



MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

CRICKET CLUB



ANNUAL REPORT

2001-02 SEASON

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY CRICKET CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT 2001-02

CONTENTS

OFFICE BEARERS	4
COMMITTEE ATTENDANCES	4
PAST OFFICE BEARERS	5
CLUB AWARDS 2001-02	7
CLUB OF THE YEAR AWARD	8
SPORTS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR	8
BRIAN SPENCER AWARD	8
MUSA ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD	8
UNIVERSITY BLUES AND CLUB COLOUR AWARDS	9
PRESIDENT'S REPORT	10
SECRETARY'S REPORT	12
TREASURER'S REPORT	13
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	14
CAPTAIN'S REPORT - 1ST GRADE SHIRES	17
CAPTAIN'S REPORT - 2ND GRADE SHIRES	24
CAPTAIN'S REPORT - 3RD GRADE SHIRES	33
CAPTAIN'S REPORT - 4TH GRADE SHIRES	41
CAPTAIN'S REPORT - METROPOLITAN CUP./ SHIELD	54
CAPTAIN'S REPORT - UNDER 24 COMPETITION	64
CAPTAIN'S REPORT - 6TH GRADE	68
CAPTAIN'S REPORT - MASTERS	77
THIRD GRADE RECORDS	85
FOURTH GRADE RECORDS	87
1ST GRADE SHIRES RECORDS	89
2ND GRADE SHIRES RECORDS	94
3RD GRADE SHIRES RECORDS	99
4TH GRADE SHIRES RECORDS	105
METROPOLITAN CUP / SHIELD RECORDS	109
UNDER 24 (FRANK GRAY SHIELD) RECORDS	112
5TH GRADE RECORDS (includes N.D.C.A. & G.D.J.C.A.)	115
6TH GRADE RECORDS	118
WOMEN'S XI RECORDS (includes SWCA 3RD, 4TH & 5TH)	120
CLUB RECORDS	123
CURRENT PLAYERS	131

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY CRICKET CLUB

PRESIDENT

Craig Edwards

HONORARY SECRETARY

David Smith

HONORARY TREASURER

Martyn Payne

COMMITTEE

Paul Batten	Phil Erskine
Simon Burchett	Steve Gasser
Richard Cann	Adrian Lulka
Paul Chapman	

COMMITTEE ATTENDANCES

The Committee met on 11 occasions throughout the year. Attendances were as follows:

Dave Smith	11
Phil Erskine	11
Craig Edwards	10
Steve Gasser	10
Martyn Payne	9
Richard Cann	9
Simon Burchett	8
Adrian Lulka	7
Paul Chapman	7
Paul Batten	7

PAST OFFICE-BEARERS

PRESIDENT

1967-69	R. Vagg
1969-79	M.R. Gwilliam
1979-80	R. Vagg
1980-83	J. Wickham
1983-89	W. Folkard
1989-92	A. Davies
1992-94	B. Hort
1994-95	D. Budge
1995-98	D. Folkard
1998-	C. Edwards

HONORARY SECRETARY

1967-69	P. Saunders
1969	P. Barclay
1969-72	J. Slack
1972-73	K. Henry
1973-74	D. Rutledge
1974-75	A. Faulks
1975-76	P. Barclay
1976-79	J. Wickham
1979-80	B. Jones
1980-81	P. Garty
1981-90	A. Mahoney
1990-91	S. Jurd
1991-93	R. Mather
1993-94	M. Ramsland
1994-95	D. Deller
1995-98	J. Breden
1998-99	G. McFadden
1999-	D. Smith

HONORARY TREASURER

1967-69	P. Barclay
1969-72	P. Korbel
1972-74	M. Hoban
1974-75	D. Rutledge
1975-77	P. Korbel
1977-78	G. Leary
1978-90	C. Welsby
1990-93	S. O'Reilly
1993-94	I. Blyth
1994-95	M. Hughes
1995-96	D. Budge
1996-98	D. Webb
1998-00	A. Slattery
2001-	M. Payne

LIFE MEMBERS

L. Ager	C. Gold
C. Anderson	J. Giuffre
P. Barclay	M.R. Gwilliam*
G. Bleus	B. Hort
I. Blyth*	B. Jones
J. Breden	A. Mahoney
D. Budge	P. Miller
S. Burchett	S. O'Reilly
A. Davies	R. Vagg
M.J. Denlow	D. Webb
K. Dixon	C. Welsby
C. Edwards	S. Wiblin
D. Folkard	J. Wickham
W. Folkard	
P. Garty	

*deceased

CLUB AWARDS 2001-02

M.R. Gwilliam Shield Most Improved G. Gavin Fielding Award Ivan Blyth Memorial Clubman of the Year Hard Luck Award 300 Games 100 Games	Peter Procopis Derek Couper Peter Saliba Steve Gasser Chris Hook Warrick Folkard Eddie Aphaiwongse Jason Ford	Paul Chew
Most Valuable Players	Second Grade Third Grade Fourth Grade Metropolitan Shield Frank Gray Shield Sixth Grade (gold) Sixth Grade (green)	Greg Brown Matthew Greenwood Paul Clift Andrew Slimmon Chris Harris Ashneil Singh Kain Walker
Pewters	Greg Brown Graham Lego Adrian Lulka Peter Procopis	Ashley Robinson Peter Saliba Graham Scott Michael Walker

The **M.R. Gwilliam Shield**, a gift from the President of the Club who served from 1969 to 1979, is awarded annually to the most outstanding cricketer in the Club.

Previous Winners are:

1974-75	G. Frankish	1975-76	G. Frankish
1976-77	L. Ager, Martin Denlow	1977-78	P. Bourke
1978-79	J. Giuffre	1979-80	L. Ager
1980-81	L. Ager	1981-82	P. Dignan
1982-83	T. Monaghan	1983-84	A. Lindsay
1984-85	G. Craighead	1985-86	S. O'Reilly
1986-87	I. Blyth	1987-88	K. Dixon
1988-89	G. Brown	1989-90	I. Jessup
1990-91	P. Notaras	1991-92	T. Ritchie
1992-93	D. Webb	1993-94	D. Webb
1994-95	D. Webb	1995-96	D. Webb
1996-97	G. Brown	1997-98	P. Notaras
1998-99	P. Notaras	1999-00	D. Webb
2000-01	P. Procopis		

CLUB OF THE YEAR AWARD

McDonalds Macquarie Centre initiated the "Club of the Year" award in 1989 with a Shield and a cheque for \$500 to the most worthy Sporting Club.

The 1990 *Club of the Year* winner was the Cricket Club.

SPORTS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

In 1984 the Sports Association instituted the award of Sports Administrator of the Year. The award is presented to a leading Club Administrator for service over and above that normally expected. The Cricket Club members to receive this award are:

1985	Allan Mahoney
1996	David Webb
1997	David Folkard

M.U.S.A. BRIAN SPENCER AWARD

This award is given in recognition of outstanding service to a club and/or to the Sports Association by an individual on or off the field.

In 2001 Allan Mahoney became the first member of the Cricket Club to win this award .

M.U.S.A. ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Rookie of the Year acknowledges the efforts of a student in their first year of involvement in a sporting club.

In 2002 Peter Procopis became the first member of the Cricket Club to win this award.

UNIVERSITY BLUES

Blues are awarded by the University to sportsmen and women for outstanding sporting achievements. Performance standards are set by the Clubs and approved by the University Blues Committee. For Cricket, a Full Blue requires State representation whilst a Half Blue requires either 500 runs or 50 wickets in the Club's highest team. Current student status is also necessary.

Previous Awardees are:

Full Blue

1971 K. Mackay

Half Blue

1970 M. Redden
1971 F. Alley
1972 J. Giuffre
1972 P. Miller
1977 L. Ager
1978 P. Bourke
1985 C. Welsby
1988 I. Blyth

UNIVERSITY CLUB COLOUR AWARDS

In 1980 the University instituted the award of *Club Colour* to be presented to men and women who have made an outstanding contribution to Macquarie University Sport, through their respective clubs, from an administrative or organisational viewpoint. Cricket Club members who have received this award are:

1980	P. Barclay G. Bleus M.R. Gwilliam P. Miller R. Vagg
1981	A. Faulks K. Henry
1983	G. Hargreaves B. Jones
1984	C. Welsby J. Wickham
1987	A. Mahoney
1990	A. Davies W. Folkard

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I reflect upon my fourth year as President, it is this season past that I consider the most enjoyable of all. Not because of brilliant performance on the field, (we didn't win a damn thing) but it was the atmosphere around the place, there is a spirit returning, a culture is developing that I haven't noticed since our Club Championship days. Maybe MUCC is getting back its "mojo".

Why do I make this sweeping statement, let me highlight some of the positives that occurred this year:

- Over 120 people turned up to pre-season training, the most we have seen for years. This allowed us to re-enter another side in Gordon District competition, we now have 7 men teams playing each Saturday. Additionally, we entered a Masters team, which played every second weekend, and saw the welcome return of many old warhorses. Thanks to Terry Luckman for initiating this team, which went from strength to strength as the year went on.
- We secured a sponsor, the Eastwood Hotel, not only did this assist financially, but we now had a venue to return to post match, sip a beer and tell lies.
- Our new First Grade captain, Peter Procopis, had a sensational year with the bat. As Peter is a student of the University, his performances were formally recognised by MUSA, when Peter was awarded Rookie of the Year. I would like to thank Peter for his efforts, and I hope he is back to captain First Grade again next year.
- Communication within the club has improved. The Tuesday morning emails were well received by all. Those deadly accurate, humorous and at times lengthy reports, (thanks Fordy), were highly anticipated as players rushed to their PCs on Tuesday to read about the feats of their colleagues. Feedback from the club suggests we could do more in this area when it comes to rationale behind selections. Selections are never easy and it's impossible to make everyone happy, however, if we can work on the communication of our decisions, at least we can give players a clear indication of where they stand in the eyes of the selectors..
- While we made the finals in only one grade (Barnsey's 6th Grade team). There was a much improved performance across the club, we went from 11th to 7th in the Club Championship and all sides were in semi-final contention up until the final rounds. The plan is to build on this and convert this into finals' participation next year.
- Our social events went to a new level. Never before have we had a 16 piece swing band perform at a club function. Much thanks to Danny McVey and his family for their organisation of the night. Those that missed the ball, don't despair, we plan to have this as an annual event to see you there next year. Trivia night was a hoot, and the annual dinner just keeps getting bigger and bigger.
- We re-introduced the Man of the Match awards, plenty of guys are now drinking their beers from schooner glasses, emblazoned with "Man of the Match", in fact Brownie may have a "box set".
- Another member, hit the 300 game milestone. Congratulations Warrick Folkard. Wick started here in 1976, he is now playing cricket with guys who weren't even born in 1976. Well done Warrick, you are one of the club's finest statesman. To play 300 games speaks volumes for the man's devotion and commitment. Not only has he excelled on the field, he was President for many years and has given up countless hours of his own time for the benefit of the club.
- After 12 years since the first MUCC tour of the UK, we are off again! A tour of this proportion takes plenty of organising, fund raising and also says something about the comradarie of our club, when 11 guys are willing to spend their much valued annual leave,

travelling in a bus and sharing a room for 3 weeks. I look forward to recalling our exploits in next year's report.

On a sad note, last season we lost one of our Life Members. Ivan Blyth passed away in January – aged 39. Ivan played 188 games, 126 in First Grade, scored 4,180 runs with 3 centuries, all in First Grade and took 58 catches. He was our First Grade Captain in 1986-87 and 1987-88. He was our Treasurer in 1993-94 and served on Committee before that..

When something as tragic as this occurs, you realise that you don't really turn up every Saturday just to score runs, take wickets and win matches, you turn up to hang out with your mates. The mates you make here last for many years, well after the cricketing days are over. Ivan was one of my cricket mates. The club offers its deepest sympathies to his wife Melanie, and the boys. With the blessing of Melanie, the Clubman of the Year Award has been renamed the Ivan Blyth Memorial Clubman of the Year. Ivan will not be forgotten at MUCC.

My thanks for their efforts this year to:

Danny McVey , not only for his contribution in the coaching role, but also for his work off the field, particularly in taking on the leading role for the organisation of the UK tour. Danny has informed me that due to work commitments, he will be unable to coach next season. I thank him for the groundwork he has laid over the last two years. This will make life a lot easier for his successor.

David Smith has worked tirelessly as Club Secretary, and many of the improvements around the club are in no small amount due to his work. Phil Erskine has assisted greatly throughout, including catering for the trivia night, and drumming up auctions items. Steve Gasser never misses a training, and keeps all the equipment ship shape . Thanks to all the members of the committee, if you did nothing more than raise one issue at a meeting your contribution was worthwhile.

Thanks to MUSA for their continual support, and for their generous financial allocation to the UK tour.

Thanks to everybody who played a game for the green and golds this year. Everyone's effort is appreciated.

Finally, congratulations, to all the award winners, particularly Peter Procopis on winning the Gwilliam Shield as the most outstanding cricketer in the club, Tony Barnes on being granted Life Membership, Derek Couper, Most Improved and Steve Gasser for Clubman.

I look forward to seeing everybody back next year for what promises to be an exciting season.

Craig Edwards

Honorary President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

To any old secretary reading this report, full marks for the tremendous job you somehow managed to do in those pre-email days. As Club Secretary, the most important job (well, apart from making the President look good!) is ensuring all club members know in a timely manner what is happening around the place- on and off the field. Thankfully, e-mail has made this task so much easier- not one envelop was licked over the past season, which meant another year with no Seinfeld-esque deaths from glue poisoning! And congratulations to all those who made it through to the last line of Fordy's match report each Tuesday morning!

From an administrative point of view, the challenge of a club record nine teams- 4 Shires, 1 Metropolitan Shield, 2 Gordon Junior Districts teams, the U-24's, along with the welcomed introduction of a Masters team, while putting together a UK Tour was not without its challenges. However, this extra workload was more than outweighed by the tremendous club spirit and enthusiasm for this great game of cricket, which carried itself throughout the entire season.

On the field, we're getting closer, with Barnsey's Golden Boys making the finals, while most of the other teams were very competitive throughout the season. If the steady on and off field improvements of the last few years can continue, a new trophy must land itself in the cabinet soon!

Looking ahead, it is important club members continue to take an active part in the administration and the day-to-day functions required to keep a large club like Macquarie operating. This includes everything from paying fees on time, packing the nets away after training, volunteering to put covers down on a Friday night or helping out with the afternoon tea, through to taking a position on the committee. Players who are simply turning up to play each Saturday for an entire season without offering to help out at least once or twice really need to spend some time in the hall of mirrors, having a good hard look at themselves.

On a personal note, I would like to thank a number of individuals for their support and assistance over the past season.

- Steve Gasser was tremendous with his work running training and organising our equipment.
- Mark Hughes and his love of numbers meant the club statistics are in good hands.
- Simon Burchett again showed his endurance by representing the interests of the club on the Shires Sub-Committee.
- David Webb for his advice and willingness to always help out
- Jamie Breden for helping me maintain a healthy relationship with MUSA
- Phil Erskine for his generous help with our fundraising activities.
- Marty Payne, in his last year as treasurer, for his great work, especially in the area of fee collections- compliance must be at its highest levels ever.
- and last, but certainly not least, Craig Edwards (el' Presidente), for his continued support and leadership which has helped turn the club into the vibrant place it is today.

I would also like to thank the other members of the committee, and the skippers who all made strong contributions to the club throughout the year.

Now, if I can survive the UK tour, I look forward to seeing you all for season 2002/03.

David Smith
Honorary Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

At the close of season 2001-2002, it is my pleasure to report once again that the Macquarie University Cricket Club has maintained its strong financial position. As at the end of May 2002 the financial position can be summarised as follows;

	April 2001	May 2002
Cash at bank	\$13,168.91	\$15,207.13
Term Deposit (NRMA Finance)	\$12,808.33	\$13,345.45

The draft income / expense statement (provided) demonstrates how the club was successful in improving the cash position of the club in the face of escalating expenses. The proposed increase to the MUSA sponsored project fund was successful. Funds were made available to the cricket club to partially cover the cost of initiatives such as the club coach, and club playing scholarship. Funds were also secured on a one off basis to partially cover the cost of the UK tour set down for July 2002.

The addition of two extra teams competing in the Gordon Junior District Cricket Association led to a significant increase in collected member fees this year. The club experienced a significant increase in the cost of fielding teams this season compared to last. With the cost of cricket balls, trophies and first aid kits all rising, careful cost management will be required to ensure the club's continued financial success.

The performance of the funds invested in the club term deposit was disappointing, yielding a decrease in the vicinity of 50% in funds returned. The committee is advised to review alternate investments for these funds.

Congratulations are extended to the 2002 UK Touring party for their efforts in relation to fund-raising. The inaugural Black Tie Dinner Dance was well supported by club members, generating \$1,500 for the club and touring members. A Trivia Night was also re-introduced this season and was similarly successful.

My thanks and congratulations are extended to the Club Committee for the time they have given to ensure all players have the opportunity to enjoy both the competitive and social aspects of the club. Special mention goes to my fellow members of the executive committee, Craig Edwards and David Smith, who once again volunteered countless hours of personal time to ensure the smooth operation and success of the club.

Martyn Payne

Honorary Treasurer

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY CRICKET CLUB

Profit & Loss Statement

01/01/01 through 31/12/01

Income		
Subscriptions	\$7,430.00	
Socials	\$3,825.00	
Club takings	\$2,482.00	
Fundraising	\$3,685.00	
MUSA Budget	\$3,830.00	
Clothing	\$1,050.00	
Interest received	\$738.59	
Total Income		<u>\$23,041.09</u>
Cost of Sales		
Gross Profit		<u>\$23,041.09</u>
Expenses		
Accounting Fees	\$250.00	
Bank charges	\$53.08	
Clubhouse Supplies	\$2,101.66	
Clothing	\$2,175.00	
Coaching	\$4,000.00	
Cricket equipment	\$4,827.13	
Dues & Subscriptions	\$3,019.20	
Fundraising	\$1,399.86	
Ground Hire	\$710.00	
Maintenance	\$132.00	
Presentation night	\$4,039.21	
Telephone	\$150.00	
Trophies	\$2,473.80	
Total Expenses		<u>\$25,330.94</u>
Operating Profit		<u>-\$2,289.85</u>
Other Income		
Other Expenses		
Net Profit / (Loss)		<u>-\$2,289.85</u>

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY CRICKET CLUB

Balance Sheet

December 2001

Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash on Hand			
Cheque Account	\$17,631.75		
Cash Drawer	<u>\$167.97</u>		
Total Cash on Hand		\$17,7999.72	
Savings Funds			
NRMA Deposit	<u>\$13,084.47</u>		
Total Savings Funds		<u>\$13,084.47</u>	
Total Current Assets			\$30,884.19
Clearing			<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Assets			\$30,884.19
Liabilities			
Net Assets			<u>\$30,884.19</u>
Equity			
Retained Earnings		\$33,174.04	
Current Year Earnings		<u>\$2,289.85</u>	
Total Equity			<u>\$30,884.19</u>

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY CRICKET CLUB

SCOPE

I have audited the financial statements of the Macquarie University Cricket Club for the year ended 32 December 2001. The Committee is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information they contain. I have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. The club predominately trades on a cash basis, which is the normal trading basis for clubs of this kind. Therefore the audit is restricted to actual cash banked and recorded. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material aspects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards so as to prevent a view of the association which is consistent with my understanding of its financial position, the results of its operations and cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

AUDIT OPINION

In my opinion, the financial statements do present fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, the financial position of the Macquarie University Cricket Club as at December 2001.

Yours faithfully,

ELLIOT HOUSE PARTNERS

A.P.Slattery

CAPTAIN'S REPORT – 1ST GRADE SHIRES

I decided to do away with the narrative style and pen a few words on each regular player with space reserved at the end for those who graced First Grade for a short time. I've never trusted statistics so I will avoid them at all costs.

Christian Bova- "Boves" would be disappointed with his returns at the batting crease this year. He possesses plenty of natural talent and with a couple of technical adjustments could be a consistent First Grade batsman in the future.

Brendan Rounds- "Roundsy" was 'Mr. Consistency' with the ball all year long. He bowled tight lines and was rewarded with good figures on a regular basis. Unfortunately his run aggregate didn't quite match his substantial batting talents. "Roundsy's" catching was one of our few fielding highlights of the year and his constant needling of "Clynie" was very entertaining for all but one.

Brent McKnee- Brent is another who under-performed with the bat this season. A guy of his talents should score around 500 runs each year. "Roasty" was one our best in the field and chimed in on several occasions with the ball. A couple of his spells were top-shelf and changed the status of the match.

Peter Saliba- Peter's call of "no runs" will stay with me for many a long cricket season, largely due to the fact that I heard it on at least 100 occasions each Saturday afternoon! As for his cricketing exploits, his batting was at times devastating and on other occasions, disappointing. His century against Lane Cove was a highlight, dominated by powerful, straight hitting. He showed total disdain for the hapless bowlers.

Ben Suthanther- It was a pleasure to play cricket with the smiling assassin from the sub-continent. His off-spin bowling provided our attack with some much-needed variety and his middle-order batting was brutal at times. In order to improve, Ben needs only to look to two of his countrymen. By watching Habejan (sorry about the spelling Ben!) and Sachin he can learn to go 'up and over' with his offies and move further back or forward when batting.

David Webb- Our best player week in, week out. I find it hard to believe that David didn't play First Grade cricket during his prime. His game has all the required attributes. His medium-fast bowling provides a stern examination for all batsman and his hard-hitting batting caused opposition teams to panic, thence setting conservative fields and handing us the initiative. If there is one suggestion I could make, it refers to "Webby's" potential longevity in the game. The gym beckons in the off-season and if David responds there is no reason why he can't be a potent force for another five years.

Clyne Fernandes- "Clynie" had a good year behind the stumps and displayed considerable talent with the bat. He is organized at the crease and remains composed- two key attributes of quality batsmanship. His footwork behind the stumps can be improved with some off-season skipping and general fitness work. I thoroughly enjoyed standing next to Clyne at first slip. He was a constant source of advice and encouragement. Perhaps his greatest fear was weathering the constant verbal barrage of Rounds without resorting to violence!

Steve Gasser- Steve made a good impression during his rookie year in the top grade. He displayed the spirit required to be a successful top-order batsman as well as a few very handy strokes. There is only one way to describe Steve's approach to fielding and that is 'enthusiastic'.

His bowling is an asset and with the development of more variety, will mature with time. A pleasure to captain- the very encapsulation of a “team man”.

David Budge- “Budgie” bowled well all season. His left-arm medium pacers always seemed to upset the batsman’s sense of line. An experienced cricketer, he was able to vary his attack with great effect. His batting was very useful on occasions, notching latter-order 20s and 30s. His strokes were not always derived from the coaching textbook but they were often successful. Lastly, I must comment on Budgie’s love for the environment. At season’s end I was lucky enough to join him at a plant appreciation evening in North Sydney. Under his guidance a great night was had by all those lucky enough to attend.

Derek Couper- Derek found himself in a difficult position for most of the year. He was moved between Firsts and Seconds on several occasions, which made it hard for him to become comfortable with his respective roles in each team. However, for the most part he performed very well in First Grade, picking up some important wickets at crucial stages. If Derek is prepared to put in the hard work at training he is good enough to claim a regular spot in the top grade. The ball is in his court.

