

Stories of WPHCCC

Our people. Our memories. Our identity.

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1. Our Identity

1.1 Our Emblem



The West Penno Waratah emblem has long been recognised as the only one we have had. There was another one – crossed bats with a ball. What is interesting is how we got to have the Waratah.

Rather than being a well-thought out change, the badge was an accident. After A1 won their first Premiership in 1990/91, the Premiership caps came back from the Association with the wrong emblem – a Waratah from the defunct Hornsby RSL Cricket Club. It looked good and we kept it. This was also the trigger to include the colour **green** in our traditional colours of red, white and blue. So...there is nothing romantic about how we got there but the result is a good one.

Way back though in 1946, when our Club was re-formed after the war-years break, our Club emblem was decided. There were 2 options considered – nothing (just the words WPHCC) or what was then (and still is) a local icon – Koala Park. The Committee chose just the initials but, we are told by (very) long-termers that we came close to being the Koala's. Just imagine a tight game and encouraging comments made from Team mates "Go the Teddy's".



Photo – James Makin, inspirational A1 record-breaking Skipper and Club Captain, wearing an original cross-bat badge on his cap – A1 Semi Final Vs St Ives @ Parklands Oval, 11 March 2017.

1.2 Club Colours – red, white blue &...green

Our colours were chosen at a meeting at Wally Childs place at 75 Annangrove Rd Annangrove in 1946.

The HKCA gave us a range of colours to choose from that had not been taken by other Clubs and the Red, White and Blue was chosen.

As a result of this decision, all sporting Clubs in the area now use Red, White and Blue as their 'strip'.

When our Club badge changed in 1990/91 to include the Waratah, the colour Green was added to our colours.

1.3 West Penno Colours Around the World

Over the years our players have proudly represented West Penno in their World travels. The following photos are some of the highlights:

Bermuda



Photo: James Makin @ Bermuda – 15 July 2023

Bristol (England)



Photo: Andrew Fiedler @ the 2019 World Cup (Australia Vs Afghanistan) Bristol 1 June 2019

Greece



Andrew & Denise Fiedler – Parthenon – 21 April 2017



Andrew Fiedler's cap – Santorini 19 April 2019

Lords



Nicole & Ian Digby – 16 September 2022



Steve 'Buzz' & Ben Burrows – 2nd July 2023

Nepal – Mt Everest



Nepal – on the way to Mt Everest. Nirav Desai's Premiership cap – 20 November 2023



Nirav Desai – Mt Everest Base camp – 18 November 2023

Northern Territory - Kakadu

Photo: Ross Anderson on Yellow Waters, Kakadu 9th October 2023



Pacific Ocean (somewhere)



Photo: Steve Quanborough at the 'wheel' of the Ovation of the Seas' – 4th February 2023.

Tasmania

Photo: Steve Quanborough at the Cascade Brewery 23 November 2017



2. Our Representatives & High Achievers

2.1 Australian Representatives



We have a proud history of producing players who have gone on to represent Australia.

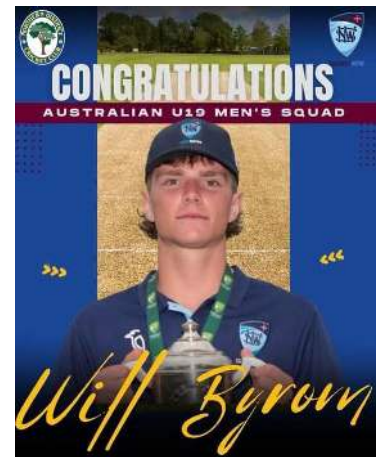
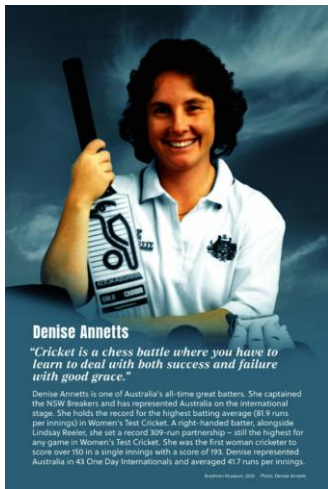
The list of these distinguished players is:

1. Denise Annetts – Australia (1985 to 1991) – 10 x Tests & 43 x ODI's
2. Lisa Sthalekar – Australia (2001 to 2013) – 8 x Tests, 125 x ODI's & 54 x T20's
3. Peter Harrison – Australia Over 60's (2010)
4. Lauren Kua – Australian U18 (2021)
5. Trisha Yadav – Australian U14 Indoor All-Stars (2024) & U16 (2025)
6. Will Byrom – Australia U19 Youth Team (2025) & U19 World Cup (January 2026) in Namibia and Zimbabwe
7. Christina Phillip – Australian Karate Team – 45th Shidokan Open International' Karate World Championships
8. Naden Cooray – Australia U19 World Cup (January 2026) in Namibia and Zimbabwe

Add to this distinguished list is Tina MacPherson (Australia – 1972/73) who was actively involved in our Junior Girls during the start-up years back in 1996/97.

Tina also has the distinction of bowling the first-ever ball in an ODI – Men's or Women's. when Australia played Young England at Bournemouth, England on 23 June 1973. She took also finished with 5/14 from 12 overs – the first 5 wicket haul in International ODI's.

What isn't widely known is that Women started the ODI World Cup concept and was followed by the Men 3-years later.



Photos: 1) Denise Annetts; 2) Lisa Sthalekar; 3) Peter Harrison (right); 4) Lauren Kua; 5) Trisha Yadav; 6) Will Byrom; 7) Christina Phillip; 8) Naden Cooray

On Tuesday 20/1/2026 the Australian U19s played Japan in a World Cup Pool game. For the first time in our history, we had 2 of our Juniors (Will Byrom & Naden Cooray) play for an Australian side in the same game.

How did they go?

Will opened the bowling and took 2/32 from 10 overs and Naden finished with 3/31 off 10 overs.

2.2 Women High Achievers

Australian Representatives

West Penno has been fortunate to have 2 players make distinguished appearances for Australia – both for the Australian Women’s Cricket team: Denise Anderson (Annetts) and Lisa Sthalekar.



Photo: Denise Annetts with her Australian Baggy Green

Denise Annetts

Denise played a handful of B1 games for us in 1996/97 after her retirement. She also coached her son (Daniel) WPHC Teams from U11 to U16s. Denise is the female Bradman. She has a number of World records including the highest Test Average (81.19) in World cricket in either men’s or women’s cricket. On the 23rd March 2012, Denise was Inducted into the CNSW Hall of Fame with Doug Walters and Fred Spofforth to be only the 18th player and 2nd woman in NSW to receive this honour.

On 10 January 2019, Denise was Inducted as an Honorary Life Member of the Melbourne Cricket Club in recognition of her ‘...significant contribution to international cricket and the game of cricket overall’



Photo – Denise receiving her honour with Dr Harry Harinath (Chairman of CNSW) at the Steve Waugh Medal Presentation.

Lisa Sthalekar

Lisa was the long-term Australian Vice-Captain. She played Junior Boys cricket with us from the U10s (1989) through to the U16s (1995) and then followed the pathway through to International stardom making her ODI debut in 2000/01. Read the following link: www.abc.net.au/news/2017-03-25/lisa-sthalekar-cricket-commentary-boys-club/8362458



Photo – Lisa Sthalekar celebrating after taking the winning catch in the ICC Women’s World Cup Vs West Indies. Lisa retired on 17 February 2013 (immediately after the game where this catch was taken) having played her first International game on 15 February 2003.

In July 2022, Lisa was appointed President of the Federation of International Cricketers’ Association – the first woman to take on this role. The position has previously been held by former South Africa batter Barry Richards, former West Indies all-rounder Jimmy Adams, and most recently by former England batter Vikram Solanki. Well done Lisa!

2.3 MCC Life Members

Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) Honorary Life Members

Both [Lisa](#) (2015) and [Denise](#) (11 April 2017) have been Inducted as Honorary Life Members of the MCC. Life Membership is determined by the MCC Committee “...to any person who in its opinion has given long and distinguished service to the game, and as such offers are comparatively rare”. There are only 300 Life Members in total with 61 of recipients Australian. Of these 61 Inductees there are just 5 women and 2 of them are West Penno ladies.

In 2003, John Howard (B1 & C2 1962/63 to 1973/74), Australia’s 2nd longest serving Prime Minister (11 March 1996 to 3 December 2007), was Inducted as an MCC Life Member.

This means that WPHC has 3 members in this exclusive Club – a remarkable achievement.

2.4 Allan Border Medal / Belinda Clark Medal

We are also the home Club of our first Allan Border Medal winner (2006/07) – Lisa Sthalekar, the Australian Women’s Vice Captain and a Junior with our Club from U10’s to U16’s.

In 2007/08 the AB Medal was changed to the “Belinda Clark Medal” and Lisa was the inaugural winner of this Award as the outstanding Women’s Cricketer in Australia.

2.5 Association Patrons

In addition to these remarkable achievements both Denise and Lisa were elected as Association Patrons on 20th June 2007 joining a small list of distinguished people – the Mayors of Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai and Baulkham Hills Shire Councils and a handful of Life Members.

2.6 Other Stories about our Women High Achievers

“That bloke’s a girl!”

While on Lisa, she shared story back in 1991 with us about her Junior playing years. Wanting to hide the fact that she was a girl, she would dress in long pants and have her cap on even while bowling, a practice that continued till the very end of her international career. Lisa explained:

“Back then, I wore a cap instead of a helmet, whilst batting. It proved to be a great disguise but I didn’t realize how good it was, until one day when I was running between wickets. Being the ‘Speedy Gonzales’ that I am, my hat fell off and as it fell to the ground my large ponytail was exposed. With that, one of the boys shouted out “Hey, that bloke’s a girl!”

Lisa has also shared this story in her book “Shaker”. She went on to play cricket with boys till the Under 16s and was so comfortable playing with the boys that she was more apprehensive when she had to move on and play with the Women’s competition.

The chest-guard

Denise filled-in for B1 Grade (Vs Glenorie @ Les Shore) in the 1996/97 season. Whilst on her way to a big score, Denise strained a leg muscle and used a runner. The Glenorie w/k, a long-term player, and who liked a bit of a chat behind the stumps, demanded that the runner wear a chest guard, the same protective gear as the batter (Denise). Denise’s firm response was that “...these are breasts”.

The ‘keeper was silent for the rest of her lengthy innings.

Girls Achiever

On Saturday 16 September 2017, 13 years old Danielle Chivers played D2 Men’s and became our first Juniors Girl to play Seniors. Danielle played in the T20s and bowled 2 overs for 7 runs.



Photo: Danielle Chivers – Edward Bennett Oval at the start of the 2016/17 season.

First Girl to Captain a Boys team

In the Tamworth JCA U14 Carnival played between 8th and 12th January 2018, Danielle Chivers was Vice Captain of our combined U14 Girls and Boys side. This is the first time a Girl has Captained an essentially boys’ side



Back row - left to right - Meera Gill (Manager), Ratul Kumbam, Hires De Silva, Lachlan Daly, Lily Campbell, Luchith Thenuwara, Graham Chivers (Coach) Front row - Ryan Richards, Lachlan Edwards, **Danielle Chivers** (V/C), Amardeep (C), Aryan Tyagi (V/C), Jack Hutchinson, James Stuart-Gray

In 2020 our U15s played in the Walter Taylor Shield (Armidale). In this Carnival, Danielle was the Captain of an all-boys side and took match figures of 5 in one game.

Once in a generation

At our Junior Presentation Day on 30 March 2019, history was made when Trinity Newbury won the Charles Booth Memorial Award.



Photo: Trinity Newbury with former Australian player, Denise Annetts. Trinity is the 1st Girl in the 50 Years of the Charles Booth Memorial trophy to win this U13 Award - Juniors Presentation Day at Oakhill Drive Public School - 30 March 2019.

The Trophy was first awarded in 1969 and has been awarded every year since – 50 years. The criteria for selection are that the player needs to be an U13 and it is awarded to *“...the player who shows the highest standards of sportsmanship, fair play and commitment to the team. The player does not have to be the best player but this is not a condition. Indeed, many of the winners are among our most outstanding junior and later senior players.”*

Trinity became the first 1st female player in our history to win this Award. What makes this even more special is that there are 5 x U13 Boys Teams plus 1 x U13 Girls side – 6 Teams. Selection was made by the Age Convenors of each Age Division who form part of the Junior Executive. On this basis, the number of Teams is large and the number of eligible players was approx. 70 in total which makes this a special achievement.

Trinity was presented with the trophy by the Australian Women’s cricketing great – Denise Annetts who is statistically, one of the finest players to have played the game. Trinity’s grandparents made the long trip up from Kiama to West Pennant Hills, especially to see the presentation.

2.7 Australian Sports Medal

In the Year 2000, the Australian Government awarded the an ‘Australian Sports Medal’ to long-term volunteers who have contributed significantly to the Association / Clubs. The Awards were presented by the Deputy Mayor at Hornsby Shire Council Chambers in the Year 2000.

Our recipients were: Barry McDonald, Ross Anderson & Arthur Souter:



Australian Sports Medal presentation @ Hornsby Shire Council: Barry McDonald, Ross Anderson, Arthur Souter with the Deputy Mayor – 2000



Australian Sports Medal presentation - Hornsby Shire Council - Barry McDonald, Ross Anderson, Arthur Souter with the Deputy Mayor and association recipients - 2000

3. Our Culture & Stories

3.1 Anecdotes

Pregnant players

In the 1994/95 B1 Grade semi-final (Mt Ku-ring-gai Oval) the team was a player down through injury. Denise Annetts (the highest Test batting average of any living male or female cricketer) fielded at deep square leg – 7 months pregnant. When a catch was skied to the outfield she couldn't waddle fast enough and missed the catch. While the ball was in the air her husband who was bowling wily spin, shouted – “dive”. When the umpire asked why the comment, his response was “*you can always have another baby but that may be the last wicket I get*”.

Questions:

- Is Denise the first pregnant Australian cricketer to play in the HK and HDCA competition?
- Is her son, Daniel, the youngest person to have played in the Association's history?

Sequel

On Saturday 26th January 2008 in the C1 White game against Pymble (Bannockburn Oval). *Daniel Anderson* (12 years of age and now having a name) played as a registered player. His debut 12 years later now concludes this remarkable double debut! How did he go – he scored 22 and top scored for the match.



Photo: Daniel Anderson (left) with Bill Peterkin & James Makin at Mt Ku-ring-Gai Oval 13 October 2024. In this game, Daniel played A1 in the 1st Grade T20 Final as a pre-season warm-up before the Premier Cricket season started. This was his first match at *Mt Ku-ring-Gai* since his debut pre-birth.

Nailed it

A great story follows from Alf James, former Association President, about a game against WPH and our Captain, Wally Childs during the 1960s.

“He usually captained the team and was quite a character. I recall him getting stuck into me at Mt Ku-ring-gai Oval when Peter Burnett and I put on a partnership of about 160 for the first wicket. I was using an old bat which had a couple of nails in it because several slices of the narrow grain had broken off from the face. He reckoned I was damaging the ball with it. John W. Howard (our former Prime Minister) played in the match.”

The Anatomy of a highest personal score

The sad loss of the brother (Stephen) of a former Association President (Alf James) had a bright spot – an insight into the highest score by one of our better-known players – former Prime Minister John Howard. He did score good runs once and this is how it was described:

“....Stephen played with the old Turramurra C.C. from 1965/66 to 1969/70. In 1968, at Mt Kuring-Gai Oval, he helped John Howard make his highest score (34) by bowling three consecutive long hops down the leg side - all of which Howard swung at wildly and got down to the fine leg boundary....”

Prime Ministerial Players

Added to our International playing roster of Lisa Sthalekar and Denise Annetts (Australian Women stars) is John Howard, Australia's 2nd longest serving Prime Minister (1996-2007).



John is a West Penno player from way back.

He played between 1962-63 and 1973-74. In 31 innings he scored 264 runs at 9.78 in B1 and C2 Grades. Bowling stats aren't that complete – we only have 1 over recorded for 19 runs back in 1968-69.

His brother, Wally, was an outstanding player who played 139 innings for 1,408 runs @ 12.24 and took an amazing 342 wickets @ 16.52 between 1960/61 and 1974/75. So, our relationship with the Howard's goes back many years.

Some interesting stories about John follow:

- John was best known as an enthusiastic player who batted late in the order and bowled off-spin not noted for much variation. Former Test Cricketer and media personality Kerry O'Keeffe, once commented that he had a 'biometrically perfect' bowling action.
- In a C Grade game in the early 1960's John was playing at Oakleigh Oval, Goodlands Road Thornleigh, and was not out at the end of the first Saturday. However, he arrived at the ground late on the second Saturday after forgetting how to get to the ground he had played on the week before and ended up being out 'retired'.
- In another story on John's playing days, he was playing at Headen Park, before the brick retaining wall was added at the Thornleigh end. In one game, the ball went hard and high towards the boundary at the 'blackberry end' (Thornleigh), where the future Prime Minister was fielding. He had some trouble seeing the ball at most times, and was groping myopically at it as he edged back. Finally, the ball landed, just as John went over the edge. When the others arrived to see where he was, he was lying in a prone position in crucifix formation in the blackberries. One old wag (Keith Robinson) commented years later, "*We had a discussion about whether to pull him out or leave him there.*".

Experience plus

The C1 side that played almost the perfect game against Berowra (Warrina Street Oval 24/1/2010) had an attack with the following experience levels at the time of the game:

- Greg Stoneham – 401 wickets
- [Eric Junkkari](#) – 329 wickets
- [John Steel](#) – 91 wickets
- Kishore Rampersad – 282 wickets
- [John Mitchell](#) – 54 wickets



Photo – [Eric Junkkari](#) (left) and [John Mitchell](#) with Tony Hadley and [John Steel](#) (obscured) at Greenway Park (C1 Semi Final) 8 March 2008

A total of 1,157 wickets in experience – wow! Missing from the side was Craig Hutchinson who had taken 118 wickets.

In summary, the team that took the field the following Saturday had:

- A combined age of 512 years (including a 14-year-old!)
- 1,320 aggregate wickets (including those players who did not bowl)
- 22,900 aggregate runs.

Team members – John Mitchell (C), Daniel Anderson, Ross Anderson, Dinesh de Silva, Nathan Fathers, Gamini Jayawardene, Eric Junkkari, Kishore Rampersad, John Steel, Bray Stoneham. Greg Stoneham.

Landmarks

- [Greg Fiedler](#) brought up his 5,000 runs for the Club in memorable style. Greg needed 1 run to bring up the milestone. When taking off to score the run he tore a hamstring that put him out for the season. Next season he brought up the milestone with a “*booming cover drive that squirted through mid-wicket*” to quote Greg. The match was against Beecroft @ Headen Park 23 November 2002.



Photo – Club batting great [Greg Fiedler](#) playing one of his classic drives for more runs - C1, Arcadia Oval 6 November 2004. Greg is our most capped A Grade Captain (7) and has scored just on 5,000 A1 Grade runs – he ranks among the Club's top Captain's and best half dozen players the Club has ever had!

When Greg brought up his 6,000 runs (4th February 2006 2 Storey Park) to quote Greg again “*Actually, it was an exquisite square drive for 4 in the Richie Richardson mode...*” What a difference 1,000 runs makes.

- Mark Taylor became just our 3rd player to reach 5,000 runs (18th October 2003 Vs Berowra at Thornleigh Oval) with a typically belligerent 72. In keeping with tradition of unusual landmarks, Mark’s 4,999th run was a dropped catch on the boundary with the ball going through the fieldsman’s hands for 4 runs.
- History repeating itself – Ross Anderson brought up his 6,000th run at Kenthurst with the same shot, on the same ground and at the same end exactly 10 years after scoring his first ton (131*) also at Kenthurst Oval.

A1 Grade traditions

Our A1Grade side has established some great traditions. Apart from the End of Season (EoY) weekend away that has gone on for many years at least as far back as Greg Fiedler’s A1 side back in 1984/85 our A1 side has the following traditions:

A1 Grade player numbers

In 2010/1, James Makin (A1 Captain and Actuary by profession) worked out the Player Numbers of every player selected in A1 (not fill-in players). Every player now has their unique Player Number on their playing shirts and also baggy caps. The first shirt presentation (photo below) was made on 27th September 2010 at the WPH Sports Club.



Photo: our 1st A1 Grade side who wore their player numbers – Tim Rae, James Makin (C), Matt Jobson, Nick Bennett, Daniel Anderson, Matt Spalding, Peter Stott, Leigh van den Broeke, Simon Smyth and Alex Robertson
Absent: Scott Henderson, Matt Dawson

Baggy Blue Cap



Simon Smyth introduced the tradition of wearing our Baggy Blue in the 1st session of all A1 Grade games. Simon (our 20th Captain) Captained A1 between 2005/06 and 2007/08.

Michael Slater Award – most missed tons

Spare a thought for Bulldog – [Andrew Mills](#). Millsy had yet to score a ton but managed to get his 3rd 90 without converting. On Saturday (13/11/2004 Vs Normanhurst @ Thornleigh Oval) he got 96 and was out caught on the boundary. The problem with this is that the shot was loaded but a very strong wind blew the ball back in the field and just fell short. To make it worse this was the third time he got 90 against the same opposition (Normanhurst) and the same Captain (Andrew Maxworthy) who was reminding Millsy about his record regularly. Looked at in a different way, who would complain about finishing with an average of 96, when they finally pull up stumps. Well done Andrew.



Photo – [Andrew Mills](#) showing the strain at the fall of another wicket. B2 Final, Storey Park 28th March 2004.

Keep them on Matt

Big A1 strike bowler (23rd September 2006) [Matt Spalding](#) just couldn't keep his pants on – not a pretty sight. Coming into bowl the first over of the game, big Spider managed to snap the cord in his pants. It got worse with his pants falling down around his ankles coming into bowl. It got even worse again when the only pair of replacement pants came up to his shin. Add some football socks to cover the legs and it was a sight to behold. Well done Spider.



Photo: [Matt Spalding](#) in full stride @ Parklands Oval 2011

Photo – [Matt Spalding](#) who took the last wicket in the A1 Grand Final win over Berowra @ Mark Taylor Oval 24th January 2013. With him is Teegan whom he later married in 2016.



Catches

John Howard – our former Prime Minister playing A2, misjudged a high catch at Headen Park (Southern end) and ended up in a blackberry bush.

Ross Anderson – The B1 Grade Semi-final at Headen Park (1992/93) caught the best bat in the competition at short leg. The shot was a full-blooded hook shot but was caught cleanly. The ball was travelling so hard it severed the lip with 16 stitches the result. WPHCCC won the match. This is taken as being one of our 'best ever' catches

Des Wilms – (a former Queensland 2nd XI 'keeper). In the 1991/92 B Grade semi-final (Mt Ku ring-gai Oval) a top edge that rose perhaps 3 metres went straight in the air. Des did not have to move one foot but failed to get a glove to the ball. WPHCCC lost the match.

Mark Taylor later achieved the same feat at the same oval off Richard Annetts bowling in 1994/95.

Andrew Driscoll (C1 Grade) – dropped 8 catches in one match at Auluba during the mid-1980s.

Colin Griffin (A and B Grades) – dropped a Club record 17 catches in a row in the early 1980s.

Eric Junkkari (C Grade 1992/93) – took 5 catches and dropped one – all at Point, in one innings.



Photo – Eric Junkkari (middle) with James Makin (A1 Captain, left) on taking his 400th wicket. Eric is only the 4th player in our history to take 400 wickets. Eric also scored his 4,000th run this season to be ranked at number 10 in the all-time run scorers list – Seniors Presentation Night @ Castle Hill RSL on Friday 4th May 2014.

Jim Fuggle – (B1 Grade 1997/98) dropped the St. Ives opening bat (Normanhurst Oval) first ball at mid-off. He went on to score 200* out of a team total of 6/257

Tony Hadley (B1 2004-05) – in the B1 match against St Ives ‘The Man’ was fielding at deep Point. The batsman skied a catch and rather than just taking it easily or dropping it, Tony had to make it memorable. After dropping the catch and then falling over backwards he managed to kick the ball with his foot while horizontal. Somehow, he managed contact it and kicked it to his right only to take a one-handed catch at full stretch on the ground.

Disobeying the Captain

In 1994/95 at Montview Oval (East), Eric Junkkari batting last with the team 9 down and one over to go was told by his Captain (Jim Fuggle) to take no chances and play for a draw. Eric decided to hit the opening bowler last ball of the match straight over the bowler’s head for 6 to win the game.

Sportsmanship

Jon Bishop (C2 Grade 1981/82) was on 97. Despite a call of not out from the umpire he believed he was out Stumped and walked.

Leadership plus

D1 set a Club record in 2003/04 with 4 (at the time) current or recent School Captains playing. For the record, they were:

- Michael O’Grady – Cherrybrook Technology
- Chris Dyer – Normanhurst (son of former Test Cricketer Greg Dyer)
- Aaron Rezek – Marian College (Kenthurst)
- James Fiedler – Junior School Berowra.

The Fines tin

One of the traditions of many Teams is to fine players through the season indiscretions that are often created to raise funds for the end of season party / trip away. In the 2015/16 season our A2 boys set new standards. After good success in 2014/15 they raised \$1,700 and went on to win the A2 Premiership. In 2015/16 they finished with \$2,150 and this time finished 2nd.



Photo: The A2 Fines tin (2015/16) that raised \$2,150 for the boys end of season (EOS) party – 24th October 2016 at the WPH Sports Club.

Keeping it tight

Records on this are a little difficult to source but opening bowler Carl Madsen (B2 Vs Sydney Lions @ Annangrove 10/11/2012) bowled 23 overs and took 4/23 that included 14 maidens. Given that Annangrove is lightning fast this is one of the outstanding economy performances.

Workhorse

Our Club has a long history of bowling certain players into the ground. One of our best is the case of Tim Connell (C2, 2005/06). Tim bowled 267 overs throughout the year at the request of his Captain (Craig Willmott) including the massive amount of 40 in one innings. We are not sure if this is a record but it is up there.

Wildlife distractions

In the beginning

In 1895, in a match between Glenhaven and Glenorie at Glenorie Park, a fieldsman, James Stubbs, chased a ball into the outfield where he found a large black snake with a “*spherical bulge half way along its length*”.

After calling, ‘lost ball’ the batsman “*smote the serpent on the head and the ball was recovered with a knife*”. (Source: Alfred James: Golden Jubilee History 1976).

Snakes alive

In a 1996 A1 Grade game between WPHC and Berowra at Berowra Oval, a large red-bellied black snake made its way on to the field. It was eventually noticed as it made its way towards the pitch. The match was stopped by the umpires and the batsman managed to kill the snake with his bat. Not the recommended approach but the game got back underway soon after.

Forward in time

Only in Australia... the C1 boys had a welcome interruption to their day at Samuel King Oval (11 October 2014). Just as the St Ives batters were building some solid partnerships, the day was brightened when they spotted an echidna wandering onto the ground. Apparently, he’s a well-known visitor to Samuel King & is known as [Bob the Echidna](#). The boys took a bit of a break to have some photos taken with the local & rarely sighted celebrity.



Photo – [Bob the Echidna](#), one of the local identities at Samuel King Oval (Nth Turramurra) makes an appearance at the ground in the C1 game Vs St Ives on 11 October 2014. In the picture is Dinesh De Silva and Cooper Goddard and of course Bob.

It can only happen to a wicket keeper

Nishane Pillay (C1 wicket keeper 2003/04) was back at the Club after a game and was after some advice on how to keep to a tear-away Matt Spalding (later A1 opening bowler). Nishane had bruised hands from the pounding they took and asked for advice on protecting his hands from bruising. He wanted to know if putting some steaks in his glove would work – the logic was that Ian Healy used to do it. Almost right – legend has it that it was Bert Oldfield back in the 1930s.

The Double

Craig Broderick scored 600 runs (619) and took 50 wickets in a season. This was achieved in the 1995/96 premiership winning D1 Grade side. The first player to achieve this was Laurie Tuckerman (A1 in 1951/52) when he scored 1,361 runs and took 59 wickets!

5/0

How about James Kealy’s (B1) effort? Playing at Mt Ku-ring-gai Oval James achieved Club first in taking 5/0 against the 4th placed Mt Colah on 22nd November 2008. Using the windy conditions to perfection this performance is the 1st time in our history that this has been achieved. The previous best ‘for 0’ bowling performance in our history was the 7/11 by Ryan Cherrie Vs Kenthurst in the 2004/05 C2 Final or the 8/4 by Don Lamb (B1 Vs Castle Hill in 1962/63).

The “Junkkari Ball” and retribution

Back in 1997/98 the great [Eric Junkkari](#) played his first game of the season for Club Legend Jim Fuggle’s B1 Grade side against Kenthurst at Headen Park. Our boys were batting and it was Eric’s turn to take the crease. Bowling at the time was Neil ‘Nugget’ Bailey who bowled slow floaters that get wickets. Anyway, Eric comes

in to bat, takes guard and decides to get a good look at the ball. The problem started and ended here where Eric just watched the ball pitch and slowly hit the stumps while he just turned and watched the tragedy unfold. The remaining memory of this was the Kenthurst boys rolling around in laughter. Fast forward, 15 years later at the C1 game at Holland Road and there is Eric up against Nugget. This time Eric was bowling and Nugget opening the batting. Eric got his man early on so retribution finally came – 15 years later.



Photo – Club great [Eric Junkkari](#) bowling – C1 Grade Grand Final (115) Vs Berowra 177 @ Storey Park 28th & 29th March 2015. Eric is one of our greatest all-rounders in our 84-year history. As a bowler Eric has taken 452 wickets and also scored 4,907 runs in a distinguished career. He ranks at number 5 in our all-time bowlers and number 7 in the all-time batting list – 28 March 2017.

#Awkward

While on Eric he was playing C1 in the Grand Final win against Normanhurst-Warrawee (26th & 27th March 2017). After mentioning that this game was his last before retirement, the Normo Captain arranged for his players to form a tunnel for Eric to walk through on his way to the wicket. Fast forward 12 months and Eric is still playing and his B2 side made the Grand Final against the same Normo side with the same Captain.

Worst delivery

Andrew Driscoll (A2, 2004/05 @ Warrina Street Oval) bowled a ball that landed first bounce at fine leg.

Longest over

1. Just on ‘worst deliveries’ the longest recorded over was by Chris Cavanagh who bowled a 21 ball over in the early 1980’s at Rofe Park, Hornsby. Chris was the opening bowler in the days of 8 ball overs and ended up being a slow bowler after this effort.
2. On 23/1/2010 Allan Raffel (C2) Allan tested out his stamina on a 40+ degree temperature day in bowling 5 no balls and 2 wides in his opening over. For his penance, his Captain (Marco Delgado) then asked him to keep wickets.

History repeating itself

Greg Fiedler scored a golden duck in his first match playing A1 (Vs Glenorie at Berowra Oval) in the 1981/82 season. In 2003/04 (22 years later), his son, James (an U14 player) took a wicket with his first ball (Vs Thornleigh at Gilroy West) Oval.

Our first English Professional

While on Sol Tomlinson, in 2016 he was chosen by Leverstock Green CC in Hertfordshire to be our first Professional Overseas player for an English club side. This was in recognition of his amazing performances that saw him win the inaugural Bruce Kimberley Trophy as Association Player of the Year in 2014/15.

Role reversals

Murray Best (B2 Grade 1997/98) gained dispensation from being an A1 Grade opening bowler (and specialist no 10 bat) to play B2 as a batsman only. After having scored 436 runs at 13.63 in 8 previous seasons he opened the batting and scored 804 runs at 47.29 including 4 centuries. Only the fourth player in the Club’s history to score over 800 runs in a season.

Beware the injured player

Rob Gailey (C1 and B2 1991/92) was given dispensation by the Association to play C Grade following major surgery on his hip (replacement) and knees (Rob had 2 plastic knees). In the match after the dispensation, Rob scored 205. The dispensation was revoked and he then scored 127 in B2 Grade in the next match. He later played important roles in higher grades.

Touring team tradition

Our first Representative touring team took the field against Queenstown in New Zealand in Easter 2005. Club legend, Tony Hadley led the side and the tour has now been immortalised on our website multi-media section.

For the record, the team was – *Tony Hadley (C), Matt Nolan, Michael McGregor, Simon Smyth, Andrew Mills, Ricky Rhodes, Bryce Morley, Tim Leyshon, Matt Spalding*. We played 2 games – the first was a washout and in the second – we were flogged.

Important declarations

Tim Coverdale made probably the most important declaration in the Club's history (B1 Vs St Ives @ Headen 1/11/2003). The star all-rounder, Raj Anand was 39* and looked a bit off colour. Tim declared the innings closed. It turned out the Raj was having a heart attack while batting. He made it to hospital, survived and backed up again to be one of our very good players.

Cleaned bowled

No records on this one but the B2 Blue side of 2003/04 must be in the Grand Final. Playing Kenthurst (Galston Oval 24/1/2004) lost 9 wickets all bowled. The 10th wicket was run-out!

Just keep on walking

Think of the Johnnie Walker advertisement that featured well known cricketers walking with this one. Club Great Bill Peterkin after scoring his landmark 7 runs to reach 3,000 career runs, shouldered arms to a ball and was hit on the pads. It must have been plum as Bill is now only the 2nd recorded player in our history to walk on an LBW appeal. The first was a former A Grade number 11 (Chris Cavanagh) who was hit by a genuine quick and didn't want to hang around.

Back-stop needed

Round 1 of the 2004/05 season – the mighty B1 Blue's may have set some sort a record (unfortunately no historical stats on this one) but in the game against Mt Colah (Warrina Street) they rolled the opposition for 160. However, 55 (34.4%) of these runs were sundries!

