

George was adjudged Man of the Match for his best score of the season.

14/3	10 for 101	Kellyville	10 for 88	First innings win
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No report submitted.

14/2	9 for 135	Pendle Hill Colts	10 for 185	First innings loss
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No report submitted.

14/1B	10 for 125	Rouse Hill Rams	10 for 112	First innings win
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This round brought us up against Rouse Hill, the 3rd placed team. We have played them twice and lost both times, although we have believed that we are capable of beating them.

We won the toss and batted. It was a slow outfield but we batted well, scoring 125. a reasonable effort under the conditions. Nick McConnell found good form and led the way with 35. Several batsmen batted well in the testing conditions against a good attack.

In the field, we started very slowly! The first session was not pretty and Rouse Hill were cruising to a comfortable victory at 1/62. Bring on a coach's inspirational talk (that's what it looked and sounded like from a distance at least, although the boys say something different!?!?) at drinks, and the boys went out, collected the rest of the wickets, restricted Rouse Hill and won the game in a really exciting conclusion. The boys really lifted, the spinners came on and bowled through their 10 overs, claiming 5 wickets between them for 44 runs. The fielding lifted to an entirely new level, with good catches being held and good intensity to stop the runs. It was an excellent result that finally sees the boys demonstrating something of the capacity that Tony and others have believed them to have had all season!

Josh Balzarolo cleaned up the tail with 3/1. Greg Malyon took 3/26 with his offies and Nick McConnell took 2/18 with his leggies. Antonio Castellarin pitched in with 1/11 off 10 overs (including 4 maidens – the last 3 in a row!).

A great effort, boys – keep it up!

14/1A	9 for 182	AKA Crusaders	10 for 96	First innings win
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Blake won the toss for the fourth time in the row and elected for us to bat.1

Our openers Jonathan and Jack M. got us off to a steady start before Jonathan was out for 6 in the 8th over. Tight bowling by AKA made runs hard to come by and Jack M. played probably his best innings of the season by holding up one end for 55 minutes while scoring just 5 runs. We were 26 in the 15th over when Mitchell and Blake came together for one of the most enjoyable partnerships seen this season. They added 73 runs in 16 overs, Mitchell scoring a sparkling 54 with two 6s and four

4s. We had a mini collapse after morning tea losing three wickets for two runs to be 5 for 100 in the 32nd over. This time some great lower order batting got us out of trouble. Taseen (16), Brent (27) and James (28) all showed great application and urgency in running between the wickets to take our score to 182 at stumps.

We had a great start to our morning in the field when Jack F. took a wicket with the second ball of the morning. Jack took two more wickets in his five over spell to finish with 3 for 3 and destroying AKA's top order. Steady bowling from Taseen (1 for 20), Blake (0 for 13) and Mitchell (0 for 8) kept the scoring rate down, but with no further wickets falling AKA was still in the hunt. Then in half an hour, Joel (4 for 21) and Praveen (1 for 11) took four wickets in an eight over spell to have AKA 7 for 55 at morning tea. After morning tea Jack M. chipped in with 1 for 11 as the game meandered to a predictable finish with AKA all out for 96.

A solid win set up by the batting on the first morning and finished off with some good bowling and catching especially of the spinners on the second day.

15/3	10 for 42, 8 for 84	Pendle Hill Colts	4 dec 127	First innings loss
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We lost the toss and they put us into bat and unfortunately we had to play the first week with only nine players due to Brendan being away. Hugh opened the batting with Kausthub, in Brendan's absence, and managed to score a good 10 runs and ended up being our top run scorer. The opposition bowled straight and bowled us six out of our eight wickets. Our other runs came from Karanbir (8), Jack (6) and Mahir (5) to give us a total of 42. Pendle Hill went in to bat and passed our score at the end of the first days play with 3/87. Dineth bowled nicely and took two wickets and Karanbir also bowled well with 1/8 off 4 overs.

We started off the second week well with a run out in the first over but we knew a declaration was not far off. Pendle Hill put on another 40 runs and declared at 9.15 with 4/127. We knew it was going to be a challenge to stay in until 12.00 to stop an outright loss but our players have never given up all season and were not going to today. Brendan and Kausthub opened and were playing nice and steady when Kausthub pushing for a second bye was run out. We were 2/16 at 10.00 and it looked like we were going to be getting our photos done early when Jack stepped up and scored a well deserved 45 to have a 62 run partnership with Brendan. Fantastic effort Jack that 50 must be just around the corner and congrats for scoring over 200 runs so far this season. We lost a couple more wickets before Brendan chopped it back onto the stumps and was out for 22 after being out there for two and a half hours. Well done Brendan you played very patiently. So here we were at 11.50 and it was 6/81 and we only needed 4 more runs to make them bat again. A run to Michael before he was bowled followed closely by Blake and it was 8/82 at 11.55. We only had one wicket in hand but had to score three more runs. Praween and Dineth hung in there and scored a run each and we finished at 8/84. Well done boys for holding off the outright loss. Big effort next week in our last game of the season against the leaders of the comp. Positive thoughts boys because cricket can be an unpredictable game.