David Smith- The big fella would admit to being less than satisfied with his returns from the bowling crease this season. Although he managed to hurry quite a few batsmen with extra pace and bounce, both luck and consistency eluded him. On the other hand, his batting was a revelation. His technique is sound and he possesses two or three very good scoring shots. There is no reason why he can’t progress up the order over the next couple of seasons. The opening spot may be beckoning for “Smithy” if only he can find a skipper willing to back him.

Others to play First Grade this season included Brett Kent, Dave Gracie, Jamie Breden, Tim Hopkins and Michael Walker. Brett and Dave only played one match, in which they both gave their all. A public apology must be made to Brett who suffered at the hands of a skipper, who made more than a few dodgy calls throughout the year. Dave performed well but due to one reason or another wasn’t able to force his way back into the side. Jamie left us due to a back injury and I’m sure I speak on behalf of everybody when I say how good it is to see him fit again after a successful operation. Tim Hopkins made a good impression at First Grade level. He’s extremely talented. As for his cricketing future, it’s entirely up to him. If he works on his action with a good coach and strengthens his core bowling muscles, he could do anything. Lastly, it is with some disappointment that I record having only played a couple of matches with Michael. It is plain to see he is a player of high quality.

In drawing conclusions as to the nature of our season I’d have to say it was anything but boring. Some weeks we seemed like potential flag-winners whereas on other occasions we resembled the NSW Liberal Party, confused and well out of our depth. Having said that, I must say I thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie and sense of humour of my teammates. A lot of laughs were had and plenty of wind-ups made for enjoyable afternoons.

I would like to thank all those who have made me feel welcome at the Club. I regret not having as much energy and enthusiasm for the game as I used to and fear this may have played a part in First Grade’s inconsistent performances. Add to this, reluctance on the part of some of the guys to do the hard yards at training, and I think you have the symptoms of our ailment.

In closing I’d like to extend my thanks to Craig Edwards and Dave Smith in their capacity as office bearers. Their friendly and professional approach to me during all our dealings was pleasantly received and played a big factor in my coming to the Club in the first place. Lastly, a sincere thanks to David Webb who helped keep me motivated throughout the season.

Peter Procopis
1st Grade Captain

MATCH REPORTS

v Holroyd-Hills 130 lost to Holroyd-Hills 190 and 144

Holroyd won the toss and elected to bat. They managed to score 190, albeit at a fairly pedestrian pace. Roundsy was the pick of the bowlers, taking (3-28). Our response was a meagre 130 of which Budgie top scored with (32). Despite some questionable umpiring, we had played poorly and Holroyd deserved their victory.

v Strathfield 243 lost to Strathfield 7 for 246

After winning the toss and electing to bat, we made 243 on a strange Macquarie no.2 wicket. Procopis top-scored with (58) in his first major score for the club. Ben Sunthanthar showed glimpses of his appreciable talent, scoring a quick (39). Despite a strong bowling and fielding performance on day two, Strathfield managed to eke out a victory, passing our total, losing seven wickets on the way. Budgie was the best of our bowlers, capturing (3 for 56).

v Epping 348 defeated Epping 201

The bright reflection coming from the wicket as we drove into the ground made deciding to bat very easy. After winning the toss we achieved our best team batting performance of the season, 348 runs. The highlight was a magnificent (97) from David Webb, who was ably supported by Peter Saliba (62). Our ominous total proved too much for Epping who had waxed lyrical about their strong chance of success in a suburban newspaper. They could only manage 201, Suthanthar and McNee picking up two wickets apiece.

v Canterbury-Bexley 168 lost to Canterbury-Bexley 220

Having won the toss and elected to bat, Canterbury-Bexley found themselves reeling at 9 for 113. Unfortunately, a few nicks through the slips and the occasional powerful drive, they had escaped with a very competitive total of 220. Webb and Rounds were the pick of the bowlers, snaring two wickets each. Apart from swashbuckling innings from Suthanthar and McNee, we failed to come to terms with the WACA-like pitch and stumbled to 168 all out.

v Burwood 7 for 172 defeated Burwood 168

We won the toss and sent them in on a patchy home wicket. Tight bowling from David Webb and four wickets apiece to Suthanthar and Budge saw the visitors restricted to 168. After a few heart-stopping moments, we were able to secure a victory, seven wickets down. McNee top-scored with a hard-hitting (51).

v Lane Cove 3 for 281 defeated Lane Cove 174 and 76

We restricted Lane Cove to 174, Sunanthar and Budge took three wickets each. In reply we set a cracking space, declaring at 3 for 281 off only 57 overs. Procopis (125 not out) and Saliba (101 not out) both made fine centuries. This gave us 30 overs to bowl them out. We achieved this comfortably with four overs to spare. In their second innings they only managed 76 due largely to a fine spell of bowling by the veteran Webb (4-15), who was well supported by a resurgent Smith (2-21), and a steady Budge (2-12). It must be mentioned that our fielding and catching was superb on this occasion.

v Warringah 204 lost to Warringah 5 for 205

On a wet morning Warringah won the toss. We scored 204 with Webb and Procopis scoring fine half-centuries along the way. Unfortunately, their batting proved too strong, reflecting their position in the competition. Webb was again the pick of the bowlers, capturing (2-26) off 22 fine overs. It was a case of missed chances, as was often the case this year. We dropped catches at the wrong time and paid the price. They lost only five wickets, on their way to passing our total.

v Pennant Hills 152 lost to Pennant Hills 6 for 155

The visitors won the toss and sent us in on another challenging Main Oval wicket. Fernandes was the pick of the batsmen, making a well compiled (53). Despite his efforts though, we could only muster 152. In a strong reply, Pennant Hills made 6 for 155, Webb again starring with ball (3-22). Unfortunately the match was marred by a couple of nasty exchanges between players and some weak umpiring. It is rumoured the skipper placed a communication ban on his players for one week as a result.

v Auburn 190 defeated Auburn 62 and 9 for 138

The Auburnians won the toss and sent us in on a wicket that promised something for all. Saliba top-scored with (44) hard-hit runs, helping us to reach 190. Auburn's reply was inadequate to say the least. The old guard of Webb, Smith, Rounds and Budge decimated the visitors' batting line-up, despatching them to the pavilion for a dismal 62 runs. Attempting to seize the moment we sent them back in, but as so often happens, couldn't knock them over again. Webb led the way, finishing with seven wickets for the match.

v Roseville 0-0 drew with Roseville 239

Unfortunately this match was destroyed by rain. Roseville batted on day one, reaching 239. Rounds was the pick of the bowlers, taking (4-57). There was no further play due to inclement conditions.

v Blacktown 5 for 196 defeated Blacktown 8 for 192

In what was akin to a home game for a few of our boys, the hosts won the toss and batted first on a belter. Tight bowling and complimentary fielding, enabled us to restrict them to 192. Rounds (3-28) and Gasser (2-16) were outstanding performers. It was a particularly strong effort when they were called upon to bowl during "happy hour" and proved themselves well up to the task. A positive approach saw us reach the target with ease, Webb finishing the match with a trade-mark 6 over wide mid-on. Earlier, McNee, Procopis and Rounds had made significant contributions. All in all it was strong performance, one of the season's best.

v South Sydney 113 and 3 for 70 lost to South Sydney 5 for 115

A home again, this time against the competition leaders, we lost the toss and were sent in to bat. We never came to grips with the quality bowling attack on a bowler-friendly pitch and succumbed for a paltry 113 runs, with Procopis making the only significant contribution with (44). Souths passed our target without too much fuss and we were left to lick our wounds and wonder what may have been if we'd backed ourselves on day one. As for the bowlers, Budge (2-15) and Suthanther (2-25) picked up a couple each and Webb toiled manfully.

v Lindfield 83 and 7 for 138 lost to Lindfield 9 for 297

The last match of the season saw us needing to win in order to have a chance of taking part in the finals. We confronted the eventual premiers, Lindfield, on their home turf. In a one-dayer, we sent them in, only to drop six catches and bowl with poor direction. Overall it was a very lacklustre effort. Lindfield amassed 9 for 297, with only big David Smith (1-53 off 12) and Webb (4-58 off 17) proving troubling for their batsmen. High run-scoring turned to high farce when we found ourselves 6 for 10 after 7 overs. We never recovered and were bowled out for 83 on an easy-paced pitch. Lindfield declared at 0 for 0 and we made a much better fist of the second innings, reaching 7 for 158. McNee and Fernandes played well scoring (39) and (25 not out) respectively. It was a sad end to an up and down season.

1ST GRADE SHIRES STATISTICS 2001-02

BATTING AVERAGES

Batsman	Matches	Innings	N.O.	H.S.	Runs	Average	Catches
P. Procopis	13	13	3	125x	512	51.20	8
D. Webb	12	11	1	97	265	26.50	6
P. Saliba	13	14	2	101x	302	25.17	8
C. Fernandes	13	12	4	53x	197	24.63	22+2stp.
B. McNee	13	14	-	57	299	21.36	3
B. Suthanther	10	10	-	46	197	19.70	5
D. Smith	13	12	5	31	125	17.86	1
D. Budge	13	10	3	32x	125	17.86	4
B. Rounds	10	9	-	32	121	13.44	9

ALSO BATTED (Less than 100 Runs)

Batsman	Matches	Innings	N.O.	H.S.	Runs	Average	Catches
D. Gracie	1	1	-	11	11	11.00	-
J. Breden	6	5	-	34	51	10.20	4
M. Walker	3	2	-	16	16	8.00	2
D. Couper	8	6	1	15x	28	5.60	3
S. Gasser	5	6	-	11	33	5.50	1
C. Bova	6	7	-	12	23	3.29	4
T. Hopkins	3	2	-	4	4	2.00	-
B. Kent	1	1	-	0	0	0.00	-

BOWLING AVERAGES

Bowler	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	10 in Match	5 in Innings	Average
B. Rounds	129	38	318	21		-	15.14
D. Webb	224.3	56	456	30	-	1	15.20
D. Budge	160.3	39	464	25	-	-	18.56
B. Sunanther	132.5	35	375	18	-	-	20.83
B. McNee	57.3	9	240	11	-	-	21.82
D. Smith	140	31	410	13			31.54

ALSO BOWLED (Less than 10 Wickets)

Bowler	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	10 in Match	5 in Innings	Average
M. Walker	2	-	5	1	-	-	5.00
S. Gasser	10	1	55	2	-	-	27.50
T. Hopkins	25.1	1	89	3	-	-	29.67
D. Couper	74	15	236	7		-	33.71
C. Bova	5	-	21	-	-	-	****
D. Gracie	7.4	1	24	-	-	-	****

1ST GRADE SHIRES 2001-02

BEST PERFORMANCES

<i>Batting Average</i>	P. Procopis	51.20
<i>Batting Aggregate</i>	P. Procopis	512
<i>Highest Score</i>	P. Procopis	125x v Lane Cove
<i>Bowling Average</i>	B. Rounds	15.14
<i>Bowling Aggregate</i>	D. Webb	30
<i>Most Wickets in a Innings</i>	D. Webb	5/37 v Auburn
<i>Most Wickets in a Match</i>	D. Webb	7/68 v Lane Cove
<i>Wicket Keeping</i>	C. Fernandes	22 catches + 2 stp.
<i>Centuries</i>	P. Procopis	125x v Lane Cove
	P. Saliba	101x v Lane Cove
<i>Highest Team Score</i>		348 v Epping
<i>Lowest Team Score</i>		83 v Lindfield

RESULTS

<i>Played</i>	13
<i>Won Outright</i>	1
<i>Won 1st Innings</i>	4
<i>Drawn</i>	1
<i>Lost 1st Innings</i>	7
<i>Lost Outright</i>	-
<i>Position in Competition</i>	7th

TEAM STATISTICS

MACQUARIE

OPPONENTS

<i>Runs Scored</i>	2488	2822
<i>Wickets Lost</i>	115	139
<i>Average per Wicket</i>	21.63	20.30

HIGHEST "1ST GRADE" SHIRES PARTNERSHIPS 2001-02

Wicket	Batsmen			Runs	Opponent	
1	P. Procopis	36	B. Rounds	28	39	Epping
	P. Procopis	17	C. Bova	12	39	Auburn
2	P. Procopis	125x	D. Smith	31	94	Lane Cove
3	P. Procopis	58	P. Saliba	25	65	Strathfield
4	P. Procopis	125x	P. Saliba	101x	168x	Lane Cove
5	B. McNee	57	B. Suthanther	42	82	Burwood
6	P. Procopis	76	D. Webb	51	98	Warringah
7	D. Webb	97	C. Fernandes	30	70	Epping
8	C. Fernandes	26	D. Budge	28	33	Strathfield
9	D. Webb	23	D. Budge	32x	32	Holroyd-Hills
10	D. Smith	17	D. Budge	32x	39	Holroyd-Hills

CAPTAIN'S REPORT – 2ND GRADE SHIRES

We finished the year in 7th position 4 points out of the six. Throughout the year our batting let us down but our bowling kept us in games that we didn't really deserve to be in. Some fine performances with the ball came from Brown, Hopkins, Gracie and Jordan. Chris Savage gained confidence with the bat as did Brett Kent. Chris Ying went from strength to strength with the bat and excelled with the gloves. Derek Couper bowled as well as he ever did without much reward. Matt Greenwood showed he had what it takes to be a regular Second Grader. Richard Cann had a disappointing year with the bat but held his position in the team through some gutsy bowling and half-a-dozen run-outs at crucial times and towards the end of the season his batting started to show signs of a return to form. As for my season I was disappointed with the lack of runs but thoroughly enjoyed leading the side. I hope to see all the boys for next year and hope to go that little further.

Terry Dorrell

2nd Grade Captain

MATCH REPORTS

v Holroyd-Hills 230 lost to Holroyd-Hills 279

With all the teams finalised and all players present before the start of play goal one for my term at the helm of Macquarie seconds was met. I won the toss and sent them in on what appeared to be a Jock's early season "special". Fourth over into the game a stroke of genius saw me place a fly-slip in. Sideway's glances and muttering from the team were quickly dispelled when the very next ball saw the ball fly straight down fly-slip's throat. I tell you now I immediately felt the new hat tighten around the head. I was soon brought back down to earth with the next wicket falling 105 runs later. Fielding let the side down with the opposition opener being dropped three times before he got to 50, and he went on to get 133. At one point after he passed his 100, Gracie was asked by yours truly whether he wanted another man out on the boundary. I think the reply was, "No I think he's running out of puff and would battle to make it to the boundary". Nevertheless, the next ball was launched into orbit finally coming down like a meteor onto a unit's roof, shattering tiles and making enough noise for mothers to take their children out of the streets. It was now up to the skipper to lead his troops out of the trenches. I wore him out in three easy steps, loop it up give him no pace, put it wide so he has to reach, hopefully cramping him up, then when he's so crippled with pain from the cramp, fire one in at the stumps. Easy peasey, Japanesy. 3 for 196. We cleaned up the tail for another 80. So after looking down the barrel of a 320 plus target we had restricted them to 279. Twelve overs were to be faced that afternoon which myself and Steve Moran did and knocked 39 runs off the target without the loss of a wicket. The following week saw wickets fall regularly with contributions from Moran (39), Rose (25), Dorrell (56), Cann (25) and Gasser (36). All out 230. We were competitive and would have been better served if we had held some of the simple catches we put down.

v Strathfield 247 defeated Strathfield 95 and 1 for 62

I won the toss, elected to bat and we got off to a reasonable start. The first wicket fell at 50 the second at 76 with Knocky managing to get under the skin of the opposition, which was quite

unusual considering his mild mannered-approach to his cricket. A mini-collapse saw us 5 for 95. Good partnerships from Bova-Brown, Brown-Hopkins, Hopkins-Gasser, Gasser-Ying and a hard-hitting cameo from Brokate saw us end the day at 9 for 243. We started the next week and batted on, more for the piss-off factor rather than the craving for extra runs. Another 3 runs were added to the total all out 247. Contributions from Dorrell (26), Knock (35), Bova (37), Hopkins (37), Gasser (33) and Brokate (21 not out). We bowled beautifully to have the Strathfield team 6 for 22 with the Master Magician Brown taking 2 wickets in his first over. Wickets fell regularly and the opposition were all out for 95 Brown (4-17), Hopkins 2, Brokate 1, Cann 2, and Dorrell 1. We sent them in again but were only able get one wicket before the game was called off. One from two and all I had to do from there was win one more game and we were in front of our efforts from the year before.

v Epping 3 for 138 and 5 for 96 defeated Epping 47 and 242

I lost the toss and the Epping skipper elected to bat. The toss was about the only thing they won on this day with Brown, Hopkins and Cann ripping the heart out of the Epping line-up. Brown (5-22), Hopkins (2-12) and Cann (2-13). All out 47. We went in with the intention of knocking the runs off before tea. However that was not to be with the scores being equal at the break with the loss of 3 Macquarie wickets. After the break Bova and Kent gave the opposition a “right royal Rogering” spanking the Epping attack to all parts of the park. Bova (61 not out) and Kent (51 not out). We declared 90 runs in front. The second innings of Epping wasn’t going to be a carbon copy of the first, mainly due to our fielding. We dropped several catches and at the end of the day had the opposition 1 for 60. The next week didn’t see our fielding efforts improve with strong performances from the Epping No 1, 3 and 5. At 4 for 220 the game looked over however we made a run at it dismissing the next 6 for 19. All out 242 leaving 152 runs off 16 overs. We had a dash at the target however could only manage 96 off the 16 overs. Two from three and I was starting to get a bit toey, going to sleep at night with the gloves under the pillow and dreams of Macquarie Glory.

v Canterbury-Bexley 9 for 211 defeated Canterbury-Bexley 180

The first one-dayer of the season with possibly our strongest side of the year. I won the toss and elected to bat. A slow start due to the tight bowling from the opposition saw a 3 runs per over rate up to the 33rd over, Harris (33). Bova (46) and Walker (53) with a brilliant partnership of 78 runs in quick time saw us back on track. Quick scoring with little overs remaining was the order of the day. We managed to get to 9 for 211 off our 50 overs. Without the services of the Veteran Greg Brown for this match, I turned to another, Brett Kent, to open the bowling with Hopkins. Kent bowled a steady line and length while Hopkins destroyed the opposition top-order as they slumped to 4 for 35. Speaking of destroyed, Kent was a gibbering mess for the next 4 weeks as his over-taxed body tried in vain to repair itself. It’s good to see this type of spirit or maybe just maybe the captain may have made a mistake and over bowled him. I prefer to think it was the former rather than the latter. They steadily lost wickets and were never in the hunt. All out for 180 in the 47th over. Hopkins (4-37), Dorrell (3-29), Cann (1-31), Gasser (1-21) and Gracie (1-3).

v Burwood 146 and 238 lost to Burwood 262 and 7 for 75

I won the toss and sent the opposition in. *By the way is anyone keeping tally of the tosses?. Just keep any eye on them.* The decision to send the opposition in was justified, well for a short time any way, having the opposition 4 for 24 after 12 overs. After that it all went pear-shaped due to some poor fielding and then some good batting. 4 for 24 became after 6 for 247 with the opposition scoring 223 runs in 31 overs. The introduction of Harris, the Under 24’s secret weapon, soon turned the tide. Harry took (4-29) off 6 overs after going for 20 in his second over, including one 6 which never got above head-height, hitting the concrete wall around the ground and nearly coming back to the keeper on the second bounce. The last 4 wickets added

only 14 runs, Burwood all out for 262. The batting started off on shaky ground as we came up against the best bowling encountered thus far. Many of the First Grade boys would be surprised to see their old nemeses Tregeagle in the Second Grade attack. At the end of the day we finished at 6 for 130. Cann (3-39) and Harris (4-29) were the pick of the bowlers. The start the following week didn't go to script, losing our remaining 4 wickets for only 16 runs. We were sent in again with a deficit of 116 runs. We got off to a solid start losing our first wicket at 50, the next two only added 18. Michael Walker came to the crease and started to dish out a right-royal "Roger" to the opposition attack with an innings of 109, including four 6's and sixteen 4's. A decision had to be made whether to declare or bat on, the decision was made for me as Walker got little support from the tail other than occupation of the crease. Macquarie all out for 238, leaving Burwood 123 to get off 14 overs. Our bowling was exceptional under the circumstances and the opposition shut up shop in the ninth over. At the end of the day Burwood were 7 for 75, Hopkins (4-20 off 7), Cann (1-41 off 6) and yours truly parachuting in for two of the plumbest lbw you have ever seen, (2-0 off 1).

v Lane Cove 5 for 250 defeated Lane Cove 247

The toss was won and the opposition was sent into bat. We got off to a great start having the opposition 6 for 76 after 28 overs. One of the Lane Cove openers remained the backbone of their innings and considering he was out 3 times before he got to 50 he was bound to make a big score. At tea we had them 7 for 128, a good morning's work. We let ourselves down after tea with some poor fielding, and with that and some creative umpiring from the Stevie Wonder School for the Blind the opposition made their way to 247. We had 8 overs to face. Frustration and a brain explosion on the skipper's behalf and we found ourselves at 1 for 17 at the end of the day. The start of play next week saw the Macquarie boys turn up at the oval and help the Lane Cove lads remove the covers off the pool, sorry I mean pitch. After extracting a key from my pocket and doing the "Tony Grieg" on the pitch, I had to ask several of the boys to pull me out as the key went in up to my shoulders. A quick trip to obtain legal advice found me left on my own. I played the "I'm playing" card. They brought in the groundsman, the helicopters and more woodchips than the whole Japanese paper industry could handle. I still refused to start the game. They were spewing. Eventually we got underway on my terms and to everyone's astonishment it played like a road. Harris and Knock put on 90, Knock and Bova (20), Bova and Kent (30). Gracie and Gasser then went about surgically removing the opposition's ghoulies, putting on an unbroken 90 run partnership to humiliate the Lane Cove team. Six points in the bag, *bad luck* Lane Cove.

v Warringah drew with Warringah 3 for 85

We arrived at the ground, which looked like the tide had come in, water everywhere. All that was missing were the babes and umbrellas. (Yinga is no substitute for the real thing). Buckets of water, garbage bins and super soppers were employed. The covers finally came off and a car was parked over the top of the wet-spot. Unusual but effective. The toss was won and Warringah were sent in. Jordan making his debut finished the day with (3-27). A trim, tort and terrific Brown, returning from his honey-moon some 15kgs lighter (it was said, by others, not me, that Brown may have got most of his exercise in the horizontal rather than the perpendicular), had the opposition swinging and missing but unfortunately nothing went to hand. Couper nor Gasser had any success. At the end of the day Warringah were 3 for 85. I couldn't believe that the next week was worse than the previous. The oval was underwater and both Captains agreed to call it off. Draw.

v Pennant Hills 112 lost to Pennant Hills 8 for 114

The bushfires pushed us up onto the top oval. The toss was lost, only the second one for the season and we were sent in. A reasonable start from the No 11, now opener, Ying, saw the first

wicket fall at 24 and the second at 43. From there on in it was a disaster with only the last-wicket stand between Jordan and Greenwood bearing a mention. They put on 35 to give us a meagre total of 112 off 49 overs. It should be mentioned here that the team spirit was extremely high with Kent and Knock engaged in some sort of primitive mating ritual, similar to that of the Himalayan Mountain Goat, without the horns of course. Nevertheless differences of opinion were put aside, briefly at least, and we got down to the business of pulling rabbits out of the hat. Pennant Hills got off to a good start losing their first at 35 they looked like they were always in control, until Jordan came back for his second spell taking 3 wickets in his ninth over to have the Pennant Hills boy a little nervous at 8 for 107, six runs short of the target. However, they limped across the line 8 down. What may have been, two lots of 4 wides and one over that went for 10 earlier on, may have cost us the game.