Hat tricks

- *Darryl Daniels (C2)* In 1994/95 @ Campbell Park Darryl took 4 wickets in 4 balls. Due to the speed of dismissals 3 different umpires made the first 3 decisions. On the hat-trick dismissal, a fine edge went to the 'keeper and the umpire put his finger up, very slowly, after hesitating. One of the fieldsmen believing the decision was going against the team yelled out '*are you deaf or something*'. Only then did the fieldsmen realise that the umpire had two hearing aids. The hat-trick has made cricket folklore – it is recorded in a book by Kersi Meher-Homji called Hat-tricks.
- Hat-tricks are rare with only 54 taken in our long history (30 March 2026). To get 2 is even rarer with only 4 players getting 2 or better.

Dean Carlin (C3 – Semi Final Vs Hornsby @ Les Shore 1, 11/3/2017) went one better. Defending a modest Team total of 146, he opened the bowling and took a hat-trick in the first over – all wickets bowled. What is remarkable about this hat-trick:

- This is just the 2nd time a hat-trick has been taken in a Semi Final
- It is the 2nd time a hat-trick has been taken in the 1st over of an innings – the first is by Riley Miedler (A2 Vs Castle Hill 15/10/2011) when Riley took 5/9
- Dean's 2nd in Seniors and 3rd when Juniors are included
- The first wicket in the hat-trick was Dean's 100th career wicket
- An even more amazing coincidence is that Dean brought up his 50th wicket the previous season with his first Seniors hat-trick.

Grant Madigan is the most prolific hat trick bowler in the Club with 4 hat-tricks.

- 1986/87 (U10 Blue) – Vs Wahroonga Blue 4 wickets in 4 balls
- 27/2/88 U11 Blue Vs Berowra
- 11/3/89 U12 Blue Vs Kenthurst
- 31/10/92 U16 Vs Normanhurst

Bad calls

Peter Smith (B Grade 1982/83) was run out for 99 trying to steal a quick single. Unfortunately, the ball before he had just completed a five all run (after being sent back half way through the 6th) at Pennant Hills Outer. His batting partner was Col. Griffin, a first grade Rugby Union winger – he made it!

Throws

In a throwing competition (Headen Park 1981/82) Andrew Small (Vs Peter Smith) threw a ball from the Eastern side of the ground to the pavilion.

First Drinks

We have been coming back to the WPH Sports Club for drinks after games since the early 1970s but it wasn't always the case. Back then, the Sports Club had only recently opened and they charged \$100 joining fee plus an annual fee.

The boys couldn't afford this so they went to Pennant Hills Pub after games where the patrons would often have their beers on the street outside the pub (imagine that happening now).

Keith Robinson (1965/66 to 1983/84 & Life Member) recalls that all was going well until one night, their wicket/keeper, a large man, was arranging a shout and he ended up flying through the window as a fight erupted inside. Robbo recalls that he commented that "*we shan't be coming back here again*". The boys came to an arrangement with the Sports Club and the rest is history.

The nets – the end of an era & start of another

The original nets were on the site of the new tennis courts and faced the house at the entry to the Sports Club. Unfortunately, the house became a target with well struck cricket balls often landing on the roof or going through the fibro walls.

In 1978 new nets were built, again on the site of the tennis courts but this time facing the Sports Club. The hardy volunteers who built these were Ross Anderson, Bert Small, Chris Pittaway and Peter L. Smith. The Sports Club acknowledged that they were one of the most used facilities in the Club.

On 24th August 2013 our Seniors Training session was the last time these nets were used before they were demolished on Wednesday 28th August 2013.

The final moment was when Peter Westerberg bowled the final ball to Simon Friend.



Photo – the nets being used at pre-season training in 2004/05. The site of these nets is now the tennis courts on New Line Road.

The replacement nets were first used for Club training on Saturday 7th September 2013.



Photo – the WPH Sports Club nets - just after completion on 4th September 2013

The West Penno Gift

The Stawell Gift is the famous professional sprint race held on Easter Monday since 1878. During the 1980s, under Greg Fiedler's Captaincy, the A1 side used to have their own race at the end of each season.

The race was over 70 or 50 yards depending on how hot the day was and the level of fitness. The accompanying photo is a shot of the Tote Board for the race held at Storey Park in March 1986 in the Round 17 game against Wahroonga.



Photo – The players are: Signet Swan (Alan Swan), Spirit of Stoneham (Greg Stoneham), Roscoe Rules (Ross Anderson), Gunsynd Giddings (John Giddings), The Brain (Andy Maxwell), Dell's Delight (Mark Dell), Dornan's Pride (Brent Dornan), Phar Lap Russell (Craig Russell), Handel's Hope (Peter Handle), Barney Stud (Warwick Barnes), Captain's Chance (Greg Fiedler).

Warm-up & Umpiring Disasters

If it is good enough to dish it out it is good enough to cop a bit so here goes. Your friendly editor (Ross Anderson) was making a comeback for his first game of the season in C2 (30 January 2015) after recuperating from hip surgery. So far so good. The problem started with his family who insisted on doing a warm-up before going out to play – this is something that hasn't been done for many years – in fact never been done. Despite protests that it wasn't necessary the warm up happened and with it a strained thigh muscle. There won't be any further warm-ups.

Flash back

This brings to mind the famous injury to [Chris Williamson](#) (B1). Picture this – Chris doing his stint of umpiring and in this intensively active role, he managed to pull a muscle and had to leave the field 'Retired hurt' – umpiring.



Photo – [Chris Williamson](#) (right) with Isaac Malamel after the C2 Final at West Penno Sports Club 17th March 2008

While on umpiring

On Saturday 25th February 2017, your friendly editor (Ross Anderson – C2 Red Vs Hornsby @ Greenup Park) was also at square leg and this time got in the way of a well hit pull shot from Sandeep Darapuneni.

With a dark ball due to the rain and a dark background the ball was lost in flight and it managed to hit RA flush on the cheek.

Apart from stopping a likely boundary amazingly the result was a nice-looking bruise, a bit of a graze and no broken bones. This umpiring is a dangerous caper.

Great Comebacks

1991/92 A1 Grade Semi-Final (Vs Turramurra at Berowra Oval)

The match was played on a superb batting track. After being dismissed for 127, Turramurra were 3/89. An inspired spell of slow bowling by both Todd Wills (5/13 from 8 overs) and Greg Stoneham (2/22 from 16 overs with 8 maidens) dismissed Turramurra for 100. WPH went on to win our 3rd Premiership.

2002/03 A1 Grand Final (Vs Kissing Point at Killara Oval)

Please read the Great Grand Finals write-up above.

2012/13 A1 Grade Semi Final (Vs Kenthurst Upper Hills at Parklands Oval)

Batting first on a good track, Kenthurst scored 183 against our mighty attack in 69 overs. Our run chase started poorly with us being 6/54 at one stage with James Makin and Ranga Ediriwickrama at the crease. Overnight rain made the wicket more difficult but James (35*) and Ranga (109) combined to play one of our great partnerships. They put on 124 for the 7th wicket to guide us to victory and on to win our 2nd T E Rofie Shield.

Friends in High Places

Sreeni Pillamarri, Club Executive Committee and Senior's player (2017/18 to current), has achieved so much. How about this for just some of his achievements:

- From 2021 to current, he represented our Community as a Councillor in C Riding (Hornsby Council)
- In 2018, he walked from Parramatta to Canberra to raise funds for drought victims
- In 2020 he raised over \$6,000 for the local RFS after the bushfires
- Sreeni is also a Community Leader with the local Indian diaspora – United Indian Associations & Sydney Telugu Association.

To cap it off he was with Narendra Modhi, the Indian Prime Minister, on his visit to Australia in May 2023.



Photo: Sreeni with Prime Minister Narendra Modhi @ Qudos Stadium 23 May 2023.

Away from Cricket (jobs & career)

John Howard (1962/63 to 73/74 B1 and C2 Grades) is our most famous alumni. John was Prime Minister between 1996 and 2007 and is Australia's 2nd longest serving Prime Minister.



John Seach (1982/83 to 85/86 B1 to C2 Grades) is an Astronomer and Volcanologist with many global credits to his name on documentaries plus Intergalactic discoveries.



Photo – John getting close up and personal to a volcano. He is also first person to abseil into the active crater at Yasur in Vanuatu while it was erupting. John has also discovered 9 Nova's in space, been on Man Vs Wild and many global TV and radio programs.

Aditya Khemka (2005/06 to 2014/15 – C Grade to D2) – when not playing, Aditya is an orthopaedic Surgeon who is the personal surgeon to Brian Lara.



Photo: Aditya (right) with Brian Lara and partners.

1st Day / Night game

On Wednesday 3rd 2018 our U15 boys became the first Team in our History to play a Day / Night game under lights. They played Ballina District Junior Cricket Association at Regional Bank Australia Sportsground in the Walter Taylor Shield game. We lost the game but the boys had a once in a lifetime opportunity to play under lights with a white ball.



Photo: at the end of the game – Regional Bank Australia Sportsground, Armidale

‘I told you I could bat’

Murray Best (1988/89 to 1998/99) was the opening bowler in Jim Fuggle’s legendary B1 and B2 side that dominated competitions between 1986 and 1999. Murray took 221 wickets at 18.1 during this time. Murray also batted at number 11 and scored 455 runs in 59 innings but was constantly prompting Jim to bat him up the order – with no success. In 1997/98 Murray Captained our B2 side and opened the batting. He scored 804 runs at 47.3 with a high score of 159! This is a record aggregate for B2 and the 4th highest season total for our Club. Point proven!

Sands of Time

- Kanga (Cricket Blast) is one of the main reasons explaining why our Club is strong with organic growth being maintained through our highly successful Blast (Kanga) program.

On the 9th October 2004 (Parklands Oval) Stuart Newman took the field to make his A1 Grade debut. Club legend Tony Ford, who was named in the Association ‘Team of the 90’s’, was also playing. What makes this interesting is that Tony was Stuart’s Kanga cricket coach way back when he was a 6 or 7-year old!

- There are times when you start to feel old. Greg Fiedler (C1, 2001/02) used an antique Slazenger ‘Poly Armour’ bat that had scored about 5,000 runs, signed by West Indian great, Viv Richards.
- One of the young blokes (Dougal Barraclough) asked “who is Viv Richards?”

3.2 Tosses



Photo: Ian Digby (D1 Red) and Ross Smith (D1 Blue) - coin toss - Round 4 - 05122020

- Another record to Greg Fiedler. In 1988/89 (a wet season) Greg lost every A1 Grade toss (14). Towards the end of the season, the openers (Ross Anderson & Andrew Fiedler), on seeing a wet wicket (Storey Park), padded up before the toss. Greg didn't let anyone down, he lost the toss. WPHCCC batted and were fielding soon after.
- 2004/05 A2 Captain, [Simon Smyth](#), just missed the 14 straight losses record. But he is now in the Grand Final with Greg the undisputed champion! After winning a toss after 13 attempts Simon backed up in Reps the next day and lost again. His final achievement – 20 out of 23 tosses lost – a record for overall losses in one season.



Photo – Sheep Station Trophy - A2 - Rick Turner (Blue) & Simon Smyth (Red) - 1st game coin toss – Dural Park – 16th December 2017

In Simon's own words:

"I think my reaction at the time (both hands aloft punching the air) said how relieved I was to actually win a toss! As they say, personal records are fantastic, but it's the team that counts" – what a team man.

Thinking back, Simon must be a shattered man to come so close to such an important record and missing out.

- In the 2014/15 season, [Rob Knapman](#) (D1) also excelled – winning only 2 tosses from 17. On 30 January 2015, Rob decided to hand over coin toss duties to Stu Fiedler. Stu has had plenty to say about the intricate art of coin tossing. Needless to say, Stu came up with the goods.



Photo – [Rob Knapman](#) (Skipper) of our Premiership winning 5th Grade (D1) side in the T20 Final Vs Castle Hill @ Headen Park 26th October 2014.

King Tosser

Despite the heroics of Greg, Simon & Rob, we have a standout new 'King Tosser'.

On 17 January 2026, Agniva Chakraborty (C2 Blue) lost his 18th consecutive toss that started in the 2024/25 season. Using simple Probability theory, this equates to a 1:262,144 probability or a 0.0003815% chance of this occurring.

So, what is Agniva's response to this amazing achievement:

"This surely makes me feel special. Fortunately, Chintan is back this weekend, so I will have to wait for my luck to turn the tides."



Photo: C4 Grand Final 2024/25 – Agniva Chakraborty (Captain)

3.3 Famous Quotes



Raj Anand

Star all-rounder and cricket tragic for B1 made a name for himself in 2004 when he had a heart attack while batting at Headen Park. Apart from finishing at 39* when his captain Tim Coverdale declared the innings closed, he was taken to hospital and almost died on the operating table. When he was lying on the operating table Raj remembers the doctors having to remove his protector before they could start to operate. But wait, there is more. The first thing Raj said when he came around after the operation was “*Will I be able to play cricket again*” – he did and did it well.



Photo – Raj Anand during the B1 Grade final 2002/03 – Raj took 5/37 in a winning Team captained by the great Jim Fuggle.

Andrew Percival

A second heart attack, this time from a young fella, [Andrew Percival](#), star B2 player. During the off-season (April 2006) Andrew had a heart attack. After hearing about Raj (above) he commented “Thanks for the note about Raj! Gives me more encouragement to get back on the paddock. Asking about playing cricket was one of the first questions: *Don’t worry, I don’t plan on having another heart attack and if I do, I’d rather wait till I get to the nurses for mouth to mouth*”.



Photo – [Andrew Percival](#), one of our characters and outstanding cricketer at the C2 Final (Vs Berowra @ Turramurra Memorial Park 24th January 2013). Andrew is a well-known stylist and here he is wearing his favourite playing shirt in all its elegance. Andrew reckons it has a few more good years wear to come.

Kanga quote of the Decade

One of our Kangas was talking to [Dominic Thornely](#) (November 2004) about his 11 sixers during Dom’s time at Edward Bennett Oval. Fresh after scoring 261* for NSW 2 days before, he came down to Kanga and picked up with every team, signed autographs and had pictures taken and brought along the ‘Beast’ – the Gunn & Moore bat he used.

A highlight was a comment from one of our Kanga's to Dom. He thought Dom's effort in scoring 261* was 'cool' but was underwhelmed by the 11 sixers: "I got 12 sixers off dad in the backyard the week before!"



Photo – [Dominic Thornely](#), our Club Ambassador at Edward Bennett Oval 6/11/2004 2 days after his 261* and record 11 sixers in one innings with the bat - 'The Beast'.

The whites of their eyes

It was interesting having a chat to big Matt Spalding who took 6/46 in A1 Grade (11/12/2004) after bowling on a wet track. Matt had the Berowra Captain in a state of personal fear throughout his short innings. Matt was asked when he knew he was on top. Matt response was a beauty.

It was after the first ball when he was hit in the protector and the ball rebounded back to him. He was even more confident after it took him 5 minutes doubled over at square leg drinking water!

Greg Fiedler – ‘sympathetic Captain of the Year award’

"Club Icon and record run scorer Ross Anderson took his 149th catch for the Club in C1 Grade on Saturday (6/11/2004) in a somewhat comical fashion. Having advised his Captain that he is happy to field in any position, other than mid-wicket due to three previously broken thumbs, his Captain sympathetically fielded him there.

First ball of that over flew from the batsman's willow like a cannon straight to Ross at mid-wicket who, in attempting to catch it like a football (if only it looked like this when he batted.....), juggled it three times and successfully took the stomach mark only to reveal that he may have fractured his thumb for a fourth time – ALL FOR THE TEAM-ROSCOE."

3.4 Embarrassing Moments



- *Peter Kelly* (A Grade 1970s) – after a wet week, the Parklands Oval groundsman had not prepared a wicket. After a disagreement on the fitness of the ground Peter Kelly threw a stump at the groundsman. Unfortunately (for Peter) it made the front page of the local Advocate newspaper
- *Chris Cavanagh* (A Grade early 1980s) – during the tea interval of a game (Parklands Oval) Chris put the back seat of his car to good use after a female friend arrived. Chris eventually returned to the game sometime after the game had restarted
- *Scott Bugg* (A2 1987/88) – fielding at short leg to big hitting Craig Russell (Berowra and later WPHC A1) Scott was hit a direct blow on the head. After standing motionless for a few seconds he fell like a tree. The ball was recovered undamaged
- *Greg Stoneham* (A Grade early 1980s) – Greg was also known for his immaculate attire. One match a girlfriend arrived to watch him play. As the players were going back, a gust of wind blew his sun hat onto the roof (Parklands Oval) as a second friend arrived unexpectedly. Greg scaled the roof, regained his hat and re-joined the team without having to confront both women

- *Paul Ainsley* (D2 1983/84) – after a big night, the effort of scoring his first run was too much. He brought up all over the pitch and then had to clean it up
- *Steve Quodling* (C2 early 1980s) – while attempting a catch (Thornleigh Park), Steve fell over and knocked himself out
- *Ian ‘Bishen’ Black* (C1 Grade 1979/80) – during a tight final (Galston Oval won by WPHC) bowled ‘right arm under’. It was difficult to tell who was the most upset – the Opposition or his own team
- *Peter L Smith* (C1 Grade 1979/80) – as a wicket keeper Peter refused to wear a protector. During the season a bullet throw from Greg Weir (a powerful flat thrower) found the mark. Peter missed the rest of the day. After this mishap his Captain, Ian Black insisted that he wear a protector in the Final played later that year. Peter played but not sure how Ian checked if he was wearing a protector
- *Matt Barr* (A1 1999/2000) – after winning the 1st Grade Rugby Grand Final for Eastwood, scoring a try and then partying all week, Matt had still not recovered from the week-long celebrations. When he turned up to play at Parklands Oval, batting at No 3, he faced 1 ball and then slept through the rest of the day
- *Rob Edwards* (D1 2002/03) – in the D1 Grade Final (Galston Oval) at the first drinks break. Rob jumped the fence to get something from his car. Unfortunately, he dislocated his knee in the process. The ‘embarrassing moment’ was that the fence had a walk-through section right next to the spot he jumped over
- *Eric Junkkari* (B2 2005/06) asked Nishane Pillay the politically incorrect question with all the sensitivity; “What religion are you?” The response was “Muslin and I’m fasting”. All was going well until Eric saw Nishane out the back tucking into a hamburger and in Eric’s words he was eating “any meat he could get his hands on” (the mind boggles). All was revealed later, Nishane confirmed he wasn’t Muslim and was just hungry.



Photo – Daniel (left), Eric and Grace Junkkari at the new nets – Saturday 7th September 2013.

Ducks in a day – family day out

The Anderson family

Setting the standard was the dismissal of Daniel Anderson who was out for a golden duck in A1 Grade (Vs Kenthurst @ Kenthurst Park on 9th October 2010). Not to be outdone, John Anderson (U14) was bowled for 0 (2nd ball) Vs Kissing Point at Auluba Oval. To finish the story, father, Ross Anderson was caught for 0 (3rd ball) Vs Kenthurst @ Glenhaven Oval. So, three ducks in the same round and each going in successive deliveries.

Duck tales

“I wasn’t feeling real special”

Club cult figure *Chris Duck* (D1 Grade) is the source of this quote. Failing to score a run happens to everyone playing the game but the talented Duck family did it in style at Campbell Park Vs Normanhurst-Warrawee (17th September 2011).

Playing in his U14 morning game, young Andrew got the first duck of the day. Then to show family solidarity Chris showed he was not to be outdone being bowled for 0. Finally, enter talented fast bowler Nick Duck who added to the legend by getting 0. So 3 ducks for the Duck family is a memorable day that no doubt be the source of family stories for years to come.



Photo: Chris, Andrew, Michael and Nick Duck (October 2011)

Why you don't run but just hit boundaries

We have been trying to have a Duck free period to allow cult figure Chris Duck space to go out and play without the weight of expectation. Spare a thought for the big fella though. After having a break from cricket for 25 years he was playing a match winning innings in the D1 Grade T/20 Final Vs Kissing Point in September 2011. After taking 20 runs off their Captains over, Chris was on fire until....he managed to rupture his Achilles tendon – ouch. He had surgery and was out for the season – as a player (not a spectator). The important thing though is that when he was stranded down the wicket he crawled back into his crease and was not out. So, you can always recover from an injury but, importantly, the scorebook will show retired hurt and not out – a professional to the end.



Photo – the famous Duck family (left to right - Andrew, Chris, Melanie, Nick and Michael) at Lords – 23 December 2014

They've done it again

Playing in the T/20 D Grade Final (Vs Hornsby @ Montview Oval 16/10/2011), the opening ball of the match set the tone. Playing Kissing Point, their Captain, faced the first ball of the match. He nicked the ball and was out – caught Chris Duck, bowled Michael Duck. So, thinking about it...caught Chris Duck, bowled Michael Duck for a golden duck.

Sledged by your own son

Once a superstar, Chris Duck, copped it from his son Nick, after taking a bad knock on his knee and was pretty immobile. The old man (Chris) was comfortably placed at slip and had no intention of having a run in the outfield. So, Nick, playing on one leg fielded at square leg. The sledge came from Nick when he said that was still more mobile than the old man on one leg. The big fella had the last laugh when he took a great catch at 1st slip.

More duck stories

A great commentary from Peter Westerberg (D2) on the game Vs Berowra @ Northholm Grammar on Saturday 11th January 2014:

“For some years now there has been a colony of ducks on the dam beside the cricket ground at Northholm and, while not a superstitious person in general, I have long harboured a feeling that one day they would, metaphorically, come home to roost for us. Well, today was the day, with a grand total of three golden ducks in a spectacular middle order collapse that saw us slump from 1-35 to 7-37.”

3.5 Cricketing Love Stories



Chopper Boon – a love story

It isn't often we indulge in romantic stuff. But... big Booney ([Martin Boon](#) 2002/03 to 2007/08), our man mountain has a softer side. When Booney was in Year 10 he found, at the time, the love of his life. He hired a helicopter (\$210 is big money way back then for a 16-year-old) filled it with red roses and when she came out to see the racket the roses were dropped on her. After recovering from multiple scratches and psychiatric support from having a helicopter hovering over the house the romance blossomed – for a while. The legend of Chopper was born.

The sequel

Like a developing Star Wars series, the sequel. Chopper some years later (February 2007) took out an advertisement in 'Who Weekly'. The big fella had a photograph of himself holding a sign "Vez, will you marry me" right next to the crossword so that she would find the photo.

Despite great planning, Vez did not see the ad. So, Chopper was a little less subtle and told her where to look. After 'tears of joy' Vez is reported to have asked "what does this mean". At last report they were still married and 'living happily ever after' but with Booney not playing cricket.



Photo – [Martin Boon](#) and his lovely 'wife to be', Verity, at their Engagement party – March 2007.

Ride 'em cowboy

[Simon Smyth](#), our A1 Grade Captain, was playing at Kenthurst Oval in Round 1 (2005) when along comes his girlfriend, Mel, riding a horse – romantic isn't it. The problems then started. The A1 Grade lads (generally a highly intelligent group, certainly before the beer flows) had a problem they couldn't work out – was the attractive Mel, Snumpy's girlfriend, or the horse Simon's partner. They decided that it was the horse despite it being a male. This is the first recorded instance since 1885 of supporters arriving on horseback – a Club record just established.

Sequel

In August 2008 [Simon](#) and Mel announced their engagement. The marriage happened on a Friday so that the A1 boys could come along and Simon could play cricket the next day. On Friday 16th October 2009 they were married to complete the fairy-tale ending.

“You didn’t even cry at our wedding”

Simon ‘Snumpty’ Smyth (A1) has been playing for West Penno since his debut in 1997/98. A burning ambition was to win an A1 Grade Premiership before he retired. After the A Grade Premiership win on 24th & 25th March 2012 (Vs ARL @ Mark Taylor Oval), Simon had a tear in his eye. Enter Mel (Simon’s wife). Mel realised how important it was when she commented that “*You didn’t even cry at our wedding*” but he did for A1 – great passion Snumpty.

The baby naming

Following marriage come babies and then the naming. To complete the love story just after the A1 boys won the Rofe Shield in 2011/12. Within days their 2nd child, a son, was born so what do you call him. To quote direct from Simon:

“Ross, not to embarrass my Rofie winning Captain, but this is true. Mel liked 'CJ' as a nickname, so wanted Corey's middle name to start with 'J'. The week of the Grand Final, I told her that if we won, the middle name should be after our captain (James Makin). Hence – Corey James.”



Photo: Mel, Simon & baby Corey James

Chris Cavanagh

Chris played between 1979/80 and 1986/87. In one memorable moment in an A1 game during a drinks break at Parklands Oval, Chris disappeared into the back of his car to become better acquainted with his girlfriend. Time passes and with the car rocking the lads decided not to interrupt. Chris eventually returned to the field around 10 minutes after everyone else.

3.6 Sheepstation Trophy



Photo: B1 – Grand Final - Sheep Station - WPHC Red (Todd) Vs WHPC Blue (Prats)- Parklands Oval - 14032026

We have a history of our Teams playing against each other since the 1990s.

It wasn't though until 16 December 2017 that the Sheep Station Trophy was formally introduced.

The game was an A2 fixture between Rick 'Couldn't call a cab' Turner (A2 Blue) and Simon 'Couldn't toss a salad' Smyth (A2 Red) – two of the worst 'Tossers' in our Club history. The match was played at Dural Park on a scorching hot day. For the record, Rick won the toss but lost the match played at Dural Park.



Sheep Station Trophy - A2 - Rick Turner (Blue) & Simon Smyth (Red)
- 1st game coin toss - Dural Park - 16th December 2017



Simon Smyth (left) & Rick Turner with the inaugural Sheep Station Trophy – Seniors Presentation Night @ Castle Hill RSL, Friday 4 May 2018



The Sheep Station Trophy presented for the first time at Seniors Presentation Night @ The Vicar – 8 May 2026



Photo: Sheep Station Trophy - Todd Hutchinson (B1), Ravi Gunna (C4), Ian Digby (D1) & Indranil Mukherjee (C2) - Red Team – Seniors Presentation Night @ The Vicar – 08052026

While on the Sheep Station Trophy

Another bit of Club history in the A2 Sheep Station Cup.

For the first time in our history we had a father (Ben Meikle) and son (Andy) play in the same Grade @ The Glade Oval on 2 November 2019, against each other. On every other occasion the father / son combinations have played together. Anyway, there is more to the story.

Playing at the Glade Oval, says it all, Andy's Team (Red's) are bowling and out comes Ben to face his son. The Match Report from Michael Gunn says it all:

“One of the moments of the innings though would have to be Ben ‘fine wine’ Meikle, who only gets better with age, getting completely bamboozled and bowled by a wrong-un, bowled by his son of all people, for a golden duck. Couldn't have written a better script.



Photo: Andy (left) & Ben Meikle taken at Annangrove Oval - 12 September 2015

‘Not happy’ Ben later came on to bowl – back to Gunny:

“Defending 143, the Blues were actually quietly confident of making a match of it....Better Meikle then entered the scene, looking for redemption. Boy was the old fella fired up.

Benny put on a bowling Masterclass, picking up 5/35 (12 overs) putting us in a position to win this match. After Ben picked up one of his wickets, Andy walked to the crease. This was the moment for Benny. Yeah, he didn't get him out. He hit him for a 4 actually.”

The most exciting Sheep Station result – ever!

The Sheep Station Cups are traditionally tough Sheep Station Cups are always tough but good run. The one played between om the 7th & 14th November 2020 @ Headen Park between the B1 Reds (Simon Smyth acting for Rick Turner) 129 & 5/103 dec lost outright after winning on the first innings Vs Blues (Rob Knapman) 64 & 7/169 was played on steroids. Excerpts from Snumpty Smyth's Match Report are priceless. Read and enjoy:

“...A cracking game with a few twists and turns. It's very hard to get too excited when you play against your own club. Credit to Snumpty and Rick as they weren't real keen on pushing for an outright

against their own club, but at the start of today's play I asked them to take it like it was any other club. They could use 10 points and we needed to battle it out and toughen up if we were to step up to B1.

Both teams then got together and decided to play a 2nd innings. This was mainly due to the fact that no one wanted to go home to their wives and kids, knowing that an arvo with the boys was a far better option. For those concerned, I do love my wife and kids, but just not on a Saturday. It was written into my wedding vowels #clever.

A wicket 2nd ball to Deano, had the Reds up and about. A good partnership then formed, before a bowling change brought Manas 'Labuschagne Warne' Dhargalker on to bowl. Gunny 'Chin Strap' Jnr smashed one to the keeper, and in a blatant attempt at cheating, he didn't walk. I heard the noise Diggers. There was then some cricket played, until Birdcage gets another website mention, for skying a catch to me. That's twice I caught you champ.

More cricket got played, and there was more runs and more wickets. It got down to 16 needed off 2 overs. Everyone was as nervous as a virgin on his honeymoon, as it was going down to the wire. Both teams could still win outright. With 10 needed off the last over, then 2 off 2, Dan struck again, to leave 2 needed off 1 ball. A lucky French cut from Rahul through mid-on for 4 got the Blues home outright, and they celebrated in an un-COVID like manner."

Our first Sheet Station Seniors Grand Final

Our first Seniors Sheep Station GF was on 16 October 2011 in the 1st Grade T20 GF between our A1 and A2 sides.

However, in the 2025/26 season we had a first with the first-ever Semi Final Sheep Station Trophy game:

Semi Final Sheep Station

On 28th February & 7th March 2026 our first Sheep Station Semi-Final was played between our C4 Blue (Rob Hanich) Vs our C4 Red (Ravi Gunna) teams @ Normanhurst Oval – won by the Reds:



Photo: left to right: REDS - Sahil Kirpalani, Arindam Dhar, Nirav Desai, Siby Joseph, Anant Wankhade, Praveg Arkadi, Waman Tamhankar, Jashwant Upadhyay, Tushar Bambharoliya, Rohit Bhalla, Vishnu Rajesh, Amith Ninan, Ravi Gunna (C)

Indranil Mukherjee (Umpire)

BLUES: Rob Hanich (C), Steve Williams, Andrew McLennan, Muditha Dissanayake, Manu Trivtsdi, Kamran Bloach, Ryan Manson, Lance Tabone, Jake Condon, Direin Ratnasiva, Luke Tabone - Normanhurst Park - 28022026

Grand Final Sheep Station

On 14th & 15th March 2026, we went one better when our B1 Red (Todd) played B1 Blue (Prats) @ Parklands Oval.



Photo: left to right: BLUES; Oliver Linschoten, Pat Watkins, Reyhan Ahmed, Aden Hanich, Cameron Bliss, Ben Dunkerley, Will McLennan, Prats Datar (C),

Geoff Hasler (Umpire) & Mark Adams (Umpire),

REDS: Todd Hutchinson (C), Alec Silins, RK, Arjun Kodaganti, Daniel Fagg, Lachlan Edwards

Front row: Ben Waldron, Nathan Watkins, TBA, Nick Price, Dean Carlin, Rick Turner - Aaron Carlini, Chris Williamson, Jack Hutchinson, Shomik Sengupta, Cameron Bish Reyhan Ahmed - Parklands Oval - 14032026

The result – the Reds won 152 & 2/65 Vs Blues 95 & 8/119 dec

The Sheep Station Trophy – the next iteration

'The Snumpty-Turner Cup'

On 2nd December 2025. A new Trophy was introduced following a suggestion from Peter Lees, The Snumpty (Simon Smyth) – Turner (Rick Turner aka Tina aka Flair) became a reality. To quote Rick:

“What a grand idea and totally fine with me.

It would be an honour for me to be mentioned in the same breath as the great man.

I do recall Snumpty and I discussing the build up to the inaugural game. I think I coined the phrase "we don't play for sheep stations unless we are playing another WPHCCC team". Snumpty was big on the formality of the toss (hance the blazer, hat and tie - and quite rightly so).

I know my team lost that inaugural game and its never sat well with me ever since. LOL.

Hopefully Snumpty lost the toss - a distinct possibility given his track record.

Red v Blues - I like it. Incidentally also the colours of Snumpty's beloved Melbourne Bitter.”

Junior Sheep Station Grand Finals

On Sunday 11 March 2018, our U12 Purple Team played our Red Team in the U12 Final at Thornleigh Oval. While not the first time we have had 2 WPHC play each other in a Junior Final this match was also Umpired by Barry McDonald (Chairperson) and Rob Hanich (Juniors Director) making this an all WPHC Final. For the record, the game was won by the Red Team.



Photo – The U11 Purple and Red Teams in the 2017/18 Grand Final played at Thornleigh Oval – 11 March 2018.

Previous instances of WPHC Teams playing against each other in Junior Grand Finals are:

- U11s:
 - 2000/01 – Blue Vs White
 - 2007/08 – Gold Vs Green
 - 2013/14 – Blue Vs Gold
- U12s:
 - 2002/03 – Blue Vs Gold
 - 2008/09 – Green Vs Gold
- U13s:
 - 2008/09 – Red and Blue
- U14s:
 - 2009/10 – Blue Vs Red
 - 2025/26 – Purple Vs Gold
- U15s:
 - 2005/06 – White Vs Blue.

3.7 Songs about West Penno

Kylie, Brittany, Taylor Swift.....

On 3rd May 2003 during the Seniors Presentation Night at the WPH Sports Club, Simon Smyth and our A2's launched our official Club song to the tune of Yellow Submarine. It is:

Beer must be placed on head

This is the sto-ry of a team
that is chasing, a single dream
To bat & bowl, and be the best
we're bloody be-tter, than the rest

From all around, they come to play
but we send them, on their way
We're the proud, Red, White and Blue
and we've just made you, look like pooh!

We all play for West Pennant Hills, West Pennant Hills,
West Pennant Hills.....

In the town, West Pennant Hills
We will fine you, 2-dollar bills
We will bat with lots of class
We just beat you, so up your ass
We've been known to have a chat
Like Ritchie says, 'super effort that'
And if you think it's just a game
Then you'd better, learn our name.....(because!!)

We all play for West Pennant Hills, West Pennant Hills, West Pennant Hills.....

In 2004, also at presentation Night, **B2 Blue** launched their song:

Written by Bryce Morley (to the tune of Eric Bogle's "And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda")



Photo: Bryce Morley leading the B2 boys – Seniors Presentation Night @ WPH Sports Club. In the photo are - Ross Anderson (left), Bryce Morley with guitar, Michael 'Macca' McGregor, Eric Junkkari, Tony Hadley and Adam Litchfield – Saturday 8th May 2004.

