



And The Hornsby Army Gets Another Centurion

Six teams into the Qualifying Finals. Well done to the coaches and the boys.

Final Round saw the following results

Forster Shield **Win**

Creak Shield **Win**
Sunday 24/11/13 V Bankstown - Win

HKHDCA 10/113 (45.3 overs) def

Bankstown 10/100 (49.4 overs)

Highlights:

James Skoudas: 23 runs

Lachlan Shaw: 16 runs, 2 stumpings and 1 catch

Yash Patel: 14 runs, 1/11 off 10, and 1 catch

Will Coffey: 5/17 off 9.4 and 13 runs

Jarod baxter: 1/11 off 8 and 12 runs

We welcomed back Jordan today from his broken wrist but were saddened by Varun's unavailability due to a broken finger. Sol Balbi was called in to replaced Varun.

In a low scoring match runs were a premium today against strong bowling and excellent fielding from both sides, helped by the lush outfield at Killara Reserve Panania.

Bankstown won the toss today and sent us in to bat. Yash and Lachlan Soles were given the task of opening. Boundaries to each in the first two overs. 0/11 after two isn't a bad start. The boys got us to 17 in the 5th over before Lachlan was bowled for 7. Not before Yash was lucky to survive a curly situation 2 overs earlier after he thought he was caught at backward square leg and started to walk and then discovered the fielder dropped the ball on impact when diving on the ground but attempted to run out Yash. It turned out the man in the pink shirt from Bankstown would not forget this for the remainder of the day.

The other Lachlan is next in and he and Yash keep the runs ticking over. Finally Bankstown got Yash this time, out for 14 in the 8th over. Lachlan Shaw was reunited

with Corey and things were back to normal, or so we thought. However Corey couldn't stick around and James came charging to the crease with his usual abundance of energy. He reminds me of young Greg Matthews...he puts bums on seats!

After finding ourselves in an usual position of 3 for not many, this pair toned down their usual flamboyant styles and played sensibly and cautiously to tight bowling and sharp fielding. Bankstown's spin bowlers were extracting some very high bounce off the wicket, some food for thought later.

A solid partnership of 31 was broken when Lachlan Shaw was bowled around his legs.

We welcomed Jordan to the crease, a consistent run scorer last season. James was batting nicely but the drinks break brought him undone and he was out shortly after the resumption for a well made 23.

Will joined Jordan and this pair ran aggressively between the wickets. However they took on the fielders one too many times. Jordan was run out for 4.

Jarod came in next and he and Will batted for 10 overs, putting on 22. After Will was dismissed, Bankstown's opening bowling came back on and cleaned up two of the remaining 3 wickets. Unfortunately we didn't bat out our full 50. On a slow outfield would 113 be enough? We would need to bowl them out!

Bankstown had to come out and face two overs before the lunch break. Yash and Menuja started steadily but couldn't get that early break through.

Poor Ravi missed most of our innings trying to search all over the the area for a coffee. Would you believe it that every coffee shop in the area was either closed down on a Sunday or the coffee machine was broken down. It was even suggested that Ravi was seen at Bankstown airport searching for a pilot to take him aerial in search for a coffee shop.

Our hosts today put on a great spread for lunch. In fact afternoon tea was also a highlight. We have been well hosted at all our away games this year.

Lachlan Soles and Menuja resumed the bowling after the lunch break. Despite the steady start by the bowlers it was decide to introduce spin early as their openers looked comfortable against pace. It was a good move because the outfield was so slow, the batsmen would need to hit hard to score runs. Yash and Will restricted the runs and started to frustrate their batsmen when Will enticed one of the openers to dance down the wicket. Lachlan Shaw did the rest with some nice glovework.

"Dad's army or the army of dads" - with a host of our dad's going clockwise, and Sean going anti clock wise around the field, the wickets started to tumble. Yash and Will bamboozled their batsmen with great bowling and a great reflex catch by Yash which put

Will on a hat trick at one stage. Quite often this team has managed to take wickets in quick succession to put opposing teams on the back foot.

From 4/24 to 7/40 in the 26th, we were really on top. All three spinners Yash, Will and Oli were doing the job and bowled a lot overs in the middle of the innings. Special mention to the new boy Sol who took a great diving catch in gully for Oli's wicket.

Sean the Shark was circling the oval like a shark around a fish tank. The dad's superstitions was working well.

The wind started to pick up which gave Snehal and Roopal the chance to get in on the act and chase a scrambling newspaper onto the adjoining field. Any further and they may have found a coffee shop for Ravi.

Bankstown's 7th wicket pair dug in and batted patiently. They were not going to lie down. They batted for 20 overs and put on 41 valuable runs. This brought them back into the game.

The game was becoming tense for both sides. The man in the pink shirt from Bankstown was coming into his own now coaching and unpiping from the sideline. He was giving it his all.

