**WESTERN DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB INCORPORATED**



**ANNUAL REPORT   
SEASON 2021-22**

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# Acknowledgements

## Life Members

Listed in Name Order:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Ajay Mehta** | **Glenda Hall** | **Russell Rogers** |
| **Allan McGann** | **Greg Besomo** |  |
| **Ben Keens** | **Jacob Boyle** |  |
| **William McKell** | **James Harrison** |  |
| **Darren Richards** | **Jeffrey Clark** |  |
| **Darryle Macdonald** | **Jon Fuller** |  |
| **David Blakely-Kidd** | **Ken Norris** |  |
| **Derek Gould** | **Marcus Cosgrave** |  |
| **Edmund (Eddie) Wheeler** | **Mathew McGann** |  |
| **Gerald Garrity** | **Michael Brady** |  |

## Sponsors

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Eastlake Group** | **https://eastlakefc.com.au/** |
| **UC Sport** | **https://ucx.canberra.edu.au/** |
| **Cosgrave Soutter** | **https://cosgravesoutter.com.au/** |
| **Colquhoun Murphy** | **https://www.colquhounmurphy.com/** |
| **SportsCare Physiotherapy** | **https://sportscarecanberra.com.au/** |
| **First Call Property Inspections** | **https://fcpi.com.au/** |
| **Ramas Fijian Indian** | **https://www.ramas.com.au/** |
| **ISC Sportswear** | **https://iscsport.com/home/** |
| **Zambrero** | **https://www.zambrero.com.au/** |

## Coaches

Head Coach Men’s – **Scott Murn**

Head Coach Women’s – **Michael Minns**

Assistant Coaches – **Clinton Lillepruun, Kurt Johnstone**

## Committee

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| President | **James Harrison** |
| Vice President | **Jordan Smith** |
| Secretary | **Tim Wilson** |
| Treasurer | **Bill McKell** |
| Director - Cricket Management | **Trent Hopkinson** |
| Director - Grounds & Equipment | **Derek Tarry** |
| Director - Media and Events | **Connor Brown** |
| Director - Women's Cricket | **Alisa Clark** |
| Director - Memberships and Merchandise | **Kurt Johnstone** |
| Director - UC Cricket | **Jane Diedricks (elected, resigned)  Jibran Habib** |
| Assistant Director | **Jibran Habib** |
| Assistant Director | **Clinton Lillepruun** |
| Assistant Director | **Jake Provan** |

## Captains

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1st Grade – Men’s | **Scott Murn** |
| 1st Grade – Women’s (WDCC/ANU) | **Matilda Lugg** |
| 2nd Grade – Men’s | **Dan Cottam** |
| 2nd Grade - Women’s | **Claire Russell** |
| 3rd Grade | **David Kusetic** |
| 4th Grade | **Syed Jaffry** |
| 5th Grade | **Jibran Habib** |
| Club Captain | **Edison Marshall** |

# Presidents Report – James Harrison

Season 2021/2022 what can I say! At times frustrating, challenging and exhausting but one where we had success and growth despite everything thrown our way. We had a delayed start to the season due to COVID and at one stage there were 8 potential draws floating around with endless meetings between the clubs and Cricket ACT in order to get the season underway. We then proceeded to have the majority of games before Christmas washed out in one of our wettest summers on record. COVID continued to impact right up until grand final weekend when we had 2 players unavailable for our 4th grade grand final team due to a positive test. And then of course to top it off we saw our 2-day competition cancelled in favour of a second one day competition in a decision made to mitigate the impacts of COVID on the integrity of the competition.

It was always going to be a challenging season with half of our first-grade team missing from the previous season, and a number of other players through the grades choosing to retire. Our results before Christmas, in the little cricket that was played, probably reflected this but in the new year we seemed to turn a corner as many players took their opportunities, stood up to be counted and we managed to make finals in several grades with our 4s and women’s teams making grand finals. Unfortunately, despite some terrific performances in both games, both teams were unable to bring home the silverware.

Despite the lack of premierships there were several season highlights. For me seeing young guns like Viswesh Suman and Ky Bryant make their first-grade debuts was outstanding. Only a few short years ago those young lads were playing 5s and seeing them wear the baggy maroon completed a plan that several senior players including Dave Gladwin and Suman Natarajan hatched as we saw the need to start to transition our blossoming juniors into senior cricket. We also saw youngsters like Chloe McGann, Rachel Carroll and Brie Dillon play women’s first grade in the inaugural women’s first grade competition and they, along with several of our other juniors, performed admirably in senior cricket and continued their cricket development.

Infrastructure was a talking point with our ongoing battle for improved training and playing facilities ramping up. Our junior club gained plenty of media attention as they agitated for more training facilities to accommodate a rapidly growing player base. The club looks forward to the construction of new nets being installed at Aranda Oval in the coming year, and longer term at Kaleen Playing fields, which will alleviate some of the training pressures on our junior and senior clubs. There are some other infrastructure projects in the pipeline and the club will continue to work with ACT Cricket and the ACT government to improve facilities to support our club into the future.