Verse 1 When I was a young man,
 I carried my bat,
 And I stood tall for West Pennant Hills.
 From Greenway to Montview,
 To Foxglove and back,
 I took pride in the red and the blue.

 But as year follows year,

I get so old,
My sight's a bit hazy
& my reactions are slow,
My hammy's keep twitching,
while my knees never hold...
and I ask myself 'why do I do it?'

Chorus I do it for West Pennant Hills,
For the boys in my team B2 Blue,
We love a drink,
Except when we lose...
We're the Boys from the Team B2 Blue

Verse 2 Now there's Hutchy and Sharkey,
And Ecce and Macca,
And who could forget Big Booooooony
And what about Cap'n Kish,
And our own stunt-man, Ad's,
Together, we're a team with big knads!

Then there's Tony "The Man" Hadley,
And Millsy and Brycey.
And what about old Johnno,
And hey, you've left out Roscoe!
Yeah, we turn up to win,
But we'll take the outright...
We're the boys from the team B2 Blue.

Chorus (* 2) We do it for West Pennant Hills,
For the boys in my team B2 Blue,
We love a drink,
Except when we lose...
We're the Boys from the Team B2 Blue,

The Boys from the Team B2 Blue,
The Boys from the Team B2 Blue!!!

At the 2023/24 Presentation Night (Castle Hill RSL, 3rd May 2024), Prats data (B1 Blue) sung the following song he composed to the music of Shotgun by George Ezra:



Photo: Presentation Night - Prats Datar singing song - Castle Hill RSL - 03052024

Home ground destination, set location (on a satellite navigation is the idea - an alternate lyric can be thought for 'set location')
Got to hit the road, got to hit the road ...

There's a hint of swing in the atmosphere

With overcast or sunny conditions ...

You gotta get used to this ...
Time flies by at my club's cricket green
With my team who all know what I mean

To be the best of all clubs, is what I'm dreaming of
If you need me you know where I'll be

Chorus:

*I'll be bowling right arm over spin or medium fast
Aiming at your off stump .. ooo*

Or I'll be taking my guard
Watching the ball real hard
On the way to my ton ..

South of the equator, late September,
We get our kits and go with our mates and bros (probably can be changed here - don't like the
bros word)

For the next six months, we're out in the sun
Taking wickets or smashing runs
You gotta get used to this ...

Time flies by at my club's cricket green
With my team who all know what I mean

To be the best of all clubs, is what I'm dreaming of
If you need me you know where I'll be

Chorus:

*I'll be bowling right arm over spin or medium fast
Aiming at your off stump .*

Or I'll be taking my guard
Watching the ball real hard
On the way to my ton ..

I've got 6 on the off, 3 on the leg
A silly mid on
And they've got my back ..

Back .. back .. ba ... (echo)
Time flies by at my club's cricket green
With my team who all know what I mean

To be the best of all clubs, is what I'm dreaming of
If you need me you know where I'll be

Chorus:

*I'll be bowling right arm over spin or medium fast
Aiming at your off stump .. ooo*

Or I'll be taking my guard
Watching the ball real hard
On the way to my ton, my ton, my ton ,my.

4. Records, Milestones & Performances



4.1 Most Grand Final Appearances

§

James Makin



Photo: James Makin with his wife Fiona and kids Jack and Oliver after winning his 4th successive Premiership as Captain Vs Berowra @ Asquith Park 28th & 29th March 2015

James Makin – Grand Finals			
Grade	Captain	Player	Total
A1	2011/12 (W); 2012/13 (W); 2013/14 (W); 2014/15 (W); 2016/17 (L)	2020/21 (L), 2022-23 (L); 2024/25 (W)	8
A2	2006/07 (W)	1996/97 (L)	2
B1	1999/20 (L)	1995/96 (W); 1992/93 (L)	2
C2		1991/92 (L)	1
T20 1 st Grade	2011/12 (W); 2012/13 (W); 2015/16 (L)	2014/15 (W); 2019/20 (L); 2022/23 (W)	6
Triforce Cup	2011/12 (W)		1
Total	11 (8 x Wins & 3 x Losses)	10 (4 x Wins & 6 x Losses)	21 (12 x Wins & 9 x Losses)

Andrew Fiedler



Photo: Andrew Fiedler receiving the C1 Premiership trophy for 2015/16 season (215 runs) who defeated SKLPS (64 runs) at Les Shore Oval. The Umpires are John McQuillan (right) and Wayne Norrish - 20th March 2016.



Photo: Andrew Fiedler's Premiership Cap collection – 16 April 2026

Andrew Fiedler – Grand Finals			
Grade	Captain	Player	Total
A1			
A2		1988/89 (W)	1
B1		2001/02 (L); 2002/03 (W)	2
B2		1995/96 (W); 2001/02 (W); 2006/07 (L)	3
C1	2014/15 (L); 2015/16 (W); 2016/17 (W)	2007/08 (L); 2013/14 (W);	5
C2	2008/09 (W); 2018/19 (W)	2012/13 (W)	3
C3	2023/24 (L)		
T20 (3 rd Grade)	2012/13 (W)		1
Total	7 (5 x Wins & 2 x Loss)	9 (6 x Wins & 3 x Losses)	16 (11 Wins & 5 x Losses)

Simon Smyth



Photo: Simon 'Snumpy' Smyth after winning the Sunday Premier League Final Vs ARL @ Les Shore Oval on 29 February 2016. Simon also took his 350th wicket in this game to become our 8th highest wicket taker – 29th February 2016.

Simon Smyth – Grand Finals			
Grade	Captain	Player	Total
A1		2001/02 (L); 2009/10;(L); 2011/12 (W);	3
A2	2004/05 (W); 2018/19 (L)		2
B1		1999/2000 (L);	1
T20 (1 st Grade)		2011/12 (W);	1
T20 (2 nd Grade)	2017/18 (W)		1
SPL	2012/13 (W); 2013/14 (L); 2014/15 (W); 2015/16 (W);		4
Total	7 (5 x Wins & 2 x Losses)	5 (2 x Wins & 3 x Losses)	12 (7 x Wins & 5 x Losses)

Note: Simon also Captained 2 x losing GF's in the Juniors.

Michael Banner



Photo: Michael, Jenny and Josh Banner at the T20 2nd Grade Grand Final (A2) 6/146 Vs Berowra 117 @ Berowra Oval - 22nd October 2017.

Michael Banner – Grand Finals			
Grade	Captain	Player	Total
A2		2004/05 (W); 2006/07 (W); 2018/19 (L)	3
B1		1999/200 (L); 2016/17 (W); 2022-23 (W); 2025/26 (W)	4
SPL		2012/13 (W); 2013/14 (L); 2014/15 (W); 2015/16 (W)	4
Total		11 (8 x Wins & 3 x Losses)	11

Other Significant Grand Final Appearances

Matt Jobson (A1) Captained 2 x Premiership sides and 1 x Runner-up. As a player he has played in a further 5 Premierships – a total of 8 Premierships all by 28 years of age. His record is:

- A2:
 - 2 x Premiership wins (2008/09; 2009/10)
 - 1 x Runner-up (2007/08)
- As a player:
 - 4 x A1 Premierships
 - 1 x A1 Runner-up.
- **Daniel Freidrich** captained successive premiership teams from U11 to U13s then his Team skipped a year to play U15s, who won this Age Division, 2 years in a row and then won the U16s. This winning sequence went from 1990/91 to 1996/97 – 6 years in succession!
- **Jim Fuggle** won three competitions (B1 and B2 Grades 1983/84; 1993/94; 1995/96)
- **Tony Ford** won 2 consecutive Grand Finals in A1 Grade (1989/90; 1990/91)

4.2 Other Grand Final Achievements

Record Minor Premiership wins

In 2020/21 *Steve 'Buzz' Burrows* (C2 Blue) Captained his side to a 3rd successive Minor Premiership in C3, C2 and C2 again. This is a Club Seniors record for successive wins. While James Makin (A1) won a record 4 successive A1 Premierships, his best effort was 2 successive Minor Premierships (2011/12 & 2012/13).

Going back to 1986/87, the great Jim Fuggle (B1) Captained his side to 2 successive Minor Premierships but lost both Grand Finals.

Most successful teams

- U11s 1990/91 to U16s 1996/97 won every Final in successive Age groups. The Captain was Daniel Friedrich, our most successful Captain, with Rob Gailey coach. The team even skipped U14s, and won the U15s and then U16s twice – a year above their age.



Photo: Daniel 'Freddy' Friedrich pictured at Mark Taylor Oval 12 March, 2016 in his Northern District gear.

Daniel went on to play many years of 1st Grade. In and in 2015/16 was the ND's 2nd Grade Captain, scoring over 5,000 runs and taking just on Grade wickets – amazing! In 2015/16 Daniel was named as Captain of the Year by the Sydney Cricket Association.

- B Grade 1989/90 to 1995/96 competed in every semi-final. They were Runners up 3 times and Premiers twice.
- In 1994/95 our Juniors had a team in every age final – U11 to U16.

Most successful season

Juniors:

- In 2007/08 our Juniors set a Club and Association record of having all Divisions represented by a WPHC team (with 2 in the U11s). This is a record to be proud of, especially in the context of our 'Participation over Results Policy'.
 - For the record we won 3 games and lost 3 – the U13's by 1 wicket on the last ball of the match, U12's by 12 runs and the U16's by 1 run on the last ball.
- On Sunday 21st March 2021 a record number of Premiership wins was achieved with all 4 Minor Premiers being declared Premiers after the Final was washed out. This follows a washed out Semi Final when we had 10 Teams competing.

Seniors

- In 2014/15, 9 Teams made the Semi Finals with 8 going through to the Grand Final. We had A1 (James Makin), A2 (Julian Raffel), B2 (Justin Paterson), C1 (Andrew Fiedler), C3 (Brett Hawkins) and D2 (Peter Westerberg) make it through. Add to this our Sunday Premier League Red (Simon Smyth) and Blue (Rob Aitken) – a record. The previous record was 6 in both the 2012/13 and 2013/14 seasons.
- Again, in 2020/21; 2020/21 & 2025/26 we had 9 Teams in the Semi Finals.
- The record number of Premierships in a season for Seniors is 4 achieved in 2012/13 (A1, C2, D1 & SPL), 2013/14 (A1, B1, C1, C3), 2014/15 (A1, A2, B2, SPL) and 2020/21 (B2, C4, D1 Blue & D2).
- Also, in 2014/15 both A1 and A2 won Premierships – the first time in our history that the double was achieved.

Association Gradings

In the 2017/18 season we had 3 Teams in A1 / A2 Grades – 1 Team in A1 and 2 in A2 Grade. This is the first time in the Association history that a Club has achieved this outcome. To further entrench the record – we had 6 Teams in the top 4 Grades with 2 Teams also in B2 Grade.

Success rate

- In Seniors, WPHCCC has won 102 games from 194 finals – a 52.5% success rate (as at 2025/26 season)
- In Juniors WPHCCC has played in 138 finals, winning 76 – a success rate of 55.0% (as at 2025/26 season).

Most ‘Unsuccessful’ Premiership performances

Most unsuccessful Captain

Jim Fuggle Captained 6 x losing grand finalists. Perhaps this also qualifies him for the most successful Captain – he actually made the Grand Final! Jim’s record is:

- Premierships:
 - 2 x B1 Premierships
 - 1 x B2 Premiership
- Runners-up:
 - 1 x A2 Runner-up
 - 4 x B1 Runner-up
 - 1 x B2 Runner-up

Most ‘unsuccessful’ team

Seniors

The B Grade team between 1955/56 and 1962/63 competed in 6 Finals only to lose every one.

Juniors

The U13 Age Division has had an amazing run in the Finals. Since 2004/04 the boys have played in every Grand Final – the exceptions being in 2011/12 and 2012/13 – 12 out of 14 seasons! Our win/loss ratio though is just 3 wins and 10 Runners up. In 2008/09 we had both the Premier and runner-up.

4.3 Records & Milestones

Bradman feats

- Laurie Tuckerman set Association records in 1951/52 that may never be beaten. Full details are provided in this History. However, as an example, in A1 Grade, Laurie scored 1,361 runs at 85.06 and also took 59 wickets at 17.39 – in one season! He also had successive scores of 161, 139* and 103 in the A1 Grade Semi Final, Final and Grand Final – the only player in the Association’s history to achieve this feat. He broke the previous record of 1,254 by former Test umpire Bill Alley (Brooklyn 1936/37). A further Club record is his career record of seven A1 centuries.

Wally Childs (May 2008) has given us background information on Laurie. He was in his early 20’s and lived at Windsor. He batted at number 4 and was a strong hitter in the David Warner mould and had a good technique.

[Barry McDonald](#) averaged 99.50 (398 runs) in a full season in A2 during 1978/79.



Photo – [Barry McDonald](#) (our Club Chairperson) showing that he hasn’t lost any of the skills he had when he was a 1st Grade cricketer with Petersham-Marrickville and later A1 with West Penno. In this photo Barry couldn’t resist a hit while cruising the Pacific – January 2014.

To quote Barry many years later (28/4/2017):

“...I enjoyed reminiscing, recalling the names of those that I had the pleasure of playing with since I first arrived at the Club in season 1978/79, in which year I am recorded as having 4 innings, scoring 2 centuries for a total of 398 runs at 99.50 – Oh to have taken that extra couple of singles to make it 100.00 – now, I know how Don Bradman felt!!!”

- Peter L Smith averaged 107.33 in B2 (1982/83) but just missed an Association record because he batted only 5 times – not the required 6 innings.
- Brendan Twining in successive seasons averaged 128.70 (U13s 1988/89) and 178.33 (U14s 1989/90).
- Matt Barr, in 1999/00 scored 405 runs at an average of 101.25 in A1, despite a wet season and missing the first part through 1st Grade Rugby commitments. This is an Association record.
- [Daniel Anderson](#) (U16 Blue 2010/11) scored 686 runs in 10 innings @ 137.2 – a Club U16s record average and aggregate. It is also the 2nd highest aggregate behind the 721 runs (55.46) scored by Peter McDonald (U13) in 1982/83.



Photo – [Daniel Anderson](#) on his way to 92 for U16 Blue @ Greenway Park 26th Feb. 2011. What made this an amazing effort is that Daniel was after a record 4th successive ton of the season (104 retired, 122 retired and 153 retired) – all with a stress fracture of the back. He went on to play for NSW Open Schoolboys & 1st Grade for Northern District DCC (debut 8/11/2014).

- Joe Hiley (U12 Gold) scored 139* for the U11 Creak Shield Vs Fairfield Liverpool on 18th November 2012. A few facts about this innings:
 - Joe’s 139* is the highest score in this Competition that started in 1988/89
 - Beat the previous record of 130* by Usman Khawaja (Australian Test player) for Penrith in 1997/98!
 - The innings included 25 fours off 168 deliveries.

Run machine – an Association Junior record

Peter McDonald, in 1982/83, playing in the Under 13 Junior competition which in that season comprised 15 rounds, accumulated an aggregate of 721 runs from 14 innings – an Association U13 run scoring record that still stands today. His scores were 76, 11, 14, 102ret’d, 72ret’d, 61, 52, 51, 74, 4, 61*, 35, 38 & 70.

To demonstrate the vagaries of the game, in the following season in the Under 14 competition, Peter managed to total only 119 runs in 12 innings including 5 ducks! However, he subsequently proved his ability in the Senior ranks with several centuries in B1 Grade before becoming an integral member of successful A1 Grade sides from 1988/89 to 1995/96, amassing 2,797 runs and being our 16th A1 Grade Captain.

4.4 Partnership records



Partners U10s to U16s

Talking about a partnership of the cricketing type, *Daniel Anderson* and *Sid Sethi* finished their Junior cricket career with WPHCCC on Saturday 12th March 2011 in the U16 Semi Final played at Redfield College. Their partnership is the best partnership performance in our Junior's history.

In combination they played their first match together in the U9s and played together every season until the U16s, completing the pathway from Juniors through to U16s and then Seniors, playing Rep cricket for the Association. Indeed, both players captained their Association Rep (Shield and President's Cup) sides. Their combined records are impressive:

Club performances U10 to U16				
	Runs	Average	Wickets	Average
Daniel	2,544	68.76	85	11.27
Sid	1,329	39.64	136	5.77
	3,873		221	



Photo: Daniel Anderson and Sid Sethi (U11 Blue) at George Christie Oval 25th February 2006 (left) and for the U16 Blue, March 2011 @ Les Shore Oval during a Watson Shield selection trial.

Record opening partnership

- *Daniel Heidegger* (100 retired) and *Matt Chamberlain* (106 retired) playing for the U16 Red on 20/10/2012 put on an unbeaten opening partnership of 173 Vs Castle Hill RSL. This is the 1st recorded instance of a Junior opening pair scoring not out 100s.



Photo: Matt Chamberlain (left) and Daniel Heidegger @ Dural Park 20/10/2012

- On Saturday 2nd November 2013, *Kyle Faber* and *Patrick Phillips* (U15 Red Vs Mt Colah @ Mt Ku-ring-gai) scored an unbeaten 158 opening partnership with both players retiring on 101*. What is an interesting twist is that Kyle, the year before was part of the record low score of 2 all out (U14 White Vs. Redfield on 15 December 2012).

4.5 Memorable Teams

1951 A1 & B1 Teams

The 1951 A1 and B1 sides were standouts. The following summary is a list of major achievements by these teams:

A1 Grade			
<i>Batter</i>	<i>Runs</i>	<i>Bowler</i>	<i>Wickets</i>
Laurie Tuckerman	1,361	Laurie Tuckerman	59
R Allum	662	R Allum	56
Les Methven	563	Rob Bellamy	33
L Molloy	375		
Sid Lee	345		
Alb Bellamy	328		
Rob Bellamy	297		

B1 Grade			
<i>Bowler</i>	<i>Wickets</i>	<i>Bowler</i>	<i>Wickets</i>
E Stewart	569	Fred Childs	57
M Maranda	535	D Downs	47
J Methven	448	K Smith	36
R Allum	441		
D Downs	404		
E Downs	351		
Fred Childs	306		

The 1951/52 A1 Grade side was statistically, the best team that WPHC Seniors have put on the field – despite losing the Final. How this assessment is made:

- Laurie Tuckerman scored 1,361 runs @ 85.06 – an Association record.
- In addition to the runs, he took 59 wickets at 17.39 – the 14th best on our history.
- 6 other batsmen scored over 300 runs – (R Allum 662, Les Methven 563, L Molloy 375, S Lee 345, Alb Bellamy 328 and Rob Bellamy 297).
- In addition to Laurie's wickets three bowler's others took greater than 30 wickets.

50 years on!

In 2002/03 our B1 Premiers finished the season with 7 x players scoring over 250 runs – Mark Taylor 433, Jon Horler 421, Raj Anand 419, Tim Coverdale 391, Peter Harrison 389, Scott Allan 287 and Andrew Fiedler 266! What is surprising is that only 2 centuries were scored.

Unbeaten runs

- The 1983/84 D2 side (under David Page) won every game in the season but lost the Final – 15 games straight.
- Our U16's (1995/96) won the Final. What was amazing about this is that they had won every Final from the U10's starting in 1990/91! A little bit more on this Team. Captained by Daniel Friedrich, this Team went through and won the U10, U11, U12, and U13 Finals. They then skipped the U14s to play U15s and won that Premiership. They then won the U15s the following year and then the U16s in their final season of Junior cricket.
- The 2003/04 B1 side won 14 games in a row. Unfortunately, as soon as they found out about this B1 Club record they lost the next two games, including the Semi Final!

Winning Teams in a round

- A huge weekend by our Seniors on 12th December 2009. We set a Club and Association record of winning 11 Senior games out of 12 matches. Included in this was an outright win by our B2 side. The only team to miss out was C1 who went down by 1 wicket in a thrilling finish. Our previous best was winning 10 games out of 10 Teams in 2002/03.
- In Round 2 (7th & 14th November 2020) we won 11 of our 13 teams won to equal the Club and Association record for the most wins (above). This weekend was amazing with our B1 Red and Blue sides both winning and losing in a 4 innings game against each other. C4 also lost by just one wicket with 2 overs to go! How about this for an amazing Round:
 - A1 defeated Glenorie (last season's Premiers)
 - A2 defeated Castle Hill
 - B1 Blue won outright after losing on the 1st innings to our Reds
 - B2 defeated Kissing Point
 - C1 defeated Berowra
 - C2:
 - Red defeated Castle Hill
 - Blue defeated Mt Colah
 - C3 defeated St Ives
 - C4 lost to St Ives (9 wickets down & 2 overs left in the day)
 - D1:
 - Blue defeated St Ives
 - Red lost to Mt Colah
 - D2 defeated Kenthurst
- On the 31st October and 1st November 2015 (2015/16 Season) when we had 10 wins out of 12 games (A1, A2, B1, C1, C2, C3, C4, D1, SPL Red and D2) – we had a draw in B2 and our SPL Blue Team was the only loss. Included in the 10 wins were 3 outright wins – A1, C2 and D1.
- On Saturday 16 January 2016 (2015/16 Season) we had another 10 wins out of 12 Senior Teams with wins to A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C3, C4, D1, D2 and SPL Blue Teams. Losses were by our C2 and SPL Red sides.

What makes this an interesting outcome is that 7 of the Opposition Teams (A1 49 runs), A2 (81), B1 (74), C1 (86), C3 (78), C4 (90) and D2 (99) were dismissed for under 100 runs. Add to this the A1 score was a new record lowest Opposition score beating the previous lowest of 53 set on 1 December 2000.

- On 17 January 2015 of our 12 Senior Teams we had 8 wins (A1, A2, B1, C1, C2 & C2 Red, C3, D2 and our Sunday Premier League Reds). We also had 2 Ties (B2 & Sunday Premier League Blue) and just 1 loss (D1). What this means is that after the SPL games we won 9 of our 12 games with 2 Ties and just the one loss. This is short of the record but when the 2 ties are included to only go down in 1 out of 12 matches is an amazing performance.

Other end of the scale

On Saturday 6 January 2018 we won just 2 games (B2 Red and C2) and lost 9 games: A1, A2 (Red and Blue), B1, B2, C1, C3, D1 and D2 sides. This was the result of a lot of players being unavailable and the Association regrading (upwards) Teams from C3 to A2 up a Grade at the beginning of the season.

Minor Premiers

In the 2012/13 Season, 6 Seniors Teams made the Semi Finals and each of these Teams won the Minor Premiership:

- A1 (Captained by James Makin and defending Premiers) – Premiers
- A2 (Julian Raffle) – Runners-up
- B2 Blue (Rob Aitken) – Runners-up
- C2 Blue (Nathan Fathers) – Premiers
- D1 (Perry Waldron) – Premiers
- SPL Sunday Competition (Simon Smyth) – Runners-up.

Semi Finalists

In 2016/17 a then record 8 of our 10 Teams made the Semi Finals with 4 Grand Finalists and 2 Premiers:

- A1 (Captained by James Makin) – 2nd & Runner up
- A2 (Simon Smyth) – 3rd & Semi Finalist
- B1 (Daniel Fiedler) – 2nd & Premiers
- B2 (Rick Turner) – 2nd & Runner up
- C1(Andrew Fiedler) – 1st & Premiers
- C3 (Tarun Lath) – 1st & Runner-up
- D1 (Steve Quanborough) – 4th & Semi Finalist
- D2 (Mike Kinchington) – 4th & Semi Finalist

In 2020/21, a new record 9 of our 13 x Senior sides made the Semi Finals with one Team (C1 missing out by 0.014 of a quotient point. Our Semi Finalists were:

- A1 (Captained by Phil Wurth) – 3rd
- B1 Blue (Rob Knapman) – 3rd
- B2 (Phill Hando – Minor Premier – Premiers
- C2:
 - Blue (Buzz Burrows) – Minor Premier – Runners-up
 - Red (Stu Fiedler) – 4th
- C4 (Rob Hanich) – Minor Premier – Premiers
- D1:
 - Red (Ross Smith) – Minor Premier
 - Blue (Ian Digby) – 3rd
- D2 (Nirav Desai)- Minor Premier – Premiers

In 2025/26, again, 9 of our 14 Teams were Semi Finalists with 2 Premiers & 3 Runners-up including a B1 Sheep Station Grand Final, our first in Seniors:

- A1 (Cam #25) – 3rd (52 points)
- B1:
 - Prats – 4th (52 points) – Runners-up
 - Red (Todd) – 2nd (62 points) – Premiers
- B2 (John Koleth) – 1st (55 points)
- C1 (Aniket) – 2nd (60 points) – Runners-up
- C3: Red (Karl) – 4th (51 points)
- C4:
 - Blue (Rob) – =2nd (57 points)
 - Red (Ravi) – =2nd (57 points) – Premiers
- D1: Blue (Roger) – 1st (105 points) – Runners-up

Losing sequences

B2 Grade 2004/05

Spare a thought for the 2004/05 season B2 side. After winning the first game of the season, they lost the next 13 straight games. What makes this bizarre is that on 4 occasions they scored over 300 runs. To add more colour to this 'achievement' Bryce Morley wrote and recorded a song "*When will we ever win a game again*". The song is recorded for posterity on our website.

U13s

The U13s have had an amazing run in the Finals. The boys played in every Grand Final since 2003/04 & 2016/17 – the exceptions being in 2011/12 and 2012/13 – a total of 12 out of 14 seasons! Our win/loss ratio though is just 3 wins and 10 Runners up. In 2008/09 we were both the Premier and Runners-up.

Our lowest 2 innings score as a bowling team – Seniors

A2 Grade (Kookaburra Cup) – Round 2 @ Caterson 2, 8th and 15th October 2011

WPHC 6/114 dec defeated outright Castle Hill 22 and 19.

Day 1

WPHC 0/11 Vs Castle Hill 22 – playing at the slow Caterson 2 we had no expectation about what was about to happen. After having the entire Round washed out the week before this was our first hit out of

the season and even then we only managed to get 20 overs before the rain came but this was enough to leave the Castle Hill batting in disarray. Losing the toss, we bowled. Darren Morrow was superb, taking 4/4 from 5 overs and emerging star Riley Miedler took 5/18 from 5 overs. After the 1st over Castle Hill were 2 for 0 and were all out after 9.3 overs. We had 5 overs to bat before the rain came and were 0/11.

Day 2

This turned out to be one of the most comprehensive wins in our history and certainly the most dominant display by an A2 side in our Club history. While we were playing a totally outclassed Castle Hill side our boys were rampant. We carried on from the overnight score with Leigh Van den Broeke top scoring with 41 on a very slow outfield. Tim Leyshon also contributed with a good 26. We declared at Tea and the carnage continued. After lasting 9.4 overs in the first innings this time they lasted 8 overs. After 1.4 overs Hill was 4/0. The destroyers were Riley Miedler with 6/11 (including our 36th hat-trick) giving him match figures of 11/29 and Darren Morrow 2/12 to back up his 4/4 from the first innings.

Team members:

Sam Baidya, Rowan Keating, Tim Leyshon, [Riley Miedler](#), Darren Morrow, Michael Quieros, Allan Raffel, Julian Raffel (C), Sid Sethi, Sid Shankar, Leigh Van den Broeke.



Photo – [Riley Miedler](#) (left) and Sol Tomlinson This photo was taken at the Craig McDermott Pace Bowling Clinic – 11 November 2012



Photo – [Riley Miedler](#) (centre of wicket) – A1 Grade Grand Final (181) Vs. Berowra 67 & 85 @ Asquith Oval. Riley took his 200th wicket in the match and became the youngest player (21 years of age) in our history to achieve this significant milestone – 29th March 2015.

4.6 Outstanding Achievements

Amazing feats

Peter Whitehead (A1) had a memorable day. On 16th November 2002 (Vs Mt Colah @ Storey Park) he took 7/52 and then backed up and scored 100* on the same day.

What a season

Tim Scoular, A2 Opening bowler (2014/15) and Player of the Year had an amazing season that broke many Club bowling records and had a huge impact in the Team winning the Premiership. How about this for a season. Tim took:

- *Record wicket total:*
 - A Club A1 and A2 record 61 wickets in the season (11 games!), a hat-trick, and in the last 6 games took an amazing 45 wickets.
 - In taking the 61 wickets he passed the previous A1 / A2 record of 59 set by the great Laurie Tuckerman in 1950/51.
 - Tim's bowling average of 7.8 was also a record for A2 Grade at the time. It was broken the following year by Tim Starr with an average of 7.28.
- *Record bowling performance (wickets / runs):*
 - 7/3 Vs SKLPS @ Headen Park 8/12/2014 including a hat-trick (our 38th hat-trick and included in this was a bowling spell of 5 wickets in 6 balls with a sequence of w, w, over, dot ball , w, w, w.)
 - This is the lowest number of runs scored against a bowler who has taken 7 wickets or better – beating the previous record of 7/5 by Ray McDonald (B1 Vs Glenorie in 1959/60)
 - Finally, this is the next best bowling performance by an A2 bowler since Riley Miedler took 8/13 Vs SKLPS @ The Glade on 16/3/2013.



Photo – **Tim** with Barry McDonald receiving our Club Player of the Year – Friday, 1 May 2015 @ Castle Hill RSL.



Photo – **Tim Scoular** (A2) – in the Grand Final against Berowra (144 & 105) Vs. A2 (275) @ Berowra Oval 28th & 29th March 2015.

Highest & Lowest



Seniors:

1. 225 by Ken Smith B Grade 1956/57
2. 223 by Russel Ingram C2 Grade Vs Mt Colah @ Holland Reserve 5/12/2009
3. 215 by John Chadwick C1 1952/53
4. 215 (retired) by Sol Tomlinson (A1) playing for Leverstock Green (UK) 24/7/2016*
5. 211 by Russel Ingram C2 Vs Normanhurst-Warrawee @ Mimosa Oval 1/11/2009
6. 209* by Lachlan Edwards (C3 Blue) Vs Kissing Point @ Campbell Park 19/11 & 26/11/2022
7. 205 by Rob Gailey C1 Grade 1991/92
8. 200* by Brent Larkham (B2 Red) Vs Lankan Islanders @ Annangrove Oval 4/11/2017



Photo – Sol Tomlinson (A1 & left playing for Leverstock Green CC) with Daniel Anderson (DA) in England. The two 2 Rofarians (A1 Grade Rofe Shield winners) were playing in England during our off-season – 17,000 kilometres away from their heroic 2012 Premiership win. The weekend before the 2 boys scored a combined total of 413 runs (Sol 215* and DA 119* & 79*) without being dismissed – this would be equivalent to the 8th highest Team score by a WPH Team in an innings. Sol also scored what would have been our =3rd highest score had he played for us but we will record this with an asterisk. He also scored the runs in 31 overs! – Hertfordshire, 28 July 2016.

*Note: scored as an overseas player playing for Leverstock Green CC in the Hertfordshire League.

Juniors:

- 182 by Steven Cass Vs Turramurra 1992/93, U12.
- 170 by Michael Friedrich U16 Red 1999/2000.
- 162* by Steven Cass U16 WPHCCC Red Vs WPHCCC Blue 1996/97
- 162* by Nick McFarlane U15 Blue Vs Normanhurst 2005/06
- 162 by Aditya Ramakrishnan U16 Green Vs Hornsby @ Montview Oval East 15/9/2012
- 153* retired by Daniel Anderson Vs Hornsby @ Montview 2010/11.

Juniors playing Senior's:

- 141 by Lachlan Vile (15 years, 1 month and 1 day old) D1 Grade Vs Normanhurst-Warrawee @ Northholm 12/9/2009 – highest century scorer in Seniors
- 134* by Daniel Anderson (14 years, 6 months and 27 days) C1 Grade Vs Kenthurst @ Campbell Park 5/12/2009 – youngest century scorer in Seniors
- 113 by Ryan Gunn (14 years, 9 months and 21 days) D2 Grade Vs Kissing Point @ John Purchase 1/11/2014
- 96* by Matt Barr (13 years old) – B1 Grade Vs Normanhurst (C1 Grade) @ Thornleigh Oval 1990/91
- 81* by Daniel Anderson (13 years 7 months and 13 days) – D2 Grade Vs Kenthurst @ Holland Road 20/12/2008.

- In 1990/91 *Matt Barr*, then playing U14's, made his Seniors debut (C1) playing in John Coulthard's team. He scored 96* (Thornleigh Oval) which is the highest score by a Junior on debut. Matt finished the match with 133 runs. Matt ended up playing A1 between 1994/95 to 1999/2000 and scored 4,406 runs @ 39.69!

Team

- 4/516 by B2 Vs Normanhurst-Warrawee @ George Christie Oval 11/10/2014
- 494 by B1 Vs Cowan @ Brooklyn in 1965/66
- 6/462 by C4 Vs Castle Hill RSL @ Campbell Park 25th October 2014
- 436 by A1 Vs St Ives 1951/52
- 431 by A1 Vs Berowra 1997/98
- 430 by B2 Vs Castle Hill RSL @ Greenway Park 7/11/2009.

In the 430 runs scored by B2, the highest score was 76* by Duncan Moore and what makes this amazing is that no one scored a century.

Our highest Team score – some facts

After just getting across the line in the previous match, recovering from 5/38, the 4/516 scored by B2 (11/10/2014 Vs Normanhurst-Warrawee @ George Christie Oval) was on a different planet.



Photo – the Team is: standing (left to right) – Pratamesh Datar, Ankit Grover, Daniel Quattorocchi, Justin Paterson (Captain and scored 87* runs), Kieran Barrett (26), Christian Neal, Matt Joliffe, Anurag Pattekar (50*), Nick Johnson (86) Sitting (left to right) – Anuj Dhorajiwala (115) and Kyle Faber (127)

Some facts about the performance:

- The 2nd wicket partnership of 187 came close but didn't break the existing B2 Club record partnership of 207* set by Anuj Dhorajiwala (114*) & Nathan Tripolone (74*) Vs Normanhurst Warrawee @ Headen Park 26/1/2013.
- A Club record 326 runs in boundaries were scored with 74 boundaries (296 runs) and 5 x sixers (30 runs).