v Auburn 89 and 3 for 100 lost to Auburn 214

Seeing that Auburn were on the bottom of the table and we were fielding what I considered to be our strongest side all year, I won the toss and sent them in. I could see the 10 points dangling in front of my eyes like a big juicy carrot. At the end of the day I was always going to be the donkey, whipped arse, drool and no carrot. They hit the ball in the air all day, to the left, to the right, just short, just over the top, missed the ball, chopped it into the ground and miss-hit their way to 214. Brown bowling a mammoth 25 overs (6-82). To add insult to injury we were 1 for 8 at the end of the day. Guess who was the one. Cricket is a most cruel and unforgiving game played by people who love to see themselves hurt, frustrated and humiliated by their fellow man. We arrived next week to see the pitch a much darker shade of green and considerably more moist than the previous week. This aside, I felt the deck played well, but that was easy for me to say, I was out. All out for 89 with half the day to go. They sent us back in only because the game couldn't be called off and we managed to get to 94 with the loss of 3 wickets, Walker (54), Ying (23) and Jordan (16 not out). I made a withdrawal and left 6 points with the Wooden Spooners. This loss handed the Auburn side their second and final win for the year.

v Roseville

Washed out both weeks. Another chance for outright points washed away.

v Blacktown 94 defeated Blacktown 84

This game was a must win for the Second Grade side with Blacktown two wins in front. We won the toss and elected to bat. We lost two quick wickets and had the in-form Chris Ying and Chris Savage back in the Pavilion with only 6 runs on the board. A 48 run partnership between the veterans of the side Kent and Dorrell (the later feeling the pinch of a season with very few runs under his belt) got us back on track. However the righting of the Macquarie ship was short-lived, steadily losing wickets, with only Cann and Jordan putting up any sort of resistance. Macquarie all out 94. Sheepishly we took to the field with the ever-hopeful skipper reaching into the bag of clichés and trotting them about with gay abandon. The ever-reliable Brown took the first 3 wickets, 3 for 31. True to form there was a lot of noise from the vocal Blacktown team. Hopkins took the next 3 in an inspired spell of quick bowling. The jocular noise from the hill had changed into a few nervous murmurs of encouragement. Jordan and Gracie to the fore with another 3 between them without score, 9 for 73. Applause from the hill was now coming for wides and dot balls and the crowd nearly gave a standing ovation for a No-Ball. Everyone was on edge, palms were sweating and the field was constantly being changed, more through an over-active adrenal gland than any brilliant foresight. Jordan was the man who stepped up to the plate giving the Blacktown tail-ender no hope, knocking over his castle for the Macquarie boys to snatch victory out of the jaws of defeat. Brown 3, Hopkins 3, Jordan 2 and Gracie 2 wickets.

v South Sydney 140 lost to South Sydney 7 for 144

A much-improved Alan Davidson Oval was the venue for the second last round of the year. The results the previous week didn't go in our favour and we were still 12 points out of the "Top 6". We won the toss and elected to bat on a reasonable deck with a slow outfield. A good start was cut short by a needless run-out and tragically we lost wickets steadily throughout the day until Greenwood and Payne came together. Thirty five runs for this partnership got the score up to a reasonable total, yet still not respectable. Some questionable decisions cut the innings short at 140. Hopkins and Couper opened our attack and made every ball count. Unfortunately after Couper was dropped from First Grade for the previous game and was shafted by the skipper and didn't get a bowl, the cricketing gods again overlooked his resume and he was let down by some poor umpiring. Some close LBW decisions going in favour of the batsman and a blatant edge to second slip, caught as clean as a whistle had the skipper going off his nut. Couper, after bowling his spell of the year, ended the day none-for. Hopkins at the other end knocked the stumps out of the ground on consecutive deliveries to have the opposition wishing they weren't next to bat. At the end of the day they ended up 2 for 31 which should have been 3 possibly 4. It was no surprise to arrive next week and find the pitch was a beautiful concrete replica for the one the week before and the only thing standing in the outfield was the worm's heads wondering where all the grass had gone. Some steady bowling, solid fielding and a repeat performance from Hopkins taking another 2 wickets in consecutive deliveries had us in with a chance. A great piece of fielding from Richard Cann to run out the South Sydney No 6 and the opposition was 5 for 67. However, that was as close as we were ever going to get, the pavement had taken off any of the shine that was left on the ball and the only way we were going to get any movement out of the pitch, would be to pull out the stumps and plant them on the nearby third runway. They passed us 5 down and I threw the ball to Greenwood who promptly got a wicket with his first ball, inspiring Payne to give the departing batsman a gobfull, suggesting that was why Greenwood was the leading wicket taker in Fourth Grade. Needless to say they had secured the points and they were having the last laugh. Two balls into Payne's first spell in Second Grade for some time, had another of the South Sydney boys on their way back to the sheds. Derek Couper by this time had taken off and was running through the traffic with a blindfold on screaming "I hate this game!". Some minor beating of chests and measuring our tackle had the game called off after tea.

v Lindfield 5 for 56 and 2 for 117 defeated Lindfield 55 and 116

The only way we were going to make the semis was to win outright and rely on others to lose or so I thought. At the start of play we found ourselves in 8th spot. Linfield won outright the week before jumping into 7th. The order went into for a pitch that would provide us with an outright chance. Jock, true to form by Thursday had produced a straw-coloured belter. The clouds came over on Thursday night and you guess it I was unable to get the covers down into before a liberal helping of water fell onto the parched strip. We arrived on Saturday morning to find the covers had leaked overnight, dame shame about that. The opposing skipper was as keen as me to get the game underway. Little did he know I was 9 from 11 at the toss.. I sent them in and it was not long before Brown and Hopkins were tearing through the opposition top-order. The pitch assisted a little but it was the precision bowling and ruthless fielding that the opposing batsman couldn't handle. Brown (5-16), Hopkins (3-14), Gracie (1-2). Linfield all out 55. Rose fell early in the run-chase. Steady partnerships under difficult conditions saw us pass the total 4 down. Savage was unlucky not to have remained not out losing his wicket while the skipper was making sure the i's were dotted and the t's were crossed. Chris Ying snared an absolute screamer down leg side to have the opposition 1 for 14 when the rain finally closed play. The covers came off the following week revealing another *Jock Special*, funny how the best efforts of the ground staff occur near the start of the football season. On a good deck the opposition continued to fold under the pressure of the Macquarie bowlers. Some solid fielding, patience and ruthless bowling had the opposition all out for 116. Chris Ying gloved two great catches to cap off a solid season behind the stumps. Brown (3-58), Hopkins (1-24), Jordan (2-26), Dorrell

(1-4) and Gracie (2-2). The run chase got off to a shaky start losing Rose at 12. Savage and Ying had a solid 62 run stand before Savage was out for (27). Kent and Ying took it through with Ying finishing on (54 not out) and Kent (26 not out). Outright points just a little too late.

2ND GRADE SHIRES STATISTICS 2001-02

BATTING AVERAGES

Batsman	Matches	Innings	N.O.	H.S.	Runs	Average	Catches
M. Walker	5	7	1	109	304	50.67	2
S. Gasser	8	8	3	36	173	34.60	8
C. Harris	4	6	-	55	176	29.33	3
C. Bova	7	8	1	61x	192	27.43	2
B. Kent	9	11	2	51x	179	19.89	3
D. Gracie	9	10	3	49x	136	19.43	6
D. Knock	7	8	-	44	155	19.38	3
C. Ying	11	10	2	54x	150	18.75	19
T. Dorrell	12	14	-	56	196	14.00	12

ALSO BATTED (Less than 100 Runs)

Batsman	Matches	Innings	N.O.	H.S.	Runs	Average	Catches
S. Moran	1	1	-	39	39	39.00	2
T. Hopkins	9	5	1	37	69	17.25	4
M. Greenwood	5	4	-	37	59	14.75	2
S. Rose	6	7	-	25	67	9.57	6
C. Savage	7	7	-	27	66	9.43	4
R. Cann	11	8	-	25	56	7.00	5
G. Brown	7	4	-	16	26	6.50	2
D. Couper	4	3	1	3x	8	4.00	-
M. Payne	1	1	-	4	4	4.00	-
G. Scott	1	2	1	1	1	1.00	-
D. Folkard	1	1	-	1	1	1.00	1
J. Jordan	5	4	4	16x	42	****	-
A. Brokate	1	1	1	21x	21	****	-
A. Hale	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

BOWLING AVERAGES

Bowler	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	10 in Match	5 in Innings	Average
J. Jordan	51.2	8	156	14	-	1	11.14
T. Hopkins	141	34	349	30	-	-	11.63
G. Brown	161.5	52	358	30	-	3	11.93
D. Gracie	86.2	22	239	16	-	-	14.94
R. Cann	78.1	11	290	12			24.17
T. Dorrell	99	13	323	12			26.92

ALSO BOWLED (Less than 10 Wickets)

Bowler	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	10 in Match	5 in Innings	Average
M. Payne	0.2	-	0	1	-	-	0.00
C. Harris	16	3	80	5	-	-	16.00
D. Couper	36	11	74	3			24.67
M. Greenwood	15	3	57	2	-	-	28.50
A. Brokate	8	2	40	1	-	-	40.00
S. Gasser	41	11	164	4	-	-	41.00
B.Kent	11	-	33	-	-	-	****

2ND GRADE SHIRES 2001-02

BEST PERFORMANCES

<i>Batting Average</i>	M. Walker	50.67
<i>Batting Aggregate</i>	M. Walker	304
<i>Highest Score</i>	M. Walker	109 v Burwood
<i>Bowling Average</i>	J. Jordan	11.14
<i>Bowling Aggregate</i>	G. Brown	30
	T. Hopkins	30
<i>Most Wickets in an Innings</i>	G. Brown	6/82 v Auburn
<i>Most Wicket in a Match</i>	G. Brown	8/74 v Lindfield
		8/92 v Epping
<i>Wicket Keeping</i>	C. Ying	19 catches
<i>Centuries</i>	M. Walker	109 v Burwood
<i>Highest Team Score</i>		247 v Stathfield
<i>Lowest Team Score</i>		89 v Auburn

RESULTS

<i>Played</i>	12
<i>Won Outright</i>	1
<i>Won 1st Innings</i>	5
<i>Drawn</i>	1
<i>Lost 1st Innings</i>	5
<i>Lost Outright</i>	-
<i>Position in Competition</i>	7th

TEAM STATISTICS

MACQUARIE

OPPONENTS

<i>Runs Scored</i>	2264	2301
<i>Wickets Lost</i>	112	136
<i>Average per Wicket</i>	20.21	16.91

HIGHEST "2ND GRADE" SHIRES PARTNERSHIPS 2001-02

Wicket	Batsmen			Runs	Opponent	
1	T. Dorrell	56	S. Moran	39	54	Holroyd-Hills
2	C. Harris	55	D. Knock	44	94	Lane Cove
3	T. Dorrell	56	S. Rose	25	51	Holroyd-Hills
4	C. Bova	61x	B. Kent	51x	117x	Epping
5	M. Walker	109	S. Gasser	7	45	Burwood
6	D. Gracie	49x	S. Gasser	32x	84x	Lane Cove
7	M. Greenwood	37	M. Payne	4	19	South Sydney
8	T. Hopkins	37	S. Gasser	33	41	Strathfield
9	C. Ying	14	S. Gasser	33	26	Strathfield
10	M. Greenwood	20	J. Jordan	15x	35	Pennant Hills

CAPTAIN'S REPORT – 3RD GRADE SHIRES

Six wins, six losses and one draw, equals 36 points and 4 points out of a finals' placing. One more win and we would have been competing in the finals and anything can happen from there. Nevertheless, it was an improved performance on the previous year's 22 points. It was a year where some days we would play unbeatable cricket and others ...well we were just horrible. As some of the more experienced Third Graders would tell me, "Welcome to Third Grade". Game highlights were victories against Epping, Pennant Hills, Canterbury-Bexley, Lane Cove, the huge run chase to win against Lindfield in the last match and the defeat of the eventual premiers, Auburn.

Twenty eight players had a run in the Thirds, which isn't too bad considering Third Grade can become a bit of a "transit lounge". Five batsmen scored over two hundred runs with Craig Edwards topping the aggregate with 273 and Matt Greenwood claiming the averages at 45.40. It was a great year for Matt Greenwood, in his first at the club, he also picked up 8 wickets at under 20, and played plenty of Second Grade. Matt was a just winner of Third Grade Player of the Year.

Hale and Brokate were a formidable opening bowling pair on their day, when they got it right on a seaming Northern Oval, there weren't many opposition batsmen who could handle the pace. Brokate also proved handy with bat in the lower order. Wick was useful as always, with his tweakers, however, his chances were limited when every second game was played at home on "seam city". Marty Payne took the aggregate honours with 20 wickets. Hale snared the average with 17 wickets at 16.71.

Graham Scott proved to be a worthy acquisition his keeping to the pacemen was exceptional and he finished the year with 14 catches and 2 stumpings.

It was good to see several guys get a run in Seconds throughout the year and guys like Rose, Savage and Greenwood making themselves permanent fixtures in that grade. Schaafsma was a valuable deputy, and I thank him for his advice on the field, anyone that knows Mark, knows that he a good eye for detail, some may say bordering on pedantic, however, this came to good use when setting the correct angles in the field. He also filled in as captain in my absence at the start of the season.

Thanks to everyone who had a game in Third Grade, I hope even if it was for only one game you enjoyed the experience. Thanks to Tunza and Hughesy for their help with selections particularly Tunza for not ringing on Friday night or Saturday night, to inform me of late pull-outs. Hopefully, we have laid a foundation in Thirds this year and next season's team can progress further and take a place in the semi finals.

Craig Edwards

Third Grade Captain

MATCH REPORTS

v Holroyd-Hills 202 lost to Holroyd-Hills 6 for 203

Macquarie batted first and were 9/202 all out. Debutant, Luke Greenwood, “blew a tyre” running between the wickets and busted his knee. This injury would essentially destroy Luke’s season. Best of the bats were Brown (88), Folkard (37) and Knock (32). Defending 202 was always going to be hard work and our score was passed comfortably with Holroyd Hills six wickets down. Brown was best of the bowlers with (2-66), which capped off a great all-round game for the old stager. Needless to say, Brownie was shaking hands with Tunza next game and wasn’t seen in Third Grade again.

v Strathfield 112 and 4 for 109 lost to Strathfield 219

Strathfield batted on a road and were cruising at 5/212. Then our bowlers came to life and knocked over the last 5 wickets for 7 runs. Robbins (3-47), McInnes (2-37) Folkard (2-61) and Payne (2-40) did the work with the ball. The less said about our batting the following week the better. With a golden opportunity to breakthrough for the first win of the year, the batting capitulated and we were all out for 112. Asked to bat again a better showing was displayed, particularly from O’Connor (37 not out) and Greenwood (21 not out). Man of the Match was Matt Greenwood.

v Epping 8 for 338 defeated Epping 113 and 5 for 201

After starting the season with two losses, a win against Epping who were undefeated with a win and an outright to their name, was vital. We batted first on a flat wicket. After a scratchy start, Burchett and Edwards put on a 115 run partnership for the third wicket. The batting ran rampant after tea with the main contributors, Burchett (69), Greenwood (56) and Edwards (90) we finished the day at 8/338. Second week our bowlers demolished Epping to send them packing for 113 Brokate (3-15), Payne (3-37) and Folkard (3-7) were the pick of the bowlers. Epping were asked to bat again and batted out the day to finish 5/201. A very satisfying and dominant victory.

v Canterbury-Bexley 7 for 195 defeated Canterbury-Bexley 194

Our first one-dayer, and on a rain affected wicket I had no hesitation in sending the opposition in. C/B were in trouble early at 3/37 after some good bowling from McInnes. Some aggressive agricultural sloggery by their number 5 took C/B to 194. Shining in the bowling were Greenwood (5-33), McInnes (3-45) and Edwards (2-10). The top-order of the batting played with class and patience, particularly Chris Savage who hit some magnificent drives and scored a fine (71). We were cruising to victory requiring 35 runs from the last 10 overs, however some nervous batting and the loss of a couple quick wickets, left us with 19 runs to win off 4 overs with three wickets in hand. However, it seems C/B were more nervous than us and imploded in the 47th over where we scored 14 runs, including several overthrows. We went on to win with two overs to spare. Star of the match was Greenwood with 5-33 and 31 runs.

v Burwood 114 and 6 for 181 lost to Burwood 132 and 3 for 90

We were set in on a very green wicket, which lived up to expectations and was quick and seaming all over the place. We were in deep trouble early at 4/17 however, a good fightback from Savage (28) and Annetts (31) started to get respectability to our score, however, another mini collapse had us 8/80. Brokate belted (28) from 2 overs and we were all out for 114. Burwood chased the 6 points on the first day. A frustrating opening partnership of 50, put us on

the back foot. A good team fightback led by excellent bowling from McInnes and Hale had Burwood 7/90 and us a slight chance. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be and they passed us 8 down. Burwood batted on week 2 and we swiftly snapped up the last 2 wickets and they were all out for 132.

The plan was to set them a target and perhaps sneak an outright. Things didn't go to plan early and we were under pressure at 3/20 then 6/80 with still plenty of time left. Folkard and Robbins came to the rescue and put in a 114 run partnership in just 30 overs, allowing us to declare 160 in front with 25 overs to play. Robbins batted excellently to score (92 not out). Folkard (24 not out) Rose (34) and Edwards (24) were the best of the other bats. A wicket in the first over got our hopes up, but at 3/50 Burwood decided the chase was too hard and closed things down. Robbins' (92) earned him Man of the Match.

v Lane Cove 6 for 222 defeated Lane Cove 217

Playing the perennial cellar dwellers, it was hoped we might pick up maximum points from this game and gain some ground on other teams. When Lane Cove were 2/131 at tea on the first day, I was hoping only for 6 points let alone 10. However, we stuck to our task in the field and took all of our chances to finally dismiss Lane Cove for 217. Payne (4-62) and Folkard (1-18 off 15) bowled well.

Schaafsma and Rose set up our innings with a 71 run opening stand. Rose in particular, batted well to score (48). Savage continued his good form to notch his second half-century for the year (58). Lego (31), Edwards (21) finished off Lane Cove and completed a very professional team performance. Savage was Man of the Match in a tight vote from Payne and Rose.

v Warringah 204 lost to Warringah 8 for 212

A historic day in our club's history. Warrick Folkard entered into his 300th game. A special moment I'm sure for Wick and we were all fired up to do the right thing and make it a game to remember.

Sent in once again on a juicy green wicket wasn't what I had in mind. At 3 for 11, things were looking desperate. While wickets continued to fall around him, Steve Rose stood tall and relishing the lively wicket he cut and pulled anything short. When Rose went for a brilliant (84) our score was only 8/120. At 9/137. Brokate and Scott came together and batted with controlled aggression making a 71 partnership for the last wicket. Brokate (56), Scott (18 not out), surpassed the existing Third Grade record of 52, and only 17 short of an all-time club record.

Chasing 208, Warringah were struggling at 5/74 then it was a case of letting this game slip through our fingers. Our catching suddenly became non-existent and we dropped too many catches. We dropped one of their batsmen six times (he went on to score 92). Warringah's sixth wicket partnership was 110 and was a match-winner. Man of the Match was Brokate with (56) and (4-54). For the record Wick made a duck, caught down the leg-side, and (0/31). Happy 300th anyway.

v Pennant Hills 7 for 190 defeated Pennant Hills 156

Our second one-day game. We were in strife early at 2/10. Two veterans Schaafsma and Notaras came together and took the score to 120 off 37 overs. We finished with 190 off 50 overs, a reasonable score on a slow outfield. Notaras (65), Schaafsma and Brokate both scored (36). Pennant Hills were never in it. Folkard enjoying a wicket that turned, a nice change from

“Seam City” at home, revelled in the conditions and claimed (4-32). Pennant Hills were dismissed for 156. Man of the Match was Paul Notaras.

v Auburn 9 for 271 defeated Auburn 201

A big win against the team leading the competition (and eventual premiers). Batting first we scored 9/271 off 75 overs, a fantastic effort and allowed us to declare early on day one. David Knock fresh from a spell in Second Grade scored a stylish (78) and was involved in 100 run second wicket partnership with Lego (27). Notaras scored a brutal (65) and was well supported by Edwards, Payne and Bokate who all scored 20s. With overs to bowl on day one, Hale picked up a wicket and Auburn were 1/12 at the close of play. We started day 2 where we left off and Auburn were soon 4/49, then 7/172 at tea. A couple of quick wickets after tea and it was all over. Hale bowled very well to claim (4-24). Graeme Scott, our rapidly improving wicket-keeper gloved 5 catches including a ripper down the leg side. Knock was Man of the Match. Our best display to date and just showed what we could achieve when we clicked.

v Roseville 201 drew with Roseville 0 for 40

The first week was played under damp conditions, when many games throughout the grades had been washed out. We lost the toss and were sent in on spongy green top, we also had an umpire, due to the wash-outs. This meant that rare type of dismissal for third grade ... LBW would come into play. We struggled all day to reach a respectable 201, needless to say there were 4 lbws given and a dodgy caught behind, at least when we umpire ourselves you're only out when you're definitely out. Excellent batting form Greenwood (40) and Scott (35) held the side together.

We had 8 overs at them before the close of play, in what should have been a nasty little session, but turned out to be a smorgasboard for the batsmen and they finished the day 0-40. We will never know how this game would have turned out as rain ruined the second week, leaving the result as a draw. Man of the Match was Matt Greenwood.

v Blacktown 9 for 148 lost to Blacktown 5 for 157

The trip out to Whalan to play Blacktown, always fills me with memories of my childhood. I played all my junior cricket out there and the place never seems to change, neither does the quality of the opposition. When you play Blacktown, you expect a game where you will get no favours, no close decisions your way, no shade and definitely no stimulating conversation from the opposition. Their captain this year was my former P.E. teacher, we knew him at school as “Dudge” he is probably the only P.E. teacher I knew that smoked continuously during P.E. class! I knew immediately that we were in for a “special” day.

After a delayed start due to overnight rain, I lost the toss again and we were sent in on an average wicket in steamy conditions. At 5 for 30 we were in deep trouble. Payne and Greenwood added respectability to the score. Payne scored (33) and Greenwood continued his good form with (47). We reached a total of 148, and Blacktown needed to score 4 an over to win this one-dayer. Unfortunately, our bowling and fielding were not up to the task, we imploded in the heat and fell victim to the constant sledging and dubious umpiring of the Blacktown team, and were comprehensively beaten, as they passed us five down. Man of the Match was Matt Greenwood.

v South Sydney 159 and 4 for 77 lost to South Sydney 229

159 was never going to be enough against the always strong South Sydney. This proved to true as we went down in a match that was closer than the scores reflect. We batted first, and were chugging along nicely at 1 for 82 with Schaafs and Legs in control, a soft dismissal then a run out attempting a third, changed the game immediately. Wickets fell rapidly, and we were soon 6/91. Folkard joined Edwards at the crease, and Wick proceeded to receive a barrage of short stuff from their opening bowler. Wick took up the challenge magnificently and unleashed his up and over cut shot, resulting in boundary after boundary. Souths even installed a third man, which Wick believes was a first in his 300 game career. The 50 run partnership was broken when Wick went for (32). Edwards followed soon after, and we were all out for 159. Despite some good bowling from Edwards (3-22) Brokate (3-80) and Hale (2-43), Souths scored 229. They gave us another bat in the hope for an outright, we successfully batted out the day to finish 4/77 Savage, (29 not out).

v Lindfield 6 for 279 defeated Lindfield 277

Only an outright victory, could lift us into the finals, with that in mind, and the wicket a touch damp, I elected to bowl first.