15/2	10 for 92, 10 for 43	Wenty Waratahs	2 dec 99, 3 for 19	First innings loss
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Wenty won the toss and sent Baulko into bat. As the score of 10 for 92 suggests, the innings never really gained the momentum needed to make a respectable total. James Galofaro continued his good form from the previous match to top score with a typically aggressive 28 not out. However, the only other significant contribution came from Saj Howpage with 19. Wenty set off in confident pursuit of the target to finish the first day at 1 for 43.

Baulko commenced the second day in need of some quick wickets to retain a chance at first innings points. However, only 1 more wicket was captured before the first innings target was achieved and Wenty then declared soon after at 2 for 99. Baulko then returned to the batting crease with about 2 hours 45 minutes remaining for play. What followed was a thoroughly disappointing batting effort that saw the team dismissed for just 43 runs. Chris Gunton top scored with 9 and Damian Wilks with the next best of 6 being the only players to show an appropriate level of application to the task. This left Wenty with around 11 minutes to chase a target of 37 for outright victory. Fortunately the team approached this in the appropriate manner to restrict Wenty to 3 for 19 by stumps. Nevertheless, a generally disappointing all round performance that has seen any chance of making the semi-finals evaporate.

15/1	10 for 29, 10 for 68	Pendle Hill Colts	10 for 80, 0 for 19	Outright loss
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No report submitted.

16/1	10 for 85, 4 for 80	Kellyville	9 for 93	First innings loss
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No report submitted.

B14	9 for 130	Wenty Leagues	3 for 131	First innings loss
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With the first day's play washed out, this fixture became a 40 over 1 day game. Wenty won the toss and sent Baulko into bat. Despite openers Jimmy Ou and Chris Gunton (both made 12) putting on a bright 25 run opening partnership and 7 of the 11 players reaching double figures, nobody went on to make the big score needed to set up a match winning total, with the top score being 25 from Matt Toomey. Other useful contributions came from Dave Hugill (14), Shoaib Ziaee (14 not out), Simon Ruxton (11) and Bryce Jones (10).

The capturing of an early wicket and some tight bowling from Chris Soares, Matt Toomey, and Jeff Foskett, had Wenty well contained and behind the required run rate. However, Baulko was unable to break the 2nd wicket partnership which added 99 runs and was eventually able to increase the tempo. Wenty eventually reached the victory target of 131 with only 3 wickets down and 3.4 overs to spare.

B13	10 for 83	Hills Barbarians	10 for 74	First innings win
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No report submitted.

B11	10 for 82, 10 for 90	Rouse Hill Rams	10 for 74, 8 for 101	First innings win, Outright loss
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No report submitted.

B10	10 for 93	Winston Hills	10 for 102	First innings loss
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No report submitted.

B9	10 for 158, 0 dec 163	Pendle Hill Colts	10 for 127, 6 for 206	First innings win, Outright loss
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It's been a while since the team has had to endure this drivel - thanks to the rain, a forfeit, the rain and the rain. This last match also got interrupted by rain, but we still did get quite a match in.

The first weekend we won the toss and the skipper chose to bat. Unfortunately for the skipper no one else in the side chose to bat. Stanley went out alone and got stuck into his customary quick-fire innings except this time the fireworks were like the 9pm fireworks on New Year's eve – they ended early. This meant someone else was going to have to score some runs for a change.

Las and the other opener then went out. Las started taking quick singles. The other opener, who has long forgotten what a quick single is, simply held his ground ensuring that each time Las ran he had to run back, which meant two runs for the team and no sweating for him. In fact, this opener is now so used to going out and simply holding his bat in one hand while giving the thumbs up with the other hand as Stanley has perfected the art of hitting five boundaries followed by a single to protect the poor bugger.

Las, however, had yet to perfect this art. He eventually took a quick single and forgot to run back. By the time his partner had taken his first step, the keeper had not only removed the bails, but he had finished his drinks break and was in the middle of a lengthy conversation with first slip. In fact because the stumps had already been put back together, the other opener thought he was not out and took guard. The umpire had to usher him off. We were about 40/2 at that stage.

Now with the prolific run scoring opening pair back in the hut, the TAB had revised the total target to 55 all out and even that was only given an outside chance of happening. That's when the skipper, who had announced his retirement just the day before due to surgery to his middle finger, made his way to the middle.