Note: In C4 Grade, the following weekend (25th October 2014) our C4 side scored 6/462 @ Campbell Park and this included 318 runs in boundaries.

- The highest individual score was scored by Kyle Faber (127). This was followed by Anuj Dhorajiwala (115), Justin Paterson 86*, Nick Johnson (80*) and Anurag Pattekar (50*).
- Of the 6 players who batted, the lowest score was 26 by Kieran Barrett and this was scored in just 27 balls.

Lowest Team scores

Juniors – all out for 2

On 15 December 2012, our U14 White Team played Redfield College at Redfield College in a 32 over a side 1-dayer. After Redfield scored 3/137 in their 32 overs we were all out for just 2 runs in 5 overs. In the 2nd innings we finished at 2/61 in a more disciplined batting performance. [Kyle Faber](#) who was in the batting side, remembers the Redfield side as having a team full of Rep players and it all clicked on the day. The only scoring shot was a leg glance for 2 by Sanju Thenuwara who finished on 2*.

The Team was, in batting order: Jack Greenwood, Adam Rylewski, Kyle Faber, Nakulan Ramamurthi, Jeremy Duncum, Hayden Llewellyn, Sanju Thenuwara, Jonathan Walder, Kewal Shah, Callum Dickinson, Ryan McFarlane, Omar Shamshi, Namadev Sekar, Aniruddh Nair.



Photo – Kyle Faber, winner of the John Coulthard Trophy as the outstanding Junior Player of the Year. In Juniors (U16) and Seniors (B2) combined Kyle scored 727 runs @ 30 and finished 3rd overall in our Club Champion player points. Kyle is pictured with John Coulthard (left) and Steve Burrows – 21 March 2015 @ Oakhill Drive Public School.

Seniors – all out for 4

The 1967/68, B Grade Final Vs Perseverance at Campbell Park saw WPH dismissed for 4 runs in 47 deliveries – “a well-executed cover drive” by Wally Howard. Wally ascribes the collapse to “a gale force wind, brilliant opening swing bowling plus increasing panic”.

The team was: R Pierce, Peter Mercer, D Simmonds, T Middlebank, B Christensen, Wally Howard, Keith Robinson, Don Kirkby, Chris Christensen, D Fisher and Don Donaldson.

For the record, we dismissed Perseverance for 227 and we managed 127 in the 2nd innings with Peter Mercer top scoring with 54.

Kissing Point (D2) all out for 6.

Batting first at Kenthurst Park (16 January 2021) we got a respectable 143 in our 35 overs in the 1-day game in January with no sign of the mayhem to follow.

It took just 9.5 overs and Kissing Point were rolled for 6 runs with 7 players bowled. Some highlights:

- Praneel Singh took 3/2 (5 overs)
- Parin Pillamarri took 6/4 (4.5 overs with 1 run-out)
- Of the 6 runs there were 3 Sundries with 2 of these from Parin’s first ball.

This is the lowest score by an Opposition side in all Grades, beating the previous record of 12 runs scored by our C1 side in 1967/68 against Arcadia.

Photo: Scorecard from the D2 game Vs Kissing Point @ Kenthurst Park, 16 January 2021

Both ends of the scale

Kyle Faber is now part of a record that may never be broken. Kyle top scored with 127 (his 2nd ton) in the record 4/516 score in B2 (11/10/2014) Vs Normanhurst-Warrawee @ George Christie Oval. What isn’t generally

known is that Kyle was also part of the U14 White Team that was bowled out for a Team total of 2 in 5 overs Vs Redfield at Redfield College (15/12/2012). So, Kyle holds the Club record of playing in our both highest and lowest ever team scores.

Fast & Slow Scoring



Team

- In 1980/81 B1 Grade declared at 6/314 against Thornleigh in 29 overs (Campbell Park).
- 1994/95 B Grade also declared at 5/285 after 25 overs (Vs Kenthurst at Headen Park). However, this was a one-day game!
- A1 Grade (Vs Berowra @ Berowra Oval, the eventual minor premier, in 1997/98) scored 9/431 in a day.
- A1 Grade (Vs Turrumurra 1997/98, eventual Premiers) scored 338 in a 40 over one day match. Unfortunately, the game was washed out.
- WPHC U15 White (10/9/2011 Vs Hornsby @ Dural Park scored 4/248 in 32 overs. Unfortunately, our records for fast scoring in Juniors in 1-dayers is incomplete so this will be the start of this record.

Individual

- *Ashley Sutton* and *Michael Wells* had a 6th wicket partnership (B1 Grade 1983/84) of 110 in 5.3 overs.
- *Andrew Bray* and *Andrew Fiedler* (A2 1989/90) had an opening partnership of 188 in approx. 110 minutes (Howson Oval Vs Normanhurst). Andrew Bray scored 163 and Andrew Fiedler a dogged 20.
- Batting on a typically treacherous Glade Oval, *Tony Ford* scored 155* (A Grade Vs Beecroft, 1992/93) in approximately 150 minutes to set up a win against the odds. This innings is rated by Barry McDonald (A Grade umpire for over 20 years) as the finest ton he has seen in this Association.
- *Steven Cass* (U16 1996/97) scored 160* in 40 overs. The opposition was another West Pennant Hills team who won the game.
- *Martin Boon* (D1 Vs Castle Hill RSL @ Campbell Park 21/12/02) scored 50 in 18 balls. In fact, he was only out there for 4 overs!
- *Martin Boon* again (D1 Vs St. Ives 8th March 2003) scored 132*. He came in when his partner was 78 and beat him to his century. He scored his 132 off 17.4 overs and with 40 scoring shots!
- *Daniel Anderson* (38) and *Siddarth Sethi* (31) – playing U9s, 14th February 2004 @ WPH Public School, set a record of 71 runs in 4 overs with each player limited to facing only 12 balls each and no balls / wides are not re-bowled. The game was at West Pennant Hills Public School and had parents standing next to grandparents and younger children to avoid them being hit.
- *Ronan Barrett* (A2 2006/07) hit 6 fours in succession. The match was played at Greenway. This is the equal 2nd highest number of runs scored in an over equalling the effort of Amir Marzouk (A2) @ Headen Park 2001/02 and man mountain, Martin Boon, also in A2, in 2006 (Greenway). It was also the first time anyone has scored a boundary off every ball in an over.

- *Matt Scoular (Colts)* – on Sunday 27th January 2008 @ Storey Park Matt scored 34 runs – hitting 8 fours in succession off a bowler who bowled an 8 ball over (2 no balls). How about this for a record:
 - It is the highest number of runs ever scored in a single over by a West Penno player
 - The previous record was 30 by Ian Paterson and Roger Friend in D1 in 2004
 - Previous records (Ronan Barrett's side) were sprinkled with 6s but not this one.



Photo: [Matt Scoular](#) @ Storey Park January 2008

- Gareth Linaker playing in the U16, T20 match on Tuesday 20th September 2009 hit 32 runs off 1 over at Campbell Park (full boundary). Sequence was 6-6-6-6-4-4. This the first recorded time that a Junior had scored 32 runs off a 6-ball over.
- Sol Tomlinson (A1, 24 July 2016) playing for Leverstock Green CC in England scored 215 retired in just 31 overs with the last ton coming in just 36 balls!

MasterBlasters – six hitting

1. The following list shows our best MasterBlasters: *Ray Khamis* (D1 Grade Red and U16s) hit **11** x 6's in his innings of 98 Vs Normanhurst @ Fred Catterson 4 (9/1/2011). For more on Ray – see below).
2. *Raynaldo Howard (C4 Red (2023/24) C4)* hit **10** x 6's in his 131* Vs Castle Hill @ Catterson 4 (20/1/2024). Raynaldo, just 18 years of age also scored 131* of a Team Total of 7/170 (35 overs). After being 27* after the first 18 overs he scored 104 runs in the next 17 overs with 10 x 6s & 11 x 4;'s. This is also the 2nd highest share of runs scored in an innings – 71.7% of the total score



Photo: Raynaldo after scoring 131 – Catterson 4 13/1/2024

3. *Alex Sutcliffe* (D1) hit **10** in his innings of 132 against Berowra on 21st March 1998 in the semi-final at Mimosa. He also hit 10 fours – 100 in boundaries – another record.
4. *Russel Ingram (C2)* hit **10** x 6's & 25 x4's in his innings of 211 Vs Berowra @ Mimosa Oval 24/10/2009
5. *Russel Ingram (C2)* hit **10** x 6's & 32 x 4's in his innings of 223 Vs Mt Colah @ Holland Rd 5/12/2009

More detail on Russel:

- *Russel Ingram:*
 - C3 (17/1/2009) Vs Kenthurst, Greenway Park scored 36* but.....in this he scored 5 sixes with 4 coming from one over in five balls with 3 lost balls. One massive six went over square leg (Caterston 4) that cleared the top of several of the tall gum trees that surround the ground. The scoring sequence was: dot, 6 (ball lost), 6 (ball lost), dot, 6 (ball lost), 6.
 - C2 (24/10/2009) Vs Normanhurst-Warrawee @ Mimosa Oval, scored 211 – our 3rd highest score. This included:
 - 25 x 4 and 10 x 6's – 160 runs in boundaries
 - The 10 x 6's equalled the 10 sixers hit by Alex Sutcliff in his innings of 132 against Berowra on 21st March 1998 in the semi-final also at Mimosa.
 - C2 (5/12/2009) Vs Mt Colah did it again with 223 at Holland Road Oval. This innings included:
 - 32 x 4 and 9 x 6's – 182 runs in boundaries – a Club record
 - It was our 2nd highest ever score

The 2 double centuries scored by Russel is only the 3rd time in the Association's history that a player has scored 2 double centuries in the one season. The other players are: Louis Thiele (Kenthurst) and Gordon Naylor (St Ives).



Photo – Chris Williamson (left, 76 runs) and [Russel Ingram](#) (223 runs) after their record 333 1st wicket partnership Vs Mt Colah @ Holland Road on 5/12/2009. This is a record Club partnership (all Grades), record Association 1st wicket for C2 grade and the 5th highest Association partnership. It was also Russel's 2nd double century (211 & 223) of which only 8 have been scored in our history. In his 2 scores over 200 in 2009/10 he scored 334 runs in boundary 4s and 6s.

6. [Carl Madsen](#) (U14 Red 12/11/2005 Vs Castle Hill White @ Edward Bennett Oval) set a Club record for the fast scoring and the highest number of 6's hit in a Junior's innings. His 100 included 9 x 6's and 9 x 4's. After 2 overs he was 32* after having come in at a team score of 3 down for not many in 25 overs chasing 118.



Photo – Outstanding Prospect Award 2010/11 – [Carl Madsen](#) with Barry McDonald.

Other fast score achievements

- Ray Khamis

On Saturday 9 January 2016 (C4 Grade Vs Kissing Point @ George Christie), Ray (pictured) was at it again this time hitting **5** x 6's in succession to establish a new Club record for the greatest number of consecutive 6's in an over:

- After being dropped twice after 3 overs Ray, who opens the batting, commented to his batting partner (Ian Paterson) that he couldn't find the middle of the bat – what followed was carnage.
- From a bowler who had 0/9 (3 overs) he took 31 runs off the next over – the sequence was 6 (lost ball), 6, 6, 6, 6, bye.



Iain Ryan (C2) hammered 50 that included **6** sixers in his innings (Vs Castle Hill, Fred Caterson 4 2004)



Photo – *Iain Ryan* (left) with Mat Nolan on his 2,000 runs at the Seniors Presentation Night May 2006.

Chris Thomas (A1 Captain) hit **5** sixers in his innings of 83 Vs ARL Storey Pk 13/11/2004.



Photo – A1 Grade Final 2002/03: Skipper *Chris Thomas* leaves the field after hitting the winning runs @ Killara Oval with storm clouds and bad light fast approaching.

- In the same innings, *Brendan Ham* hit 4 x 6s in his 53*.
- *Ronan Barrett* (A2) – on 12/1/2008 (A2 Vs Galston-Glenorie @ Mt Ku-ring-gai), hit 4 x 6s in the 16th over to win the game.
- *Tim Millington* (B1 Vs Kenthurst 27/2/2010 @ Thornleigh Oval) scored 180 runs. This innings included 29 x 4 and 1 x 6 – 122 runs in boundaries
- *Brent Larkham* scored 200* (Vs Lankan Islanders @ Annangrove Park – 4/11/2017) in an Association B2 Grade 6th wicket record partnership of 248* with Eric Junkkari (75*). Brent scored 29 x 4s and 5 x 6s = 146 runs in boundaries
- *Luke Tabone* (C4 Blue) scored 200* Vs Berowra at Montview Oval West (8/11/2025) and this included 30 x 4's & 5 x 6's for 150 runs in boundaries.

On the receiving end

Chris Bedwell (D1 Grade) – in 2001/002 30 runs scored off his one over with 5 sixers. The match was against Glenorie at Les Shore Number 2 Oval. Jon Burns (his Captain) showed why he is such a good Captain and only bowled him for one over.

Team carnage

- *D1 Blue* (2021/22) had a field-day at Caterson 4 and the short square boundaries (Round 15). The boys had 2 players who smashed a combined 11 x 6's. First up was Happy Rana, the player who earlier this season scored our 500th ton, belted 4 x 6s in his innings of 36. Enter Jags Balakrishnan who went even better taking 4 x 6's in one over and finishing with 7 x 6s in his innings of 46! Not done with yet Bram Ramamurthy belted 45 with 3 x 6's. All up the boys finished with 17 x 6's in the innings total of 8/196 – 49% of the total runs scored.



Photo: The D1 Blue boys who smashed a combined 17 x 6s in an innings - left to right: Brahadesh (Ram) Ramamurthy 4 x 6's in his innings of 45; Happy Rana 4 x 6s (36); Vikas Goel 1 x 6 (23); Chetan Chandrasekhar 1 x 6 (12) & Jags Balakrishnan 7 x 6s (46) including 4 in one over - Vs Kenthurst @ Fred Caterson 4 - 19 February 2022

Successive centuries

Round 6 (Montview Oval East on the 13th & 20th November 2010) of the Juniors Competition saw Daniel Anderson U16 Blue set a Junior Club record for successive centuries – scores of 104 retired not out, 122 rtno and 153 rtno.

This achievement is shared with the great Laurie Tuckerman who played A1 in 1951/52. Laurie's successive scores were 161 (Semi Final), 139* (Final) and 103 (Grand Final).

Century in every format

Further to Raynaldo's century (above), as at the end of the 2025/26 season, he:

- has now scored 5 x tons (127*, 102* & 131*, 142, 100*) joining one of only 14 players in our history who have scored 5 tons or better
- the only player in this list who has yet to be dismissed once he reaches 100
- is the first player to reach a century in all 3 formats of the game – 2-Day, 1-Day and T20 games.

Slow scoring

Team

On 31/1/2010 Peter Heidegger's C2 Team had the misfortune to play at a very slow Glenhaven (along with Caterson 2 it is usually the slowest ground in the Comp). Anyway, our boys batted and scored 130 in 61 overs.

Individual

[Daniel Fiedler](#) (C2) showed more patience than a chess Grand Master in the C2 game Vs Normanhurst-Warrawee @ Howson Oval 2012. Opening the batting for our C2 Red side, Daniel needed to provide the backbone at the top of the order and he sure did. After taking 17 overs to get off the mark, Fieds then batted another 4 overs before he was finally dismissed – 1 run in 21 overs. Keeping in mind, that Daniel is usually a fast scorer his response was that “they bowled straight”. The positive is that he put on an important 42 run partnership to give us a solid platform.



Photo – [Daniel Fiedler](#) (101*) after scoring his 2nd successive ton Vs Normanhurst-Warrawee @ Dural Park 29 November 2014

Spectacular Debuts



Spectacular debuts

- *Warwick Barnes* (C1 1984/85) came in as a fill-in for Dave Carey's C1 side. Warwick turned out to be, arguably, the fastest bowler to play for us in our history. After his first over in C1 and the sheer fear that it generated David had to manage his bowling to avoid harm. "Barnesy" ended up taking 7 wickets @ 5.7 until going straight to A1 where in 2 seasons he took 94 wickets @ 13.8 including 58 wickets @ 12.1 in 1985/86 second only in A1 Grade to the great Laurie Tuckerman in 1951/52 who took 59 wickets.



Photo – our A1 side from 1985/86 (Vs Wahroonga @ Storey Park, March 1986 – Round 17) and the only photo record of [Warwick Barnes](#). The players are:

Back row – Peter Handel, Alan Swan (106 runs), Ross Anderson, Mark Dell

Sitting – John Giddings, Greg Fiedler, Craig Russell, Greg Stoneham, Brent Dorman

Lying down – [Warwick Barnes](#).

Photo – Andy Maxwell.

In this photo, Alan Swan scored a ton in the game against Wahroonga. The Opposition opener was Andrew Fiedler who played his last game before coming to us and went on to become the 3rd highest run scorer in our history.

- *Mark Twohig* (D1 1999/2000), fresh from the U16's took a wicket with his first ball in senior cricket.
- *Ben Akmens* (D1 2002/03) made his senior debut from the U16's and scored a century on debut – 100* in a 1-Dayer
- *James Fiedler*, D1 (2003-04) was an U14 player who took a wicket with his first ball in senior cricket Vs Thornleigh at Gilroy West. His father Greg scored a first ball duck playing A1, 22 years earlier
- *Ansel Castelino* (B2 8/1/2011) – bowled 4 overs and in these 24 deliveries he took 5/5 that included a hat-trick in his 2nd over. It didn't end here. Four balls later he was on another hat-trick, and on the critical ball the batsman edged to where 2nd slip would normally have been.
- *Sol Tomlinson* (A2 10/9/2011 Vs Castle Hill @ Greenway) was making his Club debut in A2. Coming on the bowl his off-spin he took 4/3 in 3.3 overs to destroy Castle Hill
- *Calvin Breytenbach* (U15 White 10/9/2011 Vs Hornsby @ Dural Park) – had a dream Club debut scoring 107* and then taking 3/6 off 4 overs in the season opening 1-dayer.
- *Aiman Hasan* (U10 Purple) was playing his first ever cricket game on Sat 24 Oct 2020. Not only did Aiman make his debut as Captain but he also won his first ever toss. After 6 overs, Aiman came on to bowl and got

a wicket, clean bowled, middle stump with the first ever ball he bowled in any game of cricket. A video of this special moment was taken and sent in to the 'Humm Big Moment' contest. Humm is an on-line Buy Now Pay Later business. Not only did Aiman win this contest but he won \$1,000 for our Club for being the best 'Big Moment' in the competition.

Best debut performances by a Junior in Seniors

There have also some outstanding individual achievements:

- In 1990/91 *Matt Barr*, then playing U14's made his debut in Seniors (C1) playing in John Coulthard's team. He scored 96* (Thornleigh Oval) which is the highest score by a Junior on debut. Matt finished the match with 133 runs from 2 innings. Matt ended up playing A1 between 1994/95 to 1999/2000 and scored 4,406 runs @ 39.69!
- On 5/1/2008, *Michael Richards* (U15 Blue 2007/08) took 4/6 (bowling off spin) on his Seniors bowling debut (Vs Galston-Glenorie @ Campbell Park) playing C1 from 6.5 overs. Michael had previously taken 7/2 against Mt Colah (U15 Blue) – the best Club bowling performance for anyone who has taken 7 wickets in an innings in either Juniors or Seniors.



Photo – Michael Richards with the 'Charles Booth Memorial Trophy' for outstanding contribution (on-field and off-field) by an U13 player with Dominic Thornely and A1 Captain Simon Smyth at Campbell Park 9th April 2006.

- On 26/1/2008, *Daniel Anderson* (U13 Blue 2007/08 – 12 years and 9 months) has the best all-round debut by a Junior playing Seniors. Daniel, playing C1 (Vs Pymble @ Bannockburn) top scored for the match with 22 (coming in at 7/42). Playing D2 (Vs Kenthurst @ Thornleigh) the next week, he took 4/22 – also the best bowling performance of the match.
- 27/9/2008 U16 leggy Shashankh Thirimeni (4/40 off 12) playing B1 got a wicket with his first ball Seniors – a catch to Michael McDowell at covers.

Worst debuts

- **Greg Fiedler**, the boom youngster in 1981/82, played his first A1 Grade game at Berowra Oval. Peter Kelly (Glenorie) bowled Greg first ball of the match with the middle stump cart-wheeling. Greg then dropped a sitter (The Glade) and followed this up with two more dropped catches in the next game. His Captain (Stuart Dickson) asked quietly, "Has this bloke played before?" Greg went on to become one of our all-time great players.



Photo – **Greg Fiedler** at Storey Park, March 1986 in the Round 17 game against Wahroonga. Mark Dell is in the background

- Greg Graham (U10s 1984/85 to A Grade) was run out for 0 without facing a ball in his first match in senior cricket (Mills Park Vs Beecroft)
- Peter Whitehead A1 Grade 2001/02 to 2009/10 also scored a first ball duck in his debut match but then scored 102 in the 2nd innings
- Gary Mason (A1 Vs ARL 10/1/2004 at Storey Park) took the first over and bowled 3 wides in his first 3 balls.
- Matt Spalding's first over in A1 Grade (the second of the match 25/9/2004) – went for about 10 mins, and looked like this: False run up; No-Ball; No-Ball – left alone outside off; No-Ball – left alone; No-ball..... 7 no balls later, you get the picture! Matt developed into one of the fearsome A1 bowlers over the year and set all sorts of records in Rep cricket.
- A good story from [Andrew Fiedler](#):



Photo – [Andrew Fiedler](#) (left) with Barry McDonald (Club Chairperson). Andrew receiving the President's Award at our Seniors Presentation Night, Castle Hill RSL on 3rd May 2013.

Englishman, Peter Warren, was invited to fill-in for B1 Blues team (Vs West Penno Red's 22/1/2005 at Greenway). Peter hadn't played a match in 10 years and certainly hadn't played a game before in Australia, so didn't know what to expect:

“When it was his turn to bat (at number 11), he found himself at the non-strikers end with Bryce Morley on-strike and one-ball to go in the over. Bryce decided he wanted the strike and promptly hit the ball to a close-in cover fieldsman. Bryce called 'yes' much to Peter's dismay, and the fieldsman made no mistake in running out Peter – the batsmen only just crossed. Diamond Duck.

When it was his turn to field, a few overs passed without incident, until a ball was hit wide to his right. Despite his best efforts to restrict the shot to a regulation single, he fell over the ball and it went for four. In the process he pulled up short claiming he'd done his hammy. In the best of the English stiff upper-lip tradition, Peter vowed to continue fielding in slip.

As the next few overs went by and a couple of balls flew past his unmoving body, he pronounced to us that he hadn't done one hammy, but in fact he'd done both of them! As much as we admired his efforts, it was very hard for us to suppress our laughter.

Come the drinks break, Peter decided that he couldn't continue. When the match finished some 12 overs later and the players had left the field, Peter wasn't to be found. One can only presume he was on the next flight back to England with stories of how another Pom had come unstuck at the hands of some uncaring Aussies!”

Dominant Achievers



What a day!

Peter Whitehead (A1 2002/03 @ Storey Park) scored 100* and then took 7/52 against Mt Colah (one of the top teams) on the same day. This made him the first player in the Association to achieve this feat. Peter had the opportunity of previously batting against Brett Lee in a 1st Grade game and scoring 58 runs.

Not being satisfied with this effort he then became only the 4th player (in the A1 Grade competition) to score a century and take 5 wickets in an innings TWICE in the same season. The previous achievements were by Charlie Kennings (of the P A James Club in 1926/27), Gordon Dorrough (Thornleigh 1957/58) and Graham Maher (Pymble 1970/71)!

Alistair Rayment (C2 Blue Vs Castle Hill Glenhaven 1/11/2003) took 8/17 including a hat-trick and 5 wickets in 7 balls!

What a game!

[Alex Rashleigh](#) had a blinder in the U16 Red game against Upper Hills (Dural Park, 13th & 20th September 2008). In partnership with Anjan Oberai (149), Alex (109) put on 241 for the 4th wicket Vs Upper Hills @ Dural Park – an Association and Club record for the 4th wicket. Coming on to bowl, Alex then took 7/29 to demolish Upper Hills. This is the best ever Club performance in a game by a WPHC Junior.



Photo – [Alex Rashleigh](#) (109* and 7/29) with Anjan Oberai (149) – U16 Red. Alex's 7/29 when combined with his ton is also the best ever Club performance in a game by a WPHC Junior!

Magic moments

The B2 Final 2000/01 will be remembered as Tony Mandile's. Tony was brought into the side as a bowling all-rounder to replace an injured player (Ross Anderson) against the Minor Premiers at Berowra Oval. Coming in as night watchman he scored a whirlwind 101* (2 hours) that took the side to victory. On scoring the ton, he not only acknowledged the cheers but also threw his bat about 10 metres in to the air – narrowly missing himself and the close in fieldsmen. Mark Taylor (our Captain) promptly declared the innings closed and finished the game.

One-man bands

In 1989/90 we started tracking records of those folk who have dominated team totals:

Batting

1. Wally Howard (B1) Vs Perseverance @ Campbell Park – Grand Final in 1967/68. We were all out for 4 and Wally Howard scored the only scoring shot – a boundary. This is **100%** of the total score
2. [Raynaldo Howard](#) (C4 Red on 13/1/2024 @ Fred Caterson 4) scored 131* of the Team total of 7/170 after 35 overs – **77.1%** of the total score



Photo: Raynaldo Howard (C4) after scoring 131* out of his Team's total of 6/170 (77.1% of the total score) Vs Castle Hill @ Catterson 4 – 13/1/2024.

3. *Glenn O'Connor* (C3 Blue Vs WPHC Red 31/10/2010 @ Campbell Park). In a team total of 191 Glenn belted 145. This included 25 fours, 1 six and another personal best – a 3 all run. An even better achievement is that this is **75.9%** of the team total



Photo – *Glenn O'Connor* (left) and Ben Frawley about to open the batting - Bradman Oval 25 January 2009.

4. *Daniel Anderson* (13 years, 7 months and 12 days) at Holland Road Oval on 20th December 2008, playing for D2 Vs Kenthurst scored 81* out of an innings team total of 112 (**72.3%** of the total score). This after a morning effort of 68* in a U14 team total of 105 – 64.7% of the total
5. *Steve Rochow* (A2 Vs St Ives @ Turramurra Oval) scored 38* of our winning Team total of 0/55 – **69%** of the Team total runs
6. *Sean Clarence* (A1, on 16/12/2023 @ Parklands Oval scored 128* of the Team Total of 7/191 (**67%** of the Total score)
7. *Jason Goddard* (C1 Vs Galston-Glenorie @ Cheltenham Oval 14/2/2015) – scored 78 out of a Team total of 119 – **65.5%** of the total
8. *Greg Fiedler* (C1 Vs St Ives at Thornleigh – 23/10/2004) Greg, one of our greats, scored 95 out of a team total of 146 – **65%** of the team's total
9. *Brent Larkham* (B2 Vs Lankan Islanders @ Annangrove Park – 4/11/2017) scored 200* of a Team total of 5/313 – **63.9%** of the declared Team total
10. Raynaldo Howard (C1 & D1 Red) Vs Castle Hill @ Greenup Park – 29/11/2025) scored 100* of a winning Team total of 1/157 – **63.7%** of the total runs scored
11. *Michael Robertson* (A2 Vs Kenthurst Upper Hills 5/11/2016 @ Kenthurst Park) scored 150* out of a Team total of 238 – **63.0%** of the Team total.

12. *Sol Tomlinson* (A1 Vs St Ives Wahroonga 22/9/2012 at The Glade) scored 112 of the team total of 182 – **61.5%** of the team total on a wicket known over a generation to be bowler friendly.



Photo: [Sol Tomlinson](#) bowling @ Parklands Oval March 2012.



Photo: [Sol Tomlinson](#) with Barry McDonald, our Chairperson, receiving our Player of the Year Award – Castle Hill RSL, 3rd May 2013. It is only the 2nd time since the Award was started in 1983/84 that this prestigious Award has been won back to back. Sol also topped the Association A1 Grade batting and bowling. In A1 he scored 448 runs @ 34.46 and took 36 wickets @ 8.61. At Association level, the last time this was done was way back in 1969/70 when Allan Taylor scored 937 runs and took 68 wickets! The only other times were in 1938/39 (Carl Brennan) and in 1939/40 (Alf Ziehlke). So, this is the 4th time in our Association history and the first time in 43 years – wow!

13. *Rolf Rasmussen*, Round 1, D2 (10/9/2005) hammered 172 retired, out of 391 (44% of the total) Apart from Rolf's score, Steve Baker 76 and Faisal Shamis 61 also contributed. Other achievements are:
- 5 players scored ducks
 - 7 players scored less than 5 runs
 - Sundries 4th top scored with 52.

Andrew Bray (A2 1989/90) had an opening partnership of 188 in approx. 110 minutes (Howson Oval Vs Normanhurst). Andrew scored 163 and Andrew Fiedler a dogged 20. Andrew's contribution was 86.7% of the innings declared total.

Bowling

Kristoff O'Meara (U16 Blue) had a memorable game Vs Castle Hill – Dural Park, 26th October 2013. The boys bowled out Castle Hill for a record low U16 score of only 15 in 8 overs. Kristoff also had a dominant role in taking 5/15 from his 4 overs.

The personal record though is that all 15 runs were scored off his 4 overs.

So, Kristoff has one of those unlikely Club records of having 100% of the runs scored by a team off his

bowling. This is a record that may never be broken.



Photo –the richly talented O'Meara boys playing together in C2 at Foxglove Oval - 4th January 2014. In this shot we have Myles (umpire), [Kristoff](#) (U16 Blue and C2), Ben and Nikki O'Meara.

4.7 Youngest Achievers



Youngest A1 Grade debuts (selected rather than 'fill-in' players):

- *Gavin Taylor* – A1 was 15 years, 3 months and 30 days (born 26th May 1992) when he took the field (Round 1 for A1) Vs Hornsby @ Parklands on the 22nd September 2007. Gav scored 9* in the top Grade. Gavin is arguably one of our best Juniors. He is our youngest ever A grader by 19 days over Daniel Anderson
- *Daniel Anderson (DA)* – selected when he was 15 years and 4 months and 18 days (born 7th May 1995) Vs ARL @ Parklands Oval on 26th September 2010
- *Daniel Ward* – in 1996/97, Daniel was 15 years old and 6 months when he was selected for Round 1. He scored 26* and took 1 dismissal as a wicket-keeper (Vs Beecroft, Parklands Oval).

Youngest A1 Grade debuts – as a replacement (fill-in) player:

- *Robert Eddy* at 14 (C Grade 1997/98) became the youngest player while still playing Juniors to score more than 450 runs in a season. He scored 490 runs at 37.69. In 2002/03 he made his 1st Grade debut for Northern Districts.
- *Robert Watts* – A1 Grade debut in 2000/2001 (Vs Mt Colah at Parklands Oval). Robert was 14 and scored 1 run when he was called into the side mid-season. Rob went on the play 1st Grade for Northern District debuting in 2006
- *Chris Thorburn* (also 15) – 2003/04 was selected in the 2002/03 A1 Grade Premiership side as a replacement player. He scored 3. In Round 4 he top scored with 56*! Chris went on to play 1st Grade for Northern District DCC in 2012
- *Matt Venables* as a 16-year-old scored 546 A2 runs at 60.66 in 1991/92.
- *Michael Friedrich* is one of the most outstanding Juniors the Club has produced. In 1999/2000 he achieved:
 - Association Junior Representative Player of the Year,
 - E G Weblin Shield – highest score (206) and record partnership (350) in the Representative Shield
 - 591 runs at 84.4
 - 170 runs for the U16 Red – the second highest Junior score in our history
 - Green Shield (Northern District) for 3 years starting as a 12-year-old.
- *John Anderson* – debuted at 16 years and 10 days against St Ives @ Turramurra Oval on 25th January 2014.



Photo – *John Anderson* receiving the John Coulthard Trophy (Junior Player of the Year) from Patrick Chensee. John played U16s (Gold side) in 2013/14. He scored 368 runs @ 73.6 (including 2 centuries) and took 14 wickets @ 15.21. He also represented the Association Watson Shield and Northern Districts Green Shield sides in the same year.

Daniel Anderson (2010/11) achieved:

- In 2010/11:
 - Second youngest A1 Grade player when he debuted in 2010/11 at 15 years, 4 months and 18 days of age
 - he scored a combined total of 1,033 runs for WPHC U16, A1 Grade and HK&HDCA Watson Shield Teams
 - HK&HDCA President's Trophy (highest run aggregate for Juniors 2010/11) – 686 runs in U16's
 - Baulkham Hills Shire President's Award (HK&HDCA Junior Player of the Year) in 2008/09 and 2010/11
 - John Coulthard Trophy (WPHC Junior Player of the Year) in 2010/11
- Tom Richmond Trophy (Leading Junior Representative player) in 2008/09
- HK&HDCA Representative Batsman of the Year prize in 2008/09
- Most capped Captain in the Association history of the Glenn Hourigan Cup (2006/07, 2007/08) and Ross Turner Cups (2008/09 & 2009/10)
- Green Shield (Northern District) for 3 years starting as a 12-year old (2008/09) & Captain 2010/11.

Luke Quinlivan (D2, 2002/03) as a 15-year old playing his first season in Seniors:

- 509 runs at 46.27
- scored 2 centuries with a top score of 149*
- took 30 wickets at an average of 9!
- In 2008/09, Luke made his 1st Grade debut with ND's.



Photo – *Luke Quinlivan* bowling in a D2 game at James Park 2002/03 as a 15-year-old. Luke went on the play A1 and then 1st Grade with Northern District CC.

Nick McFarlane playing D1 (Vs Kenthurst 18/12/2004 @ Glenhaven) scored 60* and in doing so he became the youngest player in our history to score a Seniors 50 – he was just 13 years old

Daniel Anderson Vs Kenthurst (D2 Grade on 20th December 2009 @ Holland Road) scored 81* of a team total of 112. He was 13 years and 7 months old. This is also the 2nd highest % of innings runs at 72.3% of the innings total.