With Lindfield struggling at 5/60, I thought we were in with a big chance to pick up the 10 points. However, some hacking from the Lindfield tail and some sharp chances missed, allowed Lindfield to reach a very respectable 277. Payne was the pick of the bowlers with (5-77).

Our run chase the next week started badly, with Knock out in the first over and then Lego received a blow from the opening bowler to the inside of his knee, and he was carried off the field to play no further part. This was compounded by our number four, Chris Russell, being delayed at the airport.

Edwards joined Schaafsma, and commenced to enjoy one of the best partnerships of the season. A partnership of 125 was broken when Schaafsma was dismissed for a fine (64). Wing joined Edwards, and the onslaught continued, Wing's first 3 scoring shots were all boundaries. Edwards holed out for (69). Wing and Russell added another 52 .Wing (34) Russell (30). Lusty hitting from Brokate finished the day and Wick had the pleasure of hitting the winning runs with a pull for 4. A sensational batting display, and a pleasurable way to end the season. Man of the Match was Edwards.

3RD GRADE SHIRES STATISTICS 2001-02

BATTING AVERAGES

Batsman	Matches	Innings	N.O.	H.S.	Runs	Average	Catches
M. Greenwood	6	7	2	56x	227	45.40	1
S. Burchett	2	3	-	69	112	37.33	1
P. Robbins	5	6	2	92x	141	35.25	3
P. Notaras	4	4	-	65	139	34.75	-
S. Rose	6	7	-	84	229	32.71	2
C. Savage	4	5	-	71	158	31.60	3
A. Brokate	9	9	2	56	219	31.29	1
W. Folkard	13	12	6	37	151	25.17	3
D. Knock	5	6	-	78	141	23.50	1
C. Edwards	11	13	-	90	273	21.00	6
M. Schaafsma	13	16	-	64	260	16.25	3
M. Payne	10	10	2	33	101	12.63	7

ALSO BATTED (Less than 100 Runs)

Batsman	Matches	Innings	N.O.	H.S.	Runs	Average	Catches
G. Brown	1	1	-	88	88	88.00	-
C. Wing	1	1	-	36	36	36.00	1
C. Russell	2	3	1	30	64	32.00	1
G. Scott	7	6	4	35	54	27.00	14+2stp.
D. Annetts	3	4	1	31	62	20.67	1
S. O'Connor	2	3	1	37x	37	18.50	2
A. Hale	7	7	2	22x	68	13.60	6
A. Robinson	3	3	1	13x	26	13.00	2+1 stp.
W. Sutton	1	1	-	8	8	8.00	1
G. Lego	9	11	-	31	85	7.73	1
A. Gissing	3	3	1	11x	13	6.50	2
P. McInnes	8	5	-	17	25	5.00	4
J. Sutton	2	3	-	8	13	4.33	2
D. McVey	1	1	-	0	0	0.00	-
P. Clift	1	1	1	6	6	****	1
L. Greenwood	1	1	1	2	2	****	-

BOWLING AVERAGES

Bowler	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	10 in Match	5 in Innings	Average
A. Hale	113	20	284	17	-	-	16.71
M. Payne	105.2	12	443	20	-	1	22.15
P. McInnes	92	20	273	12	-	-	22.75
A. Brokate	116.3	24	412	18	-	-	22.89
W. Folkard	101.5	26	333	13	-	-	25.62

ALSO BOWLED (Less than 10 Wickets)

Bowler	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	10 in Match	5 in Innings	Average
M. Greenwood	48	8	157	8	-	1	19.63
C. Edwards	52.5	10	183	9	-	-	20.33
P. Clift	6	-	24	1	-	-	24.00
P. Notaras	20	4	56	2	-	-	28.00
P. Robbins	51.1	8	190	6	-	-	31.67
G. Brown	22	4	66	2	-	-	33.00
A. Gissing	23	5	81	2	-	-	40.50
S. Burchett	1	-	2	-	-	-	****
D. Annetts	1	-	5	-	-	-	****
J. Sutton	1	-	7	-	-	-	****
D. Knock	4	-	22	-	-	-	****

3RD GRADE SHIRES 2001-02

BEST PERFORMANCES

<i>Batting Average</i>	M. Greenwood	45.40
<i>Batting Aggregate</i>	C. Edwards	273
<i>Highest Score</i>	P. Robbins	92x v Burwood
<i>Bowling Average</i>	A. Hale	16.71
<i>Bowling Aggregate</i>	M. Payne	20
<i>Most Wickets in an Innings</i>	M. Payne	5/77 v Lindfield
<i>Most Wickets in a Match</i>	A. Hale	6/66 v Burwood
<i>Wicket Keeping</i>	G. Scott	14 catches + 2 stp.
<i>Centuries</i>	-	
<i>Highest Team Score</i>		8/338 v Epping
<i>Lowest Team Score</i>		112 v Strathfield

RESULTS

<i>Played</i>	13
<i>Won Outright</i>	-
<i>Won 1st Innings</i>	7
<i>Drawn</i>	1
<i>Lost 1st Innings</i>	5
<i>Lost Outright</i>	-
<i>Position in Competition</i>	7th

TEAM STATISTICS

MACQUARIE

OPPONENTS

<i>Runs Scored</i>	3002	2641
<i>Wickets Lost</i>	126	117
<i>Average per Wicket</i>	23.82	22.57

HIGHEST "3RD GRADE" SHIRES PARTNERSHIPS 2001-02

Wicket	Batsmen				Runs	Opponent
1	S. Rose	48	M. Schaafsma	11	71	Lane Cove
2	C. Edwards	69	M. Schaafsma	64	125	Lindfield
3	P. Notaras	65	M. Schaafsma	36	109	Pennant Hills
4	C. Edwards	90	S. Burchett	69	126	Epping
5	S. Rose	84	M. Payne	3	46	Warringah
6	M. Greenwood	40	G. Scott	35	63	Roseville
7	P. Robbins	92x	W. Folkard	24x	114x	Burwood
8	G. Scott	35	W. Folkard	19	28	Roseville
9	A. Brokate	28	W. Folkard	10x	32	Burwood
10	A. Brokate	56	G. Scott	18x	71	Warringah

CAPTAIN'S REPORT – 4TH GRADE SHIRES

As captain of 4th Grade my expectations going into this season were high. We had a lot of talent from last season backing up again this year and with the added depth of new players to the club I anticipated a much improved performance from 4s with a view to finals. Many players as a result started the season a grade below where they played the year before, which was ultimately healthy for the club.

Overall 4s enjoyed their cricket and the camaraderie built up during the season but failed to make finals. Comparing our season with the previous one:

	2001-02	2000-01
Points	34	24
Quotient	104.6%	92.6%
Finishing position	9th	11th

4s would certainly have been competitive if we had made the top six given our record against the sides that made it:

Blacktown	: controversial one wicket loss (premiers)
South Sydney	: scoring 7/261 in second innings after being outplayed on day 1 (finalists)
Warringah	: washed out on second day after dominating day 1 (semi-finalists)
Holroyd Hills	: one wicket loss (semi-finalists)
Epping	: two wicket victory (quarter-finalists)
Roseville	: wash-out draw both weeks (quarter-finalists)

In the previous season we did not go close in competing with the top 6 teams. Looking back at the reasons why we didn't make finals I can pinpoint the loss of close matches to Holroyd-Hills, Blacktown and Auburn and crucial wash-outs against Warringah, when we were in such a dominant position, and Roseville, when other sides got on and scored outright points. Had we had picked up wins in just two of these five games a finals' position would have been achieved. During the season we were outplayed by only two teams, Burwood and Souths. Against Souths, this was only on day 1, where we played excellent cricket, and on the second day scored the highest score Souths conceded all season for the loss of just 7 wickets some of which could be attributed to trying to set a target.

Hopefully those who have played in 4s will have the hunger to succeed next season and go that next step.

On personal performances, it was great to have a vice-captain for the whole season in Paul Batten. Paul is a player who adds so much value to our lower grade teams as evidenced by our Metro Cup efforts of last season. His contribution with bat (195 runs), ball (19 wickets) or field (10 catches) was invaluable in a number of games and Paul led the side in pre-game warm-ups. I hope the committee encourages all sides next season to have appointed vice-captains in every grade where that player can assist in the running of sides for the whole season. These roles would be a great learning curve for younger players in particular who can be groomed for future on-field leadership roles with the club. It also provides much needed stability of teams particularly in lower grades if a captain/vice captain combination of a batsman and bowler can be formed for a season.

Without doubt our bowling and fielding was the strength of our team and season. Of the bowlers, it was also pleasing to see the marked improvement in the bowling of Adrian Lulka who picked up his best returns (16 wickets at 15.56) this year with the club. Adrian's ability to put it on the spot over after over, being able to bowl all day on a length where you don't need a

fine leg or point as he rarely bowled legside or short is an asset. His bowling against Lane Cove and Blacktown were match-defining spells. Whilst Adrian didn't have the opportunities with the bat he can be well pleased with his season.

Of the other bowlers Wayne Travers (14 wickets at 24.86) toiled hard and was rewarded with key wickets in each game whilst never getting the opportunity to clean up the tail. When Paul McInnes, Pat Robbins or Anthony Hale were selected in 4s we had the added advantage of breaking through top-orders with the new ball. Andrew Gissing bowled attacking leg-spin and gained good rewards during the season. Gissing, Batten and McInnes were unlucky not to pick up pewters for excellent performances during the season.

Our fielding was without doubt the best in the grade and it was a pleasure to play alongside teammates of exceptional fielding standards that raised the bar for those without as much ability during the season. We took the majority of chances and can say that our fielding did not cost us a match this season. Paul Batten's warm up drills certainly did the trick and the standards set in particular by Nick Dorney, Ben Bradley, Paul Batten, Paul Clift and Paul McInnes lifted the rest of the side to greater heights.

4th Grade's Most Valuable Player award was won by Paul Clift (23 wickets at 14). For a young leg-spinner Paul demonstrated great control extracting a lot of turn with exceptional accuracy and has a well disguised quicker ball which picks him up a lot of wickets. With the development of a top-spinner or wrong'un Paul has the potential and ability to play First Grade for the club in future seasons. I have never said this of any player who has played as a regular 4th grader in the past. Aided by a very safe pair of hands with versatility to field in slips, close to the wicket or off his own bowling, Paul (7 catches) was a deserved winner of the team's best player.

Our batting was inconsistent and was the area that let us down ultimately in not securing a finals' berth. Many players took the opportunity to post good scores during the season but were unable to maintain a consistency to force their way into 3s or cement a top 6 batting spot in 4s. Paul Chew, Phil Erskine, John Sutton, Ben Bradley, Shane O'Connor, Paul Batten, Nick Dorney and Ashley Robinson all showed great ability during the season with the bat. Due to unavailability or inability to reproduce with the bat after a big score no-one was able to post a 200 run season. As said before, hopefully the hunger of a finals' spot and a desire to succeed with the bat is necessary for these players to drive a finals' campaign in this grade. As captain I probably should have shouldered more of the batting burden instead of passing that opportunity on to others and I was disappointed to finish leading run-scorer for the grade with only a 227 run season averaging over 28. One of the main concerns was the inability of 4th grade players to train regularly during the season, myself included. The committee may need to look what are the training days for the club to ensure better attendances from players given the improving standard of cricket in Shires. Whilst our lack of training didn't affect our bowling and fielding standards in 4s, it was evidenced in many batsmen's failure to get a start on numerous occasions where they were trying to find touch in the middle instead of in the nets.

Where to now for 4s? After two seasons at the helm having enjoyed the leadership role I am happy to pass the mantle should someone else desire the role. Someone with better Two Up skills should be employed as I only won 4 from 12 tosses. It also gives players in lower grades the opportunity to impress a new captain with a clean slate. I would like to thank all of the committee for their tireless work during the season. Thanks to Craig Edwards and Jason Ford for their involvement during the season in making the selection process as smooth as possible. If the club can build on its improvement in the last season successful times are just around the corner.

Mark Hughes

Fourth Grade Captain

MATCH REPORTS

v Holroyd-Hills 226 lost to Holroyd-Hills 9 for 229

We won the toss and batted first. We were 2/18 early on when a 75 run recovery partnership from John Sutton (42) and Mark Hughes (68) turned things around. 4/168 became 7/169 and it was left to Patrick Robbins (32 not out) on debut (7 fours) to give us a creditable score. Graeme Scott on debut helped contributed in a 47 run partnership with Robbins for the 8th wicket. 226 was probably 50 short of what we wanted. We had 10 overs at the Hurricanes with no success. 0/28 at stumps.

Defending under 200 runs on day 2 was always going to be difficult with batsman-friendly conditions. After 10 runs off the first over of the day our seamers fought back to take 4/13 off the next 20 overs to have Hills in trouble at 4/51. Handy partnerships were then put on by the Hurricanes middle-order and even though each wicket brought us back in the match we were always behind the eight ball. Chasing 226 Holroyd-Hills got the shakes going from 7/221 to 9/222 before their number 11 drove in the air through the covers about 2 metres wide of the fielder to score the winning runs with the new ball due next delivery.

Robbins with (3-47 off 21) backed up his performance with the bat and won the inaugural players' player award in 4s capping off a fine game.

v Strathfield 8 for 212 drew with Strathfield 9 for 312

After the "exodus" from higher grades on Friday, 4s went in a little understrength but still with confidence. Lost the toss and were promptly told to field. Early joy of the opener for a duck that top-scored last season gave us brief hope. This was soon short lived as two youngsters survived some very confident leg before shouts (that would have hit all 3 stumps instead of just middle) and Strathfield piled on the runs against some loose pre-tea bowling. A mini fightback before tea from Adrian Lulka (2-43) had Strathfield at 4/178 off 38 overs at tea, the two youngsters scoring 73 and 89.

A strange post tea session from Strathfield as they decided not to press on for quick runs. In fact they only scored 133 off the next 47 overs to finish the day still with a large score of 9/312 which would take some getting. Best of the bowlers was Paul Batten who bowled well for (2-63) and Wayne Travers (3-52) with an improved post-tea spell of bowling.

The conditions were not in our favour with Thursday rain slowing down the outfield considerably and changing the conditions of the pitch. Chasing 313 was going to be a difficult ask but when the first sweetly timed cover drive pulled up 10 yards short of the rope we knew it would be a near impossible chase. After being 2/29 early on we recovered to be 3/100 at tea where we decided to have a go at the chase. It was soon abandoned at 6/126 with still two hours to play. The guys did well to hold out Strathfield who had by far the better of the conditions. Batten (37) was the man most likely to threaten, while Travers with an unbeaten (35) was unlucky to not be voted the man of the match over Mark Hughes with (52) scoring successive half-centuries to start the season.

Whilst we can complain all we like about bad umpiring decisions, the simple fact was we lost the chance of winning this game against a bottom side on the first day where we bowled far too loosely in the first hour and a half, dropped a dozen catches including 3 in slips. Improved performances required.

v Epping 8 for 210 defeated Epping 206

Congratulations firstly to the groundstaff for preparing the Northern Oval in a way which provided an excellent game of cricket. The wicket and square is well grassed and gives good assistance to the bowlers. Lost the toss and the opposition chose to bat having only 8 at the ground 10 minutes before start time. Anthony Hale and Robbins bowled well early on and got good swing and bounce troubling the top-order to have Epping at 3/24. Hale could not bowl with a shoulder complaint and with other bowlers struggling to fine line and length, Shane O'Connor, who had bowled only 4 overs for the club previously, was tossed the ball and responded against 2 batsmen both set with the score around 100. He took his first wickets for the club and finished with (2-28). Turned to spin with Paul Clift who impressed with his leggies and he picked up 2 wickets and we had Epping at 7/135 at tea.

Robbins and Clift continued after tea and Epping had a batsman who got lucky teeing off who ended up 43 not out and another guy who hung around for a while to give them a partnership. Clift was unlucky not to break through as he continually beat the batsmen in flight and skied balls kept falling randomly short or behind fieldsmen. With limited bowling options Robbins broke through to have them 8/206 and in his eighth over of his spell before being forced to have a 16 over break, (due to a ridiculous rule preventing pace bowlers from long spells and large numbers of overs) bowled numbers 10 and 11 on his last two balls of his spell to dismiss Epping for 206. Robbins finished with (5-39). Clift and Travers took great catches and a tumbling Scott was given a good workout behind the stumps.

We had 27 overs to bat, our batsmen were probably a little over cautious in the run chase. Having received 2 lbws we gave them both back to leave us at 3/48 at stumps needing a big partnership to steer the ship in the right direction.

The first hour turned out to be the crucial period of the game as Graham Lego and O'Connor took the score onto 95 before O'Connor (27) was bowled by Epping's only quality bowler. A steady progression of wickets fell to some indifferent bowling just as we were getting on top, leaving us perilously poised at 8/166. The main highlight was a huge 6 from Robbins off a waist high full toss, and Legs continuing to accumulate runs. With 41 still to get Legs was joined by the Jack Russell of the club, Scott, in his now trademark terrytoweling hat and the result was never in doubt as they churned out the runs for a two wicket victory. Surprising that Epping didn't take the new ball at 8/190, we guessed they didn't have one. Play continued on 2 balls after the winning runs were scored to give Legs his 5th century for the club finishing on (103 not out), just 6 short of his career best, but the beers were cold and waiting so we called stumps. Legs' family had invaded the pitch by that time anyway so it would have been a bit hard to convince Epping to continue.

v Canterbury-Bexley 5 for 133 defeated Canterbury-Bexley 130

4s lost the toss again and were pleased to be told that they were bowling first on a wicket that once again gave good assistance to the bowlers. A steady procession of wickets for Canterbury-Bexley with a best partnership of just 29 ensured we were on top all morning. Every bowler took a wicket and after 41 overs the Blues were dismissed for 130. All catches (7) were held, including 3 from Hale. Best of the bowlers were Clift with (3-22 off 8) and Batten (3-29 off 8).

A bright start from our openers ensured there was no chance of the wobbles in the run chase and we cruised to victory in 31 overs losing 5 wickets. John Sutton with (34), Nick Dorney an entertaining (23), off 18 balls, and Andrew Gissing's steady (25 not out) were the contributors.

Clift was voted Man of Match in a tricky decision, evidenced by the fact that 7 players polled points from peer voting.

v Burwood 79 and 9 for 151 lost to Burwood 242

Batten filled in the skipper's shoes whilst a mid-season wedding and holiday wrecked cricket plans.

After being given the nod to have a bowl, the lads battled consistently through the day against strong winds and a dodgy outfield to get Burwood out for 242. Even though we snared an early wicket, we were never able to get a roll-on, with their top-order all getting between 20 and 43. With support from Travers and Batten with 2 wickets each, Gissing with his fast wrist-spin was the pick of the bowlers with (5-29 from 18 overs). 3/11 overnight was not the start we hoped for. We unfortunately continued the trend on day 2. The one bright hope of the period was Dorney, who smote (25) quick runs to buck the very poor batting trend. In the end our first innings score was not enough to avoid the follow on.

Chew and Warton featured in an excellent opening partnership of 75, almost eclipsing our entire first inning's total. However one of the best features of this partnership was their achievement of shutting up the Burwood captain in particular. This made Chewy very happy with his achievements (finished with 40 runs as well). A collapse of 6 for 24 in 12 overs left us perilously placed to lose outright when Batten and Phil Erskine shut Burwood out for long enough that despite losing late wickets, the outright was saved.

Gissing picked up the gong for Best Acting in a Drama Series, for his fine display of emotion and courage in our bowling effort.

v Lane Cove 216 defeated Lane Cove 100 and 92

Greeted by a pitch that was uncovered early Saturday morning by the local youths, we arrived to a rain-affected wicket due to the morning rain. Wanting to maximise play against the current cellar-dwellers of our competition we managed to convince Lane Cove to an on time start knowing that batting first would be a disadvantage but worth the risk in order to attempt to get maximum points. Finally won a toss and never looked back as Lane Cove couldn't cope with the conditions, routed for 100, which would have been a lot less if not for some lusty hitting by some of their lower-order. Batten bowled within himself for a 14 over spell that netted (5-53), while Clift obtained a lot of turn to finish with (3-31) off 8. Mini highlights were 3 catches from Chew in the gully including 2 one-handed screamers, and Erskine's juggling catch at mid-off running backwards to take a superb grab off one of their late-order hitters. Lane Cove's most vociferous player was dismissed for a duck (to one of Chewy's specials) after plonking one over the fence for a dot ball (local rules). One of best ducks and maiden overs we've witnessed. No catches dropped.

The run chase was put on track by Ben Bradley (22) and Erskine (21) after 2 early wickets against a surprisingly vocal Lane Cove side who were prepared to sledge Dover. Passing their score 5 down with still 29 overs to play a declaration was offered if Cove were prepared to set a target, which was surprisingly declined so we added 113 off another 91 balls to give ourselves another 11 overs to make inroads into the opposition's line-up. Batten led the way with a punishing (82) with 6 fours and 5 sixes (one car alarm set off in the process) while Lulka supported with (24). Aids plonked one over the fence for a dot ball also, sconing his old man's car for some panel-beating.

Lane Cove resumed at 1/14 and required another 102 to make us bat again. On day 2 we were greeted by an absolute greentop after Cove failed to get their covers down on Friday night. It took just 27.3 overs to sound Lane Cove's death knell. Travers picked up their sandshoed opener who let a ball go that pitched off and hit middle. Adrian Lulka, after being dropped to 5s for 2 games after missing a match for a wedding returned with a point to prove and bowled one of his

best spells for the club returning (6-24) off 14 overs. Adrian had six of the first eight to fall and had a great chance to secure a pewter with 3 overs at their lower, lower-order but Paul Clift saved the club dosh cleaning up (pewter rule subsequently changed to six wickets which cost the club anyway) the extended tail with (3-16) off 10.3 overs. Final result - win by innings and 24 runs.

Paul Batten with his (5-53) and (82) from last week's carnage picked up a solitary catch to cement his man of the match award. We ate their afternoon tea at the early time of 2.10 p.m. and then strutted back home with enough time to eat 5th Grade's choice snackeries as well.

v Warringah 1 for 32 drew with Warringah 130

The road trip to Warringah was made through torrential rain across the North Shore leaving us wondering why we hadn't got the call from Smithy saying the match was off. On arrival the ground resembled the great lakes of the US with surface water all over the surrounding areas in close to a square on a slope and a muddy section on the square with what looked like Neanderthal footprints. Warringah, wise in the knowledge that we hadn't beaten them in 12 years and having their two home sides gaining draws after being washed off on day one last round, were desperate to play their easybeats so we agreed that we would sit around while they mopped, sopped, bucketed and drained for 3 hours to get some play later in the day.

Some touch football, cards and tea ensued before we got the tap on the shoulder from Warringah to inspect the ground. Dank as it was, we agreed to a 3.10 start provided mats could be put over the muddy sections of the square. Warringah found some astroturf from the tennis courts and we were away.