James bowled a few tidy overs. Then Jarod and Menuja returned and bowled very tightly. In particular Jarod's spell of 4 overs, 1 for 3 including 3 maidens came at a crucial time for us. With 2 wickets remaining it came down on a run a ball off the last 5 overs.

Will replaced Jarod and he and Menuja held their nerve. Good pressure from the fielders saw Bankstown push for a run that wasn't on and lose another wicket.

Just one more wicket and down to 17 needed from the last over. Will and Lachlan Shaw combined for the last wicket to give Will a well deserved 5 wicket haul.

The boys kept their cool and hung on for a hard fought victory. Bankstown pushed us all the way and it was an ideal preparation going into the finals. Perhaps the boys may have been a bit complacent today but they fought hard to get the win.

It appears that the team has finished 1st overall which is a great achievement. There have been some wonderful individual performances along the way, but it has been a great team effort all along to get this far.

The boys have played well and we look forward to the knock out stage now.

Well done to all.

Thanks to Adrain and Dean for scoring today. Thanks to Bankstown for a tough game and being great hosts.

Cawsey Shield

Win

On Sunday 24/11/13 at Thornleigh Oval, Thornleigh.

Hornsby won the toss and elected to Bat.

Hornsby 187-9 (K. Krishnan 46, C. Rose 42)

Defeated

Fairfield-Liverpool 86 all out (K. Chu 3-3, J. Reynolds 2-15, K. Krishnan 2 catches & 1 r.o.)

By 101 runs

And as a result qualified for the Finals as the #1 Team in the age group.

Special thanks to Jason Hammond for spending 2 hours the previous evening sweeping a huge puddle off the wicket. Sawdust was put down and, once the friendly onlooker who went and fetched his chainsaw and put it to good use cross-cutting the huge tree branch that had fallen on the outfield, we were ready for a game of cricket.

Ken won the toss for the fifth successive match and went to put his feet up as usual; Hornsby batted 1st again.

Having given F-L a bit of a mauling last season their coaches, unlike Australia in India, had done their homework and opened with slower bowlers and a ring field. And it worked, for them, with 3 of the Hornsby top 4 falling into the trap. With energetic fielding and a damp slow outfield making scoring runs tricky, frustration set in.

Jordan went in the second over, and Joe was joined in the middle by Keiran (promoted up the order after regular #3 Charlie was found guilty of altering the shape of the ball by using the back of his head during the warm-ups). They added 27, the first of several close-but-no-cigar partnerships on the day before Joe top edged to mid-wicket-ish for 17. Nick joined Keiran with the score 32-2 after 11 overs and they progressed with a nice steady 10 overs partnership of singles and two's before again, in the quest for boundaries, Nick got slightly under one and gave the F-L fielder at Point a chance to impress his mum. 74-3 after 21.

No longer dazed and confused, Charlie entered the fray and the two boys set about building what turned out to be the key partnership of the day. The 59 runs they shared in 15 overs calmed spectator nerves after the earlier mis-fires, set Hornsby towards a defendable total, and gave F-L only one half-chance. Good work boys. 133-4 in the 37th. Keiran was eventually run-out on 46 when one of his many swan-dives (I swear he thinks he can fly) fell a little short. Ken joined Charlie but shortly thereafter received possibly the best ball of the innings and was bowled.

The Hornsby middle-order hasn't seen much action so far this season what with the successes further up, so credit to Mason for getting straight on with the job and adding 15 out of a partnership of 26 in the next 6 overs. By now Charlie was suffering from either the heat, the humidity or the delayed side-effects of heading a cricket ball and was caught on 42 (scored at a decent click, from 55 balls) with the score 163-6 in the 45th.

Next up Connor, once again needed to just go out there and get straight on with it. Connor partnered Mason for 3 and a bit overs and 16 runs before Mason (21 off 37) became the first of 3 run-outs in the final two overs which took a bit of shine off the scorecard.

Vedant and Eshaan were the other two casualties, leaving Connor not out on 17 from 17 balls faced at the end and Hornsby with 187-9 to defend.

Much like the rain-affected Hawkesbury game the feeling was that the slow outfield, by now drying out and speeding up, had probably thwarted what was a 220 effort from our boyos.

After a fabulous lunch including a first, and hopefully first of many, home-cooked delicious sample of Indian foods from Mrs Virmani the parents went into a food-coma in the shade whilst the Hornsby boys ran around in the sun defending their total.

And my what a job they did !

Cap'n Ken and Connor shared the usual 8 overs and each was deservedly rewarded with a wicket in their 4th over, both drawing edges that were snaffled by Keiran behind the stumps. Fast, accurate, full and skiddy Ken sent down 4 overs, 3 maidens, 1 wicket for 1 run with F-L unable to do aught but block, in tandem with fast, accurate and bouncy Connor (4 overs, 1 wicket, 10 runs). It was just what was required to disabuse F-L of any notion that their chase would be anything less than impossible.

