

SPX 2nd XI – 22/10/16, Round 1

SPX 2nd XI 4/91 (O Sheehan 22, A Graffeo 20) defeated Blue Mountains Grammar School 9/90 (D Greeland 2/6, J Rayner 2/10) – under 25 overs bonus points

SPX 2nd XI finally got their season underway travelling to Ziele Oval to take on Blue Mountains Grammar School.

Despite the gloomy forecast for Sydney, play got underway on time and having left his lucky coin at home, Captain Tom Ventura was kindly given the opportunity to bowl first by BMGS.

A few rusty balls were well disguised by a consistent attack of 8 bowlers, all offered variation, created opportunities and 17 maidens between them.

A 25 over BMGS 6th wicket partnership between opener Franklin and Simpson caused a little frustration and netted almost half their total runs, but constant pressure inevitably broke through the blockade.

Our initial batting KPI, 40 off 10 for less than 2 wickets, was achieved an over early and our attention turned to securing multiple bonus points. A couple of extra wickets were lost in the process but the experience of creating a finish line will stand the 2nd XI in good stead when a game hangs in the balance.

Our focus next week is a more relaxed strike rotation and replicating this performance on the Oakhill wicket.

Success is a result.

Alex Slack

SPX U13 Black – 22/10/16, Round 3

SPX Black 7/88 (L Nicey 29, J Sheather 15*) defeated by North Sydney Red (C Sharp 1/5, J Sheather 1/8)

Whilst the result didn't go our way, we managed to build on our strong performance from round 2 displaying improvement especially with the ball in hand. Like last week, again we were in the contest right up until late in the game where we found ourselves with a very achievable run rate required of 5.5 runs per over for the last 10 overs with 8 wickets in hand. Unfortunately, they bowled well and we didn't have the fire power to bring it home.

After winning the toss we elected to send the opposition in given the threat of rain. Well done to Charlie Sharp and Josh Sheather for some tight bowling and picking up a wicket each, also to Luca Satnarine for his very consistent line and length. We improved with our fielding, special mention for Justin Park with his ability to stop the balls that should have been crashing into the boundary. At the change of innings, I was pleased that we restricted North Sydney Red to 117 and thought we had every right to be confident in the run chase.

After a steady start our openers found themselves restricted and frustrated after defending some accurate bowling from North Sydney (good lesson for our bowlers!), trying to push the run rate we lost our first wicket at 18 and then second at 27. Logan Nicey displayed patience with a solid 29 and was well supported by Nick Lough scoring 13. Josh Sheather, 15 not out provided some late fire power but it wasn't enough and the win had got away from us.

I must congratulate every one of our batsman as they all demonstrated the desire to put the team first and bat for the situation rather than themselves. With all the statistics available these days we often lose sight of such selfless displays. Most of our wickets lost were a direct result of trying to accelerate the run rate, especially given we had plenty of wickets in hand. Well done boys, success should not always be measured on the outcome and rather should be measured on the process and this time I am pleased to be able to write that you all achieved success with your team first approach.

We improved on our last performance and we can hold our heads high that we fought hard and provided yet another exciting contest.

Anthony Nicey

SPX U13/14 Red – 22/10/16, Round 3

SPX Red 4/89 (N Ward 41*) defeated Gordon Green 86 (N Ward 3/7 inc hat trick, L Kinna 2/2)

Well what a difference a week makes. A good team effort.

After the challenge of last week, the boys were keen to bowl first and see if they could get a few wickets and a total to chase. It started well but before long the opposition were 1 for 41 and SPX Red were struggling with line and length. However with a couple of good bowling spells, and good fielding (catching and a run out) the game turned and 4-5 overs later Gordon were struggling at 6 for 51.

Unfortunately SPX Red were unable to maintain the pressure, with some sloppy fielding and a change of mind-set after the drinks break enabled Gordon to get more runs on the board. SPX Red managed to re-focus, and bowlers were being called upon for their second spell. Gordon managed a total of 86.

Pick of the bowlers was Nick Ward with a hat trick spanning across his two spells.

SPX Red went into bat looking to improve on last week and it was good to see a couple of good partnerships with Nick and David T, followed by Nick and Harry. Nick was unbeaten and retired on 41 picking up a number of boundaries and 2 big 6s, while Harry hit the winning runs with a great shot for 4.

SPX Red only lost 4 wickets for a total of 89.

Cathy Dixon

SPX U14 Green – 15/10/16, Round 4

SPX Green 7/85 defeated by St Harbord Goannas 0/93

After torrential rain during Friday night, which continued into Saturday morning, it was a surprise to say the least that the 630am message from diligent manager Michael Kinna read "cricket is still on at this stage". Most fair-minded people probably thought it was a useless drive to Dee Why, but the rain had stopped and remarkably the ground was in great condition and the match started on time.

Skipper Luka Krizan came off second best at the toss and the Harbord Goannas quickly said "we'll have a bat". The SPX Green order was flipped from the week before, Brad Power (0/7) had the honour of the new cherry and generated express pace in a fine opening spell along with Joe Colgan (0/14). To be fair, the Harbord openers were rock solid and only offered one half chance which was grassed in a spectacular but unsuccessful diving effort from Riley Kennedy. The rain returned and quickly the ball turned from a Kookaburra to a cake of soap. Liam Chang (0/6) from his 3 overs and Cameron Keir (0/13) managed great control despite the slippery ball. The same can be said of the spin twins Liam Kinna (0/2) continues to deliver while Tom Wunsch (0/15) was always probing.