Another correct call of the coin and we had no hesitation in sending the young Warringah line-up into bat. McInnes ripped though the top order with good support from Lulka (1-24). The first 5 batsmen were either bowled or lbw. Travers struggled to put it on the spot but was rewarded for a half tracker that was smashed to Dorney at forward square, still distressed from the touch footy bombs, who parried the bullet ball to take the catch on the second grab. Nick by that stage was looking like Al Jolson after playing slip and slide on the square to cut off an earlier single. Luckily he still lives at home and his mum does the washing.

Warringah had recovered from 3/16 to be 4/85 before we tossed the ball to Sutton, who was primed after we were left without a spinner this round with Clift and Warton AWOL. His quickish offies bowling to a 6-3 leg side field restricted whilst Batten (0-22 from 14) bowled without luck, keeping it tight from the other end and locked in a battle with their 14 year old opener where neither was giving an inch. Eventually something had to give and Sutton frustrated the hell out of their batsman who were unable to pick off runs and two fine catches both moving forward from Batten and Dover to go with another two wickets saw Warringah collapse to 8/90 with Sutton with (3-2) off 5.2 overs. numbers 7,8,9 all scored ducks to match the conditions. The call came out to tonk and Warringah finished with 130 with their 14 year old opener last out for 48, Socrates (4-31) and McInnes (4-25) finishing with most of the spoils. Another faultless display in the field with all genuine chances taken for the third innings in a row helped our cause.

Warringah had 10 overs to get back into the game and were on the board after Erskine was fired out lbw second ball. Socrates (5 not out) and Ashley Robinson (16 not out) saw us through to stumps with Ashley taking his tally to 169 unbeaten runs after his century in 5s.

Unfortunately similar conditions prevailed during the week resulting in an early call off from Warringah who were unprepared to risk their 12 year non-losing streak against us.

Sutton took the day mug for his 4 wickets and not out contribution.

v Pennant Hills 210 defeated Pennant Hills 138

Fourth Grade were relocated to the Gwilliam Oval for their match against Pennant Hills after 1s moved to the main oval from the Christmas bushfires. The Gwilliam deck was well grassed for once with late notice and Pennant Hills rightly chose to bowl first.

The wicket assisted their opening bowler who put it on the spot and let the wicket do the rest taking all of the top-order and we were in all sorts at 5/38. Bradley steadied the ship with a subdued (26) and steered us to 7/87 with Nick Dorney at the crease, batting later than usual after having to return home to collect his pants that were still in the wash from the Warringah game (refer to previous match report). Enter Paul McInnes ...

Paul was a late Friday send-down to 4s after Notaras elected to play in 3s. A subdued start with 5 runs from his first 12 balls didn't prepare us for the onslaught that was to come as Paul decided to thump what became a struggling attack with their opening bowlers having completed their spells. 71 runs came from his next 33 balls faced with 12 boundaries and two massive sixes, one square cut onto the main oval and another over the high fence protecting the Marsfield townhouses. His 85 run partnership off 75 balls with the pristine panted Dorney swung the game and was ultimately the match-winning partnership and turning point of the game. Nick was overshadowed (except in the whiter than white stakes) but his (42) runs were also top notch with a six straight down the ground onto the football field a highlight. We ended up with 210 to defend, about 100 more than what was likely given our start.

Pennant Hills started well and were 1/43 off 9 overs before Adrian Lulka (0-21 off 10) and Wayne Travers (2-33 off 10) bowled in tandem to stem the runs which resulted in two run-outs, from Batten and McInnes who chased a ball down to save a boundary, then returned the ball over the stumps to the keeper to leave the batsmen 2 feet short off his ground. Controversy erupted when a Pennant Hills' spectator who firstly advised McInnes "well fielded son" was egged on by the Pennant Hills team to advise that McInnes was over the boundary when he fielded the ball but we stood firm and sent him on his way. Given the spectator was on the dirt road I don't know how he could see the boundary line anyway, and Mac confirmed he saved the four. A steady flow of wickets fell as the run-rate required increased with Batten (2-25 off 7) and Clift (3-26 off 7.5) cleaning up the lower-order for a comfortable win and a return to the top six.

McInnes picked up Man of the Match honours.

v Auburn 228 lost to Auburn 8 for 265

Fourth Grade probably put in their worst day in the field since Round 2 after asking Auburn to bat first. On a wicket that looked to have some life in it for the bowlers we seemed a bit flat in the field and struggled to take wickets with the opposition putting consistent partnerships together throughout the day.

After a 50 run opening partnership a double breakthrough for Gissing but Auburn consolidated again and with another 2 wickets before tea, a run-out and another to Giss, the game was well balanced at 4/122. Auburn put the foot to the pedal after tea with 1/92 off 19 overs after a sloppy hour of bowling and fielding where we put down a few easy chances saw the game slip away from us and at 5/216 off 63 overs we looking down the barrel of a 300 plus score to put us out of the match. Auburn however thought it was more prudent to allow a player an opportunity of a century and proceeded to dawdle along with their tactics coming unstuck as their stalwart finally fell on 87, off what might have been his 10th lofted drive on the off-side. Auburn then chose to declare with a strong but not impossible total that could have been set if the team cause had been pursued. Giss was denied a pewter with the declaration, taking (5-75) off 19.4 overs.

Adrian Lulka was probably the unluckiest with chances put down and mistimed drives falling in vacant pastures.

0/2 off two overs at stumps. On day 2 conditions were perfect for batting, flat deck, short fast outfield and not a cloud in the air. An early wicket brought Robinson to the crease who continued his fine batting form of late with a lusty (68). Cruising at 1/90, 3 wickets fell without addition before Dorney (49) and O'Conner (16) offered some resistance in the middle-order. The tail wagged a little with Lulka (25) and Travers (22 not out) fighting hard to keep Macs in the game.

In the end we were 38 runs short with still 19 overs to spare in the day. Fortunately the result wasn't close enough to deal with the five run penalty dealt to Auburn for being late after tea, which could have caused riots had the game been close our way.

Man of the Match points went to Robinson in a close contest over Gissing.

v Roseville drew with Roseville

We slipped to 9th on the ladder as every team around us on the ladder gained a result that we didn't want. The second year in a row we have been washed out against Roseville.

v Blacktown 172 lost to Blacktown 9 for 173

A crucial game for us against a team that had got on a roll while we were stagnating mid-ladder. It turned out to be a terrible toss to lose. We were invited to bat and were off to a bright start due to Sutton (27) at the top of the order. Ben Bradley showed his best form in 4s this season with a well compiled (53) showing once again he saves his best performances for the top teams. From a well-positioned 2/90 we lost wickets continually and fell 30-50 runs short of what we were expecting to set Blacktown on a good batting wicket. We failed to bat our full allotment of overs which also cost us dearly.

In the field, the behaviour of the opposition captain was disgraceful as every decision was continually questioned during our stint at bat. The strict interpretation of the leg-side wide rule resulted in 39 extras which then converted to a strict and unfair interpretation of the off-side wide rule when we went out to bowl, which unfortunately put some of our bowlers off their game. Most disappointing was that it was coming mainly from one end where their skipper decided to stand for the majority of the innings. To our credit we hung in and an excellent bowling spell from Lulka who bowled his ten straight from their skipper's end sending down line and length that could not be criticised returning (5-27) which placed us on top. At 7 for 93 Blacktown then batted well to get back into the game with the wides continuing to keep their score ticking along, at this stage coming from leg-spinners that were beating the bat outside off stump. Controversy erupted at 9 down with 8 to get when a waist high full toss was called off a spinner which resulted in the banishment of an umpire. Blacktown, aided by their skipper's controlled and well-paced batting saw them home with less than an over to spare.

One of the most unenjoyable games of cricket I have ever experienced, not helped by the fact that it was one of the hottest days in years to play cricket against a side from hell! Blacktown were the eventual premiers in our grade. It showed that we could compete against all comers in this grade and from Souths' match report in the Grand Final where the entire Blacktown team was placed on report from official umpires I wish this club the best of luck in Sydney Grade next year.

v South Sydney 42 and 7 for 261 lost to South Sydney 3 for 175

Day one was the worst batting performance I have been involved with in my 138 games to date with the club. Sent in to bat on a greentop, comparable to the Northern Oval at home with a little less bounce we were just awful. Thankfully Souths don't have a scoreboard at Marrickville so the full details were not revealed until end of innings. We were bowled out for 42 off 22 overs. We beat the record low score of 4th grade set in the 80s by just 3 runs. Hughes top scored with just (10). Thankfully we held them to just below our score at tea.

Souths passed us without loss and took the opportunity for batting practice with the offer of us setting them a run chase in the second innings declined and declared 3 down with a lead of 133. Batten was the best of the many bowlers used. Clift bowled without luck. Bradley's over was something special including the highest bouncer ever bowled in 4th Grade Shires. Thanks to the Sutton who filled in as a substitute field late in the day. 0/15 in our second innings seeing off 10 overs play at stumps. Our finals' chances for the season were now dashed at the end of day one.

Trailing still by 118 runs on the second day the wicket didn't look quite as threatening on arriving at the ground, and this proved so as Chew and Erskine (45) put on 100 for the first wicket. Shot of the day was a pull from Phil which rocketed to the boundary to the house nearby up for auction at the time which apparently got passed in when the ball flew through the bidders.

The sting was out of the Souths' attack and the game went through the motions as we racked up a score. The highlight was the return to form of Chew who missed out by 3 on a deserved ton, spooning one back to a part-time spinner. The homemade bat piled on the runs as Chewy scored in his "arc" for the early part of his innings before sending the pill to all parts of the ground as the day went on. Another to go for a ninety plus score this season and the club has now been saved on at least 4 occasions of a pewter.

The remaining batsmen chipped in with bright cameos, and at one stage with 3/221 on the scoresheet (Souths don't have the money to buy a scoreboard with their excessive player payments in higher grades) we were looking to set the bunnies 130 off 18 overs to go for a miracle win but a late flurry of wickets left us without the overs or the desire to go out and bowl and we retreated to the pub with a respectable 7 for 261.

Still scratching my head as to how we scored only 42 the week before - cricket is a funny game.

Man of the Match was Paul Chew for his excellent effort against a strong side.

v Lindfield 8 for 132 and 4 for 102 defeated Lindfield 121 and 145

Lindfield won the toss and elected to bat on a typical Macquarie northern deck. Wickets fell constantly and Lindfield were in all sorts of bother at 8 down for not many. The 9th wicket was crucial as one of their batsman had not arrived and we were unable to pick up the wicket to force the innings closure before the batsman arrived. It cost us a 48 run partnership for the final wicket and an innings break instead of using the tea interval. McInnes bowled a tremendous spell sending down 25 accurate overs before the late tea interval for 10 maidens and a return of (5-32). He was ably supported by Clift who picked up (4-20). Gissing picked up the remaining wicket and 3 catches in an excellent performance.

Chasing a modest 121 with 28 overs until stumps we set about obtaining first innings points. A 34 run opening partnership from Chew and Erskine (20) gave us a platform to launch but a steady stream of wickets followed and the run-chase was abandoned with 6 overs remaining. At stumps we perilously poised at 7/88.

We started positively with Gissing (37) blazing the deficit down to 16 before he departed. A more tentative partnership from Hughes (23 not out) and Clift saw Uni pass Lindfield without further loss of wickets and we declared immediately with 69 overs still to play. The game was well set up for an outright result for either side.

Lindfield lost a steady flow of wickets during the day and never seemed intent on setting a target although discussions were regularly held during both days of play with a view to setting the game up for both sides for launch of an outright result. After we had used all 10 bowlers (Hughes remaining a rare Macquarie captain not to bowl) Lindfield finally advised no declaration would be forthcoming. Miffed, we turned to our front-line bowlers to mop the remaining batsmen up for 145 off 54 overs. Clift finished with (4-31), Travers (2-8) and there were some promising signs from all part-time bowlers.

Relations between the two sides diminished after the non-declaration but we decided to chase the impossible 135 to win off 12 overs, and with a semi reversed batting-order resulted in some bright cameos from all who got to have a bat and at one stage we were scoring the necessary 13 an over for victory however it was unable to be sustained. Hughes' (49) off 36 balls included all the non-textbook shots and Clift's straight six was the shot of the day. An enjoyable way to finish the season even if the outright went begging with everyone having a good time on the final day.

Man of the Match to McInnes for his first innings with the ball and (11) off 4 balls in the run chase. Paul was the only player to win 2 beer mugs during the season with the previous 12 going to different players in each round.

4TH GRADE STATISTICS 2001-02

BATTING AVERAGES

Batsman	Matches	Innings	N.O.	H.S.	Runs	Average	Catches
G. Lego	2	2	1	103x	122	122.00	-
M. Hughes	11	11	3	68	227	28.38	5+1stp.
J. Sutton	5	5	1	42	112	28.00	2
P. Chew	7	9	-	97	198	22.00	3
P. McInnes	5	5	-	76	109	21.80	1
A. Robinson	6	7	1	68	126	21.00	6
N. Dorney	8	8	-	49	161	20.13	1
P. Batten	10	10	-	82	195	19.50	10
B. Bradley	6	6	-	53	114	19.00	3
P. Erskine	8	10	-	45	142	14.20	2

ALSO BATTED (Less than 100 Runs)

Batsman	Matches	Innings	N.O.	H.S.	Runs	Average	Catches
P. Robbins	2	2	1	32x	45	45.00	1
M. Greenwood	1	1	-	21	21	21.00	-
A. Gissing	5	6	1	37	97	19.40	6
W. Travers	10	8	3	35x	86	17.20	3
G. Scott	3	3	1	16	33	16.50	2
D. Warton	3	4	-	33	57	14.25	2
P. Clift	8	10	5	15	57	11.40	7
A. Lulka	9	9	1	25	91	11.38	3
T. Smith	1	1	-	10	10	10.00	1
L. Greenwood	2	2	-	12	19	9.50	1
S. O'Connor	7	9	-	27	85	9.44	2
A. Hale	2	2	1	5	9	9.00	3
J. Huang	2	2	-	11	12	6.00	2
A. Slimmon	1	1	-	6	6	6.00	-
S. Burchett	2	3	-	4	5	1.67	1
P. Chapman	3	3	1	2x	3	1.50	-
C. Hook	2	1	-	1	1	1.00	1
V. Chung	1	1	1	6x	6	****	1

BOWLING AVERAGES

Bowler	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	10 in Match	5 in Innings	Average
A. Gissing	57.4	14	167	14	-	2	11.93
P. Clift	104.1	24	322	23	-	-	14.00
P. McInnes	73.1	17	175	12	-	1	14.58
A. Lulka	96	26	249	16	-	2	15.56
P. Batten	125.3	31	354	19	-	1	18.63
W. Travers	104	14	348	14	-	-	24.86

ALSO BOWLED (Less than 10 Wickets)

Bowler	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	10 in Match	5 in Innings	Average
J. Sutton	11	3	39	4	-	-	9.75
P. Robbins	39	11	86	8	-	1	10.75
A. Hale	14	4	24	2	-	-	12.00
S. O'Connor	24	2	97	4	-	-	24.25
M. Greenwood	20	6	55	2	-	-	27.50
L.Greenwood	13	3	51	1	-	-	51.00
N. Dorney	8	-	52	1	-	-	52.00
C. Hook	16	1	94	1	-	-	94.00
P. Chapman	27	3	95	1	-	-	95.00
A. Robinson	1	-	2	-	-	-	****
J. Huang	1	-	5	-	-	-	****
B. Bradley	1	-	13	-	-	-	****
D. Warton	6	1	25	-	-	-	****
P. Erskine	8	2	24	-	-	-	****
T. Smith	12	4	29	-	-	-	****
P. Chew	7	-	42	-	-	-	****

4TH GRADE SHIRES 2001-02

BEST PERFORMANCES

<i>Batting Average</i>	G. Lego	122.00
<i>Batting Aggregate</i>	M. Hughes	227
<i>Highest Score</i>	G. Lego	103x v Epping
<i>Bowling Average</i>	A. Gissing	11.93
<i>Bowling Aggregate</i>	P. Clift	23
<i>Most Wickets in an Innings</i>	A. Lulka	6/34 v Lane Cove
<i>Most Wickets in a Match</i>	P. Clift	8/51 v Lindfield
<i>Wicket Keeping</i>	M. Hughes	5 catches + 1 stp.
	A. Robinson	6 catches
<i>Centuries</i>	G. Lego	103x v Epping
<i>Highest Team Score</i>		7/261 v South Sydney
<i>Lowest Team Score</i>		42 v South Sydney

RESULTS

<i>Played</i>	12
<i>Won Outright</i>	1
<i>Won 1st Innings</i>	4
<i>Drawn</i>	2
<i>Lost 1st Innings</i>	5
<i>Lost Outright</i>	-
<i>Position in Competition</i>	9th

TEAM STATISTICS

MACQUARIE

OPPONENTS

<i>Runs Scored</i>	2406	2458
<i>Wickets Lost</i>	120	128
<i>Average per Wicket</i>	20.05	19.20

HIGHEST "4TH GRADE" SHIRES PARTNERSHIPS 2001-02

Wicket	Batsmen				Runs	Opponent
1	P. Erskine	45	P. Chew	97	100	South Sydney
2	M. Hughes	14	A. Robinson	68	88	Auburn
3	M. Hughes	68	J. Sutton	42	75	Holroyd Hills
4	G. Lego	103x	S. O'Connor	27	60	Epping
5	M. Hughes	68	M. Greenwood	21	38	Holyroyd Hills
6	P. Batten	82	A. Lulka	24	84	Lane Cove
7	P. Erskine	21	P. Batten	20	41	Burwood
8	P. McInnes	76	M. Dorney	42	85	Pennant Hills
9	G. Lego	103x	G. Scott	3x	45x	Epping
10	A. Lulka	25	W. Travers	22x	47	Auburn

CAPTAIN'S REPORT – METROPOLITAN SHIELD

Having played semi-finals last year, this year was going to be a hard act to follow. There were quite a number of new faces in season 2001-2, as well as a number of players from past seasons who formed the nucleus of the side. In the final washup we finished with four victories to finish 6th in the competition.

Consistency is the key to victory, and even though we showed brilliance with the bat, with ball and in the field, we weren't able to convert that into more victories. On occasions we were on top with the ball, but unable to fire the killer blow and at times our batting collapsed after solid starts.

There were a number of players who improved from last season and throughout the season and it's always pleasing to see guys who have certainly put in the time and effort into their game and eventually play higher grades, which is what every player should aspire to. It would also give me pleasure to see some of the guys playing a major role in the Under 24s campaign in future years; players like Shane, Nick, Kieran and Clifty.

Off the field I was extremely happy that the players got to know each other better by heading down to the Eastwood Hotel after the games and more often than not, the 5th Graders were the last to leave. That partly had something to do with the cricket trivia promotion, so we drank twice as many beers for only half the price.

Captaincy is a difficult job and whilst every opportunity is made to provide players with opportunity, it is a team sport that fluctuates week to week. I hope you all enjoyed the season and thank you to the guys that made captaining for me easier. Remember, you never know when opportunity knocks, just be ready when it does.

Ultimately cricket should be fun. Winning is great, but that only lasts a week, but the relationship with your team mates and the mates you make out of cricket, last a life-time. Keep it enjoyable and keep an even temperament.

This is the part where I get to say what I really think of you.

Andrew Slimmon – MVP (245 runs) Slimmo started and ended the season well and batted reasonably consistently throughout the season. Started to bat more aggressively as well. He was a great asset on the field, revving up the troops and making short-leg and mid-on his own with great fielding. Usually always the first to turn up and last to leave, both at the game and at the Eastwood. Certainly will be the back bone of future sides he plays in.

Dave Warton – (183 runs and 8 wickets) Dave was a good sheet anchor for the side, but at the same time batted aggressively. He was the most improved 5th Grader. Dave also bowled his left-arm spinners with great effect and provided the team, with good variety and a safe pair of hands.

Jason Huang – (230 runs) Climbed Everest and almost reached the top this year. He went from 29 being his highest score, to 99. Jase trained really hard during the off-season and it showed with his batting and the patience he showed. If he can work on other aspects of his game then there's no reason he can't be playing higher grades next year.

Phil Erskine- (128 runs) Ersko is the ultimate team-man. If I had 10 Ersko's in my side, I wouldn't have to take up Yoga. Scored 79 in the first match and was more than useful with the ball, creating an awkward length for batsmen to negotiate.

Kieran Mahony – (162 runs and 6 catches) Caught brilliantly after a shaky start and played a couple of really important knocks for us. His 57 not out against Souths was a gutsy knock. Kiran is also a very useful bowler who picked up important wickets when he came on. Hope to see Kiran playing with the club a long time. Good team man, who was a regular feature at the Eastwood.

Trevor Smith – (111 runs and 20 wickets) A potential all-rounder. Bowled some very tight spells and had the batsmen in all sorts of trouble, and with the bat he played some consistent knocks in the lower order that helped us save face and build a reasonable total.

Paul Chapman – (134 runs and 18 wickets) Chappers bowled aggressively, taking wickets immediately and always seemed to pick one up when we needed it. He played some handy knocks with the bat. Master of cricket trivia and we owe him several beers.

Paul Nelson - (19 wickets @ 22.63). Bowled the most number of overs in 5th Grade and generally got us off to a good start with a wicket or two. Bowled aggressively and bowled well during his second spell.

Gus Hook- (175 runs) A great team man to have and played some good innings for us. Was a little unlucky on several occasions, but I hope you take a season off, and come back to us as 5th Grade needs someone like you Gus.

Paul Clift – (8 wickets @ 11.38) Has the best control of any leg-spinner I've seen play for the club (including myself) and was a match-winner for us. Hang in there mate.

Andrew Gissing- Never gave the batsmen anything with his bowling and looked like he could take a wicket with every ball. His batting was a great asset for us and showed why he played higher grades most of the season.

Nick Dorney – Although I only played one game with Nick, when this guy gets going you don't want to be the opposition bowler. Has the ability to hold up a game for long periods, but that's only because they're trying to find the ball. Nick is also handy bowler and has the ability to cause batsmen grief with his awkward bounce.

Thank you to the players who weren't mentioned, particularly Simon Burchett, who filled in for a game, Alex Bova, Adrian Lulka, Shane O'Connor Al Mahoney, Wayne Dean, Victor Chung, and Peter Sullivan, who I'm sure will be playing with us next season. Congratulation to Ashley Robinson who scored 153 not out, to win our only pewter and to Ash Sing for his 42 wickets in 6th Grade.

I'd like to thank Al Mahoney and Gus Hook for all their advice throughout the season; Pete Procopis for being a good listener (you've got me hooked on those lemon friands); Wayne Travers for filling in as captain in the first match of the season; Steve Gasser for getting training up and running each week; and finally the executive and committee for all their work in making the season run smoothly.