Congratulations to all of the award winners at the ACT Cricket annual presentation night and despite our lack of premiership success we certainly had a successful evening with several players and performances acknowledged during the night. Syed Jaffry won the 4s batting award and 4s player of the season award. During the season Syed also clocked up game 250 for the club, which is a huge achievement.

Luke Powell and Scott Murn made the ACT Premier Cricket men’s team of the year and Cherie Taylor won the women’s 2nd grade batting trophy and made the ACT Premier Cricket Women’s team of the year.

Michael Minns was honoured as coach of the ACT Premier Cricket Women’s team of the year, Cherie Taylor won the SJ Moore Medal for the best ACT female cricketer and first grade captain coach Scott Murn was recognised for an outstanding season by winning the DB Robin medal in a tie for first with Mark Solway from Queanbeyan as the Best ACT male cricketer.

We also had women’s first grade star Zoe Cooke and past player Sam Skelly win representative awards and long-time women’s player and multiple premiership winning captain and coach SJ Moore was admitted to the ACT Cricket hall of fame. It was a very good night for the club.

I wish to thank our amazing sponsors for their support during season 2021/2022 including:

**Rama’s Fiji Indian Restaurant**

**Cosgrave Suitor accountants**

**Colquhoun Murphy lawyers**

**UC Sport**

**Zambrero**

**First Call Property inspections**

AND of course, our long-time major sponsor the **Eastlake Group** who have been an outstanding supporter of the club for 12 seasons now.

A special thankyou to the captains and the committee for all of their work and support this season. I’m pleased to say that the club continues to track well and it is largely due to the work they do behind the scenes. I would like to make a special call out to Trent Hopkinson for his efforts as Director Cricket Management in a particularly challenging season, as well as head coaches Scott Murn and Michael Minns for their dedication and commitment to getting the best out of all of our players.

As most of you will be aware I am stepping down after 5 years as President. It has been an absolute privilege and an honour to lead this great club over the past few years but the time is right to move on and to allow the next generation to step up and bring their fresh ideas and insights to the challenges and opportunities that Wests will face in future years.

There are a few highlights from my time as President that I would like to call out:

• Season 2019/2020- Wests most successful on field season ever and an ACT Cricket record breaking season where despite COVID impacting on the 2-day grand final weekend the club took out all 2 day trophies, the 5th grade trophy and several 1-day cups and T20 competitions

• Becoming the first Premier cricket club in Australia to participate in the Aboriginal Artwork Middle Stump Initiative (AAMSI).

• Our first grade T20 squad taking on Australia’s best club teams in the 2019/2020 National T20 championships in Adelaide and finishing 4th, winning 2 games and only losing 1 close game to eventual finalists Adelaide University by 5 runs.

• Our 50th season celebration in 2019 where 175 past players and club supporters gathered to celebrate the first 50 years of the club, and,

• Not really a highlight as such but surviving the many challenges thrown at us over the past few years including the turmoil of the COVID 19 pandemic and the black summer bushfires.

I would like to thank everyone who has had a role on the committee over the past 5 seasons. Your support and enthusiasm has made my job much easier.

In particular I would like to thank the following:

• The 3 Vice Presidents who have supported me over my 5 seasons as President: Ajay Mehta, Lauren McGann and Jordan Smith.

• Alisa Clark for all her work with our women’s team.

• Bill McKell who as club treasurer has ensured our finances are always in order and who provides sage advice and guidance when needed, and,

• James Allsopp, Olivia Thornton and Sean Michel from Cricket ACT for their collaboration and for continuing to progress cricket in the region.

I wish the incoming committee all the best and look forward to seeing Wests continue to grow and flourish as the number one cricket club in the ACT for many years to come.   
  