Photo: Matt Jobson, Gav. Taylor, *Daniel Anderson* & Nick Bennett @ Parklands Oval 25/9/2011 playing A1 Grade.

Gavin Taylor (C1 2005/06) put on a 9th wicket partnership of 68 against a good Mt Colah side at Foxglove Oval. What makes this special is that, *Gavin* was only 13 and 4 months scored a classy 58* on top of his 33 the match before. This is the highest recorded score by a 13-year-old in C1 or higher.



Photo – Gavin Taylor, a class batsman at the peak of his game in the T20 First Grade Final Vs Normanhurst-Warrawee @ Parklands Oval 26th October 2014. WPHC won with 3/101 in 14 overs against Normo's 99 in 20. Gav scored 46* after backing up from his 108 the day before at the same ground. This was our 3rd T20 Premiership in 4 years of the Competition.

Matt Jobson:

- Captained our A2 side (2008/09) to win our 4th A2 Premiership (Vs St Ives @ Storey Park 21& 22 March 2009). Matt had just turned 20 (born 17/2/89) so was 20 and 1 month old on the day. This makes him our youngest ever ‘non-Colts’ Captain of any Premiership winning side. On Sunday 28th March 2010 Matt led A2 into their 2nd successive Premiership as still our youngest Captain at 21 years, 1 month and 11 days
- In 2007/08 as a 19-year old he led A2 to be Runners up so 3 Premiership in a leadership role in one of our top Grades before he is 21 years old
- On 21st January 2017 Jobbo took his 300th wicket (Vs ARL @ The Glade) and became the youngest player (aged 27 years, 11 months and 4 days) in our history to reach this milestone
- At the end of the 2016/17 season, Matt was one of our most successful Captains and Players (11 Grand Finals with 9 wins & 2 Runners-up), all at the age of just 27 years of age:
 - Captained:
 - * A2 Grade Premiers (2008/09; 2009/10) – 2
 - Premierships as a Player:

- * A1 Grade (2011/12; 2012/13; 2013/14; 2014/15) – 4
 - * 1st Grade T20 (2011/12; 2012/13; 2013/14) – 3
 - Runner-up:
 - * A1 Grade (2016/17) – 1
 - * A2 Grade (2007/08) – 1
- *Nick Bennett* holds the record for our youngest Premiership Captain in Senior cricket when he Captained Colts to a Premiership (2007/2008) at 18 years of age
 - *Gav Taylor (again)* – playing in the First Grade T20 opener, Gav notched up his 3,000th career run at the ripe old age of 23 years 3 months and 17 days (born 26 May 1992) Vs Berowra @ Mt Ku-ring-gai Oval on 12 September 2015 – our youngest player to reach this milestone
 - *Riley Miedler (A1)* – took his 250th wicket (Vs Normanhurst-Warrawee @ Parklands on 26 November 2016) to be the youngest player (aged 22 years, 9 months and 9 days) to reach this milestone.

Youngest Double century scorers:

- Lachlan Edwards (C3 Blue) scored 209* Vs Kissing Point @ Campbell Park (19th & 26th November 2022). Lachlan was 17 years, 9 months & 23 days of age to be our youngest double-century scorer
- Brent Larkham scored 200* (B2 Vs Lankan Islanders @ Annangrove Park 4/11/2017) at just 17 years and 10 months of age to be our 2nd youngest double century scorer.



Photo: Brent (200* and right) with Eric Junkkari (75*) after they put on an Association record 6th wicket partnership of 248* Vs Lankan Islanders @ Annangrove Park – 4/11/2017.



Photo: Brent Larkham and Lachlan Edwards at the WPH Sports club – 26 November 2022

Youngest Captain

Nick Bennett holds the record as our youngest Captain when he was leading the Colts Team in 2007/08.

Michael Gunn Captained B1 at just 20 years and 9 months of age (2018/19). We don't have detailed records of the ages of our Captains over the years but Gunny would be one of the youngest senior grade Captains in our history.

Youngest century scorers

1. 134* by Daniel Anderson (14 years, 6 months and 27 days) C1 Grade Vs Kenthurst @ Campbell Park 5/12/2009
2. 111* by Ryan Gunn (14 years, 9 months and 21 days) D2 Grade Vs Kissing Point @ John Purchase 1/11/2014
3. 141 by Lachlan Vile (15 years, 1 month and 1 day old) D1 Grade Vs Normanhurst-Warrawee @ Northholm 12/9/2009
4. 106* by Max Harkin (15 years, 3 months and 21 days) D2 Grade Vs Kenthurst Upper Hills @ Campbell Park 8/10/2016.

Youngest Hat-trick taker

[Ben Waldron](#) at 13 years 1 month and 22 days is our youngest hat-trick taker with his 3/15 in the 5th Grade T20 Semi-Final @ Greenway Park on 9 October 2016.



Photo – [Ben Waldron](#) with his dad Perry – Seniors Presentation Night, Dural Country Club – 5 May 2017.

Best debut

We have a proud history of being home to 2 of the greatest women players to have ever played the game, anywhere in the world – Denise Annetts and Lisa Sthalekar. Our U13 Girls gave us a glimpse of the future.

In the Team was 9-year-old Shiloh David. In her first ever game of cricket she took 4 wickets in 3 overs. She learnt to play by watching the WBBL and then watched Danielle Chivers training at Blacktown back in April and wanted to follow in her footsteps.

We don't have records on this one but it would have to rank as up there as the best ever 1st game performance by any player in our history!

Junior Representative stars

Boys

We have a long and impressive history of providing Junior Players who have starred in Junior Representative fixtures – DCA Shield, President's Cup, Green Shield and State Teams.

In 2011/12, our Association U14 Moore Shield had a Club record 5 players from our Club in the Shield side. They won the DCA Premiership and then went on to represent Sydney Vs Country at the SCG (February 2012).



Photo – the WPHC boys who played at the SCG and represented City (DCA Champions) Vs Illawarra (Country Champions). Our boys are from left: John Anderson (Captain, U15 Red & C1), Deane Piek (U15 White & C3 Red), Praneeth Weerasooriya (U15 White), Sid Dissanayake (U14 Red), Daniel Heidegger (U15 Red & C3 Red) – – February 2012.

A performance to remember

Louis Madison-Hanlon (U15 White) had a game to remember. Playing for the Association in the IDCA President’s Cup Representative U14 side in the Round 3 game against Newcastle at Dural Park on 11 December 2016, Louis took the amazing figures of 9/14 (9 overs) – the best Junior bowling performance, either in Reps or at Club level in our long History. Five wickets were clean bowled.



Photo – **Louis Madison-Hanlon** taken at home after his wonderful achievement.

Girls

The U15 Margaret Peden Shield side set a record that will be hard to beat. When the Rep side was announced (30 September 2016) West Penno had 9 of our girls in the squad of 12! Congratulations to: Lily Campbell, Amy Harkin, Jyothi Krithivasan, Isabella McEwan, Abigail Pereira, Khushi Arora, Danielle Chivers, Amy Hale and Lauren Kua.

The 2017/18 Peden Shield Team had 8 of the 14 players from WPHCCC.



The HK&HDCA Peden Shield (U15) Girls Rep Team with the 8 WPHCCC girls noted in italics:

Back row (L to R): *Ellen Hall, Amy Harkin, Danielle Chivers*, Ruby Groth, Alannah Hungerford, *Jess Meikle, Ragini Sen, Lily Hodge, Amy Hale*

Front row L to R: Amelie Stuut, Sindy Sureshkumar, *Lauren Kua*, Penny Love, *Esha Tiwana*
Laurence Hutchinson Oval - 29 October 2017

Pathway

More on the Girls. In February 2019, Northern District CC has entered a Team in the newly established U15 Brewer Shield which is the Representative stream for Girls in the Sydney Grade Competition. We had a record 10 Girls playing in the U15 Brewer or U18 Brewer plus two more on standby so 12 in all. How good is that!

4.8 Statistical Snapshot

1930/31 to 2025/26 at a glance

Seniors:

WPHCCC has fielded **528 teams** – excluding John Hayne Cup and T20 Teams. This is approximately:

- **8,976 player registrations.** Assuming an average number of 17 players for each team.
- **72,083 innings** have been played. In these matches:
 - * Bowling:
 - 295,736 overs have been bowled with 49,389 maidens
 - 60,654 wickets taken for **1,109,577** runs conceded at an average of 18.3 runs / wicket
 - * Batting:
 - **1,104,046** runs have been scored
 - 18.2 is the average runs scored / wicket
- **Balls bowled** are approximately **5,322,240** – assuming 420 balls bowled / day x 24 days play per season (assumes one wash out) x 528 teams. Note: 8 ball overs were bowled in the Association prior to approx. 1985.

Club Wisden summary as at the end of the 2025/26 Season:

Competition	Innings	Highest score (.1 means not out)	Batting aggregate	Batting average	Total fielding dismissals*	Overs*	Maidens*	Wickets	Runs conceded	Bowling average	Best bowling
A1	8,006	161	133,751	19.6	2,617	32,813	5,373	6,888	131,213	19.0	9/34
A2	6,456	172	99,883	18.3	2,913	28,752	4,870	5,215	101,971	19.6	9/36
Colts	975	184	12,172	14.7	302	4,165	680	798	13,101	16.4	7/7
B1	9,954	225	165,140	19.5	3,281	37,911	8,609	8,557	157,355	18.4	8/4
B2	6,978	200.1	112,939	19.2	2,578	33,484	5,625	6,001	113,931	19.0	8/25
C1	8,007	215	122,515	18.0	2,706	32,178	4,914	6,987	120,786	17.3	8/32
C2	10,062	223	145,413	16.9	3,199	36,995	6,138	8,379	144,090	17.2	9/28
C3	4,207	209.1	62,099	17.6	1,802	18,828	3,125	3,382	62,464	18.5	8/23
C4	1,319	200.1	21,046	19.5	587	6,102	937	1,120	20,345	18.2	7/21
D1	7,220	175.1	108,786	18.1	2,479	32,912	5,157	6,381	110,668	17.3	10/42
D2	5,289	172.1	70,715	15.7	1,732	22,212	3,521	4,294	80,218	18.7	8/17
T20: 1st Grade	405	93	6,401	21.1	205	1,069	30	371	6,061	16.3	5/11
T20: 2nd Grade	485	77	6,205	16.3	235	1,190	39	333	7,229	21.7	4/13
T20: 3rd Grade	542	94	7,551	18.6	250	1,350	59	366	8,118	22.2	5/18
T20: 4th Grade	605	102.1	7,794	17.1	263	1,460	62	447	8,674	19.4	5/8
T20: 5th Grade	516	101.1	6,674	17.9	188	1,249	37	327	7,870	24.1	5/11
Sunday	463	140.1	8,354	23.3	320	1,827	179	441	8,291	18.8	5/11
John Hayne Cup	584	70.1	6,450	16.1	189	1,219	34	359	7,030	19.6	4/15
Community Cup	10	88	158	26.3	0	21	0	8	162	20.3	2/19
Grand Total	72,083	225	1,104,046	18.2	25,846	295,736	49,389	60,654	1,109,577	18.3	10/42

* Some bowling and fielding history is not 100% complete

Junior Mixed:

- WPHCCC has fielded **1,253 teams**. This is approximately **15,662 player registrations**. Assuming an average number of 12.5 players for each team.
- **Team hours played** is approximately **75,180** – assuming 12 games a season with an average of 5 hours for a game (includes an estimate for washouts, offset by semi-finals and finals).
- **Total person hours** played is approximately **826,980** – assuming 75,180 match hours by 11 players.
- **Balls bowled** are approximately **6,014,400** – assuming 240 balls bowled / day x 20 days play / season x 1,253 teams (accounts for 8 ball overs).

Junior Girls:

- WPHCCC has registered **1,416** players in the Girls competition
- **Total person hours** played is approximately **62,304** – assuming 1,416 players x 4 hours (includes pre-T20) by 11 players.

Teams

Age Group	1930-76	1977-2025/26
Juniors	79 teams	1,174 teams
Seniors	74 teams	446 teams
Girls	Nil teams	NA
	151 teams	1,620 teams

5. People & Characters

5.1 The Survivors

500 Club

- Ray McDonald (A1 and A2) took 543 wickets between 1953/54 & 1979/80 – 26 years) at an amazing average of 15.53.
- David Carey (A2 to D2) took 623 wickets at 18.78 between 1979 and 2002
- Ross Anderson (A1 to D1 batted in 546 innings as at the end of the 2025/26 season.



Photo: Life Members: David Carey, Jim Fuggle, Barry McDonald, Ross Anderson and Jon Burns 1998 @ Hornsby RSL.

Years playing

- The Fuggle family is among the most famous in the District. Records show that one of the Fuggle family played for Dural CC in the 1880s. Jim played for 32 years between 1969/70 and 2001/02 (A1 to C Grades)
- Wally Child played for almost 20 years with WPH between 1951/52 (A1) and 1969/70 (B1)
- David Carey played Seniors for 23 years from 1979/80 (B & C Grades) and 2001/02 plus and 6 years in Juniors
- Ross Anderson has been playing continuously since 1975/76. As at the end of 2025/26 this was 51 years and 535 innings
- [Greg Fiedler](#) started playing Seniors in 1981/82 and retired in 2007/08. During this time Greg played almost all his cricket in A1. After playing for 16 successive years in A1, filling in for A2 in the first game of a season, he scored a duck in his first innings and was taken to hospital in the second with a cut head.



Photo – [Greg Fiedler](#) and a lesser known West Indian (Michael Holding) at the World Cup 2007.

- Other players who have given over 20 years valued service as a player / administrator are:
 - Andrew Fiedler – 37 years between 1986/87 & current season (2023/24)
 - James Makin – 35 years (1989/00 to current)
 - Eric Junkkari – 32 years (1991/92 to current)
 - Kishore Rampersad – 30 years (1992/93 to current)
 - [Jon Burns](#) – 23 years (1984/85 to 2007/08)
 - [Bill Peterkin](#) – 24 years (1992/93 to 2016/17)
 - [Greg Stoneham](#) – 23 years (1979/80 to 2009/10)

- [Simon Davies](#) – 22 years (1979/80 to 2015/16)
- [Peter S Lees](#) – 31 years (1994/95 to current)
- [Michael Banner](#) – 29 years (1997/98 to current)
- [Andrew Driscoll](#) – 20 years (1987/88 to 2018/19)
- [Simon Smyth](#) – 24 years (1987/88 to 2020/21).

[Greg Stoneham](#) played 16 seasons in A1 Grade – retiring in 1993/94 only to make a comeback in 2001/02 in B1. He played in A1 again the following season and took 39 wickets! He had a further comeback season in 2009/10 in C1 to play with his son.



Photo – [Greg Stoneham](#) (right) at Presentation Night with James Makin (left) and Matt Jobson (centre) – Castle Hill RSL Friday 1st May 2015. Greg took 401 wickets ranking him at number 6 in the all-time wickets-takers list!

[Jon Burns](#) (C to D2 Grade) played between 1980/81 (U11s) to 2007/08.



Photo – Club icon and Life Member [Burns](#) and Marcia on their wedding day – Saturday 5th August 2006 at St Paul's Burwood – the same Church at which Don Bradman was married at in 1932.

- [Bill Peterkin](#) (A1 to D2) started playing in 1992/93 and also played Juniors.



Photo – [Bill Peterkin](#) (Club Legend) with Matt Nolan – receiving his 10 years' service award – 12 May 2006, Seniors Presentation night (Castle Hill RSL).



Photo – Simon Davies with daughter Isabelle after the Grand Final win Vs ARL @ Cheltenham Oval in the Sunday Comp – 3 March 2013.



Photo – Peter Lees slalom driving a V8 against the clock 6/10/2012

One of the developing trends is that players are playing for the Club for longer periods. A ‘long service’ acknowledgment was introduced in 2001/02. As at 2025/26, there has been a total of 57 players who have played 15 years or more and 48 current players who have played 9 years or more – we must be something right.

On 15 April 2014 the Seniors Executive extended the recognition for long serving members to be awarded 3 prestigious Medallions:

- *Jim Fuggle Medallion* – 10 years’ service
- *Barry McDonald Medallion* – 20 years’ service
- *Ross Anderson Medallion* – 30 years’ service

Playing in all Grades

On Saturday 9 December 2017, Steve Quanborough became our first player to play in all Grades, excluding T20, SPL and Colts Competitions:

- A1 – 2012/13 (Debut season)
- A2 – 2001/02
- B1 – 1999/2000
- B2 – 2017/18
- C1 – 2002/03
- C2 – 2004/05
- C3 – 2003/04
- C4 – 2015/16
- D1 – 1998/99
- D2 – 2012/13

Apart from Steve, only 7 players (listed below) in our history have played in every Grade (available at the time), during their playing career with West Penno. These folks played during the 1970 to 1990s. This was in the days

before the Sunday Competition (started in 2010/11), C3 Grade (started 2001/02), C4 (started 2014/15) and Colts Competition.

- David Whitting (1979/80 to 90/91) – all Grades except C3
- David Carey (1979/80 to 2001/02) – all Grades except C3
- Greg Cameron (1984/85 to 1997/98) – all Grades except C3
- Andrew Thomas (1992/93 to 2001/02) – all Grades except C3
- Andrew Fiedler (1986/87 – current) – all Grades except D2
- Bill Peterkin (1992/93 to current) – all Grades except C3



Photo – [Steve Quanborough](#) (left) with Michael McGregor. Showing great teamwork after the game – WPH Sports Club 17/10/2015.

5.2 Characters

- *Ian ‘Simmo’ Simpson (C and A Grades 1970s)* – a superb cover fieldsman who loved a ‘chat’. When Simmo was batting the incentive was to keep him batting – away from his teammates on the sideline. In the 1978 A Grade game against Pymble, Ken Donaldson needed 1 more wicket to get 10 for the innings. Unfortunately for Ken, Simmo ran out the batsman with a typically brilliant piece of fielding.
- *The Donaldson twins* – John (opening batsman, slow bowler and later ‘keeper) and Ken (leg-spin bowler and batsman) played C and A Grades in the 1960s and 70s. They were fierce competitors who played in an era when A Grade was perhaps at its strongest. Between them, they captained A Grade 10 times. They rank among the best cricketers the Club has produced.



Photo – John Donaldson (left), Ian ‘Simmo’ Simpson and Ken Donaldson at the 75th Anniversary Association Dinner at Asquith Golf Club on Saturday 3rd March 2000.

- *Peter Kelly (C2 to A1 between 1963/64 and 1977/78)*
Where do you start with Peter? We are just not sure whether this category should be re-titled as Hall of Infamy but here are a couple of stories recounted by Barry McDonald (24 April 2017):

“His biggest claim to fame was throwing a stump at a groundsman at Berowra Oval after being dismissed cheaply on a dodgy wicket and then inviting him to the back of the dressing sheds. I think he finished up playing with most of the A1 Grade Clubs

I can recall a match at Storey Park when he was playing for either Kenthurst or Glenorie, when he was taken off from bowling after a few expensive overs, whereupon he sat down on the ground in the slips and refused to take part in fielding. So, his Captain sent him off the field. He reluctantly walked off and sat on a seat outside the boundary at the dressing rooms.

I know this because I was batting at the time (probably caused it as I liked his bowling, perfect to hit through the off-side). Shortly after, facing at the northern end, I hit a cover drive through the field which was obviously going to the boundary.

Before it reached the fence Peter, sprung off his seat ran onto the field of play, gathered the ball and threw it into the wicketkeeper. Fortunately, we had an official umpire who signalled four and told him to get off the ground. There were no 5 run penalties in those days!!

- *Alex Strang* (A1 Grade 1970s early 80s) – was an opening bat whose favourite shot was a ‘French cut’ down to fine leg causing him to have nick name “Snickers”. Ongoing out to bat in an A1 Grade game he left his phone with Team mates explaining that he was on call from the Kurnell Oil Refinery. Sure enough, as he was starting to build his innings, the phone rang advising of a problem. Off he went, and was retired ‘Out’. Also, in close games his favourite comment was that “*we can’t win*”. He was proven correct about 50% of the time.
- *Craig Scott* (A2 and B Grade 1980 to 1984/85) – Craig was a very nervous batsman. Whenever he was out in the middle he would burp loudly and for the duration of the innings. In most matches, the Opposition was in hysterics knowing what was going to happen.
- *Tony Ford* (A Grade 1980s to 2005) – famous for the 3.00 pm ‘blow up’. If it wasn’t about the umpiring or the batting it was about the fielding. By 3.15 pm it was all over. With **Tony** you never needed a watch. Tony is also remembered as one of the best batsmen to represent the Club and was selected in the Association Team of the Decade in 2000 along with **Matt Barr**.



Photo – **Matt Barr** (left) and **Tony Ford** with Barry McDonald and Association Secretary Alan Mitchell receiving their trophy recognising their selection in the Association Team of the Decade (1990 to 2000)

Fordy is such a star, even after a long break from his semi-retirement, the ‘blow-up’ was hard wired. In a B1 game in 2005, in the words of Andrew Fiedler, Fordy had a 3.00 pm blow up and one every 30 minutes after. Like a good wine – only gets better.

- *Dale ‘Merv’ Armstrong* (C1 Grade to A2 1981 to 2000/01) – Dale (a gentle giant) won a Merv Hughes look-a-like contest at the Port Jackson Hotel by just turning up. Dale (a wicket keeper batsman) always played his best games (every week) after having a few “quiet ales” before a game. In addition to this:
 - Merv was mistaken by Darren Berry (Ex Victorian w/k for the real Merv at a Purra Cup game at Tasmania
 - During the 2007 Cricket World Cup in the West Indies with Greg Fiedler (just good friends),

along comes former West Indies great Desmond Haynes who comes up to Merv to talk about old times.



Photo: Dale 'Merv' Armstrong (left) with Merv Hughes at the World Cup 2007.

- *Jim Hopcroft (C1 Grade 1980s)* – invariably arrived at the game with his attractive girlfriend. Maureen used to sit on the hill and sun bake while the game was underway. However, when the opposition batted she often dressed down to a very revealing bikini. The Opposition, distracted, folded cheaply most times.
- *Michael Wells (C to A Grade late 1970s to 1980s)* – Michael was a big hitting batsman and slow bowler. With his Ned Kelly beard he would try to belt the first ball (and every ball after the first) out of the ground. He was always surprised to see everyone retreat to the boundary before he faced a ball.
- *Jon Burns (C1 to D2 1984 to present)* – Jon was a legend in the way he Captained young teams. However, he made his reputation by attending Presentation Nights as characters such as Superman and a 1970's style hippie.
- *Tony Hadley (D2 to B2 2001 to 2007/08)* – Some people can't stay out of the headlines. Tony is 'The Man'. In just one season, Tony:
 - Turned up to a ground at 6.00am to look at the ground before we played that day
 - Had practice sessions with his daughters in the hall before matches
 - Runs out star players and then shouts them dinners at the Sports Club
 - Abuses slightly unfit players (Booney) by calling them "gross"
 - Brings an oversized hammock and sets it up (Galston Oval) to a ground with the smallest spectator area
 - Having a near Club record 29 runs hammered off one over
 - Arriving at a wet Storey Park turf track at 6.00am making 'phone calls to get the covers on the wicket with the comment "I don't want to go down this way" – problem was that the wicket was already a mud heap
 - Despite living in Perth with his side a strong chance to make the B2, 2005/06 Final, and his B2 team only having 10 players, the big fella booked his flight, arriving just before the game and then going back to Perth after the game. He did this once before when he arrived from China (to play cricket), arrived at the ground from the airport and then saved the team with 50 runs



Photo – **Tony Hadley** (left) and **Bryce Morley** (right) – C1 Grade Vs Hornsby @ Montview Oval 3rd February 2007.

- This time in C1 (6/1/2007), Tony had to attend his mother’s wedding in Perth on the Friday and left the Reception (at the Lonely Shag Restaurant of all places) at 11.30pm. When asked by his mum why he was leaving he explained that he had to play a game of cricket, in Sydney. Tony was up at 4.15am, caught the 5.50am flight (after the flight had been closed) and made it by cab from the Airport to Glenhaven 5 minutes before the start. All that and he was run-out brilliantly after 4 balls.
- A B1 Grade game against St Ives was highly charged with the Opposition having ‘the odd word to say’. To block out the constant talk Tony applied his own “anti-sledger”. He went out to bat wearing a helmet and head band. Nothing unusual so far but he also had a CD player in his pocket and was wired up to jungle music (his words) at full bore. He was playing this for the first 20 overs and didn’t hear a word on the field (surprising). He just happened to score 59* and set a 3rd wicket B1 record partnership. Tony did mention that he saw some mouths moving but that was it.
- Club character **Bryce Morley** (C1) is the voice on our multi-media website. Bryce was a B1/C1 all-rounder – good bat and sometimes fast bowler – well medium pace maybe. Bryce does things like:
 - smiling at batsmen, apologising for appealing and then thanking umpires for making decisions in his favour
 - in one game (C1 12/11/05) watching on as Peter Taylor scored his C1 ton with his son Gavin was at the other end, Bryce commented “it doesn’t get much better than that”
 - a heartfelt comment to an umpire after a wicket “thanks a million”
 - Writing Club songs that will one day make the top 40 – maybe – they are on the website at least.

Check out the multimedia section of the website to hear this classic sung to the music of ‘The Band Played Waltzing Matilda.



Photo – **Bryce Morley** leading the B2 boys singing Bryce hit song “The Boys from B2 Blue” – 2004 Presentation night. From left to right – Ross Anderson, Bryce (guitar), Michael McGregor, Eric Junkkari, Tony Hadley, Adam Nash.

- *Mark Kakoschke*. How about this effort. On 11/12/2004 his U16 team powered their way to 328. On Friday night before Day 2, there was a very heavy downpour of rain at Greenway Park. Mark commented that there was no way this was going to put the game at risk. So, he went down to the Oval at midnight to check it out – walking his dog (that Geoff Newman refers to as a ‘walking powder puff’). Mark knew there was a problem when his dog started dog paddling at the southern end bowlers approaches. 2 hours later he managed to bucket the water off the wicket. Come Saturday morning, they played on time and won the game.
- *Peter Westerberg* started playing in D2, 2002/03. Some interesting insights:
 - On 12th October 2007 and after 76 matches, and 9 career overs he now has a bowling average – won’t mention what it is to protect the innocent. Some facts about this achievement:
 - Peter dismissed the Opener and & top scorer for Normanhurst-Warrawee. According to Peter *‘In fairness to the batsman, he had only recently returned to the crease, having suffered a concussion and was probably not batting at all well at the time’*.



Photo: Peter leaving Campbell Park after scoring his 100th career run in his 99th innings – 29th January 2011

- When coming on to bowl P.K.W. was heard to warn the scorers to sharpen their pencils – timely advice, as it proved!
- Peter also complained about blistered hands before one game – apparently due to rowing – of course Peter.
- In another game, this time a Kanga dad’s game against the Seniors, Peter came on to bowl against John Coulthard and apologised *‘for what you are about to receive’*. The ball was wide and slow and John, in trying to reach the ball tore a side muscle.
- Finally, on Peter, on the 29th January 2011 he scored his 100th career run (photo above) in his 99th innings @ Campbell Park

5.3 Long Apprenticeships

David Carey

- David Carey is the most remarkable as he also has the record for our longest apprenticeship. After making his Club debut in 1979/80 David played his first game in A1 Grade in 1999/2000 (The Glade) with 600 wickets to his credit. David took 4/53 against the top team.
- The flip side – Greg Fiedler made his D1 debut in 2003/04 (to play with his son) after playing the previous 22 seasons in A1 Grade!
- “Stumped Troy Newman bowled Greg Fiedler” – the scorebook proves it. In a distinguished career going back 24 years Greg Fiedler bowled 12 overs and dismissed 6 unfortunate batsmen. He last bowled an over in 1997/98 of wily slow ‘floaters’. Before that he bowled 5 overs in 1987/88.

Rick Turner

In 2023/24 (Round 2), Rick Turner played his first game in the top Grade to cover for Team shortages during the Grand Final (NRL & AFL) weekend. Rick made his Club debut in in 2011/12 playing D1 Grade and has played & Captained most Grades up to A2.

When you think about it, Rick has scored over 3,500 runs @ 26 so this is an achievement that offers no surprises. Well done Rick.



Photo: Cam McBrien (Captain # 25) & Rick Turner (right) on Rick's A1 debut Vs Berowra @ Parklands Oval- 30th September 2023

5.4 Commitment



- *Greg Fiedler* (A1 1987/88) was holidaying with his fiancée (Kerry) in Queensland. Putting the team high on the priority list, he drove down from Queensland on Friday night, played and then returned the next day. Greg eventually married (and still is) and has three children Will, James and Brad and all boys are playing cricket (Berowra).
- *Nigel Cook* (C1 1991/92) had a mild heart attack between games. While this should have sidelined him for some time Nigel played the following Saturday.
- *Mark Taylor* (B1 1998/99) was holidaying on an island off New Caledonia. To play in the Final he caught a charter plane to New Caledonia, flew to Sydney, arriving back on Friday night and played in the Semi (scoring 50 runs). After the match he then flew to London.



Photo – *Mark Taylor* (left) with Peter Harrison during the B1 Grade final 2002/03 @ Storey Park. Peter Harrison, played for Australia in the Over 60s between 2012 and 2014.

- *Raj Anand* (B1 2004 @ Headen Park) was having a heart attack while he was batting until the Captain declared the innings closed with Raj on 39*. Raj went to hospital, had the bypasses, almost died on the operating table but survived to play again – his main concern at the time was being not out – at least with his batting.



Photo – Raj Anand at the A1 Grade Final 2002/03. In the background are Jon Horler (obscured) and Tony Mandile.

- *Tony Hadley* (B2 2005/06) – despite living in Perth, with his Team a strong chance to make the B2 Final, they only had 10 qualified players, the big fella booked a flight, arriving just before the game and then going back to Perth after the game. He did this once before when he arrived from China (to play cricket), arrived at the ground from the airport and then saved the team with 50 runs. The Man backed these efforts up again with a special flight from Perth again to play a C1 game (6/1/2007).

Further on Tony Hadley, here is a story relayed by the great Eric Junkkari:

：“....don’t forget the great legendary Tony Hadley, who, in around, season 2005/06, was on a flight from China to Sydney and informed us the day before, that he would make it to the match at Warrina St!

He said he would take a taxi straight from the airport and would arrive around 2pm. Not only did he have real dedication but very deep pockets. So, we put him in the team sheet with fingers crossed.

Against our wishes, we lost the toss and were sent into bat. Wickets began to fall but had we held up well in the middle order. It was hard work and it was now after 2pm. We lost another wicket or 2 and then suddenly a taxi turned up and Hadley, in his whites, gets out of the cab and immediately puts on his pads.

Another wicket fell, Hadley grabs his bat and walks out in to the middle and scores and a great 40 odd which provides enough for us to win the game. Now that is anecdote.”

- *Bill Peterkin* (A1 16/12/2006 Vs Kenthurst @ Parklands) being the last match before Christmas A1 was short a player with little notice. Bill Peterkin to the rescue. Bill was given 3 days’ notice that we needed him so being the team man that he is, drove down from the Gold Coast to play. No records on this one but BP could be the only person in Club history to drive 900km to make a golden duck! So, a mention for both commitment and a ‘Golden Moment’.
- *Peter Heidegger* (C2 10/1/2010) Peter was coaching the U12 Rep Team at Lismore and drove home straight after the game on Friday afternoon to make the game due to a few shortages. After the 10 hour drive he got his chance to bat and kept the tradition alive by scoring a golden. Must be something about these trips from the Far North Coast.

Simon Smyth (A1 19/2/2011) welcomed young Dylan Archer Smyth into the world on Thursday. With his wife Mel recovering in Hawkesbury Hospital after giving birth, Simon turned up to Berowra Oval, took 4 wickets, opened the batting and then went back to the Hospital. All in day's work for Simon.



Photo – Welcome to the world, 17th February 2011 – Mel, Simon and Dylan Archer Smyth. Great to see Simon wearing his West Penno shirt on such an important day.

Note: Simon took 409 wickets and scored 2,921 runs between 1997/98 & 2020/21

- Ayush Gupta (D2 18/1/2014 @ Fred Caterson 4) –Ayush worked in the mines in West Australia and travelled from WA to play on Saturday on what was a very hot weekend. This comment from Peter Westerberg (D2 Captain) says it all:

“He seemed un-phased by the heat, saying that in the mines over there, it reaches 50 degrees above the ground! He hopes to be able to make another couple of trips back to play for us before the season is over. You just can't keep a good man down!”
- *James McBrien* (A2 20/12/2014) – James was with the Western Sydney Giants at the Gold Coast and got the call that he was needed on the weekend. Answering the call, James flew down from the Gold Coast to play at Greenway Park. The flight arrived late at 1.15 pm. Our boys batted first and with 8 wickets down in the 29th over still no James – held up in traffic. He arrived at the ground with 2 overs to go and didn't face a ball – breaking the tradition of his predecessors scoring golden's. As compensation for not batting he was given a bowl and finished with 2/4 from 2 overs.
- *Dinesh & Anushka De Silva* (B2 Vs Lankan Islanders @ Hayes Oval 9/1/2016) flew from Colombo to Sydney (12 hours) overnight. When they arrived at Sydney airport they went straight to the ground (Hayes Oval, the old Galston Oval), got there 30 minutes after the start and fielded. They both scored runs – Dinesh 7 and Anushka 6. Unfortunately, the team lost by 7 runs.
- *Sol 'Club Pro' Tomlinson* (A1 Vs Berowra @ Berowra Oval 24/9/2016) is the gift that keeps on giving. After having had a huge English season (scoring 1,400 runs for Leverstock Green CC) the big fella literally got off a 32-hour flight from London that included a 9-hour Dubai stopover. Sol touched down at 7.00 am and was out playing at Berowra at 1.00 pm. He fielded brilliantly and fortunately was spared opening the batting for the few overs late on Day 1.
- *Justin Paterson* (A1 Grand Final Vs Berowra @ Berowra Oval, 25th & 26th March 2017). The 2 weeks leading up to the 2016/17 Grand Final were wet with very heavy rain washing out Day 2 of the Semi Finals the week before and causing all other turf grounds to be moved to back-up hard wickets. A1 Grade though had to be played on turf with no backup option. With our boys finishing 2nd we had to play and win.