Jason Ford

Metropolitan Shield Captain

MATCH REPORTS

v Holroyd-Hills 8 for 197 drew with Holroyd-Hills 245

Start of a new season and many new faces in the side, with Trevor Smith, Yaju Vaghela, Raj Chandel and Roshan Ismiel all making their debuts. The match was reduced to 120 overs, due to ground unavailability. Holroyd-Hills batted first and scored 245, with Trevor Smith taking (3 for 12), and was well supported by Yaju Vaghela with (3 for 45). In reply, after a terrific opening partnership from Phil Erskine (79) and Andrew Slimmon (55), things fell part, and in the end, scrapped through with a draw, finishing at 8/197. Thanks to Wayne Travers for filling in as captain.

v Blacktown 181 lost to Blacktown 6-199

It's a long way out to Whalan and an even longer way back if you don't come away with the points. I won the toss and elected to bat. Kiran Mahony, making his debut in 5th Grade, opened with Dave Warton and both played positively until Kiran went for (16), with the score on 27. Wharton was the backbone of the innings, batting for 54 overs and making a well-made (54). Things were looking good for us at 4 for 134, before losing our last 6 wickets for 47 runs. Other notable contributions came from Jason Huang (20); Andrew Gissing (25) and Raj Chandel (23).

In reply Blacktown started well, before Nelson picked up their opener with the score on 33. Then some great pressure bowling from Macquarie, saw Blacktown lose 3 for 5, with Nelson, Gissing and Ismiel doing the damaged. Blacktown was reduced to 5 for 79 and we thought we were a real show. The game started to slip from us with a sixth wicket partnership of 65 followed by an unbroken stand of 54.

v Balmain Balmain 74 and 8 for 258 lost to Balmain 323

Balmain was always going to be the big test for all sides that played them this year. We had a more at stake after they humiliated us in last year's quarterfinal. Balmain won the toss and elected to bat, and things got off to a great start with Nelson and Ismiel reducing them to 4 for 38, Nelson collecting 2 lbws in the process.

They started to form a partnership, which was broken by Wayne Dean in the last over before tea. Not too long afterwards we had them 6 for 182. Unfortunately our intensity dropped off after tea. A combination of poor bowling, good batting and some poor fielding, allowed Balmain to run away with the game. Their last 4 wickets put on 141 runs, which hurt. The stand out bowler was Paul Nelson with (2 for 68) off 18 overs. He set it up for us; unfortunately we couldn't finish the job.

They scored their runs so quickly, it meant we had a nasty session of 13 overs to negotiate. It became too nasty and at stumps we had slumped to 4 for 31. The next week didn't get better and we were bundled out for 74. Chapman was the only batsman to offer resistance with (15).

Our mission then was to avoid the outright. We got off to a positive start, before Chapman was dismissed with the score on 47. We then lost a couple of more wickets to be 3 for 100. Then Andrew Gissing and Jason Huang took the game away from Balmain with a 113 run partnership, which they scored in 18 overs. Jason's innings was a great innings of concentration and stroke play, while Andrew gave the ball a real thumping and punished anything remotely loose. Andrew reached (64) before he was run out. Despite several more wickets falling, Jason kept his mind on the task on hand. He had reached the 90s and that's where he stayed for the next 14 overs. He went from 95 to (99) before he was out lbw. This was a terrific knock of concentration and we were all proud of him as his previous highest score for the club was 29.

Nelson and Chung saw us home with an unbeaten 25 run partnership and Macquarie saved face with 7 for 258 in the 2nd innings before the game was called off.

v Randwick-Petersham 6 for 234 defeated Randwick-Petersham 232

This was a one-day match against Randwick-Petersham. It was a strange sort of a game, because Randwick-Petersham should've score closed to 300, but they lacked any aggression.

The score reached 88 before we took the first wicket. Lulka and Nelson had both bowled well and were supported by Chapman who bowled his 10 overs for 35. It was Dave Warton's left-arm spin that had them in trouble. Warton took the next four wickets to finish with (4 for 52) off 10 overs. It was a frustrating day in the field, as the batsmen seemed constantly to offer chances, which always seemed to avoid fieldsman. Ben Bradley showed that he could be a useful stop-gap bowler with (0 for 19) off 4 overs.

Confidence was high after our positive batting display against Balmain. It was soon 1 for 2 as Jase spooned one to short-leg. Then Paul Chapman and Dover smashed the bowling around the park. And after Chapman departed for a well-made (34), the 100 was brought up in the 16th over. Slimmon and Bradley then put on 62 runs before Slimmon was out for (22). Bradley was playing beautifully, placing the ball into the gap. He had reached (98) before he was unlucky to be out caught as the fielder never looked like catching it. His innings included 13 boundaries.

At 5 for 190 it was still evenly balanced, but Dave Warton completed a great match double scoring (39) runs and with Wayne Dean, saw us home. This was our first win of the season and for the second match in a row a good batting display.

v Burwood 244 lost to Burwood 312

With our tails up having beaten Randwick-Petersham we were confident of beating Burwood. Once again our bowlers did the job up to tea, reducing Burwood to 7 for 162. Chapman was the destroyer taking three wickets, including their big-hitter. Lulka and Nelson, both bowled tightly. It was post-tea that saw the worst fielding display in a long long time. After taking some pretty good catches pre-tea including a brilliant one-hander from Jason Huang, we proceeded to drop at least 11 catches, 7 of those coming off Gus Hook, who finished with 0 wickets which added injury to the insults. Their last 3 wickets put on 149 runs, with their number 8 scoring 95.

Once again we had 24 overs to negotiate before stumps. Slimmon was the only casualty, when he was bowled for (14). The next week Hooky and Huang played very well, until Jase was run out for a well made (33). This triggered a collapse when Chapman was bowled next ball and when Hook was bowled for (44) the score was 8 for 122. We had lost 7 for 27. Staring down the barrel of trying to save another outright Ford and Smith were determined to stick it out. They had brought the part-timers on and when they didn't work they brought the opening bowlers on and when that didn't work they brought back the part-timers. Smith and Ford played very well, before Smith was stumped for (21), the partnership yielding 77. Nelson came out and with Ford frustrated the bowlers even more. In the process a teary eyed Ford brought up his first ever half century for the club. Nelson looked very solid and I think Burwood were extremely nervous as they didn't look like getting us out. I got myself out and we lost by 67 runs, but were very happy with the fight back and making Burwood work for the win.

v Canterbury-Bexley 2 for 258 defeated Canterbury-Bexley 129 and 6 for 120

Almost pulled off an outright against Canterbury-Bexley. We had them 8 for 114, but unlike Balmain and Burwood they weren't going to score over 300. The main destroyer was Paul Chapman who ripped the heart of their batting. The last wicket frustrated us for 15 overs, before

Kieran Mahony was handed the ball and picked up a wicket, his first for the club. In reply we were 1 for 71 at stumps. The following week we needed quick runs after we passed their score and that's what Ashley gave us, smashing an unbeaten (153), in a very short space of time. Fordy joined Ashley and together we put on over 100 in 10 overs to give us a real shot at an outright.

We had them 6 for 98 with 10 overs to go, but they managed to hold on to lose just on first innings. Nelson, Smith and Chapman, all picked up two wickets each.

v South Sydney 5 for 154 defeated South Sydney 153

Souths got away from us and after 9 overs they were 0 for 50. Chapman then proceeded to bring a halt to their innings with three quick wickets including their skipper for a golden duck. Paul finished with 3 wickets and we had reduced Souths to 9 for 115. We let them get away and they ended up with 153. Paul Clift making his debut for Fifth Grade bowled very well and finished with a couple of wickets. Our bowling was a little wayward with 40 sundries. Highlight was the catching of Kieran who took a blinder

In reply we started well, scoring 45 runs off the first 8 overs. Then for the first time Al Mahoney joined Kiran Mahony and they proceeded to play well until Al got out. We lost Hooky, Fordy and Dougy to be precariously placed at 118 for 5. Kiran played a sensational innings of (57 not out) and steered us home. A good win.

v Holroyd-Hills 250 defeated Holroyd-Hills 246

Our best win of the season as we defended an average total on a ground where 300 would've been a good score to have. Hook (34) and Huang (26), saw us off to a good start with 57 for the first wicket before Hook was dismissed. The score had reached 130 for 5 in the 38th over and the innings was at the crossroads. Enter Shane O'Connor and Kieran Mahony, the latter continuing on with his good form from the previous week, scoring (35) and with (79) from Shane, both plundered an attack without too much risk. They put on 92 runs in 9 overs in what was a match-winning partnership.

Nelson and Ismiel then proceeded to bowl their best spells of the season, with Roshaan taking (2 for 28) off 10 overs and Nelson (1 for 42) off 10 overs. Holroyd were looking relatively comfortable at 3 for 124, before Paul Clift spun the game in our direction. Paul took (4 for 6) in two and a half overs to have Holroyd 7 for 139. Kiran chipped in with a great catch and a caught and bowled and Chapman took a vital wicket to have Holroyd still having to score over 10 an over but with only two wickets in hand. With 19 needed off the last over, Shane O'Connor who proved himself a useful all-rounder, contained the number 10 and 11 and we won by four runs. A great display of commitment.

v Blacktown 130 lost to Blacktown 151

A new year and an important game for us to keep in touch with the top four. This game saw the debut of Ash Sing and Andrew Gleeson, who had strong seasons in 6th Grade and it also saw Alex Bova playing his first game for a while. We bowled first and we reduced Blacktown to 8 for 109, after being 0 for 43. Gleeson took 3 wickets with accurate bowling, and Andrew Slimmon took 4 wickets, including 3 in four balls. Al Mahoney completed a good day behind the stumps with three catches and a stumping. However we let Blacktown off the hook and they took their score to 151. Erskine cleaned the tail up with (2 for 2).

Our batting just didn't stand up, and after being 2 for 54, we collapsed, losing wickets regularly and not valuing our wickets. The only player to stick it out was Alex Bova with a well-made (42) and it was disappointing not to see him get his half-century.

v Balmain 167 lost to Balmain 6 for 168

Despite the fact that Balmain had built a big lead over everyone in the competition, they certainly were very beatable. Batting first Slimmon and Chapman put 32 on for the first wicket in 9 overs to give us a positive start. Erskine came together with Al Mahoney and this was the partnership that should've set up a big score. There were some lovely shots from both Al (45) and Phil (33) and when Phil departed at 132 with 15 overs to go, it was looking good. Once again some indifferent batting saw us collapse to be all out for 167 off 45 overs.

We needed a good start and took our first wicket at 43 after 13 overs. Then Chapman and Clift bowled very tightly to bring us back in the match as Balmain proceeded to lose 4 for 28. Clift bowled beautifully taking (2 for 22) from 10, with Chapman and Neslon picking up 2 wickets each. They passed us in the 45th over and if we only had another 30 runs, things might have been different.

v Burwood 108 lost to Burwood 221

Our worst batting display of the season saw Burwood trounce us in a one-day match. Electing to bowl on a wet pitch, we had Burwood in trouble with Nelson taking a wicket in the first over. We let Burwood get away and soon they were 85 off only the first 15 overs. Tight spells by Phil Erskine (3 for 38) and O'Connor (1 for 35), brought us back into the game and with a three-wicket burst from Dave Warton, we restricted Burwood to 221 from 50 overs. The catching was good, particularly from Dave Warton and Fordy who was making his debut as a keeper.

The batting then fell apart. Hook deflected one off his body onto the stumps and before you could sneeze we were 8 for 79. Smith with (24 not out), got us past the 100 mark, but overall a disappointing day.

v Canterbury-Bexley 254 lost to Canterbury-Bexley 285

Canterbury won its first game of the season when they beat a side that had nine players and only one front-line bowler. Making his 5th Grade debut was Felix Quah and Peter Sullivan and Kev Hew made a welcome return to the ranks. The other person making their club debut, was Andrew Slimmon's girlfriend, Tanya, who fielded all day for us and very well too.

It was always going to be tough, but the bowlers stuck it out and did a great job. Trevor Smith was the best of the bowlers with (3 for 46) off 24 overs. Kiran, Dave Warton, Slimmo and Hooky all tried hard and at 5 for 193, we were hopeful of dismissing them under 250. They declared and we needed to 286 to win.

Slimmo and Pete then proceeded to put on 100 for the second wicket. Peter frustrated Canterbury with shots through slip and gully, while Slimmo played a great anchor role. With the score at 2 for 150 we were looking good, however we lost our way and in the end the total was too much for us. Hook with (37) and Warton with (46) both shone, as did Kevvy Hew who made a well made (27) and kept us in the hunt.

v South Sydney 186 and 7 for 164 lost to South Sydney 4 for 187 and 7 for 55

Looking to end the season on a high note, we fell 3 wickets short of doing that. Despite that we felt like we had a moral victory and drowned our sorrows with a few tunes at Saturday night Karaoke at the Willoughby. Making his debut this game was Brian Ko.

Batting first, disaster struck, when Hooky, playing his last game was run out for (0) with a direct hit. At 3 for 17 things weren't looking too good, but a 50 run partnership between Slimmon (52) and Warton (23), got us back on track. Dorney came out and smashed (34) including 6 boundaries and a well-made (28) from Trevor Smith got us up to 186. Slimmon was the star of the innings with a well-made (52) and he provided the backbone of the innings.

Souths were chasing an outright and our bowlers were on a hiding to nothing. Despite this, the guys stuck it out well with Chappers taking 2 wickets.

We batted again and once again Slimmon provided us with a solid start with (23). Dorney smashed a quick-fire (29) including three 4s and two 6s. Hooky finished with (31) and Trevor Smith capped off a good match double to finish with (33). In the end Souths needed 162 at 8 runs an over.

The dream start happened when their skipper edged one off Dorney's first ball to Fordy. Wickets fell at an alarming rate, with both Smith and Dorney cashing in. There was some tremendous fielding including a direct hit from Trevor Smith and a good catches by Kieran and Brian. Nick finished with (4 for 31) and Trevor (2 for 21). A good end to a long season.

METROPOLITAN SHIELD STATISTICS 2001-02

BATTING AVERAGES

Batsman	Matches	Innings	N.O.	H.S.	Runs	Average	Catches
B. Bradley	2	2	-	98	119	59.50	-
P. Erskine	4	4	-	79	128	32.00	-
D. Warton	6	7	1	54	183	30.50	3
C. Hook	6	7	-	44	175	25.00	1
J. Huang	9	10	-	99	230	23.00	3
T. Smith	7	6	1	33	111	22.20	3
A. Slimmon	12	13	-	58	245	18.85	3
K. Mahony	12	13	2	57x	162	14.73	6
J. Ford	12	12	1	74	142	12.91	4
P. Chapman	10	12	1	34	134	12.18	2
A. Robinson	1	1	1	153x	153	****	3

ALSO BATTED (Less than 100 Runs)

Batsman	Matches	Innings	N.O.	H.S.	Runs	Average	Catches
P. Sullivan	2	3	1	67	87	43.50	-
S. O'Connor	2	2	-	79	84	42.00	1
A. Bova	1	1	-	42	42	42.00	-
A. Gissing	2	3	-	64	98	32.67	-
N. Dorney	1	2	-	34	63	31.50	-
A. Mahoney	3	3	-	45	60	20.00	5+1stp.
Y. Vaghela	1	1	-	17	17	17.00	1
K. Hew	2	2	-	27	33	16.50	-
V. Chung	4	4	3	10x	14	14.00	-
A. Lulka	2	1	-	10	10	10.00	-
P. Nelson	9	8	5	13x	28	9.33	4
R. Chandell	3	3	-	23	27	9.00	-
W. Dean	4	4	1	8	25	8.33	-
W. Travers	1	1	-	7	7	7.00	-
R. Ishmail	7	4	-	9	20	5.00	1
S. Burchett	1	1	-	4	4	4.00	-
B. Ko	1	2	1	2x	3	3.00	1
F. Quah	1	1	-	2	2	2.00	-
A. Gleeson	1	1	-	1	1	1.00	-
P. Clift	3	2	-	1	1	0.50	-
J. Perez	2	1	-	0	0	0.00	2
D. Latto	1	1	-	0	0	0.00	-
B. Walters	1	1	-	0	0	0.00	-
G. Slimmon	1	1	1	6x	6	****	-
E. Aphaiwongse	1	1	1	2x	2	****	-
A. Singh	1	1	1	0x	0	****	-

BOWLING AVERAGES

Bowler	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	10 in Match	5 in Innings	Average
T. Smith	93	30	254	20	-	-	12.70
P. Chapman	92.4	18	352	18	-	-	19.56
P. Nelson	148	23	430	19	-	-	22.63

ALSO BOWLED (Less than 10 Wickets)

Bowler	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	10 in Match	5 in Innings	Average
A. Robinson	1	-	4	1	-	-	4.00
A. Gleeson	7	3	23	3	-	-	7.67
P. Clift	29	8	91	8	-	-	11.38
Y. Vaghela	14	3	45	3	-	-	15.00
A. Slimmon	25	2	114	6	-	-	19.00
P. Erskine	18.4	4	76	4	-	-	19.00
K. Mahony	19.4	1	77	4	-	-	19.25
D. Warton	35	5	171	8	-	-	21.38
N. Dorney	13	-	87	4	-	-	21.75
A. Gissing	40.4	3	128	4	-	-	32.00
A Lulka	22	3	66	2	-	-	33.00
W. Dean	9	2	35	1	-	-	35.00
R. Ishmail	79	14	284	6	-	-	47.33
J. Huang	34	8	127	2	-	-	63.50
C.Hook	19.1	2	98	1	-	-	98.00
S. O'Connor	18	1	103	1	-	-	103.00
R. Chandell	33	4	129	1	-	-	129.00
J. Perez	5	1	17	-	-	-	*****
B. Bradley	4	-	19	-	-	-	*****
F. Quah	3	-	20	-	-	-	*****
W. Travers	5	-	22	-	-	-	*****
B. Ko	3	-	27	-	-	-	*****
A. Singh	8	1	30	-	-	-	*****
K. Hew	5	-	34	-	-	-	*****

METROPOLITAN SHIELD 2001-02

BEST PERFORMANCES

<i>Batting Average</i>	B. Bradley	59.50
<i>Batting Aggregate</i>	A. Slimmon	245
<i>Highest Score</i>	A. Robinson	153x v Canterbury-Bexley
<i>Bowling Average</i>	T. Smith	12.70
<i>Bowling Aggregate</i>	T. Smith	20
<i>Most Wickets in an Innings</i>	N. Dorney	4/31 v South Sydney
	T. Smith	4/35 v Canterbury-Bexley
	P. Clift	4/43 v Holroyd-Hills
	D. Warton	4/52 v Randwick-Petersham
	P. Nelson	4/82 v Burwood
<i>Most Wickets in a Match</i>	T. Smith	6/50 v Canterbury-Bexley
<i>Wicket Keeping</i>	A. Mahoney	5 catches + 1 stp.
<i>Centuries</i>	A. Robinson	153x v Canterbury-Bexley
<i>Highest Team Score</i>		2/258 v Canterbury-Bexley
<i>Lowest Team Score</i>		74 v Balmain

RESULTS

<i>Played</i>	13
<i>Won Outright</i>	-
<i>Won 1st Innings</i>	4
<i>Drawn</i>	1
<i>Lost 1st Innings</i>	8
<i>Lost Outright</i>	-
<i>Position in Competition</i>	6th

TEAM STATISTICS

MACQUARIE

OPPONENTS

<i>Runs Scored</i>	2,859	3,026
<i>Wickets Lost</i>	126	129
<i>Average per Wicket</i>	22.69	23.45

HIGHEST "METROPOLITAN SHIELD" PARTNERSHIPS 2001-02

Wicket	Batsmen			Runs	Opponent	
1	P. Erskine	79	A. Slimmon	55	129	Holroyd-Hills
2	J. Huang	21	A. Robinson	153x	117	Balmain
3	A. Robinson	153x	J. Ford	25x	107x	Canterbury-Bexley
4	A. Gissing	64	J. Huang	99	113	Balmain
5	A. Slimmon	52	N. Dorney	34	52	South Sydney
6	K. Mahony	35	S. O'Connor	79	92	Holroyd-Hills
7	K. Hew	27	D. Warton	46	77	Canterbury-Bexley
8	V. Chung	10x	P. Nelson	10x	25x	Balmain
9	J. Ford	74	T. Smith	21	77	Burwood
10	J. Ford	74	P. Nelson	13x	45	Burwood

CAPTAIN'S REPORT – UNDER 24s

Although this year's Frank Gray season was not as successful as we might have envisaged it is certainly one I shall look back on with fond memories.

The team won three out of its seven games and throughout the season showed glimpses of brilliance. Although we lost four games, it should be noted that three of those four were lost in the dying stages and could have quite possibly gone either way. It goes to show how valuable an extra 10-15 runs would have been.

In typical Macquarie fashion it was our batting that let us down. At times we got off to good starts and consolidated in the middle order but it was only individual efforts that ensured we posted respectable scores. This will come with experience, and better timing in setting and chasing targets.

Our bowling and fielding was the strength of our season and something we should all be very proud of. Rarely did sides look like reaching two hundred against us as we fought hard and pressured the opposition. It was in this department that we all shone and showed that fighting spirit.

Certainly our best performance of the season (and, for most of us, our best at Macquarie) was our final-over win against Pennant Hills. Boasting nine First Graders we battled hard against the best attack in the competition to score a respectable 182, bowling them out for 178 in the 50th over. A fantastic win and one that we shall never forget.

There were a few individual performances throughout the season that are worthy of mention. Chris Harris, awarded Most Valuable Player, performed well with both bat and ball and claimed the record for the most number of wickets in a Frank Gray season. Ben Suthanther showed his class as an all-rounder and, in scoring 168 runs in five innings, attained the record for most runs in a Frank Gray season. Chris Ying also performed well with bat and gloves, pulling us out of many a sticky situation, to average 40.50.

A special thank you must go to the five veterans who will no longer be eligible for Frank Gray next year. To Chris Harris, Toby Duffin, Derek Couper, Chris Savage and Matt Greenwood – thank you for your efforts this season and over the past few years. You guys have always been the most reliable of players and given the team 110%.

Thank you also to Craig Edwards and David Smith who made it to most games and were very supportive of the team.

Finally, to the team-it has been a pleasure playing with and captaining you all, and I am very much looking forward to more successes in the season ahead.

Christian Bova

Under 24 Captain

MATCH REPORTS

v Lindfield 4 for 122 defeated Lindfield 119

After winning the toss and electing to bowl, Lindfield raced to 0/67 off 15 overs. Come in Ben Suthanther (1-17) who, after bowling a maiden first over, baffled their opener with a delivery that gripped and turned and took the top of off stump. Chris Harris (1-25) and Tim Hopkins (2-18) also bowled well but the day's honours went to Derek Couper (4-28), who picked up (4-4) in his second spell to wrap up Lindfield's innings. Anthony Brokate's amazingly athletic piece of fielding at mid-off deserves a special mention as he managed to throw down the stumps at the striker's end on the bounce to affect a magnificent run out.

Knowing that the job was only half done Chris Harris (36) and Toby Duffin (19) began positively with an opening stand of 49. Ben Suthanther (36) chipped in with a quick-fire innings which included four massive straight sixes that would have made the distance on any ground in the world.

v Burwood 181 lost to Burwood 230

Following the high of our opening win, we faced last year's premiers in a tough encounter. Losing the toss we took to the field with Nick Bova (2-31) opening the bowling with great pace and movement. But today was Chris Harris' (5-28) day and with some good controlled seam bowling he tore through Burwood's middle order. Ben Suthanther (1-35) again bowled with great accuracy to restrict Burwood to what was an attainable target.