It's not quite clear how he managed to get a crooked middle finger. Some say he was sticking it in places that it should never have been, others say he gave Sam out too enthusiastically using his middle finger and his finger has never been the same. All we know is his middle finger stood out like a ... well, like a sore middle finger.

No one even questioned why the skipper was heading out to the middle in the middle of his retirement. This weekly retirement story is now so old that nobody even noticed. It is, however, unclear how the skipper passed the fitness test considering the doctor had ordered 10 weeks of keeping his middle finger to himself. Whatever the case, the skipper took a leaf out of Graeme Smith's book and batted with one hand.

Exactly what happened after that is somewhat vague. Suffice it to say not many runs were scored by the procession of batsmen that were making their way to the middle and back quicker than it takes to get a big mac.

The skipper and Las decided to unselfishly allow the likes of Prasad, Ayesh and Rajitha to bat who in turn unselfishly allowed Rickster and Sameera to bat. Prasad too had made a return from retirement but then promptly announced retirement after his short innings, this time claiming back trouble. This brought back memories of another member of the team who announced his retirement due to a sore left knee, or was that right knee – he was never quite sure. Yet as many will recall when it comes time to bat, all those aches miraculously disappear. More on this later.

We were running out of batsmen fast when we realized that we still had Rambo (aka Aneesh) and Amitabh Bachchan – the secret weapons that were once again flying under the radar – actually they were just behind a tree having a fag. Rambo padded up. He stretched to the left, grunted, then stretched to the right and mourned in pain. He then sat down, completely exhausted.

We were counting on Rambo and Amitabh Bachchan to do one of those epic Indian movie heroic rescues as they had done in the previous match we lost. This Bollywood movie however was a low budget production without enough juice to produce a happy ending. Rambo's wicket went flying out of the ground while Bachchan danced all around the pitch and didn't do much else.

We ended up with 158 runs or something like that on the board and had to hit the field.

Rambo was thrown the ball and asked to get us a few scalps. He misunderstood this request and proceeded to attempt to decapitate the batsmen.

Unfortunately our Bollywood Rambo was greeted by two master swordsmen with bat in hand. They carved him up. Whatever Rambo threw down, it went faster to the boundary. The only ones who were likely to be decapitated were the poor fielders standing between the boundary and the batsmen. Even a few trees lost limbs.

That's when Amitabh was called upon to use his charm and woo the batsmen out. After a taking a little medicine himself, he managed to send both batsmen back and was on a hat trick. The hat, however, had no more tricks left in it. The opposing skipper and another poor sod took over the reins. Rambo was still on his mission. Finally he managed to decapitate one batsman. The poor sod swung at the ball only to find his head spinning and a few stars appearing in broad daylight. The poor sod wobbled off the field and sent a replacement to bat.

Rambo was pumped. He had success. The opposing skipper then called for bad light saying it was too dangerous. We told him that the danger lay not in the bad light but in the fact that his batsmen didn't know how to bat. He agreed, but then said he couldn't play in the pouring rain. We said fair enough and were happy to leave.

The following week the opposition were looking good, heading for their target quite easily. That's when we asked Stanley to put an end to this nonsense. He took the ball, stood right next to the umpire and hurled them down straight at the wickets – that's all it took. Before long most of the batsmen were in the hut and we managed to wrap up the innings with about 28 runs to spare.

We decided to go for second innings points. The skipper ordered Stanley to go score a 100. He was told to take his time. Ricky put his hand up to bat up the order as did Prasad. As you will recall Prasad had just announced his retirement due to a sore back, which was now miraculously better – now that we were batting. Ricky was padded up before the openers.

In ten overs, we had 168 on the board with Stanley recording 108 to his name. The skipper said that was enough and called the batsmen back. That was 168 for no loss in 10 overs! Ricky had tears in his eyes.

We went back in to bowl and Stanley was asked to take 9 quick wickets while Rambo again started trying to decapitate the batsmen. Unfortunately they managed to get the 200 runs required before Stanley could get them all out.

True to the team's new year's resolution, we created a win-win situation over the weekend instead of simply sucking the life out of the opposition. The opponents were grateful and shook our hands warmly.

Next week's team has been announced – it's Stanley. His son might join him just to keep him company. Howzat!

B8	10 for 170	Kellyville	10 for 166	First innings win
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No report submitted.

B7A	10 for 111	Wenty Waratahs	10 for 95	First innings win
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No report submitted.

B3		BYE		BYE
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Nothing to report.

B2	10 for 137	Kings Langley	10 for 60	First innings win
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No report submitted.

A	9 for 203	Seven Hills RSL	10 for 82	First innings win
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No report submitted.