Enter Justin Paterson, Alex Connell and Matt Jobson. The boys worked all through the week and into the night putting covers on and off and using blowers to dry the wicket surrounds between rain periods. Justin lives at Dulwich Hill and made the daily commute to Berowra Oval (54 minutes and 47 kilometres each way) to work on the pitch – just over 7 hours travel and 376 kilometres! Let's not forget Jobbo also who travelled from Wollstonecraft to Berowra Oval – just on 5 hours travel and 300 kilometres. The boys got on after a delayed start and Justin took 7/35. We ended up losing the game by just 1 run.



Photo: left to right: Matt Jobson, Alex Connell and [Justin Paterson](#) taking a break during “pitch watch” – Berowra Oval, Friday 24th March 2017.

James Makin (A1 Vs Hornsby @ Parklands Oval – 4/10/2025)

James (A1 & Seniors Director), flew from Cleveland Ohio from work commitments to play on the weekend for a noon start. After a 20-hour flight he touched down in Sydney on Saturday morning at around 8.00 am and got through Customs about an hour later. So, a quick dash home to get the cricket gear and then off to Parklands Oval. How did he go? James scored 30 runs opening after fielding for 40 overs.

The Platinum Club

Tony “Sir Richard” Hadley, holds the unofficial Club record of acquiring Qantas Frequent flyers Club while playing. In addition to coming back from China to play a game he has made regular treks back from Perth to play. We reckon that Sir Richard may well be the first player in our history to clock up Qantas Frequent Flyer Platinum status just getting to cricket games.

Iron Men – the ultimate

In 2015/16 Peter Westerberg (D2) finished his 14th consecutive season (149 innings) in 2015/16 without missing a game!

On Sunday 14th October 2012 we had the ultimate in the A1 T/20 Final @ Mt Ku-ring-gai Oval. A1 stars Riley Miedler and Sol Tomlinson both went for a high catch and crashed heads at full pace – photo below. Riley was knocked out, got a fractured cheekbone and stitches. Sol had 10 stitches in his lip and was also groggy.

An ambulance was needed, the Police arrived and a helicopter hovered over the ground in case it was needed. It doesn't stop there. Riley was discharged after 4 hours from Hospital and went straight back to the Club to have a celebratory coke with the A1 boys winning back-to-back T/20 Premierships.

Both Riley and Sol played the following week after getting a doctor's clearance to help their Teams out. Sol even bowled 21 overs in hot conditions. It is going to take a huge effort to beat this Iron Man performance!



Twice in a day

Peter Westerberg

Peter (D2, 29th September 2007 Vs Redfield at Normanhurst Oval) is another of that rare group of players. While records on this one is difficult to source, other than from long term memories of our long-standing members, Peter may well have set a Club record – being run out twice on the same day for scores of 0 and 2.

Longest throws

In a Club throwing contest at Headen Park (1981/82), Andrew Small against Peter L Smith threw a ball from one side of the ground to the other (east/west).

Oldest debuts

Ian Paterson (normally D1) made his A2 debut Vs Galston-Glenorie @ Les Shore 2 (19th December 2015) with his son Justin. What makes this special is that Ian was 58 and is our oldest player to make his A2 debut. Not only that, but Ian hammered an impressive 17.



Photo – Ian (left) and son Justin on his A2 debut.

Big weekends

In 2003/04 our Senior Teams won 4 games outright and another 5 on the first innings – 9 out of our 11 teams. This was then backed up again in Round 13 of the same season.

Round 5 (20th to 27th November 2010) was an outstanding result for our win / loss ratio. With the Colts having a break during Schoolies, 10 of our 11 teams who played that weekend. We had wins in 8 Grades and only went down in 2 Grades – both close losses.

Suburb Vs Suburb; Mate Vs Mate

On Sunday 8th September 2013 the best of our West Pennant Hills and Cherrybrook resident players took part in the inaugural T20 pre-season 'State of Suburb' trophy. The game was played at Cheltenham Oval with Barry McDonald the Umpire. While the result of the game has been lost over time the passions still run deep. To quote James Makin, A1 long-term A1 Grade Captain:

“Yes, I remember the game, but I didn't play either unfortunately. I'd be very confident that Cherrybrook won though - it has always been the superior suburb in every way”.

Experience of a lifetime

The Junior Boys Presentation was held on 30 March 2019. A highlight was the unannounced attendance by Chris Green of the Sydney Thunder for a special purpose.



Photo: Chris Green (Sydney Thunder) with Hayden Ross. It was an unannounced visit by Chris to meet Hayden after he won a vote by the Public for the best imitation of a Big Bash player during the season - Oakhill Drive Public School, 30 March 2019

During the BBL Season one of our U8's (Hayden) won a popular vote as having the best imitation of Greeny's action. Fast forward to our Presentation Day and Hayden was asked to show everyone the action. What he didn't know was that Chris came in unannounced and watched the bowling action. Unaware, Hayden had a 2nd attempt and then realised that his hero was casting an approving look at his action – the rest was just fantastic and will form part of a Thunder video release shortly.

A special mention to Chris who stayed until the last person left and signed countless autographs and had countless photos taken – especially with the teenage girls and their mums! He was a class act and left a huge impression on everyone – Hayden especially.

Check out the Photo Gallery 'Junior Presentation' to see all the shots of the day.

5.5 Famous Finals

- The **1967/68 B Grade Final** Vs Perseverance at Campbell Park saw WPH dismissed for 4 runs in 47 deliveries – “a well-executed cover drive” by Wally Howard. **Keith Robinson** puts the collapse down to “*brilliant opening swing bowling plus increasing panic*”. The team was: R Pierce, Peter Mercer, D Simmonds, T Middlebank, B Christensen, Wally Howard, Keith Robinson, Don Kirkby, Chris Christensen, D Fisher and Don Donaldson.



Photo – Lucy Strang (sister of Alex – A1 Player number 89), Ian Simpson (Simmo - player number 78), Greg Fiedler (119), Ross Anderson (96), **Keith Robinson** (54) – guest presenters at the A1 Player shirt presentation at WPH Sports Club 27th September 2010.

- The **1985/86 D1 Grade Final** should have been a walkover. David Page led a team of ‘Invincibles’ with players setting all sorts of Association records (still standing). After having Kenthurst (Thornleigh Oval) on the ropes, a “cowboy” came in at number 10 and belted 70 runs to win the match by 1 wicket.

Team members:

Paul Ainsley, Brett Ashcroft, Peter Broderick, Jon Burns, David Broome, Mark Hawrysuik, Rian Lane, Nick Malik, David Page (C), Steve Popple, Peter Sanders, Peter Smith.

- In **1988/89, A2** won its first A2 Grade Premiership. West Penno went into the Final as Minor Premier (70 points) after losing just one game all season. In what promised to be a big game against 2nd placed Thornleigh (64 points), the match was a non-event due to wet weather. Berowra Oval was awash on Day 1 and the back-up ground at Auluba Oval was no better. Play eventually got underway on the 2nd day and after losing the toss we were sent in to bat on a difficult wicket to be 4/23 before rain came. Ross Anderson was 17*. So not a memorable match but a 1st Premiership win for West Penno.

Team members:

Paul Ainsley, Richard Annetts, Ross Anderson (C), Duncan Clarke, Jason Day, Andrew Fiedler, Nick Malik, Wayne Morrison, Ian McKern, Steve Quodling, Peter Smith, David Whitting.

- In **1990/91 the B2 Final** (Captained by David Carey) played at Parklands Oval (23rd & 24th March 1991) saw Beecroft, after being sent in to bat, slump to 5/42 and 6/108 at lunch. At the close of their innings at Tea the next day they were all out for 725 in 580 minutes! A 427 run, 7th wicket partnership a record. To think, the batsman (Adam Nash) who scored 329 (47 x 4; 1 x 5 and 4 x 6) was missed being run out by millimetres for 0 from a direct hit (Steve Quodling). Many records were set:
 - 725 – the highest score in the Association’s history
 - 427 – highest 7th wicket partnership achieved in NSW
 - 329 – highest individual score in the Association It was 3 runs short of Victor Trumper’s NSW record score
 - 1/135 – from 39 overs. Our most expensive recorded Club bowling analysis (Mark Taylor).

West Pennant Hills B2 vs Beecroft
Major Final Result Sheet
 Played at Parklands Oval on the 23 & 24/03/1991
 Match was Drawn

No	West Pennant Hills Batting	1st	2nd	Beecroft Batting	1st	2nd
1	Richmond, David	57		Fairall, S.	5	
2	Quodling, Steve	29		Gumbley, J.	1	
3	Thomas, Chris	2		Reid, G.	10	
4	Taylor, Mark	27		Honeyman, G.	11	
5	Mead, Alan	1x		Nash, A.	329	
6	Davies, Andrew	1		Radzjewski, S.	0	
7	Armstrong, Dale	10x		Jones, A.	36	
8	Bishop, John			Reid, S.	212x	
9	Carey, David			Ship, M.	15	
10	Driscoll, Andrew	5		Spaul, J.	47	
11	Friend, Jeff	5		Gilling, J.	11	
Wides And Noballs		2		Wides and Noballs	5	
Batting Subtotal		145		Batting Subtotal	682	
Byes and Leg Byes		9		Byes and Leg Byes	43	
TOTAL		154		TOTAL	725	

Beecroft Bowling			West Pennant Hills Bowling		
	1st	2nd		1st	2nd
	W	R	W	R	W
Radzjewski, S.	1	33	Carey, David	1	85
Nash, A.	1	24	Thomas, Chris	3	94
Honeyman, G.	4	31	Driscoll, Andrew	1	90
Fairall, S.	0	30	Taylor, Mark	1	135
Jones, A.	1	10	Friend, Jeff	2	119
Gumbley, J.	0	2	Armstrong, Dale	0	48
Spaul, J.	0	2	Richmond, David	0	16
Gilling, J.	0	4	Quodling, Steve	1	23
			Bishop, John	0	31
			Davies, Andrew	0	31
Bowling Subtotal	145		Bowling Subtotal	682	

- The **1993/94 B1 Grade Final** win over Glenorie (Asquith Park) was by a mere 16 runs. Glenorie batting second lost 5/10 in the last session. This match allowed Jim Fuggle to win his first Final as Captain after 5 unsuccessful attempts.



Photo – the great B Grade side of the late 1980s and 1990s that competed in every B1 / B2 Finals series between 1986/87 and 1998/99.

The Team is (left to right) – Peter Harrison, James Makin, Richard Makin, Ross Anderson, Dale Armstrong, Andrew Venables, Freddie Zulfikar, Raj Anand.

Front row – Richard Annetts, Jim Fuggle (C) and Zain Sheriff.

Absent – Mark Taylor

- The **1995/96 B2 Final** (Pennant Hills Oval and Captained by Les Watkins) is one of our best. After Hornsby scored 295 and batted well into Day 2, we began the run chase with 81 overs available. After being 2 for 2. We went on to win by 1 wicket with the last man in (Peter Rakebrandt), having scored two first ball ducks in his last two innings, batting for 5 overs to support Paul Mullinger (80* with Paul ‘out’ twice off no balls) and who hit the winning runs.

Team members:

Daryl Daniels, Lindsay Corbett, Con Dimeglio, Andrew Fiedler, Craig Hutchinson, John McFarlane, Paul Mullinger, Guy Rowlinson, Peter Rakebrandt, Sheehan Simmons, Mark Somerville, Les Watkins (C).

- **B2 Grade 1998/99** (Captained by Jim Fuggle) Vs Kenthurst (Captained by David Lea) at Storey Park saw us lose a thriller. After we only scored 206, Kenthurst were 8 down, and 64 runs behind. They were eventually 9 down with 5 runs to win. One of the season’s stars (Raj Anand) dropped an easy caught and bowled. With the scores tied, a catch was skied into the outfield. The fieldsman (Peter Harrison who later played for the Australia Over 60s Team) got a hand to the ball in a diving effort but dropped the catch and we lost the game.

Team members:

Scott Allen, Raj Anand, Ross Anderson, Richard Annetts, Dale Armstrong, David Carey, Tim Coverdale, Jim Fuggle (C), Peter Harrison, Eric Junkkari, Bill Peterkin, Mark Taylor, Zain Sheriff.

- **1999/2000 – U13 Maroon 110 – defeated Upper Hills 109.**
 “The word suspense was invented to describe this game. Warrina St Oval was wet and with the long grass no one expected high scores. We lost the toss and as usual Upper Hills bowled first. We only had to see off their 3 better bowlers and the runs would come – at lunch we were 4 for 69 off 28 and getting nervous. We struggled to be all out for 110 from 48 of the allotted 55.

We knew if we got their 2 best batsmen we had a big chance – and we got them, Travato cleaning up leg stump. The scores went almost exactly level, after 14 we were 2 for 26, they 3 for 31, after 28 we were 4 for 69, they 6 for 64 – we were looking good. Then their keeper came in and smashed a quick 28 and they were 6 for 93 only needing 111. Both sides grinded on and they were 8 for 108, 2 wickets for us, 3 runs for them. The bowling was deadly accurate and we picked up another wicket, they got another run. 1 run to win to tie meant they would have got the trophy, they had a chance to run a bye but played safe. 2 dot balls then bang, clean bowled and we’d won it!!!

Half the crowd went berserk (us), half went into shock (them). The boys went hypo and the dressing shed became a party room. We all stayed well beyond the usual time and soaked up the atmosphere – it was a day we will never forget.” Michael Torpey – Coach.

- **2002/03 U15 Final** WPHC lost to Castle Hill – the scores are not available.

A report from Don Retalic (Association Junior President and Castle Hill President) – says it all.

“...My son was in the Castle Hill team that won the U15 final game on Sunday. I don't propose to talk about how the game was played and who was the better side all season and all the rest of it.

But it was really close. The target wasn't huge and I thought we were gone at the change of innings. The way your guys bat, I thought it would be all over within about 20 overs. But they went about it cautiously and paced themselves to the target. The inspiring part of the match for mine was the last 8 overs. The wickets had fallen regularly during the innings and we were well into the tail. Now I've seen these guys bat before and they are not the best batsmen in the world, as I'm sure they'd agree. But they just seemed to lift to the occasion. They got in behind and just grafted it out even though they were nervous about a couple of the bowlers. A few edges for ones and twos, the occasional rush of blood but they just hung in and got their side to within two runs. The last over was something else. Three to win. Two dot balls and then a wide, for Christ's sake. Then the big yorker and the end of the innings. And our blokes never gave up. They knew they were up against it but they just ran down everything and played themselves to a standstill.

You should have seen the look on the face of the poor kid who got out. He was on the verge of tears, just devastated. He'd given his all and then some and had just missed. But to see our blokes go over and console him and then see his team mates go out to meet him and his partner and congratulate and console the pair of them was a great sight.

We see and hear so much these days about the appalling behaviour of our elite players, both on and off the field, that it is easy to believe that this magnificent game of cricket is just another sport and a money-making concern at that. But to see the way this game was played and attitude of all there was a real tonic for me. It embodied all those values that are the essence of the game.

So, while it is a cash cow for some, to see our juniors rise above that grubbiness was inspiring.

I was proud to be associated with the match, proud that my son was one of the boys out there in the Castle Hill team that did so well. But as a cricket lover, I was equally proud of the opposition, the way they played the game and their grace in defeat. They are a credit to themselves, your Club and the game of cricket. I thought someone needed to say that.”

- **2009/10 B2 Semi Final** Vs St Ives @ Headen Park – 13th and 20th March 2010
WPHC 112 and 7/200 dec defeated outright St Ives 181 & 103

What a day of cricket. Coming into the start of play we still needed 1 wicket to wrap up their first innings, and in the 3 overs it took us to get the last wicket, they clubbed 15 runs, with Ben McNamara taking the last wicket of the first innings to reach figures of 6/53, and saw us staring down a deficit of 69 in the first innings.

With a slightly re-jigged batting order looking for quick runs, we set off with the aim of setting a total, and after just 11 overs we were back with our noses in front thanks to some blistering batting by Geoff Starr (40) and Tim Starr, along with some pretty ordinary discipline in the field from the St Ives boys. A few quick wickets, a small period of consolidation, and another blast with a partnership of 68 between Lachlan McBrien (19*) and Tim Starr, who was dismissed agonizingly short of his first century in seniors for 99, and although disappointing personally for Tim, he had almost single handedly put us in a position where we were a genuine chance to win the game, and for the team that was an absolutely priceless knock, allowing us to declare at 7/200, leaving St Ives with 132 to win from a minimum of 46 overs.

The second innings in the field was a near carbon copy of the first, with fast and accurate spells from Geoff Richards, Ben McNamara and Mark Bennett (1/10 off 7 overs) ripping through the top order and leaving the man-down St Ives struggling at 4/26. However, from here the 2-batsman dug in, resisting playing their natural game and putting on a 60-run partnership in 27 overs to seemingly put them in a position where losing seemed a long way off, and the yelling, laughing and carrying on from their boys on the side indicated they knew this. However, despite needing 5 wickets in the last hour of play, none of our boys gave up, and when Geoff Richards took his 3rd wicket (3/14 off 12 overs) in the over after drinks, everyone sensed we were a real chance. And when James McBrien picked up his first a couple

of overs later, the laughing from the sidelines had well and truly stopped.

The big moment was yet to come however, and our main man from the first innings Ben McNamara stepped up to claim 2 crucial scalps in 1 over, first an absolute jaffa to rip through the stumps of their captain, and the second a diving catch from James McBrien at square leg to really swing the momentum in our favour. This left us 10 overs to claim the last wicket, and with 6 overs to spare James McBrien (2/8 off 8.5 overs) broke through the solid defences of their final remaining hope to claim an amazing victory against all the odds. Best with the ball for the match was Ben McNamara, who claimed 3/18 off 10 overs for match figures of 9/71 from 23.2 overs, a sensational effort in the high-pressure situation of a Semi Final.

Team members:

Mark Bennett, James McBrien (C), Lachlan McBrien, Ben McNamara, Duncan Moore, Ben Nolan, Andrew Percival, Geoff Richards, Simon Roche, Geoff Starr, Nick Starr, Tim Starr, Adam Walter.

- **2016/17 B1 Final** Vs Hornsby @ The Old Dairy, Brooklyn 25th & 26th March 2017

WPHC 83 & 0/68 defeated Hornsby 78

Day 1 – WPHC 83 Vs Hornsby 3/38

We lost the toss against top placed team Hornsby and were sent in to bat. Runs were hard to come by and wickets fell slowly but consistently throughout the first day. At 20 overs we were 1/23. At 60 overs we were 6/75. Michael Banner displayed excellent patience and helped us put a semi-decent score on the board with his 35.

Funnily enough, second top scorer was sundries at 9, with no one else reaching double figures but fighting hard to keep their wicket. We were bowled out for 82 and had 18 overs at Hornsby at the end of day one, to which we made up for a low score having Hornsby finish on 3/38.

Day 2

Day two was looking 50/50 all day as to who was going to win, as we needed 7 wickets to get. At a drinks break, Hornsby needed 12 runs to win, with 2 wickets in hand. It was so close and both teams were just a few balls away from winning or losing the premiership. Dan Costigan struck the first of those wickets bowling out their number 10 batsmen. Then Justin Edwards finished them off to which the team nearly squashed him in glee after bowling their top batsmen on the day who got 22.

They were all out for 78, 4 runs short of our score, but the day wasn't over yet. Justin was the star of the day with 5/22 off 21 amazing overs. Finally, Michael Banner and Ashane De Silva were sent in to which Hornsby hoped they would get quick wickets and go for the outright win. This was to no avail however, as Ashane turned it on and decided to play T20 cricket and finished with 51 not out off 14 overs, to which Hornsby called it off and we officially claimed the premiership finishing on 0/68. Well done to our boys and to Hornsby who put up a fight the whole way.



Team members (left to right) – Dan Costigan (left), Daniel Fiedler (C), Michael Banner, Calvin Breytenbach, Cameron McBrien, Taki Manolelis, Kyle Faber, Josh Banner, Ashane de Silva, Tis Mistry (obscured), Justin Edwards, and Tim Leyshon.

- **2018/19 C2 Grand Final** Galston-Glenorie @ The Glade – 23rd & 24th March 2019

C2 Blue 9/113 drew with Galston-Glenorie 157

Day 1 – 0/10 Vs Galston-Glenorie 157

After a 40 min delay to start the game due to some moisture on the pitch, we won the toss and had a bowl. The Glade track didn't look too bad actually, but it was popping all day, and we just had the plan to bowl disciplined lines on a good length – but that's easier said than done. GG started off aggressively with their opener driving hard at any ball he liked the look of, but Jack Barry bowled a jaffa which Feathers took smartly at slip. Dan Schwartzel bowled the other opener with a full toss, and we liked our start – 2/18 in the 8th over.

GG clearly had the plan to attack no matter what, and gave us a lot to think about as every half-loose ball was punished. They reach 3/62 at lunch, after Warren Papa Schwartzel chipped in with his first wicket. 1 or 2 decisions had gone against us at this stage, but we were disciplined enough in our approach to not let them worry us.

We hit a purple patch, with the re-introduction of Jack to the attack, ably supported by Stuey 'Still need that 4 not out' Fiedler. They combined to take 5/12 (including a memorable run out to Pratah 'it was all in self-defense' Sinnetamby and we were well on top at 8/74 just before the tea break. We would've thoroughly enjoyed our scones & cupcakes had anyone brought any – instead we settled for a couple of grapes and an apple, and watched the miner birds attack each other. Perhaps we should've been thinking about taking those last 2 wickets.

GG's tail proceeded to take the game to us after the break, hitting out at anything & everything. Plenty of chances were created but we kept spilling them – at least 6 went down plus a few more near misses. Couple this with 1 or 2 more iffy decisions and some injuries to the Chidge & Mick 'The Human Expletive' Barry (sorry Mick!), and the game was slipping away from us.

We finally managed to dismiss GG for 157, which is well above par on this track. Jack was easily the best of the bowlers with 4/42 plus 3 catches. Stu (2/15) and Warren (2/17) supported him well.

Dan & Mick comfortably rode out 10 overs without loss, and lifted our spirits as we ponder how we could've made our run chase so much easier. Anyway, let's be positive boys & show the fight with the bat that we have all season.

Day 2 – 9/113 drew with Galston-Glenorie 157

I write this as a pretty proud & pretty pissed skipper – but today was one for the ages. After letting GG off the hook on day 1 as they made a potentially match-winning score on a tricky Glade wicket, we were greeted with a damp pitch after the overnight rain storm leaked under the covers. The umpires delayed the start of play by 90 mins, but even then, we were confronted with a minefield of a pitch.

Our openers departed pretty quickly, but our resolute middle order managed to keep the runs ticking over, with Ollie Linschoten playing an eye-catching cameo of 18. But what we really needed were some long innings', but the conditions proved too tricky for most, and we found ourselves 6/52 in the 36th over – still 40+ overs to bat and not much hope. Wicketkeeper Matt Schwartzel was the mainstay, playing a lone hand as we started to build a few partnerships.

It became a game of overs, rather than runs, as the damp pitch spat and bit at the batsman who wore plenty of deliveries on the body. Matt saw out 14 overs with Fieds, 6 overs with Warren and 15 overs with Stu. There were numerous dropped catches by the close-in fieldsmen who were hovering around the bat - a reflection of our performance on the previous day.

Our penultimate wicket fell with 8 overs to go. The injured Chidge joined Matt, and the crowd were glued to every ball that seemed to offer Glenorie a chance of a wicket. A storm was brewing, the light was dimming, raindrops were falling but the umpires decided to continue the match. GG raced through their overs and managed to bowl 2 more than the mandatory 18 in the final hour, but Matt & Chidge remain stoic. On the 1st ball of the last over, Chidge launched one on to the hill for 6 – what are you doing, son?!! The final over was negotiated and the boys celebrated.

This was a mighty performance. Facing 80 overs on a sticky Glade wicket with a team made up mostly of guys playing their first season in seniors was something to behold. We were the best team all year in this grade, but we felt the cards were stacked against us with the Final draw.

The boys did what they do best which was to get on with it and simply bat and bat and bat, without ego. Matt the Bat finished with man of the match honours with an amazing 41 not out in 47 overs. Relish this win fellas, because you won't witness too many backs-to-the-wall performances like this in a Final again.

WHO WON WEEKESY? WE WON WEEKESY !!!

Team – Jack Barry, Michael Barry, Alex Chidgey, Nathan Fathers, Andrew Fiedler (C), Stu Fiedler, Oliver Linschoten, Pratah Sinnetamby, Daniel Schwartzel, Matt Schwartzel, Warren Schwartzel.



Photo: Back Row L-R: Mick Barry, Warren Schwartzel, Jack Barry, Nathan Fathers, Dan Schwartzel, Oliver Linschoten

Front row L-R: Pratah Sinnetamby, Matt Schwartzel, Andrew Fiedler (C), Stu Fiedler, Alex Chidgey

- **2025/26 C4 Grand Final** Vs Hornsby @ Montview Oval East – 14th & 15th March 2026
WPHC Red (Ravi - 3rd) 99 & 8/44 defeated Hornsby (1st) 59

Day 1 - WPHC Red 99 Vs Hornsby 4/34

A bright and beautiful day was set for the most awaited weekend of the year. Familiar foes Hornsby and Pennos Reds locked horns for the Grand Final.

Ravi won the toss and had no hesitation in batting first.

Arindam and Sahil opened the innings and blunted the new ball bowlers with immaculate discipline. Both of them watched and timed the ball well and ensured there were no hiccups until the break. There were no rash shots or unnecessary running and played perfect test match batting on the first hour. Score at drinks break was 33/0 after 20 overs.

They came back to negotiate another tricky 30 mins before lunch but unfortunately Arindam was trapped LBW to the leg spinner. Sahil missed a straight one and was bowled for 18. Vishnu was soon trapped LBW by the leg spinner again and score read a rather concerning 40/3 at lunch.

The slide unfortunately continued after the lunch break and Reds were down to 50/6 shortly after. With the usually dependable middle order batters Waman, Vishnu and Praveg all falling for single digits in quick succession, Reds faced a challenge not seen before this season.

Ravi and Tushar started rebuilding by blunting the bowlers and taking almost zero risk to bring back some stability.

Tushar fell at the first attempt of a lofted shot for a gritty 9 off 57 balls. Ravi then built partnerships with Anant and Jassi but fell after a fighting 14 off 87 balls. Jassi shrugged off some recent poor form and played some eye-catching shots to help himself to a crucial 20* but ran out of partners as Reds folded for 99.

With a clear task in hand Reds were determined to not gift any advantage to Hornsby. Ravi was on the money from ball one and bowled one of the openers.

Praveg, Tushar and Amith all kept it tight and Amith trapped the other opener for LBW shortly after.

Just when it looked like Hornsby will go to stumps with two wickets down, Arindam pulled off a smart catch at forward short leg off Nirav's bowling when a shot ricocheted off batsman's pads and went up.

Ravi came back for the last over of the day and induced an edge which was snatched by Rohit at slips with a smart low catch.

Equation is simple for tomorrow - Reds need 6 wickets, Hornsby 66 runs.

Day 2 – WPHC Red 99 & 8/44 defeated Hornsby 59

The teams, the players and even the umpires saved their best outing for the last day of the season.

Starting at 34/4 Hornsby was rocked early with Ravi snaring two wickets before they could open their account for the day. The pressure was maintained from other end by Praveg with some accurate and intense pace bowling.

Ravi delivered an ultimate skipper's spell by running through the middle and lower order and Praveg took the last wicket to fold Hornsby out for 59.

Ravi ended with an astonishing 7/23 which will go down the annals as one of the most impactful performances in a Grand Final.

With 61 overs left in the day, Hornsby was still hoping to get an outright win and sent Reds to bat again.

A period of tension followed rocking Reds' second innings start.

At 4/8 in less than 10 overs, Reds were in a spot of bother, but a commanding partnership full of grit, heart and character from Praveg and Arindam ensured they ate into the stipulated overs. They blunted the bowlers, left well and did nothing extraordinary and stayed focused on the job at hand.

Praveg was eventually dismissed for a caught behind.

Two more wickets followed with Anant getting bowled around his legs and Jassi falling for an extravagant shot, but then skipper Ravi himself got out to bat.

Amidst all this drama, Arindam switched on his monk mode and quietly went about his business at the other end with a superlative batting performance of the season. He finished with 15* off 206 balls, batting through the 65 overs Reds' second innings. It was a knock full of resolve which epitomized the fair game Reds played through the season.

Once Reds reached 8/44, with Hornsby's chances of winning almost 0, frustrations started showing in field, but skipper Ravi declared the innings with 10 mins to go to close.

With no time to change innings and Hornsby's spirits completely spent along with their bodies, umpires called it a close of game and declared WPHCCC Reds the premiers of C4 for 2025-26 season.

This was a commanding win for a team which always respected the game the right way, played fair, had fun and worked hard.

Thank you, dear readers, and well-wishers for supporting and catching up with our progress the whole season, we hope to play some exciting cricket in the coming seasons.

Highlights

- Ravi - 7/23
- Arindam - 21 and 15 n.o of 206 balls
- Jashwant - 20 n.o
- Praveg - 19
- Sahil - 18



Players from left to right: Players (left to right): Adam Hawken (Umpire), Jashwant Upadhyay, Amith Ninan, Siby Joseph, Sahil Kirpalani, Praveg Arkadi, Tushar Bambharoliya, Nirav Desai, James Slade (Umpire) Front row: Arindam Dhar, Anant Wankhade, Ravi Gunna (C), Rohit Bhalla, Vishnu Rajesh

5.6 A1 Grade Grand Finals

1951/52

The **1951/52 A1 Grade Final** (Bannockburn Oval and Hassell Park) started on 19th April 1952 and ended on 21st June (10 Saturdays).

In these days, Finals were 'timeless' – they were played over 4 innings with no time restriction. It was after this game that Laurie Tuckerman left the Association. The game was started at Bannockburn Oval but by week 10 of the Final the wicket was covered for the football season. The game was then moved to Hassell Park – St Ives home ground. After being well placed we lost. Those who played attribute this to the change in venue to St. Ives home ground. After this we lost a number of our A1 Grade players, including Laurie Tuckerman who never played in the Association again.

1989/90

A1 Grand Final 1989/90 – 24th & 25th March 1990 @ Berowra Oval

WPHC 2/82 defeated Kissing Point 7/77 dec

This was a rain affected game with water seeping under the covers. Play started at 1.20 pm on Sunday (Day 2) after Day 1 was washed out. Going into the game WPHC finished 2nd and Kissing Point 4th. Tony Ford won the toss and sent Point in on a wet wicket. Point went for quick runs for an early declaration. They declared at 7/77 after 12 overs. Our best bowlers were Todd Wills and Greg Stoneham. With the wicket drying we needed only a draw to win our 1st A1 Grade Premiership.

In our innings, Todd Wills provided the anchor and was 31 not out in our innings total of 2/82 off 18 overs to get us across the line for our first A1 Grade Premiership.

Team Members:

Mike Cirson, Antony Day, Tony Ford (C), Greg Fiedler, Michael Gard (w/k), Peter McDonald, Greg Stoneham, Iain Ramsey, Craig Russell, Scott Wills, Todd Wills, Rod Worthington.

1990/91

A1 Grand Final 1990/91 – 23rd & 24th March 1991 @ Waitara Oval
WPHC 366 defeated Mt Colah 3/126

Day 1

This was the first time the Final was played at Waitara Oval (later re-named Mark Taylor Oval). West Penno finished as Minor Premier on 70 points with 3rd place Mt Colah on 49 points. We won the toss and batted. After losing a wicket without a run being scored runs came slowly but consistently. A 104 run 4th wicket partnership ended the first day at 4/213.

Day 2

After losing our 5th wicket early on Day 2, a 90 run, 6th wicket partnership sealed the game for us after we reached 366 at Tea on Day 2. Best for us was Todd Wills 81, Greg Stoneham 42 and Mike Cirson 35.

In the final session Mt Colah finished at 3/126. This season was dominated by our batting with Tony Ford scoring 644 runs, Todd Wills 632, Craig Russell 432 and Peter McDonald 372 runs.

Team members: Mike Cirson, Tony Ford (C), Greg Fiedler, Michael Gard (w/k), Peter McDonald, Greg Stoneham, Iain Ramsey, Craig Russell, Mark Watkins, Scott Wills, Todd Wills.

1991/92

A1 Grand Final 1991/92 – 28th & 29th March 1992

WPHC 4/116 defeated Beecroft 8 dec 115

Day 1

This game was between Minor Premier West Penno (50 points) and Beecroft who came 2nd on 48 points. We won the toss and decided to bowl. Play started 1 hour late at 11.00 am due to wet weather delaying the preparation of the pitch. Beecroft lost 3 wickets in the 1st session and found it difficult to score runs due to tight bowling and excellent fielding. At the end of Day 1 Beecroft were 8/118 off 78 overs. Scott Wills finished the day with 2/10 (8 overs), Todd Wills 2/22 (19) and Greg Stoneham 1/14 (30 overs).

Day 2

With more rain overnight and on the next day play started late at 2.30 pm. Beecroft declared their innings closed at the overnight score to try and get a result. We lost 2 quick wickets but Tony Ford and Mike Cirson set us up for a win. Tony top scored with 50, Mike Cirson 19 and Craig Russell 24 runs. This was our 3rd successive A1 Premiership and at the time was a Club record until James Makin's boys won 4 in 2014/15.

The real story though of this match was the Semi Final played the week before when we came back from an 'impossible' position. Playing Nth Turrumurra we collapsed for just 127 on a perfect batting track. At 3/93 Nth Turrumurra were cruising to victory but imploded for 100. Todd Wills took 5/13 (8 overs) and Greg Stoneham 2/22 (16 overs) were magnificent to build pressure with brilliant bowling.