After losing a few quick wickets, Christian Bova (23) and Ben Suthanther (53) put on 50 before the former was out chopping on. The Panther was joined by Tim Clough (26) with another fifty being added in quick time. However the swift departure of Suthanther and Clough sparked a mini collapse with only Chris Ying (20 not out) reaching double figures in the later half of the order.

v Pennant Hills 8 for 182 defeated Pennant Hills 178

With the Pennant Hills Frank Gray XI boasting nine First Grade players, we knew this would be a tough encounter. Winning the toss and electing to bat Chris Harris (45) batted for half the innings to set up a good first innings score. Again, Ben Suthanther (26) scored at better than a run a ball and was well supported by Chris Ying (30), who batted for 20 overs. Tim Hopkins (22 not out) and Chris Savage (13 not out) did well in the dying stages to push the score up to 182.

Once again, the opposition got off to a flyer, scoring 61 runs off the first 10 overs for the loss of only one wicket. Tim Hopkins (3-18) and Derek Couper (2-39), however, slowly turned the game back in our favour to have Pennant Hills 4-75 off 19 overs. Hopkins bowled with great pace and enthusiasm while Couper picked up their two top scorers in a fine spell of bowling. Couper was joined by Ben Suthanther (2-19) and the two managed to restrict the opposition to 5-95 at the end of 30 overs. With the Panther having a spell, Andrew Gissing (2-38) stepped up a gear and produced an amazing spell of leg-spin bowling, picking up two crucial wickets.

Needing 21 runs off 18 balls with only 1 wicket in hand, Boys was convinced it was in the bag. But a few lucky shots brought the equation down to 7 runs off the final 6 balls. Come in the Panther, who, conceding only two runs off his first three deliveries, clean bowled their number 10 with his fourth. A fantastic victory and the best we had all experienced!

v Roseville 9 for 178 lost to Roseville 6-179

Coming off an amazing victory against Pennant Hills, the team was expected to account for Roseville with ease. However, this was not to be and we were defeated by a committed opposition in the 49th over. Chris Ying (33) and Ben Suthanther (47) again batted well, but the rest of the side struggled. Chris Savage (21) the only other performance of note. Tim Hopkins (2-42) and Ben Suthanther (1-13) again bowled well without much luck, but all in all it was a disappointing batting and fielding performance.

v Strathfield 178 lost to Strathfield 7 for 180

Another disappointing batting performance, with Chris Savage (34) and Chris Harris (26) the best performers. We were, however, able to reach a respectable score through the fierce hitting of Anthony Brokate (18) and the stylish play of Tim Hopkins (24 not out). Once again an extra 10-15 runs could have made the difference. We bowled and fielded exceptionally well with Chris Harris (3-44) and Ben Suthanther (2-33) the best performers. Anthony Brokate (1-26) and Tim Hopkins (1-34) produced fine opening spells, while Derek Couper (0-36) was a little unlucky.

v Blacktown 184 lost to Blacktown 206

Needing to beat Blacktown to stay in contention for the quarter-finals, the team again failed to reach its potential. After winning the toss and electing to bowl, we produced our best performance to have Blacktown 7-108. Tim Hopkins (2-22), Chris Harris (2-27) and Andrew Gissing (1-20) were the best of our regular players while star imports Andrew Palmer (3-42) and Ben Broso (2-18) showed their class.

However, as luck would have it, Blacktown's 8th wicket partnership produced 86 priceless runs, in what can only be described as an unorthodox approach, taking them to a respectable score of above 200.

Chris Harris (26) and Toby Duffin (22) started off with a positive opening stand of 40, while Chris Ying (40) compiled his best knock of the season. Other than that, Andrew Palmer (34 not out) was the only player to put up his hand in what was a poorly timed run chase, hindered by a constant flow of wickets.

v Canterbury-Bexley 9 for 106 defeated Canterbury-Bexley 103

Our final game of the season started well with Derek Couper (2-25) and Tim Hopkins (1-21) producing their best combined start of the season, bowling straight with good pace. Couper, in particular, picked up both openers and had their no. 3 dropped in a fine spell of fast bowling – his last in an illustrious Frank Gray career. Chris Harris (2-31) lifted and in two trademark deliveries claimed the record for the most number of wickets in a season. Congratulations Harry – a well deserved record! Matt Greenwood (4-21) also bowled well and produced his best figures of the season, taking four quality wickets.

Reversing the batting order to give our retirees first crack at the target almost proved fatal. Derek Couper, though, handled the No. 3 position with ease and compiled a very neat (11). With the loss of four quick wickets, Matt Greenwood (30) stepped up and steered us in the right direction, supported again by the ever reliable Chris Ying (25 not out). Needing 14 runs with just 1 wicket in hand, Andrew Gissing (3 not out) joined Ying and with sensible strokeplay (and the occasional whoosh over mid-wicket) got us home.

“UNDER 24s” SHIRES STATISTICS 2001-02

BATTING AVERAGES

Batsman	Matches	Innings	N.O.	H.S.	Runs	Average	50's	Catches
C. Ying	7	6	2	40	164	41.00	-	4
B. Suthanther	5	5	-	53	168	33.60	1	-
T. Hopkins	7	7	3	24x	88	22.00	-	-
C. Harris	7	7	-	45	147	21.00	-	-
N. Bova	3	2	1	15x	19	19.00	-	-
T. Clough	2	2	-	26	37	18.50	-	1
A. Brokate	2	1	-	18	18	18.00	-	-
C. Savage	7	7	2	34	85	17.00	-	1
D. Couper	7	5	2	11	36	12.00	-	1
T. Duffin	5	5	-	22	54	10.80	-	-
M. Greenwood	6	6	-	30	61	10.20	-	-
A. Robinson	1	1	-	9	9	9.00	-	-
C. Bova	7	7	-	23	49	7.00	-	1
A. Gissing	4	4	1	7	16	5.20	-	-
B. Broso	2	2	-	9	9	4.50	-	-
G. Scott	1	1	-	0	0	0.00	-	-

BOWLING AVERAGES

Bowler	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average	Best
B. Broso	5	-	18	2	9.00	2/18
T. Hopkins	63.2	10	185	12	15.40	3/18
C. Harris	55	5	211	13	16.23	5/28
B. Suthanther	43.4	9	119	7	17.00	2/19
M. Greenwood	23	1	96	5	19.20	4/21
A. Gissing	14	-	69	3	23.00	2/38
A. Brokate	10	1	26	1	26.00	1/26
D. Couper	60.4	9	282	9	31.33	4/28
N. Bova	17	1	65	2	32.50	2/31

CAPTAIN'S REPORT – SIXTH GRADE

For a team that didn't exist two weeks before the start of the season *Macquarie University Gold*, as we were imaginatively dubbed, had a successful and enjoyable season. We joined our colleagues from Macquarie Uni Green in C grade of the Gordon Junior District Cricket Association and played well enough throughout the season to make the semi-finals, going out of the competition in dramatic circumstances when we tied with the eventual Premiers. The team was home to a lot of talented newcomers to the club and had a useful sprinkling of Macquarie veterans in the ranks.

Thanks must go to Craig Edwards, Dave Smith and the Club Committee for recognising the need for an extra team and committing resources to the side. Sixth Grade wanted for nothing as far as equipment and interest from the club was concerned and a lot of players were happy to get a game. The efforts of Danny McVey to get to the Gold – Green local derby and our semi-final match were also greatly appreciated. Mark Hughes and in particular Jason Ford made my job a lot easier with early warnings of player pull-outs, a commitment to finding players at the last minute and in getting players from their sides to play for us when they could. Jason Huang, Phil Erskine, Ben Bradley, Dave Annetts, Trevor Smith, Paul Nelson, Mark and Jason all went out of their way to fill in gaps in the side. Wayne Travers managed four games simply by coming to watch us play and gave great service when he did. A lot of the regular players such as Raj Chandel, Asneil Singh, Darren Bull, Frank Larkin and Andrew Gleeson also managed to locate players when we needed them most. Ben Sewell, the captain of Green, also played a big part in getting players a game.

On a week to week basis I have to thank Edward Aphaiwongse and especially Douglas Latto for their part in the running of the side. Doug managed to captain the side to two wins with depleted line-ups, dragged the kit around the north shore for months on end and got the less mobile players in the side to various grounds. On the field he was one of the leading players, always looking to attack the bowling and constantly assessing what could be done to win matches. Doug's outlook on cricket was a big part of the team's success. Ed also helped out with the kit, increased his input in the field and turned in a fine all-round performance, batting with determination and style at the top of the order and keeping superbly to a fierce attack. Ed's been a linchpin of the three Fifth and Sixth grade sides to make the semis in recent years and he deservedly made the Gordon representative side that played this year. The stats say 250 plus runs and 14 catches but it's the whole-hearted drive to win and those bloody stupid sledges that I'll miss.

Other batsman to make an impression were Brynley Walters, the rock who made number four his own. Bryn was laid back enough to stroll in just before matches got underway but this belied a tough streak that saw him occupying the crease for long periods and never backing down. Wayne Dean filled the crucial number three spot when in the side and always batted productively. Frank Larkin came to Macquarie as an opener and stayed there for the rest of the season doing well while the bowling was at its toughest. Frank also performed with great credit at the meeting for our successful protest. Other newcomers such as Mandar Karlekar and Felix Quah were integral team members. Mandar's batted with grit throughout while Felix's work at second slip was eye catching. Kieran Mahoney played the first two games of the season and was promptly promoted to higher grades.

The strength of the side however rested mainly with its bowling. Asneil Singh led the bowling in every game, took 44 wickets and displayed a champion's attitude to every match situation. That Gold won so many close games came down to the performance of Ash and he was a deserving MVP. Andrew Gleeson came into the side after a couple of games and proceeded to

dominate the opposition, intimidating batsman with pace, aggression, stamina and intelligence. The sight of pinpoint bouncers followed by flying stumps provided hours of entertainment.

Darren Bull came into the attack midway through the season and after finding his range was perhaps the fastest of all the bowlers. Darren's capacity for bowling the unplayable delivery ensured we were never short of a breakthrough. Paul Nelson played at the start and end of the season and was a prolific wicket-taker. Paul's late return to the side really helped when we were short of players. Tony Barnes benefited from the work of the fast bowlers by picking up wickets with slow-medium cutters. Handling the spin duties was the wily Kevin Hew whose strike rate was phenomenal. Kev went on to perform well with the bat in Fifth Grade.

These players were a pleasure to captain and a number of close, hard fought wins demonstrated tremendous spirit. Their performances this year suggest a number of them will do very well in higher grades so hopefully the club will reap a healthy return for their investment in this side.

Tony Barnes

6th Grade Captain

MATCH REPORTS

v Lindfield Dream 4 for 228 defeated Lindfield 82

This was a powerful start to the season at Alan Small Oval against a spirited but hapless Lindfield side. Our first four batsmen were impressive on debut. Frank Larkin (24) settled in at the top of the order while Kieran Mahoney (48) blasted away at the other end. Dave Annetts faced about 10 balls for his 27, finishing his scoring with a 6. Brynley Walters (52 not out) and Wayne Dean (44) showed the form that would make them mainstays of the batting while the rest of side watched from the sidelines. Paul Nelson (2-31) and Asneil Singh (2-8) made short work of the top-order and Travers, Barnes, Latto and Kevin Hew (2-5) quickly polished off the tail. Annetts took the gloves and looked a natural with a stumping and a catch. Flying starts don't come any better than this.

v Pymble Pigs 149 defeated Pymble Pigs 138

This was the first of a number of tough matches at Lofberg Oval. The Pigs' opening attack was quick and accurate, pinning down the batting. Kieran Mahoney and Wayne Dean (30) rode out the storm, putting on 64 for the second wicket. Wayne Travers (17) boosted the run rate as a pinch hitter and the rest of the side scrambled to put together a defensible total. The key to the innings was Kieran's (63), safe against the quicks, then decisively hitting down the ground against the change bowlers. Once again Singh (2-21) and Nelson (2-21) wrested the advantage for us early until Wong-See (65) began blasting the change bowling of Travers (2-30) and Barnes (1-29). Nelson returned to the attack to take the key wicket, with Kevin Hew taking the second of two catches. Kev (1-7) came on to snare the last wicket and wrap up a hard fought 11 run win.

v Lane Cove 170 and 5 for 98 defeated Lane Cove 103 and 6 for 135

Doug Latto took over the captaincy of our much changed and depleted side for this game at O.H. Reid Oval. Frank Larkin (15) and Edward Aphaiwongse (34) got us away to a steady start before Doug (20) and newcomer Andrew Gleeson (44) shored up the middle-order. Jeff Perez (14) and Stan Barnes (17) crucially boosted the total of our 9-man side. Ash Singh (5-73) stepped up for the first of his 5 wicket hauls, Andrew Gleeson (2-23) introduced his menacing pace to our line-up and Stan Barnes (2-5) reacquainted himself to the art of bowling after a 4 year break. Lane Cove managed to avoid the follow-on with an adventurous tenth wicket partnership.

Chasing the outright we pursued quick runs, with Ed (12), Jeff Perez (17), Doug (19) and Tony Barnes (15 not out) chipping in. The best effort came from the returning traveller, Bob Earls (26) who was between sojourns. We declared at a total that left us vulnerable to a loss but Lane Cove chose to dawdle along at 3 an over. Doug (3-46) did his utmost to tempt them into a chase but Lane Cove didn't have the nerve to take liberties against Gleeson (3-26) who went at 2 an over. The game finished 4 wickets and 30 runs short of an outright result. Perez was sharp behind the stumps for three catches.

v Roseville 159 and 2 for 99 defeated Roseville 78 and 8 for 179

There's nothing better than getting a call on Saturday morning from Ben Bradley looking for a start. With Dover standing at mid-off, offering advice to a series of shell-shocked Roseville batsman, Tony Barnes (5-36) and Ash Singh (3-42) made short work of the opposition. Fielding was a highlight with 2 run outs thanks to deadeye throws from Kev Hew and Brynley Walters. Ed Aphaiwongse pouched a couple of caught behinds, Felix Quah snapped one up at second slip and Dover threw himself forward to take two crucial early catches. The best effort

however was Juman Sheriff's two-handed grab of a skied swirler at fine leg. Our innings belonged to Doug Latto (63), batting with aplomb to bring up another fifty. Brynley (29) was again steady and we finished up at 159.

The Roseville second innings got away from us with only Ash (3-50) and Kevin Hew (2-29) making much of an impression. Just when we were settling for a first innings win Roseville declared and set us 99 off 20 overs. We cruised to victory in 14 overs, Ed (21), Frank Larkin (39), Ben (23 not out) and Kevin Hew (13 not out) ensuring a surprise victory. The openers put on 63 and were especially good, running themselves to a standstill in between well struck fours.

v Wanderers 167 defeated Wanderers 164

We were quickly in trouble at 4-35 against another good new-ball attack. Jeff Perez (44) stepped up and took the pace bowlers on, hitting high and long down the ground at Wellington Road Oval. Andrew Gleeson (30) again impressed in the middle-order and with Tony Barnes (16) put on 56 for the seventh wicket. Our score didn't look to be enough against one of the stronger batting sides. Ash Singh (3-41) and Andrew Gleeson (0-11) were terrific in tandem but we were hamstrung by the 8 over limit for bowlers in one-day matches. The Wanderers middle order went on a rampage and at 4-145 the match was as good as over. Even so, we were taking our catches, wicket taker Kevin Hew (2-26) was chipping away and Wanderers got complacent. With 3 wickets to get and 3 runs to defend Trevor Smith (4-48) returned to the attack, bowling O'Neil for 65 and ripping through the defences of ten and eleven to finish the match off with successive lbw decisions. Good win, that.

v Lindfield Winnie Blues 178 lost to Lindfield 235 and 5 for 172

A series of close wins led to complacency and this is where we paid. Ash Singh (5-51) picked up 3 early wickets to put us on top but then began a long succession of dropped catches, which got worse as the day went on. P.Henry lobbed the ball to covers and was dropped on 0. Henry was halfway to breaking a 130-year-old run scoring record by compiling 780 runs for the season. Against us he scored 95 runs in an hour, hitting many balls into the upper branches of the eucalyptus surrounding the large Primula Oval. Jason Ford (1-32) reached deep into his repertoire to end the slaughter. The rest of the Lindfield side slogged their way to 235. Paul Nelson (2-62), Doug Latto (2-29), Felix Quah 3 catches and Jeff Perez 2 catches did okay. We laboured for 78 overs to compile 178, a gritty effort but short of the mark. Brinley Walters, Mandar Karlekar (22) and Ash Singh (18 not out) were the best of the batsmen. Lindfield used the last hour for some slogging practice and our catching was again atrocious. Paul Nelson (3-36) quickly despatched the top-order while Felix Quah (2-21) benefited from 2 outfield catches from Ash.

v Macquarie Uni Green Gold 146 and 5 for 104 defeated Macquarie Uni. Green 112 and 3 for 166

Doug Latto took over the reins for what was, from all accounts, a fiery local derby against Ben Sewell's Green team. For once Singh (1-38) and Gleeson (1-30) didn't make heavy inroads and it was left to Raj Chandell (5-24) and Kevin Hew (3-22) to curb the Green innings to 112. Kain Walker (42) was the best of the batsmen. Gleeson (22) top scored in reply with contributions from Latto (16), Kumar (17), Larkin (18) and Darren Bull (10 not out) ensuring a first innings win. Green came roaring back into the match with Walker posting an even (50) and Ramsy remaining (63 not out). Short of players on the second day Gold managed 5-104 in their second innings with Ed Aphaiwongse seeing the side to safety with (38 not out).

v Pymble Pigs 107 lost to Pymble Pigs 4 for 108

The Pigs dominated this return match from the outset, blasting out the top-order of Aphaiwongse (3), Phil Erkin (0) and Mark Hughes (2) in rapid order. Brynley Walters (24) knuckled down but until Wayne Travers (19 not out) came to the crease the batting lacked punch. The Pigs made short work of 107 with Tony Barnes (4-22) the only bowler to take a wicket.

v Sons of Thunder 102 lost to Sons of Thunder 8 for 293

This was a memorable match against the team with the best name in the competition. After 16 overs SOT were 2-16 with Singh (3-58) and in particular Gleeson (3-64) terrorising the top-order. Wayne Dean took the catch of the season at second slip, flinging himself to right to take a flier off a lightning quick Gleeson. SOT batsman Smithies (163) then proceeded to play a remarkable innings, hitting three sixes on the huge oval at St Ives Village Green. Catching again let us down and SOT were able to declare with a huge total posted. Brynley Walters (30 not out) played a lone hand against a powerful attack while the rest of the batting fell away poorly. The most miserable innings came from Tony Barnes (0), three light nicks and an lbw shout not given, then comprehensively bowled. SOT declined to pursue an outright win for which we were grateful.

v West Pymble Heathens 90 lost to West Pymble Heathens 108

This was a match we butchered. The game proceeded to plan for most of the first day with Ash Singh (4-35) and Andrew Gleeson (4-21) combining to have Heathens at 8-83. The catching was safe and the fielding sharp. Then a dropped catch allowed a final wicket partnership of 25. The grass was ankle deep at Primula Oval and this placed a pressure on the batting that didn't cope. Heathens used a succession of crafty dibbly dobbly bowlers who applied a little bit of swing or seam to each ball. Gleeson (20) was the only batsman in double figures and Heathens weren't to be denied.

v Lindfield Dream 5 for 133 defeated Lindfield Dream 112 and 2 for 60

The flood prone OH Reid required an enormous amount of effort from both sides to get this game underway on both weeks. Sponges, buckets, shovels, sandpits and rubber mats were enlisted to ensure that a semblance of a match could be played on what essentially was a swamp. Andrew Gleeson (4-23), Darren Bull (3-21) and Tony Barnes (2-17) took advantage of some limited batting techniques. Ed Aphaiwongse (31), Wayne Travers (17), Wayne Dean (21) and Doug Latto (15) allowed us to declare with a small lead. Andrew Gleeson (2-12) made some headway into the Lindfield innings but appropriately the match ended with a torrential deluge which once again left the oval saturated. When Ed feinted late in the day with a virus Brynley calmly called out to the bowler, "Hold on, the keeper's died!".

v Wonnons 114 and 117 defeated Wonnons 42 and 9 for 156

This was a very satisfying outright victory. Again the batting struggled with only Wayne Dean (21) getting a start in the top-order. Doug Latto (47) took it upon himself to engineer a defensible total, the highlight being 2 signature flicks for 6 over square leg. 114 on the tiny Alan Small Oval was going to be difficult to defend but with an hour to play on the first day we had a great opportunity to get back in the match. Ash Singh (5-20) thrives on this sort of situation and with Andrew Gleeson (3-21) quick and hostile from the other end Wonnons quickly capitulated. Their gun bat blasted 3 sixes and 3 fours in a score of 31 but flicked Singh to Mandar Karlekar at square leg for the crucial wicket. Paul Nelson and Ed Aphaiwongse were others to take great catches. Ed's "seeing it like a neutron" became a catch phrase. The second day was acrimonious with Wonnons introducing a twelfth player into the match. We produced

another struggling innings with Wayne Dean (36) standing out. After blasting 52 Wonnons' leading batsman again fell at square leg with Darren Bull taking the vital catch off Andrew Gleeson (3-40). Nelson (2-18) and Barnes (2-5) killed off a mid-innings revival and then Darren Bull (1-19) made a last over bid for an outright victory. Darren's last ball was perfect, a yorker which hit the tailender in front of middle. The umpire chose not to give this out and instead had to face up to a hearing before the Gordon Executive the following week. Our protest about Wonnons twelfth player was upheld and outright points were awarded.

v Lane Cove 84 lost to Lane Cove 7 for 111

The last game before the semi-finals resulted in a disappointing loss but other results saw us retain third position on the table. Ash Singh (0-11), Andrew Gleeson (1-16) and Darren Bull (3-18) were extremely economical off their 8 overs while Tony Barnes (2-23) had one expensive over. Our batting response was inept with Ed Aphaiwongse (22) top scoring.

v Wanderers 60 and 3 for 66 tied with Wanderers 60 and 3 for 43

A tie resulting in the end of our season as Wanderers had finished one position higher on the table. A typical semi-final with committed bowling and fielding dominating tentative batting. Our innings was going nowhere until Wayne Dean (12) and in particular Doug Latta (19) applied themselves to run scoring. We used up 41 overs in crawling to 60. No position was ever too hopeless for Ash Singh (6-28) who deservedly won a pewter for his efforts in this match. Andrew Gleeson (3-29) charged in from the other end. Ed Aphaiwongse was faultless behind the stumps with 3 caught behinds. Brynley Walters made up for an early miss with a fine catch at gully. At close of play Wanderers were 6-28, with two batsmen absent. The following day Wanderers quickly fell to 9-29 with only their captain Greg Vella and the no.11 left. Vella (31) took control, out captaining his opponent by farming the strike and waiting for the right ball. The best efforts of Gleeson and Singh produced two sharp chances before Mandar Karlekar grabbed a catch with the scores tied. Ed (34 not out) gave it everything in an effort to build a second innings total and we left ourselves 22 overs to bowl out Wanderers. Singh and Aphaiwongse combined for an early wicket and then Darren Bull (2-13) delivered more of his unplayable deliveries. With Vella (23 not out) again blocking our path the Wanderers finished at 3-43. Wanderers went on to become premiers with a comfortable outright victory the following week. Given their sportsmanship and verve they were deserving competition winners.

