



NORTHBRIDGE WEEKLY TEAM ROUND UP – ROUND 1

Dear fellow clubman, please find a brief summary of each of our teams performance from the weekend. We will try to get this out each week so you can keep an eye on how your fellow clubmen are going. Training attendance has been excellent, and was great to see a lot of faces (new and old) back at the pub after this weeks game! Just one brief reminder to make sure you arrive at the ground for each game with plenty of time to get ready and start play on time....nothing worse than starting a game short of players!

C Grade Round 1 Cammeray 6-150 defeated Northbridge 145.

Northbridge Oval, refurbished with artificial grass designed to FIFA standards, has never been used for a senior cricket match prior to 8th October, 2010 when Northbridge C Grade met Cammeray C grade in a one day cricket contest.

Cammeray won the toss and sent Northbridge in. After 20 overs Northbridge were 1-94 and were looking good with Daniel Zatz playing a very entertaining knock, smashing the bowlers to all parts of the ground whilst ducking some deliveries with the finesse of a ballet dancer on drugs. After the drinks break Northbridge did not carry on as previously. The next wicket fell at 99, then there was a collapse and 9 wickets fell for 46 runs in a shade under 15 overs.

Rain became steadier and a break for weather was necessary which reduced the game to 35 overs a side. Daniel Zatz top scored with 52 and only Paul Anderson (26), Peter Stankovic (16) and Michael Quirk (16) also reached double figures.

Northbridge started positively in the field, with both Dave Moore (3-26) and Michael Quirk (1-29) making early inroads. Cammeray were 3-13, then 4-28 but then fought back and eventually managed to lose only another two wickets. These wickets were credited to our usual partnership breaker Neil Rickard (1-9) off one over as well as to our leg spinner Michael Stankovic (1-18) who dismissed their top scorer. Although Mike only managed one wicket off three overs, he briefly raised hopes for a victory with a number of catching opportunities which narrowly evaded fielders.

Despite the persistent drizzle and the match loss, the boys were in fine spirits, seeming to enjoy continuous banter and sledging of their teammates.

C 1 Day Round 1 NorthShore 4-322 defeated Northbridge 5-131

Northbridge C1's were behind the eight ball before a ball had been bowled with a couple of no shows. The side played gallantly and despite the opposition scoring at will to amass 333 on such a small ground, the boys never threw the towel in.

David "taxi club" Welsh finished with 2 wickets and one each to Nick Day and the skipper. The spin twins Enzo "the sausage king" Calabria and John "JV" Venardos toiled hard to get wickets but it just wasn't our day.

Jonas Berglund took on the enviable task of opening the batting with David Welsh, and to his credit took the shine off the new ball. A defiant partnership between David Welsh (50) and the skipper (52) thwart the North shore bowling attack for the majority of the innings to provide some much needed enjoyment to the rest of the side. David Welsh bringing up his 50 with 2 balls to spare in the match.

Chris Olver, Jonas Berglund and Sturt McEwan fielded well all day and never one pass them. Dave Allan took a catch to give Nick Day his first test wicket for Northbridge a promising bowling performance indeed. Also mention must be made to Matt who filled in for us too in the field and with the bat.

Bring on Macquarie Uni next week with the hopeful return of Raja "Ramjet" Bhuvanendran and a few others

B Grade Round 1 Northbridge 3-102 defeated Comenarra 96

Round 1 saw the Northbridge B-1Day team take on Comenarra at Artarmon Oval, with Northbridge fielding 7 debutants. Northbridge won the toss and sent Comenarra into bat.

Sudheer Akki opened the bowling for Northbridge and bowled very economically as well as creating many early chances but not getting much luck, he eventually struck in the 5th over producing a knick with it being caught by the wicket keeper Ben McCallum, Sudheer then took 2 more wickets in his next 2 overs.

Matt Lording playing his first game for the 'Bridge opened the bowling from the opposite end and bowled with plenty of intensity whilst keeping it on the ideal line and picked up his first wicket by rattling the batsman stumps and ended up with figures of 1/8 off 4 overs

Emergency replacement Jeet Chand took 2 wickets with some fiery short pitch bowling. Michael Smith, A.R. Sundararaman and Rob Ferenczi all pitched in with a wicket each and had Comenarra struggling at 9/44

Comenarra had a fight back of some sorts with the help of some aggressive batting from their tailender Kuiters who scored a 50 which forced Ajay to bring on his main strike bowler Sudheer who cleaned Kuiters up fairly quickly and finished with figures of 4/18 off 6 overs leaving a chase of 97 runs to win.

Northbridge's run chase didn't get off to the greatest of starts losing 2 quick wickets for 11 runs but a consolidating partnership of 73 from A.R. Sundararaman and Ben McCallum saw Northbridge regain the upper hand. Ben McCallum scored a 50 and hit the winning runs with the same shot and in the end Northbridge won convincingly and only losing 3 wickets in the process. Considering the composition of the B-1Day team consisted of 7 new players, the B-1 Day team gelled well for the first round of the season and should continue to as the season progresses.

A Grade Round 1 Northbridge 8-113 (30 overs) drew with Cammeray 2/12 (10 overs)

The A grade team were a new look team, with almost all the players being new to the team for this year and a new captain in Amrish Bhatia. We also saw Kam Bahabra and Dave Burnage making their debut with the club. A wet sticky track, and drizzly weather at Willoughby had the Englishmen in our team feeling right at home.

After some debate between captains it was agreed that a delayed start would be required to allow the pitch to dry, with the game ending up being shortened to a 30 over game.

Northbridge were sent in to bat and a solid start was made by our Amrish and Kam on a very difficult pitch. Jono Davis also occupied the crease for some time early on, taking shine off the ball. Kam scored a solid 26, but was murdered by a terrible LBW decision, with the offending umpire vowing to buy several beers to make up for this shocking decision. The run rate was slow but given the conditions this was to be expected.

We then had an excellent middle order fightback, with Abishek Sharma (29) and a hard hitting Amit Gade (30) getting the team into a good position. Given the difficult conditions, these two batsmen performed very well. Good support by Steven Hill towards the end of the innings allowed the team to reach 113 from the allotted 30 overs.

When Northbridge got the ball in hand, the opening bowlers of Dave Burnage (1-8 of 5 overs) and Ben Maw (1-2 off 5 overs) had Cammeray on the ropes, with some good tight bowling and enthusiastic fielding. With only 12 runs on the board at the 10 over mark, Cammeray controversially declared at that stage that the pitch was too wet to play on and called the game off.

After much heated discussion it was agreed that a draw would be called, though players on both sides were well aware that Northbridge were on their way to a crushing victory...the psychological win was ours! Given that the game was called off early, there were several players who unfortunately did not get a chance to bowl. The anticipated turf bowling debut of Zaeem Tapia will have to wait for another day, with plenty eagerly awaiting this moment.