Team members:

Mike Cirson (C), Tony Ford, Greg Fiedler, Peter McDonald, Greg Stoneham, Iain Ramsey, Craig Russell, Chris Thomas, Mark Watkins, Scott Wills, Todd Wills.

2002/03

A1 Grade Final 2002/03 – 29th and 30th March 2003 @ Killara Oval

WPHC 157 and 4/103 defeated Kissing Point 158 and 99

Day 1

What a win. After losing the toss and bowling at Killara Oval we did well in restricting Kissing Point to 158. However, after a good start (2/75) we soon got into trouble and at 5/112 overnight the game was in the balance. Heavy overnight rain got under the covers and play was delayed for 1 hour.

Day 2

In the first over, Simon Davies, who scored a century as part of a 4th wicket record partnership the previous week was out – 6/112 and the task was ahead of us. Wickets continued to fall and we were 9 down and still 21 runs behind.

With some great rear-guard batting from Greg Stoneham and Kevin Wong we got within striking distance in a fabulous 20 run partnership – just 1 run short of the target.

Players weren't allowed to move from spots, other players who were pacing up and down had to keep pacing up and down. Matt Barr (one of our most experienced players) couldn't watch and read the newspaper from inside the dressing room. With 1 run to tie and 2 to win Greg was out to a beauty and we lost on the first innings. As we finished higher on the ladder all we had to do was tie or draw but not this time.

Cheered on by an increasingly noisy West Penno contingent, the fight-back started. We bowled superbly with the two batsmen at the end, Greg Stoneham (4/31) and Kevin Wong (2/19), destroying Kissing Point for 99. Chris Thomas also chipped in with 2/10 off 4 tight overs.

With storm clouds building and light deteriorating rapidly we had 17 minutes and 20 overs to get 100 for victory. Glen Percival (35) and Peter Whitehead batted beautifully with Peter hitting a superb six – out of the ground. But once again the game turned with a quick fall of wickets. Matt Barr (28) steadied the team until he was LBW. With 3 overs to go and bad light about to be called, Chris Thomas played a brief Captain's innings and hit the winning runs with a hook shot into the darkness to the boundary.

Wild excitement followed and we had won the impossible game in one of the best A1 Grade Grand Finals on record.

There were many highlights:

- This was our 4th A1 Grade Premiership (1989/90, 1990/91 and 1991/92)
- Greg Stoneham was the first player (at that time) to have played in all 4 Premierships
- Simon Davies, by scoring 21 runs passed his 4,000 runs for the Club – what a day to do it.



WPHCCC A-Grade Winners 2002-2003

Back (L-R): Matt Barr, Chris Thomas (C); Glen Percival, Simon Davies; Chris Boyd; Matt Stephens; Adam Gerard
Front (L-R): Greg Stoneham; Craig Stubbs; Kevin Wong; Ben Gerard; Peter Whitehead

The Team Members are (left to right – back row first. Photo taken at Kenthurst Park):

Back row: Matt Barr, Chris Thomas (Captain), Glen Percival, Simon Davies, Chris Boyd, Matt Stephens, Adam Gerard,

Front row: Greg Stoneham, Craig Stubbs, Peter Whitehead, Kevin Wong, Ben Gerard, Peter Whitehead.

A1 Grade Club record Premiership winning sequence (4 consecutive Premierships) T E Rofe Shield (Rofie)

Rofie 1

2011/2012 season – A1 Grand Final Vs Asquith Rugby League @ Mark Taylor Oval – 24th & 25th March 2012
WPHC 153 defeated Asquith Rugby League 124

Day 1

A clear day welcomed the two powerhouses of the Competition with Minor Premier WPHC playing 6 times consecutive Premier ARL. Asquith won the toss and put West Penno in on a good track that offered a little early on that encouraged good cricket. Against quality bowling with excellent catching behind the wicket we lost regular wickets against a typical ARL strangulation approach to bowling. At 6/46 and then 7/51 we were in diabolical trouble. Enter 16-year-old Daniel Anderson (DA) batting at 4 and Scott Henderson. These 2 batted superbly to put on 76 for the 8th wicket in a chanceless display of Finals cricket. DA was out on 57 (caught at mid-wicket) to the only mistake he made and then Scott Henderson continued on to get an equally impressive 42. To get to 153 was a gutsy effort that gave the boys a chance.

Tom Richmond, Association Life Member recorded his thoughts in the North Shore Advocate Courier “*The West Penno boys were in terrible trouble at 7/51 before 16-year-old Daniel Anderson then played one of the great finals innings. Demonstrating skill and maturity, Anderson held the innings together as West Penno reached 153*”.

In the 14 overs left in the day ARL were 1/21 with a couple of tough chances. Matt Spalding was superb taking 1/7 off 7 overs and asking a lot of questions.

Day 2

A huge day dawned with no margin for error. Defending 132 with 9 wickets left against the 6 times Premiers we had to do everything right. Big Matt Spalding continued from where he left off the night before and bowled an immaculate line and length to pressure the batsmen. The first wicket though went to Matt Jobson who also bowled a great spell. It was one of those games where ARL kept edging into a winning position then we got a wicket that brought us back into play. The turning point (the major one at least) was a Scott Henderson over where he took 2 wickets in successive balls of gun players and only to be denied a hat-trick by a no-ball call. From there the momentum swung our way. The bowling was superb with contributions like Sam Baidya's 2/5 from 5.3 overs including the final wicket being priceless. Great fielding like Ranga Ediriwickrama magical run out of their only remaining quality bat was superb. The bowling figures tell it all – Matt Spalding 2/21 (19 overs), Scott Henderson 2/13 (11), Sol Tomlinson 2/34, Matt Jobson 1/15 – we out-strangled ARL who specialise in this type of play.

A massive win against all odds after being 7/51 on day 1. This win brought up a record 4 A1 Grade Premierships in a season – the Triforce Cup (T/20), Pre-season Comp, Minor Premiership and A1 Grade Premiership (Rofe Shield). This Premiership win, against all odds will be remembered as one of, if not the greatest, Grand Final wins in our history.

Comments from 2 all-time greats at the game said it all:

“Magnificent afternoon thoroughly enjoyed great to see many people up there. Indeed, a great young side who play the game the right way a credit to West Penno. Very good bowling and fielding side and possibly the best all-round bowling attack I have seen from West Penno certainly the equal or better than what we had” – Tony Ford (former 2 x times A1 Premiership Captain and Association Player of the Decade (1990s).

“I echo Tony's words. Great afternoon, very good team, terrific bowling attack and two amazing fight-backs by them, in successive weeks. Having done that last part, in a Semi and Final, they deserved to win the Premiership and it must have brought them huge joy and satisfaction - just as it did to those who were watching, especially the ex-players for whom it brought back wonderful memories of exactly what it is like to win a Premiership. Love seeing a left arm spinner in the side too. Please pass on my congrats to Daniel. Superb achievement for him.” – Greg Stoneham (A1 Great who scored 3,505 runs and took 401 wickets).

Photo – the moment of victory. Scott Henderson, after taking the winning catch at mid-wicket off Sam Baidya's bowling. Also, in the picture (left to right) Matt Spalding (obscured), Tim Rae, Sol Tomlinson, James Makin, Scott Henderson, Daniel Anderson (w/k), Sam Baidya – Mark Taylor Oval – 25th March 2012.



Photo – the first of our winning dynasty.

Back row (l to r) – Sol Tomlinson, Simon Smyth, Peter Stott, James Makin (C), Matt Jobson, Scott Henderson, Ranga Ediriwickrama, Tim Rae.

Front row – Sam Baidya, Daniel Anderson, Rofe Shield, Matt Spalding.

The sequel

A final note on the A1 Grade victory. Simon and Mel Smyth had a baby son born soon after the Final and they named him Corey James Smyth. How about this for a story straight from the man himself – Simon:

“.... not to embarrass my Rofie winning Captain, but this is true. Mel liked 'CJ' as a nickname, so wanted Corey's middle name to start with 'J'. The week of the Grand Final, I told her that if we won, the middle name should be after our Captain (James Makin). Hence – Corey James.”

Rofie 2

2012/13 season – A1 Grand Final Vs Berowra @ Mark Taylor Oval – 23rd & 24th March 2013
WPHC 225 defeated Berowra 145

Our **second consecutive** Premiership in the record-breaking sequence of Premierships that started in 2011/12.

Day 1 (WPHCCC 225 & Berowra 1/3)

We won the toss and elected to bat on a good deck at Mark Taylor Oval. It was a typical WPHC batting performance – contributions throughout the order with lots of good starts throughout the order and missed opportunities to capitalise on big scores. Sol Tomlinson (42) and James Makin (29) put on an excellent opening stand of 64 that batted us through the 1st session without loss. At 3/151 we were in a great position to get 275+. Gav Taylor (33), Stu Newman (16) and Brendan Ham (36) were looking the goods but we had a blip and lost 4 for 11 runs that saw us lose momentum. At 7/163 we had a competitive score with our bowling attack but needed more to get momentum going back our way. Enter Matt Jobson (18), Peter Stott (12) and number 10 bat Scott Henderson with 25*. The last 3 wickets put on an important 62 runs. We would have liked more runs but finished with a highly competitive 225 – a score no team this year has run down against us this season. In fact, only 2 teams have scored more than 200 against our bowling attack all season.

With two overs to bowl before stumps, we managed to take one Berowra wicket (nightwatchman) with us into the sheds. Conditions are good for batting, but with 225 on the board we were in a strong position.

Day 2

A cloudless, warm day greeted the players and a pitch that was less forgiving than day 1 – a batting paradise. This was a day where the best bowling Team in the Comp was up against one of the better batting teams. The story of the day is that our bowlers bowled great lines and strangled Berowra. They had cameo partnerships that threatened but then came the breakthrough with wickets shared by all the bowlers. Scott Henderson made a claim for man of the match with his figures of 4/43 (13 overs) plus his crucial 25* on day 1. Matt Spalding took 2/18 off 14 overs and got the last wicket, Peter Stott 2/31, Sol Tomlinson 1/18 and Matt Jobson 1/19 all made important contributions. Supporting the bowling was some great catching with Nick Bennett (w/k) and Gav Taylor (silly cover) taking a couple of beauties.

The boys have now won back to back Rofe Shield Premierships with James Makin equalling the record set by Tony Ford back in 1989/90 and 1990/91. The challenge is now to win next year to equal our record 3 straight. Well done on a great season fellas.

Team members: Sam Baidya, Nick Bennett, Brendan Ham, Scott Henderson (Player of the Match), Matt Jobson, James Makin (Captain), Stuart Newman, Tim Rae, Matt Spalding, Peter Stott, Gavin Taylor, Sol Tomlinson.



Photo – (Back row left to right) – Tim Rae, Peter Stott, Stuart Newman, Matt Jobson, Scott Henderson (Player of the Match), James Makin (Captain), Nick Bennett, Matt Spalding (Front row left to right) – Sam Baidya, Brendan Ham, Gavin Taylor, Sol Tomlinson.

Rofie 3

2013/14 season – A1 Grand Final Vs Asquith Rugby League at Parklands Oval – 29th & 30th March 2014.
Our Club record equalling **3rd consecutive** A1 Premiership.

A1 81 defeated ARL 67

Day 1

After a week of rain, the match was moved from Berowra Oval to Parklands Oval. Despite a fantastic effort from the groundsman, no play was possible. However, things were looking positive for Sunday (Day 2) with a wicket being prepared and Saturday being a dry day. Check out the Multi-media section of the website on the A1 Grand Final and get a feel for how wet this wicket was before play started and the effort taken to get the game underway. It is worth noting that a few of the boys (Sam Baidya, Nick Bennett, Gavin Taylor, Stuart Newman and Ranga Ediriwickrama) slept at the ground overnight to put the covers down at any time of the night should it rain. It did rain and the boys got the covers down late on Saturday night.

Day 2

The sun shone and the scene was set for another classic contest between these 2 great sides of the last decade. This was another classic encounter – a low scoring epic. To get a game on after a week of heavy rain was an amazing achievement by the groundsman. Losing the toss we were asked to bat on a damp and difficult track with the ball popping and coming through at variable pace. As expected runs were at a premium and anything over 75 was defensible. We got to 81 due largely to Skipper James Makin who opened the innings and was eighth player out for 28 crucial runs. Ranga Ediriwickrama with a powerful 24 and the 14 from Peter Stott at the end also proven crucial.

With ARL being the Minor Premier, we had to bowl them out to win. The wicket was drying but no one was ever ‘in’ to good bowling. The story of the innings is that we fielded brilliantly, took everything that was catchable and refused to concede – the catches by Ranga and Brendan Ham were simply brilliant. The bowlers were superb, Matt Spalding got the early break-throughs with 2 wickets and Matt Jobson (1/9) was also outstanding. Enter Scott Henderson. The big fella bowled like a predator chasing his prey. He intimidated the batsmen with fast and vicious bowling and tight lines. He gave everything and finished with the amazing figures of 6/15 from 9 overs to tear the heart out of ARL including being on a hat-trick at one stage.



Photo – The last wicket was a brilliant catch by ‘keeper Stuart Newman who ran 30 metres and then diving at full stretch.

The jubilation said it all and brought up records:

- This win was our 3rd straight A1 Premiership – only the 2nd time in the 60 straight years we have been in A1 – the last time was the great side of 1989/90 to 91/92
- James Makin became our most capped A1 Captain with 3 successive Premierships – the previous record was 2 held by the great Tony Ford. James went on to win 4 Premierships in succession the following season
- Matt Jobson had won 3 x A2 and 3 x A1 Premierships – 6 in the top Grades – a record in our Club – with more to come.

Our first Premiership in the sequence was special – coming back from 7/51 down to beat 6-time straight Premier ARL. The old hands in the Team reckon this was up there with this great win – high praise and who can dispute it.



Back row (left to right): Peter Stott, Ranga Ediriwickrama, Sam Baidya, James Makin (C), Sol Tomlinson, Stuart Newman, Matt Spalding, Matt Jobson, Riley Miedler, Scott Henderson (6/15 off 9 overs).

Sitting: Gavin Taylor, Brendan Ham.

Rofie 4

2014/15 season – A1 Grand Final Vs Berowra at Asquith Oval – 28th & 29th March 2015
WPHC 181 defeated outright Berowra 67 & 85.

Our Club record breaking **4th consecutive** A1 Grade Premiership win.

Day 1

The big dance had finally arrived and for our A1 defending premiers (3 in a row), this is what we had been building ourselves up for all season. This is a Grand Final hardened side that lifts noticeably at this time of the season – they are intimidating and rank among our great A1 sides of past years. We lost the toss and were asked to bowl with a cloudless sky overhead and on a rock-hard Asquith Park wicket. The day couldn't have started any better when on the first ball of the match, Spaldo in his final A1 Grade game, produced an absolute gem of a delivery smashing into off-stump.

This was a sign of things to come and the guys showed why we have the best bowling attack in the comp. Steady wickets flowed all morning with some tremendous pressure through bowling partnerships. Jobbo (2/15); Riley Miedler once again backing up from 6fa in the SF picked up (3/13 and his 200th wicket making him the youngest in our history to achieve this landmark); Hendo the finals specialist grabbed (3/10) and Sol got an important wicket also (1/15). Berowra all out just after lunch for 67 after being 9/48 at lunch. This total is identical to what we bowled ARL out for in last year's GF.

In reply we were able to reach 4/130 at stumps. Our top order was all class and really showed that if you can dig in and value your wicket on this pitch, it would pay dividends. Gav Taylor (52*) and Stu Newman (43) were outstanding as they have been all season. With still 6 wickets left and plenty of batting to come we are in a superb position to bring home Rofie for a fourth straight year.

Day 2

Resuming at 4/130 we batted on for about 20 overs. Gav Taylor batted with great maturity to increase his overnight score to 74 and with Stu Newman (43) guided us to a strong position with a 79 run 3rd wicket partnership – the highest partnership of the match. Berowra had nothing to lose and went for fast runs but the challenge against our attack, quality fielding and smart captaincy was always going to be tough. Their innings followed a certain inevitability backed up by smart captaincy by James Makin who set 1-day fields and waited for Berowra boys to play get out shots. Matt Jobson backed up his 2 wickets in the first innings with 5/37. Scott Henderson got 3/6 and Matt Spalding got 1/33. We ended up winning by a comfortable innings and 29 runs to win our 4th consecutive Premiership. James Makin also notched up his 4th consecutive Premiership as Captain – another Club record.

Our record breaking 4th Consecutive A1 Premiership Team:



From left to right - back row: Geoff Hasler (umpire), Riley Miedler, Scott Henderson, James Makin (Captain), Sol Tomlinson, Stu Newman, Sam Baidya, Simon Moore (Umpire).

Middle row: Lachlan Vile, Ranga Ediriwickrama, Matt Jobson, Gav Taylor.

Front row: Peter Stott & Matt Spalding.

In summary, the boys were just too experienced, better in all facets on the day, and knew how to win the big games. “Welcome to the big dance”.

Rofie 10-year Reunion

Back at the Sports Club, our great A1 Grade sides from 2011/12 to 2014/15 had their 10-year reunion (3rd December 2022) – a celebration of what was a golden era in our history. They won 4 successive Premierships and delivered our greatest ever A Grade dynasty. This is just a little later than planned due to Covid, illness and players being away.

Over the 4 years of their reign while there were changes in the composition of the side, the accompanying photo was the Team that won our first Rofie Shield in 2011/12. Just 3 players are still playing – who else but James Makin, still playing A1 Grade! Also, Daniel Anderson (Grade cricket) and Sol Tomlinson (UK).

The 1st win was also one of our greatest ever victories. Playing a side (ARL) that was chasing their 6th consecutive Premiership we were 7/51 at lunch on Day 1 and finished at 153. ARL were then bowled out for 124 in the face of great bowling and equally high-quality fielding.



Photo: Our 1st Rofie Shield Premiers @ Mark Taylor Oval, 25 March 2012
Sol Tomlinson, Simon Smyth (with tie), Peter Stott, James Makin (Captain), Matt Jobson, Scott Henderson, Ranga Ediriwickrama, Tim Rae.

Front row: Sam Baidya, Daniel Anderson, The Rofie Shield, Matt Spalding.

2016/17 season

WPHC 9/134 drew with Berowra 135

Day 1 – WPHC Vs Berowra 2/47

After 2-weeks of heavy rain there was a chance of getting on with breaks in the weather. The boys put in a huge effort all week by being at the ground to put covers on and off and then drying the pitch with 4 commercial blowers hired from Bunnings – a game we had to win as we finished 2nd. We eventually got on at 4.00 pm.

We won the toss and elected to bowl. The pitch was playable but offered a bit if we got it in the right places. There were lots balls popping into space and a few close appeals but Berowra negotiated a difficult session to be 2 down. With 90 overs to play on Day 2 there is a lot of cricket left in this game and with the chance of batting in the best conditions later on the day this is very much game on.

Day 2

The sun was shining and the day promised to be an exciting finish and it didn't disappoint. Berowra batted sensibly with balls again popping into space but they survived to be 2/72 off 45 overs in a grinding game. Over the 6 years our fast bowlers would dominate. Today it was Justin Paterson, the left arm orthodox who bowled 21 overs straight and finished with 7/35 – just the 142nd time in our history anyone has taken 7 wickets or better in an innings and the 3rd time in a Grand Final – the first time in A Grade. This gave us a shot at victory – needing 136 to win in 45 overs.

Phil Wurth and James Makin opened and got us off to a flyer. Phil batted with great intent and scored a rapid 48 in just 15 overs to leave us 1/64 and well placed to chase down the remaining 71 runs in 30 overs. James was outstanding also getting 48 before falling as our 7th wicket with the score on 121. With good bowling and a comfortable 2 runs an over required the run rate slowed. After promising starts, wickets fell regularly and we got down to needing 8 off the last over to win. We got 7 runs and missed the win by just 2 runs. Just one run would have given us a tie and Joint Premiers.

This was a great game and with many highlights but we just missed out in what was described by Geoff Hasler, the long-term Umpire, as the best A1 Grade Grand Final he has seen in the 20 years.



Team members: back row standing: Michael Robertson, Phil Wurth, Scott Henderson, Riley Miedler, Justin Paterson, Nick Bennett. Front row: Lachlan Vile, James Makin (C), Matt Jobson, Josh Mathias, Alex Connell - A1 Grand Final (9/134) Vs Berowra (135) @ Berowra Oval, 25th & 26th March 2017.

Postscript

On Saturday 31 March 2017, the Sydney Morning Herald ran the following story in the 'Fitz Files' – a weekly column by Peter Fitzsimons:

“Perfect pitch

As if you didn't know, last weekend in Sydney was the scheduled cricket final for many suburban comps across our fair metropolis, meaning there was more angst than usual, contemplating the wet weather, and nowhere was it stronger than among the lads of the West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Cricket Club, due to play and Berowra at the latter's home ground. WPHCCC needed to play to win. BCC didn't. But say, the West Pennant lads asked, would you Berowra blokes mind if, in the course of the week, we came over your way, and kinda looked after your oval? Not at all! And so, it went, all week, as the Pennant posse covered the pitch, aired the pitch, hired leaf blowers to dry the pitch, removed covers so that the grass could be mowed, and covered the pitch once more. And it worked! Come Saturday the two-day match started only at 4pm, but it started, due to their vigilance.

*Star of the show, as it turned out was WPHCCC's **Justin Paterson**, usually a fast bowler, who was called on to bowl spin to shut Berowra down after their big start, and did so, taking a magnificent 7/35. WPHCCC was left with a target of just 136 runs to win. And who, do you suppose comes in at last drop, late Sunday arvo, with one ball remaining, needing four to win **Justin Paterson**. He takes centre, he furrows his brow, he steps down the wicket, he connects! He runs ... as Berowra scrambles like scalded cats to stop the boundary and ... does so. A mighty heave back to the wicket-keeper, and WPHCCC has only run two. It is a draw as WPHCCC remain with two not out batsmen, meaning Berowra take the trophy.*

I know it, you know it, and they know it. Gotta love this city!"

Source: Sydney Morning Herald, Peter Fitzsimons 'Fitz Files' 1 April 2017 pp 47 – www.smh.com.au/sport/the-fitz-files/all-blacks-ivf-plan-for-world-rugby-domination-20170331-gvaqbr.html

2021/22 Season

WPHC 8/159 dec drew with Berowra 2/98

Day 1 – 3/47

After heavy overnight and morning rain we got on Berowra Oval at 4.00 pm for 30 overs. We lost the toss at got first use of the wicket. The aim is to set a target and try and bowl the higher placed Team out. Batting first on a slow ground we finished at 3/47 off the 30 overs. Josh Banner is 19 not and Sean Clarence 7 not out. We got into Day 2 with 90 overs, a slow ground and a wicket that will still give the bowlers a bit of support. There is still a lot of cricket left in this game.

Day 2

After losing 60 overs on Day 1 due to a damp square we had to make the running to try and manufacture a result. The plan was to bat until lunch, set a target of around 150 and try and bowl them out. Chasing quick runs, we lost a few wickets early. Enter Ashane de Silva who smashed 59* including 2 big sixers and a cameo 15 from Lachie McBrien. We closed at 8/159 and gave us 60 overs to force a result.

The wicket dried out and became a batting track. Great bowling from Michael Richards with 0/9 from 13 overs. We finished with 2/98 from 51 overs with our best being Luke Herzog with 2/21 and so we finished with a draw.

A disappointing end to a game that promised so much but the late start and getting first use of a wicket that offered the bowlers a lot on Day 1 worked against us.

We had a great season overall with just the one loss all season to a Team that went through undefeated. So, the best 2 Teams played in the big dance and it was an effort worthy of a Grand Final.

Team: Phil Wurth (C), Josh Banner, Sean Clarence, Ashane De Silva, Billy Gaunt, Luke Herzog, James Makin, Lachlan McBrien, Tis Mistry, Jackson Preedy, Michael Richards.

2022/23 Season

WPHC 113 lost to Berowra 192

18th & 19th March 2023

Day 1 – Berowra 192 all out

Without our spearhead, Berowra won the toss and chose to bat. Then something happened that we couldn't foresee...they batted for a draw.

Krang and KB Tiz opened up and bowled well for no reward, Sav tied up an end perfectly and Meiks came on to take the first wicket on the stroke of drinks. There we took another wicket, the first to Gandis of the day and were looking good.

After applying the clamps, just before the lunch break Sav had a caught behind as out as Carson Kressley, umpire Fletcher remained unmoved.

The partnership then continued for another hour until the ball before drinks, Tiz removed the stone wall Griff

LBW. Berowra 3/141.

After this, it all happened, and by all happened I mean it was a day for vegetables around the country. Gandis proved too cranky and too good for the Berowra middle and lower order. He finished the day 6/28 off 20.1. Yes readers, 6/28 in a grand final. It was Gas' day and boy didn't he let us know about it: *"It was my intention to do the match report but after today I'm going to pass because it'd be all about me if I wrote it and that's not fair"*

Berowra bowled out for 192, 6 for Gas, 2 for Meiks, Tiz 1 and Wu 1.

Wu 1 wicket you say? Yes. Wu got Rayner out as he promised he would.....AGAAAINNN.

Big chase on tomorrow, what a day for cricket, see you ALL there.

Day 2

Another hot day on a good deck and hopes were high with 10 wickets for a gettable target. Jackson Preedy was outstanding for his top score of 41 it was an innings marked by everyone getting a start but not converting. What is interesting is that in all the Finals games we have played against Berowra since the year 2000 this is the first game that has achieved a result – all the other Semi Final / Finals games were drawn.

A disappointing finish but a great season to have only lost one game all season getting into the big dance,

Team Members:

Sean Clarence, Ashane De Silva, Billy Gaunt, Michael Gunn, Tom Hando, Luke Herzog, James Makin, Andy Meikle, Tis Mistry, Cameron McBrien (C), Michael Richards, Jackson Preedy



The A1 (Red & Blue Teams who played in a combined A1 Comp in 2022-23)

Team members: From left to right:

Sam Hando, Tis Mistry, Luke Herzog, Cameron McBrien (Captain - Red), Campbell Wallace (Captain - Blue) Jack Hando, Sam Hando, Ashane De Silva, Harry Hando.

Front row: Dean Carlin, Billy Gaunt, Justin Edwards, Kyle Townsend, Avi Lath & Hugo Wallace - Turramurra Oval, 19th & 26th November 2022.

2024/25 Season

15th & 16th March 2025

WPHC (2nd) 7/188 defeated Berowra 184

Welcome readers to the Grand Final match report between the old titanic foes, WPHCCCCC and Berowra. Let me be the first to say that plenty has been said online (and offline) in this masthead over the past decade – the reach of this dribble has no boundaries. So alas, for the final time with the stroke of my gold and onyx fountain pen, to the cricket we go - this glorious madness.

Day 1

WPHC Vs Berowra 6/171

K "Temu Griff" McBrien met Daggles at Berowra Oval bright eyed and bushy tailed to pull off the covers, the esteemed groundsman informing our fearless leader that a brand-new pitch had been prepared for the final game of the season. *"It'll do a lot early"* he barked. Combined with slight overcast conditions and 38-degree

temperatures, that was enough for K to be convinced that bowling first was the right option. What he failed to realise, was that Daggles was about to roll the pitch for a good 45 mins straight, removing any chance for it to "do a lot early". K kept the faith in what Daggles had promised him, he won the toss, and bowled.

K was forced to tamper with the side coming into the GF. Lichaaa was sensationally recalled for the injured Jack Hando, who was unfortunately injured in the Semi vs Hornsby Brown. Meiks was also unavailable for the full weekend, so K turned to Michael Gunn - who had virtually all but given up his dreams of playing finals. His attention firmly diverted to his upcoming soccer season, so much so that he made himself available to play two trial games on Saturday before coming to cricket. The rest of the side remained unchanged.

Despite the apocalyptic warnings from the media on how hot it was going to be for a March weekend, opposition captain Fiedler (Will, not Daniel) decided to enforce an MCC rule on substitute fielders. I wasn't aware that MCC jurisdictions cascaded to whatever level of park cricket we play, but his quotation of the exact by-law and paragraph bamboozled the umpires and K. It was decided that no subs would be allowed, fielders would need to sweat in the heat. Assman was told to dress in his whites, not realising he wouldn't be required to field for the first few sessions.

Without Jack Hando, K turned to Tiz and Crehorse P to open the bowling but it was evident within about three balls that Daggles had rolled the pitch to death. There wasn't much in the wicket for the bowlers, so it was going to be a hard slog all day. Chances were going to be hard to come by - so when Wu dropped Dickie J when he was about 2 at square leg, many pondered whether that was the Hershell Gibbs moment. Fortunately, Dickie J had an awful record against us, so spirits were upbeat that he wouldn't go on to get a score.

Without an early wicket, K turned to Lichaa and Gandis to try and break the opening stand. For reasons almost everyone still doesn't understand, Gandis has a terrific record against Berowra - he was in their scouting report on players to watch. And for good reason, because he was able to dismiss Griff with a slow loosener that was spooned to mid-wicket. It just added to his mystery of success against the old enemy.

Watts joined Dickie J and Lichaaa smelt blood in the water. A couple of outswingers uncovered an opportunity to set Watts up for an edge - and that is exactly what happened. Except umpire Hasler didn't hear the nick that was heard from space. Watts survived and a partnership formed.

As the mercury hit 35+, K turned to Tiz to try and get a breakthrough - and he delivered, capturing Watts caught at point. Another breakthrough occurred shortly thereafter, K removing himself from first slip to have Lichaaa take his spot - Lichaaa taking a blinder that was sharply low to his right to dismiss Patel and Tiz had his second. Brilliant captaincy from K. Its classic catch A for the match.

West joined Dickie J and time stood still for about 2 hours. Christ it was boring - but very disciplined cricket from Berowra. They didn't need to win, a draw would suffice - and having us melt like candles out in the heat would drain us physically, mentally and sexually. Lots of things probably happened during this time, but I can't remember much - all of my energy was directed in just trying to breathe and stand up straight. But if the MCC bible says that no subs are allowed, I know we must follow the letter of the law in our standard of cricket. I wonder what D2s did?

Anyway, I am getting distracted because at some point, Dickie J loosened the shoulders and began to make something happen. Tired bowlers started to get looser and looser - we were so tired that even Assman got a bowl. We used ten bowlers - 10!!

Billy was licking his lips at one point thinking he might have a chance at rolling the arm over. But Dickie didn't mind, he was beginning to up the run rate when - against all odds - Harry Hando took classic catch B for the match with a miraculous caught and bowled that was belted back low at him as he finished his bowling action. It was an unbelievable grab, and one that was desperately needed. Dickie had been incredibly disciplined, but was about to blow the game wide open and probably go on to make 200+. We were down on the canvas on the 8 count, and Harry had given us a pulse - we rose to our feet, gloves up and began to jab back.

I just remembered - Cooper Davenport also came and went during this time (blame the heat stroke for my memory loss), Harry Hando with another scalp. Fellow SF centurion Mitch Fullager was next to the crease - and thank you to St Ives for batting two of the premier batsmen into form for the big dance.

It didn't work though, because Tiz was able to find the fishing edge through to Billy and the danger man was gone. A big final spell of bowling late in the day from Harry and Tiz had wrestled back momentum. We were behind the game, but not out of it.

The day closed 6/170 odd, Berowra to bat on in the morning. YOUR WPHCCCC had to recover quickly overnight. Assman was banned from going out. Wu kept saying that "*I don't think they have enough*". He stopped by BWS and picked up a case on the way home.

Day 2

WPHC 7/188 *defeated* Berowra 184

Stiff bodies and warm conditions greeted the WPHCCCC boys as they arrived before 9am to rip the covers off. The perfect antidote for recovery, coffee, was on the menu. Spirits were high, we knew that quick wickets would give us a chance to chase down a score on a batsman friendly wicket. But would the pitch have some early demons to help us with some of the dew overnight? You bet bottom dollar, not. Daggles was back on the roller for another 30 mins.

With Day 1/Day 2 players, Tiz and Gandis were unable to bowl - both were injured anyway from the day prior. Lichaa and Harry were tasked to get an early breakthrough, they built pressure at both ends and eventually Harry was able to snare the impenetrable West, caught by a juggling Campbell Rudd in the slips. The pressure continued when Lichaaa trapped Davenport in front and it seemed like momentum was shifting slightly. It needed a big Captain's knock to wrestle back control. As per Berowra tradition, the non-bowling captain walked to crease at no 9 ready to make an impact.

But the impact was short lived, Harry getting the faintest of edges through to Billy - and Will had to walk. Wu offered his sympathies to Will by agreeing it was a tough decision, scolded by Captain K to stop with such antics. The slowest walk off in history was greeted at the top of the stairs by a smiling Gandis, "*stop laughing you pea hearted lump of shit*" Fiedler barked.

Tensions were high - and they were only going to escalate as Berowra fans kept drinking throughout the day.

But for what it is worth, and forgive me for this editorial, but I loved the sledge. It was raw, edgy - just the timing was unusual given he was telling his story walking but the theatrics, oh the theatrics!!

To his defence, Gandis may be a lump of shit but he is certainly not pea-hearted, just remember that time he was hit in the face from Fullager and he bounced to his feet (not realising the thousands in dental bills he would face that week). He also seems to get most of the Berowra top order out each game, his chest pumped out like nobody's business.

Anyway, unbeknownst to the team out on the park, focus turned to getting the final wicket.

Lichaaa delivered, picking Brad Fiedler caught at short cover by Campbell Adelaide Strikers Mascot Rudd. Ironic given Lichaaa has expressed vocally many times how little a catch is spooned to short cover. Berowra were bowled out for 184. Harry and Lichaaa had cleaned up the last 4 wickets for less than 20 runs in the first session - we held our chances and we were upbeat. K brought the troops in and delivered a Churchill like address. This was our time. We knew the score was below par given how good the wicket was. We bat well, we will win. Wu reminded us that he didn't think they had enough.

Harry picked up 4/39 off 20, Tiz 3/31 off 16, Lichaaa 2/32 off 24.3, Gandis 1/18 off 10. An unbelievable effort from the fast bowling cartel in those conditions.

K and Wu opened us up - 185 to win, 75 overs to get them.