6th GRADE STATISTICS 2001-02

BATTING AVERAGES

Batsman	Matches	Innings	N.O.	H.S.	Runs	Average	Catches
K. Mahony	2	2	-	63	111	55.50	-
B. Walters	12	13	3	52x	222	22.20	7
A. Gleeson	9	8	1	44	145	20.71	3
W. Dean	7	8	-	44	160	20.00	1
E. Aphaiwongse	12	16	2	38x	259	18.50	14
D. Latto	13	14	-	63	207	14.79	4
F. Larkin	11	15	-	39	139	9.27	1

ALSO BATTED (Less than 100 Runs)

Batsman	Matches	Innings	N.O.	H.S.	Runs	Average	Catches
B. Bradley	1	2	1	23x	36	36.00	2
D. Annetts	1	1	-	27	27	27.00	1+1stp.
W. Travers	4	3	1	19x	53	26.00	1
D. Larkin	1	1	-	18	18	18.00	1
J. Perez	5	6	1	44	87	17.40	9+1stp.
S. Barnes	1	1	-	17	17	17.00	-
A. Kumar	1	1	-	17	17	17.00	-
J. Ford	1	1	-	16	16	16.00	-
B. Earls	1	2	-	26	27	13.50	-
T. Barnes	13	11	3	16	91	11.38	7
R. Chantell	3	4	-	18	38	9.50	1
J. Huang	1	1	-	8	8	8.00	-
D. Bull	6	7	3	10x	31	7.75	2
M. Karlekar	8	9	2	22	43	6.14	2
K. Hew	9	10	-	13x	58	5.80	3
A. Singh	14	12	3	18x	49	5.44	8
G. Donnes	1	1	-	5	5	5.00	1
P. Nelson	6	5	2	7	9	3.00	2
P. Erskine	2	2	-	6	6	3.00	-
B. Tulip	1	1	-	2	2	2.00	1
M. Hughes	1	1	-	2	2	2.00	-
F. Quah	4	4	-	5	7	1.75	5
J. Sheriff	1	1	-	0	0	0.00	1
T. Smith	1	1	1	12x	12	****	2
G. Kant	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

BOWLING AVERAGES

Bowler	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	10 in Match	5 in Innings	Average
A. Gleeson	158	48	323	29	-	-	11.14
A. Singh	211.3	41	664	44	-	4	15.09
T. Barnes	96	22	330	20	-	1	16.50
K. Hew	34.2	8	177	10	-	-	17.70
P. Nelson	42	6	200	11	-	-	18.18

ALSO BOWLED (Less than 10 Wickets)

Bowler	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	10 in Match	5 in Innings	Average
S. Barnes	5	1	5	2	-	-	2.50
F. Quah	2	-	21	2	-	-	10.50
T. Smith	7	2	48	4	-	-	12.00
A. Kumar	1	-	12	1	-	-	12.00
B. Walters	4	1	13	1	-	-	13.00
D. Bull	35	4	125	9	-	-	13.89
R.Chantell	30.5	6	114	6	-	-	19.00
W. Travers	24	2	83	4	-	-	20.75
D. Latto	48	4	201	7	-	-	28.71
J. Ford	2	-	32	1	-	-	32.00
P. Erskine	.3	-	1	-	-	-	****
W. Dean	2	-	14	-	-	-	****
D. Larkin	2	-	14	-	-	-	****
G. Donnes	8	3	19	-	-	-	****
M.Karlekar	2	-	23	-	-	-	****
J. Sheriff	2	-	31	-	-	-	****
F. Larkin	3	-	38	-	-	-	****

6th GRADE 2001-02

BEST PERFORMANCES

<i>Batting Average</i>	K. Mahony	55.50
<i>Batting Aggregate</i>	E. Aphaiwongse	259
<i>Highest Score</i>	K. Mahony	63 v Pymble Pigs
	D. Latto	63 v Roseville
<i>Bowling Average</i>	A. Gleeson	11.14
<i>Bowling Aggregate</i>	A. Singh	44
<i>Most Wickets in an Innings</i>	A. Singh	6/28 v Wanderers
<i>Most Wickets in a Match</i>	A. Singh	7/30 v Wanderers
<i>Wicket Keeping</i>	J. Perez	9 catches + 1 stp.
<i>Centuries</i>	-	
<i>Highest Team Score</i>		4/228 v Lindfield Dream
<i>Lowest Team Score</i>		60 v Wanderers

RESULTS

<i>Played</i>	14
<i>Won Outright</i>	2
<i>Won 1st Innings</i>	6
<i>Tied</i>	1
<i>Drawn</i>	-
<i>Lost 1st Innings</i>	5
<i>Lost Outright</i>	-
<i>Position in Competition</i>	7th

TEAM STATISTICS

MACQUARIE

OPPONENTS

<i>Runs Scored</i>	2371	2657
<i>Wickets Lost</i>	154	165
<i>Average per Wicket</i>	15.39	16.10

HIGHEST "6th GRADE" PARTNERSHIPS 2001-02

Wicket	Batsmen				Runs	Opponent
1	K. Mahony	48	F. Larkin	24	85	Lindfield
2	K. Mahony	63	W. Dean	30	64	Pymble Pigs
3	E. Aphaiwongse	34	D. Latto	20	44	Lane Cove
4	B. Walters	52x	W. Dean	44	97	Lindfield
5	B. Earls	26	T. Barnes	15x	39	Lane Cove
6	D. Latto	63	M. Karlakar	6	43	Gordon
7	A. Gleeson	30	T. Barnes	16	56	Wanderers
8	B. Walters	34	M. Karlakar	22	46	Winnie Blues
9	D. Latto	47	A. Singh	3	18	Wonnons
10	M. Karlakar	22	A. Singh	18x	36	Winnie Blues

MASTERS REPORT

As most are aware this was our first year as a Masters team. The first year is supposed to be by far the most difficult, or so I was told, with new teams usually struggling to find players and players taking time to get back into the swing of things.

We struggled a bit at the start with numbers but once up and running we never looked back. We played some good cricket, our numbers grew and we finished second

I started the drive for players back in June last year with a letter to all ex-MUCC players over 40, with some 50 odd letters being sent out. I received only 7 replies and had to ring around to fill a team for the first match. Now, 11 games later, we have over 24 players wanting to play next season. (I only had to entice someone once, after that he was hooked).

We started and ended well, with just three bad games in the middle costing us the chance of winning in our first year.

Bowling is the key to these games, with teams usually providing a couple good quicks to put pressure on the early overs with the standard falling away a bit in the middle. I was fortunate enough to have good depth in our attack (in most games) with Brownie, Ken Dixon and Peter Clark always tight and dangerous with the new ball, Danny McVey very consistent (before his departure), Steve Jurd (while his arm held out) and Neil Howlett and (Roy) Denlow to add the controlled variety needed in the middle overs. On top of that we were able to call on the likes of Davies, Kent, Edo, Payne, Clift and young Andrew Slimmon, when needed. We also created some new potential all-rounders with both Burchett and Hort improving their bowling skills as the season progressed.

Our batting was a bit of problem in the early games (except for Howlett of course who virtually never failed and finished with over 300 at 75) but we all improved as the season went on and our totals got higher and more consistent.

We sadly missed Danny's consistency (with both ball and bat) after Christmas and his return next season will add to our strength. The games we lost we learnt from and we finished with a clean sweep of 5 straight wins after the Christmas break.

Our first year was great fun – just ask any of the guys that played - and next season there will be no lapses; we are all determined to go the extra step and take this comp out.

I wish to thank the committee for all the support, all the players, including those that filled in at times on very short notice and a special thanks to all the wives for allowing us to be "boys" again.

It was a great pleasure to captain the side.

Terry Luckman

Masters Captain

MATCH REPORTS

v Pennant Hills 7 for 158 defeated Pennant Hills 115

A great way to start together with just about everyone contributing. We held 6 catches behind the wicket, with Mahoney picking up 4 behind the stumps (not bad for old reflexes). Our batting, while not brilliant, was very solid with Howlett's (40 not out) being the back bone (something that was to become the standard). Brownie (21), McVey (21), Kent (18), I managed (15) and (12) from Burchett, all helped.

But it was our bowlers that won the day with Kent (2 for 27 off 10) and Brownie (1 for 16 off 7) setting the stage. Big Al Davies ended up with (2 for 16 off 5) and Dr Jurd (2 for 14 off 6) including a first ball wicket, after 5 years!

It was a fun day out remembering old skills.

v Kenthurst 168 defeated Kenthurst 163

Kenthurst were the defending champions and were always going to be tough.

We batted first and managed a respectable 6 for 168 off our allotted 40. Danny McVey and I put on 60 for the first wicket at around 4 an over, with Danny going to get his (40 not out) Mahoney carried things on with a good steady (29) and Brownie also chipped in with (29 not out). 168 was a competitive score and with the bowlers we had at our disposal we went to tea quietly confident that if we bowled to our fields, we were in with a good chance.

Unfortunately that wasn't to be the case, at 1 for 62 off the first 10 they had got off to a flyer and at 5 for 158 (just 10 runs short with 6 overs still to bowl), all looked lost.

But it ain't over till its over, as they say, and Danny wasn't prepared to wave the white flag just yet. In his next 2 overs he picket up (4 for 4), and we had rolled them for 163.

Isn't cricket a fun game?

Brownie and Howlett picked up a couple of wickets each but it was Danny's Man of the Match performance, with (4 for 31 off 10) to follow his 40, that won us the game.

v Burwood 133 lost to Burwood 6 for 134

A game to forget. Howlett got (47), Burchett (23), Mahoney (18) and Jurd tried hard at the death for (15 not out). The rest of us did nothing and we were all out for 133. Never enough. Burwood cruised to victory with 6/134. Brownie gave his usually tidy performance to finish with (3/28) and Michael Denlow bowled well for (2/17).

v Castle Hill 127 defeated Castle Hill 121

When I arrived late to find us batting on what looked like a cow paddock in the middle of Gwilliam (long unprepared green grass, with patches of weed), we were already 6/33, with brother Chris and Dr. Jurd desperately holding the fort. These two fought on to carry the score to 84 before Jurd fell for a hard-earned (25). Chris went on to make a great (40 not out) and I managed a quick (22) off the last few overs to get us to 127; not great, but a lot better than it looked like being.

So, time to dig deep; not all was lost, not on this strip – all we had to do was bowl tight and hold our chances; that was the message clearly relayed in the dressing room before we went out

to bowl.. Peter Clark was the star with ball with (4/24), supported by Howlett and Denlow with a couple each.

A good win on an embarrassing pitch.

v Penrith 157 Lost to Penrith 6 for 214

Another one we want to forget. With Mahoney, Brownie, Denlow, Jurd and myself all unavailable, (all but Brownie having a good excuse; he was merely getting married) we were looking at a very depleted line up. But the call had been put out and Ken Dixon, Bruce Hort and Mark O'Keefe had dusted off their old whites and turned up to try to save the day.

Unfortunately it was going to be a tough day. Penrith's very strong batting line-up tore our depleted attack apart to finish with the season's highest score against us: 6/214. Danny McVey bowled really well to finish with (4/26) and Dixon, after a few early 'sighters', found his mark to finish with (2/32) off his 10. (A sign of good things to come from Ken).

I'm told that Bruce Hort also deserves a mention for his (0/30) off three overs, with 5 no-balls (none for over-stepping), as he apparently eventually got 2 to actually bounce.

Our 10 players managed only 157 in reply, of which stand-in skipper, Neil Howlett, scored (87) not bad when you consider that one has to retire at 40!. Hort, in his first game, hung around for a long time at the end, allowing Neil to have another smash at the bowlers.

v Parramatta 121 lost to Parramatta

Another disappointing loss. No excuses this time with only Burchett showing any real form with the bat. Simon played well for his (44 not out). and Chris Luckman hung in for (16).

We made Parramatta fight a bit, but in the end 121 was never going to be enough.

Dixon, Clark and Denlow got a couple each.

v Lindfield Legends 4 for 196 defeated Lindfield Legends 4 for 159

We batted first: Burchett another (40 not out), Neil his normal (40 not out). I got (32) and Al (22), to give us a healthy 4/196.

Legends were hard to remove, but slow. Their first two bats picked up 40 each without loss but took 27 overs in doing so. We gave Hort some bowling practice with the hope of building another all-rounder and Bruce didn't let us down, finishing with (0/35 off 8); a much improved effort.

In the end our tight bowling created too much pressure with the run-rate climbing to over 10 an over for the last 10. Legends could only manage 4/159 for their 40 overs and we had achieved our most convincing win yet.

v Lindfield Lawyers 184 defeated Lindfield Lawyers 131

We batted first again; Howlett his usual (40), I managed (36), Hort a good (35) and Brownie (22), to lead the way for 184; another good team effort.

Brownie, Dixon and Clark all bowled tight at the start, but this was to be Michael Denlow's game with the ball. Roy bowled 10 very tight controlled overs to finish with the best figures of any bowler for the season with (5/28) – a great effort.

Lindfield collapsed to be all out for 131 – another very good win.

v *Hornsby* 6 for 196 defeated Hornsby 82

Batted first again and finished with another very good score of 6/196. Al Mahoney and I put on 70 at the start at a good rate, with Al going on to get (40), I managed (25), Howlett ... (you guessed it) and (young) Marty Payne (39). One of the highlights of the innings though, was Pete Clark's (16) at the tail. Pete, who had not looked like getting bat to ball in his previous few digs, walked out (disregarded all my advice on how to get behind the ball) and smashed (16) off about 10 balls with 3 great boundaries. Now we had another all-rounder in the making.

Hornsby were never a match for our bowling attack this day and we rolled them for 82. (This was despite Hornsby having the services of an "ex"-Macca man in Mark Schaafsma, who Howlett managed to run out with a rocket return from the boundary). Brownie got in early and finished with his best performance for Masters with (4/20 off his 10). Young Paul Clift, who had filled in for us, bowled really well for (2/14) off 6. Marty Payne bowled well for (1/20 off 5) including a sensational caught & bowled, which cost him a broken finger (these young fellows never learn). And Burchett (yes Simon) bowled 4 very tight controlled wobblies to get (1/18). Another all-rounder?

v *Epping* 9 for 113 defeated Epping 112

This was a game that we all wanted to win. Not only would it put us in second place but it was also against some old foes and there were some scores to settle.

We started badly when I lost the toss for the first time and we had to bowl first.

We knew these guys pretty well and had our game plan firmly in place. They started steadily and lost their first wicket at 35. We then picked up a couple of quick wickets with Dave Knock, playing his first game for us, producing 8 of the best overs we had seen all season, his figures of (1/16) not telling the true story as he had at least 4 chances go down

At 3/45 the Epping skipper came in to join the opener, who was still batting well. This was crunch time as we were well aware that these two could do a lot of damage. We set our fields and bowled with patience as the score went to 80 without further loss. Eventually Pete Clark broke through and picked up the opener. Then Ken Dixon baited their skipper into lofting one to Knock in the out-field (all according to plan) and it was all but over. Brownie was tight and dangerous as always with (2/34), Pete Clark got (3/25) off 9 (another good spell) and Kenny Dixon took the honours with a great (4/23 off 10). We finished off the tail and they were all out for 112.

An easy ask? - some responsible batting and the game should be ours.

Knock and Burchett started well putting on 28 before Dave went for (13). Schaafsma (now on our side) Mahoney, Hort and I, all went for very little (with the skipper, in particular, throwing his wicket away with a terrible hack); so much for responsible batting. When Burchett went for a good (29) we were 6/63. CL and Brownie settled things for a while but when Chris, then Dixon went, we were in deep trouble at 8/89, still requiring 23 off the last 5 overs.

Enter Pete Clark (newly discovered all-rounder) "*Now Pete, forget last match, we need you to just hang in there and give Brownie all the strike*" was the advice given. But once again Pete, deciding to do his own thing, walked out to the middle and belted 3 quick boundaries to completely relieve the pressure. With only 2 runs needed Pete hit what looked like the winning

runs with a well-timed drive that had 4 written all over it before the cover fieldsmen stuck out a hand and the ball stuck.

9/111 and Gordon Slimmon to the crease with only 2 to get, with 2 overs to get them.

And Gordon, as always, did the job. He calmly played out the rest of the over and handed things over to Brownie. Brownie played the first 3 balls with a straight bat then, with obvious great trust in Gordon (and the despair of the skipper), took a single. But without further ado Gordon calmly lifted the next ball over cover's head and we had finished the season with the win we wanted. Burchett (29), Brownie (22 not out) and Clark's super (16), getting us through.

So we had played 10 won 7 and finished second. Not bad first up.

See you all next season.

Terry Luckman

Masters Captain

MASTERS STATISTICS 2001-02

BATTING AVERAGES

Batsman	Matches	Innings	N.O.	H.S.	Runs	Average	Catches
N. Howlett	8	8	4	87	303	75.70	3
G. Brown	7	7	4	29x	116	38.60	4
S. Burchett	9	9	2	44x	159	22.70	4
T. Luckman	9	9	-	36	164	18.40	1
A. Mahoney	9	9	1	40x	138	17.20	9+1stp.

ALSO BATTED (Less than 100 Runs)

Batsman	Matches	Innings	N.O.	H.S.	Runs	Average	Catches
M. Payne	1	1	-	39	39	39.00	1
D. McVey	4	4	1	40x	82	27.30	1
S. Jurd	5	5	2	25	63	21.00	-
B. Kent	1	1	-	18	18	18.00	-
B. Hort	5	5	1	35	70	17.50	3
C. Luckman	9	9	2	42x	91	13.00	2
D. Knock	1	1	-	13	13	13.00	3
P. Clark	6	6	2	16x	37	7.40	4
G. Slimmon	7	7	2	17	34	6.80	-
M. Denlow	5	5	-	11	26	5.20	2
K. Dixon	4	4	-	12	21	5.40	1
M. O'Keefe	1	1	-	4	4	4.00	-
M. Schaafsma	1	1	-	2	2	2.00	-
A. Davies	3	3	1	0x	0	0.00	-
A. Slimmon	2	2	-	0	0	0.00	1
C. Edwards	1	1	-	0	0	0.00	1
I. Burchett	1	1	1	4x	4	****	-
P. Clift	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

BOWLING AVERAGES

Bowler	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	5 in Innings	Average
K. Dixon	23	12	86	11	-	7.80
M. Denlow	34	4	122	14	1	8.70
P. Clark	52	8	181	10	-	18.10
G. Brown	63	12	205	11	-	18.60

ALSO BOWLED (Less than 10 Wickets)

Bowler	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	5 in Innings	Average
D. McVey	32.1	9	88	8	-	11.00
B. Kent	10	1	27	2	-	13.50
S. Jurd	21	3	70	4	-	17.50
N. Howlett	49	6	181	8	-	22.60
A. Davies	16	3	80	3	-	26.67
A. Slimmon	12	2	50	1	-	50.00
T. Luckman	1	-	9	-	-	****
C. Edwards	6	1	17	-	-	****
B. Hort	9	-	64	-	-	****

MASTERS GRADE 2001-02

BEST PERFORMANCES

<i>Batting Average</i>	N. Howlett	75.70
<i>Batting Aggregate</i>	N. Howlett	303
<i>Highest Score</i>	N. Howlett	87 v Penrith
<i>Bowling Average</i>	K. Dixon	7.80
<i>Bowling Aggregate</i>	M. Denlow	14
<i>Most Wickets in an Innings</i>	M. Denlow	5/28 v Lindfield Lawyers
<i>Wicket Keeping</i>	A. Mahoney	9 catches + 1 stp.
<i>Centuries</i>	-	
<i>Highest Team Score</i>		4/196 v Lindfield Legends
<i>Lowest Team Score</i>		121 v Parramatta

RESULTS

<i>Played</i>	10
<i>Won</i>	7
<i>Tied</i>	-
<i>Lost</i>	3
<i>Position in Competition</i>	2nd

TEAM STATISTICS

MACQUARIE

OPPONENTS

<i>Runs Scored</i>	1,553	1,354
<i>Wickets Lost</i>	83	82
<i>Average per Wicket</i>	18.71	16.51

HIGHEST "MASTERS" PARTNERSHIPS 2001-02

Wicket	Batsmen				Runs	Opponent
1	T. Luckman	18	D. McVey	40	58	Kenthurst
2	N. Howlett	40x	A. Mahoney	22	105	Lindfield Legends
	S. Burchett	40x	T. Luckman	32		
3	N. Howlett	87	C. Luckman	12	44	Penrith
4	N. Howlett	40x	M. Payne	39	65	Hornsby
5	D. McVey	21	B. Kent	18	33	Pennant Hills
6	G. Brown	29x	G. Slimmon	17	41	Kenthurst
7	S. Jurd	25	C. Luckman	42x	51	Castle Hill
8	S. Jurd	15	G. Slimmon	3	35	Burwood
9	N. Howlett	87	B. Hort	11x	58	Penrith
10	G. Slimmon	3	A. Davies	0x	5	Burwood

CURRENT PLAYERS - 35 GAMES MINIMUM

	MATCHES	RUNS	AVE.	WICKETS	AVE.	CATCHES
E. Aphaiwongse	103	1,105	9.95	1	111.00	67 +5stp.
T. Barnes	160	2,783	18.30	103	20.50	60
P. Batten	46	908	23.28	90	13.97	21
B. Bradley	98	1,693	20.90	3	18.33	65 +5stp.
J. Breden	167	3,853	25.01	87	23.69	58
G. Brown	173	3,370	25.33	377	17.48	75
D. Budge	148	1,302	16.01	236	20.36	33
S. Burchett	265	5,832	22.09	4	42.50	127+2stp.
R. Cann	75	908	12.27	45	21.15	34+1stp.
P. Chapman	60	575	11.05	78	20.44	14
P. Chew	106	2,613	24.42	4	39.25	32
A. Davies	83	478	14.48	157	18.59	36
M. Denlow	232	4,738	18.08	44	27.00	58
K. Dixon	185	2,689	22.22	304	17.17	46
T. Dorrell	72	1,824	22.80	22	27.86	50
T. Duffin	55	1,206	19.77	7	15.71	27
P. Erskine	50	776	15.21	15	39.80	17
C. Edwards	192	2,819	20.72	237	24.76	76
C. Fernandes	58	1,009	20.59	-	-	94+6stp.
W. Folkard	306	3,858	18.63	365	21.27	101
J. Ford	112	663	9.20	114	25.42	42
S. Gasser	37	472	13.48	42	23.67	26
A. Hale	38	532	19.00	74	17.17	18
C. Harris	56	1,094	18.23	18	17.05	15
C. Hook	166	2,115	14.19	119	25.33	62
B. Hort	128	3,125	27.17	13	27.30	59
N. Howlett	61	1,362	24.76	9	24.22	22
M. Hughes	139	2,680	21.96	2	28.00	52+7stp.
S. Jurd	98	942	13.08	104	23.85	34
D. Latto	147	2,639	17.71	81	27.02	49
G. Lego	250	6,341	27.93	1	65.00	120
A. Lulka	55	717	16.67	72	23.40	14
A. Mahoney	312	7,109	21.60	1	11.00	162+4stp.
P. Notaras	145	4,406	30.81	241	19.00	65
M. O'Keefe	79	1,733	22.80	8	17.50	39
M. Payne	46	645	14.65	63	21.65	19
B. Rounds	55	956	15.17	100	16.95	30
P. Saliba	90	1,991	23.70	7	29.85	47
C. Savage	45	739	16.42	4	61.25	17
M. Schaafsma	130	2,525	18.56	3	35.00	41
A. Slimmon	44	509	12.41	24	21.29	7
D. Smith	78	649	14.75	124	18.38	12
W. Travers	93	1,267	15.26	150	23.87	38
D. Webb	153	2,968	24.52	398	14.72	72