Special mention to Krizan, who proved himself, Captain Courageous. He wore a full-blooded drive on the ankle bone and easily could have given up. Instead, basically on one leg, he fought on and continued to bowl right on the spot.

The players were forced from the field with Harbord Goannas 0/93 after 22overs. After a lengthy delay, umpires agreed on a 22 over match, with SPX Green requiring 93 to win.

The most pleasing change from Round 3 was game awareness. Effectively this was now a 22 over shoot-out and to the credit of SPX Green they went about the run chase with great vigour and a willingness to score, not just to occupy the crease.

Krizan opened with Ollie Fitzroy, unfortunately Fitzroy fell cheaply to a terrific ball. Krizan was aggressive looking for the fence and the quick single. He was eventually out for 16. Liam Kinna (2) was the steady influence in a good partnership with Liam Chang. Chang, rightly was testing the field when a direct hit from the fence saw him

unluckily dismissed for 14. Georde Coulits was out to a peach of ball, while Tom Kennedy (4) looked good before his bails fell.

SPX Green were now roughly 5 wickets down at the halfway mark and despite their determined efforts below the required run rate. Riley Kennedy (15) and Joe Colgan (14no) staged a thrilling rear guard charge. Against some extremely tight bowling from quality opposition the pair were gallant but just fell short by 9 runs.

Sundries again cost SPX Green, conceding 30 extras to Harbord's 20, a telling difference.

Thanks to Tom Kennedy and Brad Power for again keeping, umpire Michael Kinna for braving the wet conditions and special mention to scorers, Alex and Leanne.

Terry Kennedy



SPX U15 Orange – 15/10/16, Round 4 T20

SPX Orange 4/125 (H Clayton 32*, K O'Brien 28*, J Carrall 21*) defeated by Harbord Crocs 2/159 (R O'Connell 1/7, G Davey 1/8)

This was our second 20/20 game in a row. The men were very excited to be playing on our home turf at Oxford Falls. A little more rain and we may not have seen this team continue to show improvement. This week we reached triple numbers for the first time against a fairly strong team.

Mr Sundries made an appearance and if not for him, we would have won the game. Our batting is becoming stronger with solid performances from Harry Clayton (32 no), Jackson Carrall (21no) and Kiefer O'Brien (28no). Our middle order fell to some good balls and ended with a determined Anton Webber (12 no).

Our bowling is our downfall and we need lots of practice. Austin Lowick took a great catch breaking the other team's dominance. Some men such as Anton Webber (0 for 4 off 4), Rory O'Connell who took our first wicket (1 for 7 off 4) and Gilbert Davey our spinner (1 for 8 off 4) are leading the way but we need to practice our line and length if we are going to be the victors.

Many thanks for the great show of parents who continue to assist in all aspects of the game.

Donna Dempsey

SPX U16 Purple – 15/10/16 & 22/10/16, Round 3

SPX Purple 4/115 (J Maclaine 53*) drew with Collaroy Plateau Neutrons 175 (HM Robertson 3/20)

Round 3 saw SPX Purple display some dominant passages of cricket, to be denied a strong chance of a win by the weather.

Last week Collaroy started brightly against the fast bowling of Hayden Robertson and Luke Ebbs, before Hayden broke the game open in his third over. First, Mackenzie Carrall took a diving catch at square leg, before Hayden bowled the No. 3 first ball. Hayden's hat-trick was not realised; the hat-trick ball drew an edge, but it did not fly to hand.

The next wicket-taker was captain, Tom Mullane, who emphatically demolished his opposite number's stumps. In the next over James Quillan was rewarded for a tight spell when Mackenzie grasped another spectacular catch at square leg. At drinks Collaroy came off with 4 wickets down.

Soon after drinks Jack Maclaine struck, bowling Collaroy's well set No 4 Jack and Cian Roberts bowled economically in partnership, as Collaroy sought to stabilise their innings. Wickets were soon to fall in consecutive overs, with Jack taking a catch off Mackenzie's bowling and James Robinson finding the new batsmen's stumps.

With only 9 players, Collaroy found themselves in trouble with only one wicket in hand at 7-110. A spirited batting display by their No. 9 saw Collaroy reach 175, before he was bowled Hayden, completing a 3 wicket haul.

Pius had a nervous 8 overs to bat out before the close of play. After losing both openers, Ben Ellero and Jack saw SPX Purple through to an overnight score of 2-26.

Saturday found Collaroy reduced further to 8, and somewhat reluctant to take the field. Thanks goes to the Robertson family for supplying a broom that helped play to resume. After Ben was bowled by a good ball, Jack and Josh Foley combined well for a fifty run partnership. Josh frequently placed the ball into gaps for singles and Jack managed to repeatedly find the boundary despite a slow and soggy outfield. Jack continued to accumulate runs when joined by Hayden, who got off the mark with a couple of fours.

Jack is to be congratulated for scoring his first fifty, he was 53 no when rain stopped play. Despite SPX's best efforts with the broom we were not able to get back on, with a draw being agreed at 4-115. The boys are to be commended for playing good cricket in the spirit of the game.

Justin Donnelly