James took over from the Sand end, with spin settling in for the rest of the game at the Sawdust end. Much like Connors' spell, James' combination of accuracy, excellent pace and at times scary bounce proved too much for F-L and 2 wickets came his way. Firstly getting the F-L opener and best bat out via a spectacular backward-diving catch from Joe and then by clean-bowling his replacement later in the same over.

After 2 overs of Vedants leg-spin Ken swapped Eshaan in for 9 overs straight of offies which started with two maidens. Pressure was building, required run rate was climbing, and with the last top order F-L bat not really knowing how to take runs from the excellent spin he decided to try and get after Cooper who was now on at the other end. Result ? Nice wicket Cooper.

With Spin doing its thing at the Sawdust end Ken then rotated all 4 pace bowlers through one over spells at the other. Ken himself was able to take a wicket for a run in both of his one over spells, Connor had to settle for a maiden and a single run in his.

With the middle / lower order F-L batsmen unable to settle against the constant-but-varied pace attack from one end and the bi-directional bamboozlement (it's a word now) from the other it was only a matter of time before the game was over. F-L duly obliged by skying a catch to Mason off Ken and then engaging in 3 run-outs in quick succession, leaving them less than half-way to their target and everybody able to go home 90 minutes early for once, the F-L innings only having lasted 35 overs.

Great work boys, keep it up for the Qualifying Finals !

Gee Shield

Win

Moore Shield

Win

Weblin Shield

Win

Round 5 Weblin Shield

Hornsby 7/249 (60 overs) (A Johnston 118*, R Tullia 23, N Dolly 23) def Canterbury & Western Suburbs 50 (L Anchique 3/7, D Seneviratne 2/15, S Balakumar 2/12, R Krishna 2/4) and 7/94 (S Balakumar 2/7) at Barker

Lost the toss (again) and were sent in. Some damp spots on the pitch made it tough for openers Ryan (23) and Will (3), with the tennis ball bounce surprising Will and Ryan's LBW surprising all of us. But importantly despite the pitch and the slow-ish outfield the scoreboard kept ticking over. Eko (16) was bowled off a late cutting delivery just before Ryan's dismissal with the score 3/50. Travis and Anthony put on 48 for the 4th wicket and were looking in fine touch until Travis (18) was judged run out by the C&WS umpire. Rahul (18) and Nic both shared 50+ run partnerships with Anthony as the score continued to climb. After one over where Anthony and Nic had run consecutive threes both batsman were looking a bit weary but they kicked for home. 54 runs were scored in the last 5 overs that saw Nic (23) and Oliver (1) run out by direct hits and Anthony knock up a well deserved century that was applauded by all (sorry again Peter Watts). Anthony (118*) was joined by Danusha (13*) and the runs kept coming including a booming straight shot from Danusha for four (or was it 6?) and C&WS were chasing 250 for the win.

Danusha (2/15) snagged a couple early and was on a hat-trick whilst up the other end Daniel was getting some serious swing going. Lachie (3/7) and Sanjay (2/12) were on next and took advantage of the extra juice in the pitch to rip through the C&WS middle order. Will and Travis took two great catches in the slips and Rahul (2/4) joined the party with two quick wickets. It took the bowling attack 28.4 overs to rout C&WS for 50. The boys invited C&WS to bat again after a scrumptious afternoon tea that included pink doughnuts and Ryan's favourite hot chips. After the remaining 31 overs C&WS were 7 down with Sanjay (2/7) also on a hat-trick.

Well done all boys on a thumping win that was great for the quotient that secured 4th place and well done Anto.

Watson Shield

Win

Travelling down to Wollongong the boys had one thing on their mind, to go through undefeated in the competition.

Looking at the pitch and thick outfield it was evident that boundaries were going to be a premium.

Illawarra won the toss and elected to bowl being their only option as an outright if they were to make the final series.

This was never going to be as 20 wickets through this batting line up is impossible.

After a slow start which saw Hornsby at 2/55 after 30 overs it was Dean Piek to the rescue, after competing in the world titles in his other sport of Karate this little red ball was not going to prove to be a match against the power display he put on. Finishing the days innings at 189 and Big Deano 64* of 87 deliveries. Daniel Heidegger 47 off 112 deliveries put us in good stead.

Time for the reply and it was evident that the bowlers were on. With only 4 batsmen reaching double figures these boys showed how they can dominate the field.

The wickets were spread across all of the bowlers with Dissanayake, Wallwood & Anderson & wickets to Ludlow, O Loughlin & Chamberlain and a runout saw the reply only reach 129.

Special thanks to Ciaran De Kort for substituting in the absence of Ben Jones.