It was still very hot, but that didn't deter the crowd from slowly building throughout the afternoon. Collier and Fullager were good early, nice and tight but the opening pair were determined to see off the new ball. They survived multiple LBW shouts, many of which were aggressively questioned by the opposition captain.

Umpire Williams was told he was "0/5 today" in his decisions. No disciplinary action was taken. Editorial again; I can't even remind a batsman about their poor shot without getting a slap on the wrist from the officials - the

leniency rope stretches in many ways clearly. Unfortunately, K fell once again to his new arch nemesis - the full toss. LBW to Mitch for 2. 1/7 early in proceedings.

I have always said, you bat your best batsman at 3 - with Sav out, JA still missing and Billy too scared to bat higher, Jackson Preedy walked to the wicket with the game on his shoulders. We needed a partnership before lunch, we needed Wu and Preeds to get us there - and they did. A huge momentum driver for us leading into the main break.

We were only on about 15-20 through 15-20 overs, but we had 9 wickets in hand and 50 overs to get the runs.

Spirits were optimistic. Wu threw up a lung up on the hill, his coconut water failing to hydrate him adequately. He waved off the strong stuff and told L Mac to go to the servo and get him a coke. "How dare they make me field for 90 overs yesterday with no rest" he kept saying between vomits. He was determined to be carried off the field for victory. "I was always going to live until my mid-90s, but the stress of not beating these blokes has taken 15 years off my life, I will die in my 70s if we don't beat them."

Wu and Preeds returned after lunch but the partnership was quickly broken, Wu gone for 12 caught behind. 2/25 and still a long way off when Billy Gaunt was elevated to no4 to join Preeds in the centre. Billy has been a new man since a new flame arrived in his life - he has been quick witted, chirpy, confident. And he is scoring a lot of runs. Many of which were not in A Grade through the year. But two important knocks in the SF had him walking out with his chest pumped. That chest was quickly wound back to his body when he was dropped by Knox at point on 2.

For the next hour or so, Billy and Preeds began to build a foundation into chasing the target.

They were picking off singles and two's all over the ground and we very quickly got to 50, then 60, then 70. The game seemed to be moving quickly but then it all came to a screeching halt. The over rate slowed. Berowra fielders were asked to swap positions mid-over.

Bowlers pulled out of their run-ups. There was a clear mindset shift from the Berowra leadership. Defensive fields were set. Were they playing for the draw? Billy and Preeds were not concerned, they brought up the 100 and we were beginning to have a real sniff. That was until they ended up both at the same end in a huge mix-up but Berowra butchered a certain runout. They got to tea and the momentum was very much in the WPHCCCCC sails.

Tea time and for some unknown reason, catering was not provided.... but it didn't matter, we were too nervous to eat. Billy and Preeds were looking good, but we all know that WPHCCCCC LOVE a collapse from a winnable position. Many of the senior players were pacing around, unable to sit still. Wu told me that he would jump off the Berowra change room roof if we lost the game from this spot. "And I don't want you to revive me" he said.

About 10-12 overs would need to be bowled before the final drinks break, so it was a good opportunity to put a good dent in the chase and have a partnership still going strong into the final hour. They kept going about their work until Billy, who had played the late cut so well throughout the day, chopped on off Griff for a well-made 67. He was disappointed but greeted back by respectful applause from the Berowra crowd. The applause quickly turned to sledging to Assman, who was next in. His red shoes were likened to traffic cones. It was fair to say the Berowra boys were on to their second beer.

Now Assman doesn't have many gears as we know. He is very black and white, mainly the former. We needed about 65 at this stage to win, off about 25 overs - plenty of time to knock the ball around and do it in singles. Assman had other ideas. His third ball, he decided to hit Griff over the Clubhouse - but he got too much underneath it, caught on the deep midwicket boundary for 0. From 2/125 to 4/129, it was a little wobble.

We just had to get to the final break unscathed and Harry Hando was tasked to get us there. He walked down the stairs to the ground, the Berowra crowd had clearly moved onto their third beer as they delivered some choice words to Harry for not closing the gate. Harry is such a gentle soul, he wouldn't hurt a fly - so when Preeds heard those words from out in the middle, he was PISSED OFF.

He dropped his bat and helmet and walked directly to the crowd and told them to rack off. And boy didn't the crowd whimper back into their burrow like little pussycats. I have never seen P like that before, he was like

Rambo. I don't think we realised it at the time, but that show of solidarity to a teammate was huge - it got us up and about. I told Scott Reid to get the crowd to pull their heads in. "*You should be the responsible one*" I yelled. Jamaican then told me that it was Grant Reid.

Harry and Preeds got us to the final break and the equation couldn't have been simpler. 20 overs. 56 runs to get. 6 wickets in hand. It was less than 3 an over, you would back us from this position to get the job done. But remember loyal readers, WPHCCCC love to collapse like deck chairs. It has happened so often through the years. But would it happen again today?

A solid start to the final 20 turned bad when Harry skied a ball off Griff straight to the keeper. 5/151 chasing 185 for victory. Rudd joined Preeds to put on another 6 runs before he was bowled by Griff. 6/157. Tom Hando was elevated in the order but departed two balls later. 7/157. Remember that little simile you read before about deck chairs????

Preeds screamed out to K, he wasn't going to be left to die at the other end. "GET LICHAAA IN". K turned to Lichaaa. Lichaaa wasn't dressed, had no pads on, no gloves and no bat. He scrambled, got ready, screamed at K to ask where his kit was to steal his gloves and picked up a random bat. He copped abuse on the way down to the ground which levelled him - Wu spotting his shoulders pulling back as he walked past the Berowra crowd and gave a wry smile to the words. Lichaaa had scored a grand total of approx. 10 runs for the year. Griff has dismissed him at least the last 8 times in a row. But Preeds wanted him in and together, they HAD to get the job done. 26 runs to get off 42 balls.

After a couple of sighters and a flukey two around the corner, Lichaaa took the first risk against Griff and lofted him over mid-on for a couple. Will Fiedler collected and there were some jeers from the sidelines on whether it was four as his legs hit the fence to collect. The crowd tensions were at an all-time high - many of the lower graders from both clubs had come to witness this titanic finish. In a rare occurrence for A Grade, there was some atmosphere. 20 runs to get, 5 overs left.

Despite the equation, there was a unique level of calmness between Preeds and Lichaaa. Preeds had batted for hours in the heat, yet looked as fresh as daisy - he was locked in and in the zone. He was being given the single to get Lichaaa on strike, but despite that, he punished the bad balls to the boundary too. It was a sterling knock, but the job had to be finished.

Davenport bowled the 4th to last over and this turned out to be the straw that broke the camels back - in more ways than one. Lichaaa punched one to Fiedler at mid-on and called for a quick single, Fiedler misfielded and so WPH were able to double up and keep Lichaaa on strike. Lower grade folk legend, Rockin' Ray Khamis acted on the earlier jeers to the Berowra captain and yelled out to remind him of the mid-field. The Berowra crowd lept to defend and squared up against RRK and his team of disciples, including one Matt "Diggers" (note Gas, that is with a D) Digby. Pushing and shoving commenced and many of the crowd rushed to defuse the situation.

It was all getting a bit too heated with just 5 runs needed to win. Lichaaa decided to cool it off a little, belting a Davenport full toss to the rope for 4.

One run to get for victory, 3 overs left in the day.

Regardless of the outcome, this was test cricket at its finest. Two full days in a see-sawing battle had come down to the final 20 mins of play. Preeds was on strike, his knock the cornerstone of the run chase. Griff was looking to keep it tight but P had other ideas, he smashed a length ball over the heads of the infield for 4.

Chaos ensued. We had done it. We had actually done it. Preeds and Lichaaa embraced in the middle - they had put on 30 runs for the 8th wicket to get the team home. Preeds 86 not out, his highest A Grade score and crowning moment. The team raced out to greet them, radiating smiles and relief. A decade of gut-wrenching losses had been washed away. K becoming the 4th captain in WPHCCCC history to lead an A Grade side to victory.

A huge thank you to all our fans for coming to support us over the weekend, there are too many of you to name but a huge, huge thank you. Special shout to Mary and Phill Hando, our number 1 ticket holders for everything that they did for us to set us up for success - they are the unsung heroes of this team.

And finally, from me, one last personal editorial. I've had the pleasure to write this column for many years, serving loyally in the Makin, Paterson, Wurth and McBrien administrations over the better part of eight years.

The weekend was special for two reasons:

1). It validated years of hard work to be in a position to win a grand final. We finally cracked the code as a team in scoring runs, fielding well and building pressure collectively with the ball and;

2). It was special to do it with such a great group of close mates. We have been playing together for a long period of time and the culture is something incredibly rare and special. We clearly aren't as serious as other teams, we rely on our talent more than anything else - but that talent, willingness to work together and have fun doing so paid dividends in the end. We had our backs against the wall so many times this year and we fought hard to put ourselves in a winning position.

For now, I am passing the baton onto someone else (maybe the actual journalist in the team). To everyone that had read this crap each week, please know that there is no bad blood or malice ever intended - I've always tried to make the recap as entertaining as possible.

From this point on, you will no longer need a note.

Goodbye. (Michael Richards)



Players from left to right: Steve Williams (Umpire), James McBrien, Lachlan McBrien, Andy Mickle, Ashane De Silva, Michael Gunn, Cameron McBrien (C), Jackson Preedy, Jack Hando, Campbell Wallace, Tis Mistry, Geoff Hasler (Umpire), James Makin Front Row: Harry Hando, Tom Hando, Luke Herzog, Phil Wurth, Billy Gaunt, Michael Richards - Berowra Oval – 15 & 16 March 2025.

6. Family, Community & Connections

6.1 Family Connections

- Extending over the 1940s to the late 1970s the *Donaldson family* had Don (Senior), Don (Junior), Jim, and twin brothers John and Ken play with distinction.
- *Barry and Peter McDonald* shared the A1 Grade wicket keeping in 1991/92. They took a combined total of 32 dismissals – then an A Grade record that Barry held since the 1981/82 season
- On 26 October and 2nd November 1996, *Denise Annetts* (NSW Cricket Hall of Fame inductee), husband Ross Anderson and her brother Richard Annetts, played a B1 Grade match against St. Ives (Headen Park). After losing on the first innings WPHC won outright. This is the first recorded instance of a wife/husband/brother (brother in law) playing in the same team in the Association. The combination batted 2, 3 and 4
- In the next match (Vs Glenorie @ Glenorie Oval – now Les Shore) Denise and brother Richard, batted together with her husband (Ross) acting as runner for Denise. When asked by the Glenorie ‘keeper (Mark Middleton – a ‘keeper who liked a chat) why the runner was not wearing a chest guard, Denise’s response was that her padding was actually breasts
- A father and son team tradition started in at least 1985/86 when Barry McDonald and his son Peter, along with Jim Clarke and his sons Ray and Duncan played together in B1 Grade. Since then we have had a family team play most seasons
- In 1996/97 *Stephen Eddy* Captained C1 Grade. In the team was his son Stephen (Jnr), and Robert. His daughter (Jackie) also played Girls cricket for our Club:
 - In the C1 match (1997/98) at Mimosa Oval (8 & 15 November 1997) Robert and Steve Eddy put on 172 for the 6th wicket – a Club record for a father and son combination
- *Craig* (178) and *Grant Broderick* (60), B2 Blue, put on 132 for the 6th wicket on 15 November at Greenway Park – a record 6th wicket partnership for brothers
- In D1 (17/1/2004) the team had 4 father and sons combinations – *Ian and Justin Patterson*, *Greg and James Fiedler*, *Geoff and Josh Mudge*, and *Roger and Simon Friend*
- Our C2 side (17/1/2009 Vs Kenthurst@ Annangrove) had 4 *Creais*’ (David, James, Marcus and Chris) on the field. With 2 *Fiedler’s* (*Andrew and Daniel*), 2 *Miedler’s* (*Andrew and Riley*) & 2 (*Geoff and Nick Starr’s* you can only imagine the scorer’s problems.



Photo – the *Creais* clan – 4 family members playing at the one time. From left to right: Marcus, Chris, David and James. C2 Grade at Annangrove Oval 17th January 2009.

- On 20 December 2018 5 *Hando* family members played in the same Round:
 - A2 – Tom and Jack
 - B2 – Phil, Sam and Harry (13 yrs. old).

Our previous best is the 5 Donaldson's (Don, Don Jnr, John, Jim, Ken) in the 1960s, the 4 Creais family members (David, Marcus, Chris, James) in 2009.



Photo – Andrew and Daniel Fiedler @ Bradman Oval 25 January 2009

- In what could be a Club record, between the 2006/07 and 2010/11 seasons a family member of the Fiedler / Miedler and O'Meara families played in a Grand Final for a WPHC Team
- In 2016/17, the Fiedler's set Club records:
 - The first record – Andrew Captained C1, his eldest son Daniel, Captained B1 and Stu Fiedler was Vice Captain of C2 Red. With Mikey Fiedler next in line we not only had 4 family members playing but to have 3 in Team Leadership roles set a new record
 - The next level – Andrew (C1) and Daniel's (B1) Teams both made it to the Grand Final (25th & 26th March 2017). Never before have we had a father/son combination go this deep in a Competition. They then took this to another level with Premiership wins. There are no Association records available of this achievement but it would be extremely rare – if at all.
 - This win was also Andrew's 9th Premiership win from 13 Finals – excluding T20s.

Record family members in a Team

On Saturday 5th October 2019 all 5 family members – Harry, Sam, Phill (Dad), Jack and Tom – played for c1 Red (Vs ARL @ Les Shore 2) set a Club record that may never be broken.

It doesn't stop there. All 5 players bowled and they took a combined 6/45! The best on the day was the youngest, Harry, who took 2 for 6 off 3 overs to get the boys across the line for an exciting win.



Photo: left to right: Harry, Sam, Phill (Dad), Jack and Tom

One step further

On 11 January 2020, the record that the Hando's set was built on when the 3 Schwartzel's also played in the same Team (C1 Vs WPHC Blue @ Greenway Park). In this game, we had, for the first time, 8 family members from 2 families play in the same team at the same. The photo says it all – from left to right:



Photo: The Schwartzel's (Dan 17, Matt 17, Warren) and the Hando's (Phill, Sam 20, Tom 19, Jack 17 & Harry 14). The family members are in age order. Adding to the History is that the Schwartzel's (Dan & Matt) are twins.

This still has a long way to go from the early teams of the Association though. The South Colah Cricket Club had 18 sons of Patrick and John Duffy (Duffy Ave) of Thornleigh, Dural CC was sustained by the seven sons of Thomas Best, Pennant Hills CC by the 10 sons of Arthur Thompson (Thompson's Corner) and Castle Hill CC by the eleven sons of John James.

A record that may never be broken

Records are set to be broken but maybe not this one. On the 5th October 2019, the 5 members of the Hando family played C1 Grade – the first time 5 family members played for us in the same Team.

In the B2 Grand Final (26th & 27th March 2021 @ Kenthurst Park) the Hando's played together and won the Premiership after also winning the Minor Premiership.



Photo: The players are:
Back row: Steve Ozvatic, Scott Chapman, [Tom Hando](#), Peter Lee (Umpire), Tim Worthington, [Phill Hando](#) (Captain), Damien Lewis (Umpire), Basil Butler, [Sam Hando](#)
Front row: Ben Dunkerley, Cameron Bliss, Alec Silins, Campbell Wallace, [Jack Hando](#), [Harry Hando](#)
Absent: Mithun Mithun

This is a remarkable achievement. What makes this even more special is that they also won the abandoned C1 Premiership in 2019/20.

So, 5 family members playing together in the same Team, in a Grand Final and winning successive Premierships.

Apart from being a tremendous honour for Phill and the boys as a Club, we are so proud of the family, their achievements and the way they play the game.

This still has a long way to go from the early teams of the Association though. The South Colah Cricket Club had 18 sons of Patrick and John Duffy (Duffy Ave) of Thornleigh, Dural CC was sustained by the seven sons of

Thomas Best, Pennant Hills CC by the 10 sons of Arthur Thompson (Thompson's Corner) and Castle Hill CC by the eleven sons of John James.

In 2015/16 our B2 side (Captained by [Rick Turner](#)) contained 2 Meikle, 3 Turner and 2 De Silva family members – photo below:



Photo – our father and son Team (B2) for the 2015/16 season – left to right – Andrew Meikle, Ben Meikle, [Rick Turner](#), Zac Turner, Alex Turner, Dinesh De Silva and Anushka De Silva Vs Wahroonga @ Thornleigh Oval 19/9/2015.

Brothers playing together

A1 Grade

Bailey Miedler (A1) made his A1 debut on Saturday 16 December 2017 and partnered his brother, Riley as opening bowlers.



Photo: Riley (left) & Bailey Miedler in their debut match together Vs St Ives @ Kenthurst Park – 16 December 2017.

The boys join our other brothers who have also played A1:

- Donaldson's (Ken and John) who were twins – 1960's & 70s
- Fiedler's (Greg and Andrew) – 1980s
- Will's (Scott & Todd) – 1990s
- Ford's (Tony & Greg) – 1990s
- Rae's (Matt & Tim) – 1998/99
- Makin's (James & Richard) – 2000s

NSW Premier Cricket (1st Grade)

On Saturday 20 January 2018, Juniors Daniel and John Anderson both played 1st Grade for Northern District Grade Club. In the 93 years since Northern District was established there has been just 2 other sets of brothers play together in 1st Grade:

- Adam and Dean Gilchrist
- Daniel and Michael Friedrich

What makes this special is that the Friedrich and Anderson brothers all played for West Penno and all 4 won the prestigious John Coulthard (Junior Player of the Year) Award:

- Daniel Friedrich (1997/98)
- Michael Friedrich (1999/2000)
- Daniel A (2010/11)
- John (2013/14).



Photo: Daniel Anderson, John Coulthard and John Anderson at Coogee Oval 20 January 2018.

A family affair

When Daniel Anderson (DA) played for NSW Open Schoolboys Team (2nd December 2013) at the SCG he set an Association and Club record. DA joins his mother, Denise Annetts (NSW 1983 to 1992) and his brother John (U16 Gold and A2) who represented NSW Primary Schools (2010). This is the first time in our Club and Association that 3 players from the one family have represented NSW and is certainly the 1st time a Mother and 2 sons have achieved this landmark – perhaps even a first in Australia.

Fathers & sons playing together

On Sunday 16 October 2022, this record has been 92 years in the making. In the C3 Blue Team, Ron (1982-1997/98) and Mat Marsden (1984/85 to 1998/99 plus a cameo return in 2014/15 & a season in 2016/17) played together.

Nothing unusual so far but also playing was Ron’s son Jack, and Mat’s son Bronson. What makes this a first is that both dads (Ron & Mat) played Juniors and then Seniors and now their sons, Bronson & Jack played – a 40-year connection when both fathers and now both sons played Juniors and also Seniors for us and in the same Team.



Photo: The Marsden’s: Bronson & Mat; Ron & Jack). C3 Blue Vs Castle Hill @ Caterson 4 - 16 October 2022

How many sons?

While talking about families, on 6th May 2016 (Castle Hill RSL), Andrew Fiedler was Inducted as only our 20th Life Member. During his Induction speech Andrew acknowledged his “4 sons who have played in the Club through Juniors and Seniors”. The problem is he only has 3 sons – Daniel, Mikey and Stu. The counter quote came from his elder son Daniel on Social Media....”*Christ, I hope Denise (his mum) knows about number 4*”.

Like Father, like Son

The Morris family (Andrew and Zac) had a day to remember on 23 September 2017. In the morning Zac (U16 Blues) scored his first ton – 100 retired (Vs Berowra –Glenorie at Warrina Street, not to be outdone, his dad, Andrew was playing for the B2 Reds (Vs WPHC Blue at Annangrove Oval) and scored 101. So, a father and son ton on the same day is very rare and one for the records.

Father & Son – playing A1

While on A1 Grade, in Round 3 (2025/26 Season), James (A1 player # 187) & Oliver Makin (#338) took the field to be just our 5th father and son combination to play A1 in the 66 years we have competed in this Grade.



Since our first A1 game back in 1951/52 there have been just 339 players to be selected in A1 – about 3.5% of our playing base. To be a father & son combination in the top Grade is a rare achievement.

The other father & son combinations to play for us are:

Donaldson family

Don (A1 # 30) with twin sons John (#31) & Ken (#31). The Donaldson's were our first father & son combination and played together in 1963/64.



Photo: John (1st left) and Ken Donaldson (2nd left) at the Sports Club 23 April 2024

Fiedler family

Greg (#119) & James (#298)



Photos: 1) Greg Fiedler at Storey Park in 1986 & 2) James Fiedler 2nd left, front row with the D1 Premiers of 2003/04

McDonald family

Barry (#109) & Peter (#158)



Photo: 1). Barry McDonald (right) with John Coulthard

Anderson family

Ross (#96) with Daniel (#302) & John (#333)



Photo: 1). Ross Anderson (3rd left, back row) 2). Daniel (left) & John Anderson (right) with John Coulthard at a Premier 1st Grade game in 2018.

6.2 Community

McGrath Foundation – Pink Service Award

In March 2021, the McGrath Foundation awarded our Club with the prestigious ‘Pink Service Award’ – one of only 7 Clubs Australia wide! Think for a moment how special this is.

A media release being issued by the McGrath Foundation says, in part:

“West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Cricket Club has been recognised by the McGrath Foundation as one of just 7 Clubs nation-wide awarded with a Pink Service Award for their ongoing support and dedication to fundraising...It’s incredible that Club’s like West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Cricket Club turnout each year to show their support and raise funds for McGrath Breast Care Nurses”

One of the highlights was in 2016/17 when our Pink Stumps Team raised \$6,000 and then our U15 Armidale Team (pictured) initiated and then ran a Pink Stumps Day at the Armidale Country Carnival (January 2017) for the first time in their long history of play.



In 2025/26 we passed \$75,000 in support to the McGrath Foundation – an achievement that we are very proud. For record we have raised the following amounts since 2010/11:

Date	\$ raised
2010/11	\$1,937
2011/12	\$1,000
2012/13	\$5,068
2013/14	\$6,092
2014/15	\$5,196
2015/16	\$1,510
2016/17	\$7,068 (includes \$2,000 raised at Armidale)
2017/18	\$9,076
2018/19	\$4,464
2019/20	Nil (Covid-19 season) postponed event)
2020/21	\$3,677
2021/22	\$6,571 (\$3,071 from the Girls Festival of Cricket & \$3,500 from Pink Stumps Day)
2022/23	\$6,847.12 (\$4,756.12 plus \$2,091 from Girls Festival of Cricket)
2023/24	\$6,888 \$4,618 (Juniors Mixed) + \$2,270 (Girls)
2024/25	\$5,100 (\$2,7986 Juniors Mixed + \$1,004 Girls + \$1,300 Haven Finance))
2025/26	\$4,171 (Girls Festival of Cricket \$1,169 +Juniors Mixed \$3,002)
TOTAL	\$75,834.12

In 2020/21 the McGrath Foundation awarded us the prestigious 'Pink Service Award' recognition for being among the top 7 supporters of the Foundation over the last 10 years – nationally.



Photo: McGrath Foundation Pink Service Award in March 2021

7. Adversity, Resilience & Challenges

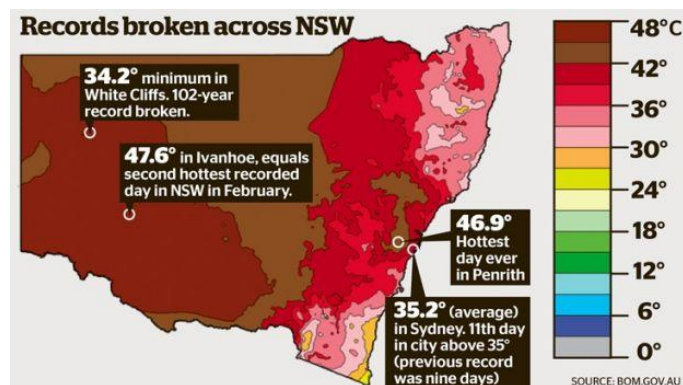
7.1 Heat, Fire, Rain & Covid



Heat

On Saturday 11th February 2017 the Association abandoned all play due to predicted heat – the first time in our Association history going back to 1921:

- Sydney had a record-breaking 3 successive days of high temperatures with Friday 45, 44 on Saturday and 45 degrees on Sunday. Sydney's West also recorded its hottest-ever day, hitting 46.9 degrees at Penrith, while Richmond touched the 47-degree mark.



- In the Hornsby area temperatures peaked at 44.5 degrees on the Saturday. As an aside, the coldest Hornsby temperature for February was 9.2 degrees on 28 February 1989.
- The Sydney Cricket Association, that administers the Grade Competition, abandoned all competition – the first time since being established in 1853.

On Saturday 10th January 2026, the Association cancelled all Saturday games due to a heatwave with predicted heat of 43 degrees. This was just the 2nd time in our history that games for a Round were cancelled due to predicted hot weather.

Fire

Fire has been a constant in our Bushland Shire. The worst recorded fires were on Monday 27 January 1913 when the whole of Hornsby was almost burned and saved only by a wind shift. The worst fires of more recent times that affected cricket in our District, were between August 1993 and January 1994 – now referred to as the 'Eastern Seaboard Fires'. On one weekend during this period the fires were so bad that all games were called off to allow players to be able to fight the fires or potentially save homes. There were also concerns about player welfare due to the heavy smoke pall over the Shire.



Photo – Rofe Park being used as a heli-pad during the fires in 2001.

We have also had fires lapping grounds and play continuing.

On Saturday 21 December 2019, the worst bushfires across NSW were burning. This caused heavy smoke cover

over Sydney with very poor air quality. When combined with predicted temperatures of 43-44 degrees, a 'Catastrophic' fire rating and Hornsby Shire closing all grounds, all play was cancelled.



Photo: A map of the worst bushfire bushfires in NSW that occurred during the summer of 2019/20 (November / January). This map is a snapshot of the fire coverage on 2 January 2019.



Photo – a smoky Day at Galston Park with the U9 Gold’s playing Redfield College. This was when the bushfires in the Blue Mountains were still burning in the 2013 fires. It could almost pass as one of those famous Australian outback paintings but this is the real thing – Galston Park 2 November 2013.



Photo – A1 fast bowler, Scott Henderson bowling to Hornsby @ Parklands Oval 20th October 2012 with a bush fire burning in the background.

Photo – Les Shore Oval in the C1 game Vs Galston-Glenorie on Saturday 3 October 2015 during a day of back-burning. The photo was taken at 3.30 in the afternoon!



Rain

Then of course there is rain and rarely a season goes past without games being washed out. The difference is that in the past, drainage was not a consideration when Ovals were built. We do though still have bad days despite advances being made in this area.

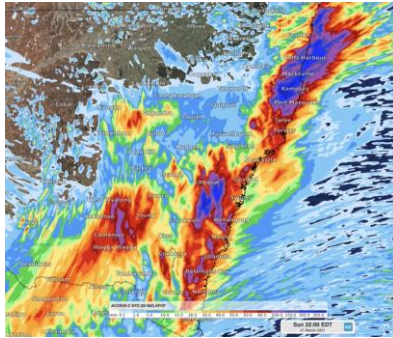


Photo: The rain 'Event' (18 to 22nd March 2021).

The rain 'Event' (pictured above, dumped 279mm of rain in 5 days – 24.5% of Sydney's annual rainfall. It was responsible for the abandonment of the Juniors & Seniors Semi Finals and the Juniors Grand Finals (20th & 21st March 2021).



Photo – Daniel Heidegger (U15 Red) – Moore Shield (U14) w/k celebrating after being declared Joint Premiers of the prestigious NSW District Cricket Association (DCA) Premiership Vs Sutherland @ Normanhurst Oval 11 December 2011

Hail

Just to complete the picture, on Saturday 18th February 2017 (one week after all games were abandoned due to heat), all Seniors games were abandoned due to an intense hail storm.



Photo – Fred Caterson 6 during our U13 Girls game against Lindfield – 18 February 2017

Storms

On Saturday 15th December 2018 a severe storm hit Northern Sydney with the West Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook areas being worst affected. Here are some of the stories coming out of the aftermath:

- Incoming traffic was at a standstill from all entry points. Some of our players who were stuck at Thompson's corner simply parked in a side-street and walked to the Club! An update from Wendy Paton:

“Like Brett and Riley taking around 3 hours to get home to Dural from Turramurra after two other parents waited with Riley for Brett to get there because all the usual roads were closed...??? They got home at 8.30!!!!”

- Campbell Park was badly damaged with all the fences down after tress collapsed right along the length (photo) – our D2 boys were playing at this ground. The damage was so severe that Hornsby Council closed the ground for the following weekend with the game abandoned
- Les Shore – a tree knocked down power lines at the exit to the ground so without careful negotiation you could have been fried
- Edward Bennett Oval – a turtle was blown out of the creek and onto the ground
- Rick Turner (Captain, B1 Blue) had a tree fall on his house and another one on his neighbours place after a lightning strike
- Steve Quanborough (D1) gave an update:
“After the storm while I was quickly heading home I saw some Berowra players had stopped and were helping out our local neighbourhood on Newline Road with the trees on fences and on the roads. A big thumbs up to those individuals.”



Photo: Campbell Park immediately after the Storm passed – Saturday 15 December 2018.

Meanwhile at the Sports Club

The big winner from this was the Sports Club. With people not being able to get out they were powered by generators and were doing a great trade. I got this great story from Steve Quanborough:

I should have mentioned this to you last Saturday. I was playing for the mighty A2 team and when we were called off a few of us managed to make it back to the bowling club during the storm. While we were there a large tree collapsed across the bridge, blocking the only pathway in and out of the Bowling Club.

Fuelled by the strength of about six beers, James "Pear" Partridge jumped into action and with the help of a tiny handheld chainsaw and a few onlookers, Pear 'hulksmashed' the tree into little pieces so the good people at the Bowlo were able to leave after they finished watching Australia demolish India in the Second Test.”

Covid



Pandemic

In March 2020 the World Health Organisation called a Pandemic for the COVID-19. Fortunately, for cricket, this came at the end of the season. On 13th March, the Australian Government banned all meetings with > than 500 people attending.

At International level, the Australia Vs New Zealand ODI's were played with crowds locked out.

At Club level, we cancelled our Junior Presentation (21 March 2020) and Seniors Presentation (1 May).

2020 – the year that was

In our 90 years of history, never before have we seen a season like this one. Just think for a moment on what we have experienced since December 2019:

- Grounds closed for ‘catastrophic fire conditions & poor air quality’ (21 December)
- Round washed out (18 January)
- Extreme heat cancellations (1 February)
- Washed out (8 February)
- Semi-Finals rain affected (14 March)

We now also have the Junior Presentation Day (21 March) cancelled and the Seniors Presentation in May also due to COVID-19.

Covid-19 – Commitment

Here is a story about dedication during the Covid-19 pandemic that will take a lot to beat.

Cameron Croucher played C3 and he played in 8 games of the 11 during the 2020/21 season. So far so good. But....read the story – <https://www.9news.com.au/national/the-sydney-dad-stuck-in-australian-covid-hotel-quarantine-loop/d849f2c4-1d7d-4e41-bed7-69fe096f7b23> . Cameron’s job has required him to spend 70 of the last 148 days in quarantine with another 6 more international trips in the next 7 months or 84 more days of hotel quarantine!

Despite all this Cameron he only missed 3 games all season. Cameron’s claim to fame doesn’t end there – his family owns a brewery in New Zealand and the C3 boys have been known to share a Croucher Pale Ale after the odd game.



Photo: Cameron with one of the thoroughbred racehorses he travels with around the world.

While on COVID-19

On 1st April 2020, the first ZOOM meeting was with the use of video meeting technology for our Executive Committee (ExCo) meeting. Again, this time on the 27th May, our 2nd ExCo meeting was held that also involved representatives from CNSW in a season assessment review. The photo below is a screen shot from the 2nd meeting.



Photo:

From left to right: Barry McDonald (Chair), Jane Bish (Vice President), Sreeni Pillmarri (Sponsorship), Peter Lees (Finance); Middle row: Bill Peterkin (Junior Blasters & Blowfly), Ross Anderson (Operations), Daniel Anderson (CNSW), Rick Turner (Seniors); 3rd row: Steve Burrows (Juniors), Rob Hanich (Vice President), Suzanna & Grant Colburt (Girls), Andrew Miedler (President) and Akshay Trevedi (CNSW). Apology – Kirsty Newbury (Child Protection) – 27 May 2020.

7.2 Drought Breakers

Juniors

U16 Gold (12th & 19th October 2013)

The U16 Golds had a comprehensive Round 1 win (259) over Castle Hill (75) @ Catterson 2 Oval. The story behind the headline though is what counts.

This was the first win for the boys since 10th December 2012 (10 months and 9 days or 313 days). The majority of the boys stayed together over this time but with three new players (John Anderson, Daniel Heidegger and Matt Chamberlain) who played a 2nd season in U16s. There were some great performances in this game:

- John Anderson scored 101* and took 4/16
- [Daniel Heidegger](#) made 3 stumpings and took 2 catches with some class work behind the stumps
- The boys went on the play in the Semi-Finals and just miss out on playing in the Final
- John Anderson and Pav Kozyrev put on 100 for the opening partnership
- Jasdeep Girm took 3/8 from 5 overs.



Photo – If you are going to hit a catch then hit the ball hard – that's exactly what [Daniel Heidegger](#) (U16 Red, B1 and Weblin Shield) did in the Weblin Shield (U15 Reps) Vs Canterbury Wests @ Barker College. The unfortunate Wests player got in the way of a flyer from Daniel – 11 November 2012.

Seniors

D2 Grade (26th October – 2nd November 2013) – WPHC 4/213 defeated Kenthurst-Upper Hills 196 @ Kenthurst No 2.

Under Peter Westerberg, the boys had a convincing win that was their first win in 26 games – the longest drought for a Seniors Team in our History. This sequence of 26 games is equivalent to 1 year and ten months, or 694 days. The boy's last win was way back on 10 December 2011 against Hornsby at Karuah.