**James Harrison**

# Financial Statements

## Income Statement

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Registration Fees** | This Year | Last Year | Variance |
| Senior Registrations | 28,765.24 | 35,008.96 | -6,243.72 |
| MyCricket Fees | -238.55 | -577.33 | 338.78 |
| **Total Registration Fees** | **28,526.69** | **34,431.63** | **-5,904.94** |
| **Events** |  |  |  |
| **Womens Tournament** |  |  |  |
| ACTCA Grant | 850 | 0 | 850 |
| Merchandise | 302.45 | 0 | 302.45 |
| **Total Womens Tournament** | **1,152.45** | **0** | **1,152.45** |
| **Canberra Ceylonese CC** |  |  |  |
| Income | 0 | 300 | -300 |
| **Total Canberra Ceylonese CC** | **0** | **300** | **-300** |
| **Over 60's** |  |  |  |
| Managers Fees | 0 | 620 | -620 |
| **Total Over 60's** | **0** | **620** | **-620** |
| **Total Events** | **1,152.45** | **920** | **232.45** |
| **Grants** |  |  |  |
| **Cricket ACT** |  |  |  |
| Cricket ACT | 20,000.01 | 17,000.00 | 3,000.01 |
| Ground Hire | -8,652.81 | -2,121.15 | -6,531.66 |
| Pavilion Hire | -1,272.25 | -1,423.33 | 151.08 |
| Umpire Costs | -7,140.00 | -10,155.41 | 3,015.41 |
| Pitch Preperation | -1,500.00 | -1,050.00 | -450 |
| ACTCA Grant | 0 | 6,000.00 | -6,000.00 |
| **Total Cricket ACT** | **1,434.95** | **8,250.11** | **-6,815.16** |
| **Total Grants** | **1,434.95** | **8,250.11** | **-6,815.16** |
| **ACT Government Grant** |  |  |  |
| ACT Grass Roots Cricket | 2,500.00 | 0 | 2,500.00 |
| Stronger Communities Program | 17,000.00 | 0 | 17,000.00 |
| **Total ACT Government Grant** | **19,500.00** | **0** | **19,500.00** |
| **Training fees** |  |  |  |
| Preseason Training | 263 | 430 | -167 |
| Hire of Training Court | 92 | -990 | 1,082.00 |
| Radford College Court | -120 | -55 | -65 |
| Phillip Grounds | 125 | 2,390.00 | -2,265.00 |
| **Total Training fees** | **360** | **1,775.00** | **-1,415.00** |
| **Sponsorship** |  |  |  |
| Eastlake Football Club | 10,000.00 | 0 | 10,000.00 |
| Colquhoun Murphy | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 0 |
| Cosgrove Souter | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 0 |
| Zambrero Mexician | 500 | 500 | 0 |
| University of Canberra | 5,000.00 | 0 | 5,000.00 |
| First Call Property | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 | 0 |
| Rama's Indian Restaurant | 600 | 600 | 0 |
| Hype Performance | 0 | 500 | -500 |
| **Total Sponsorship** | **20,600.00** | **6,100.00** | **14,500.00** |
| **Investment Income** |  |  |  |
| Interest Investment acc | 4.81 | 14.17 | -9.36 |
| **Total Investment Income** | **4.81** | **14.17** | **-9.36** |
| **Merchandise** |  |  |  |
| Merchandise | 15,873.33 | 7,820.00 | 8,053.33 |
| Merchandise Purchases | -26,962.10 | -7,484.90 | -19,477.20 |
| **Total Merchandise** | **-11,088.77** | **335.1** | **-11,423.87** |
| **Sundry** |  |  |  |
| **Food Match Day** |  |  |  |
| Match Day Food Sales | 889 | 0 | 889 |
| Match Day Food Costs | -68.1 | 0 | -68.1 |
| **Total Food Match Day** | **820.9** | **0** | **820.9** |
| **Total Sundry** | **820.9** | **0** | **820.9** |
| **Functions** |  |  |  |
| **Presentation Night** |  |  |  |
| Presentation night dinner | 2,152.50 | 4,930.00 | -2,777.50 |
| Sundry Event Funds | 0 | -350 | 350 |
| Catering | -4,500.00 | -4,724.55 | 224.55 |
| Trophies | -974.96 | -997.44 | 22.48 |
| **Total Presentation Night** | **-3,322.46** | **-1,141.99** | **-2,180.47** |
| **Trivia Night** |  |  |  |
| Trivia Night | 1,819.86 | 0 | 1,819.86 |
| Costs | -2,295.00 | 0 | -2,295.00 |
| Batemans Bay CC | 0 | -6,465.70 | 6,465.70 |
| **Total Trivia Night** | **-475.14** | **-6,465.70** | **5,990.56** |
| **ACTCA Awards Night** |  |  |  |
| Ticket Entry | 300 | 0 | 300 |
| Cost to Club | -900 | 0 | -900 |
| **Total ACTCA Awards Night** | **-600** | **0** | **-600** |
| **Toyota Raffle** |  |  |  |
| Raffle Money | 0 | 464.29 | -464.29 |
| **Total Toyota Raffle** | **0** | **464.29** | **-464.29** |
| **ACTCA Summer of Cricket** |  |  |  |
| Ticket Sales | 0 | 420 | -420 |
| Ticket Purchase | 0 | -1,200.00 | 1,200.00 |
| **Total ACTCA Summer of Cricket** | **0** | **-780** | **780** |
| **A McGann Donation** |  |  |  |
| Donation | 0 | 800 | -800 |
| Gift | 0 | -536.31 | 536.31 |
| **Total A McGann Donation** | **0** | **263.69** | **-263.69** |
| **Total Functions** | **-4,397.60** | **-7,659.71** | **3,262.11** |
| Good For Cricket Raffle | 62.45 | 0 | 62.45 |
| **Total Income** | **56,975.88** | **44,166.30** | **12,809.58** |
| **Gross Profit** | **56,975.88** | **44,166.30** | **12,809.58** |
| **Expenses** |  |  |  |
| **ACT Cricket Association** |  |  |  |
| Insurance Players & Officals | 600 | 600 | 0 |
| **Total ACT Cricket Association** | **600** | **600** | **0** |
| **Administration** |  |  |  |
| Administration Costs | 333.4 | 386.79 | -53.39 |
| MYOB Software | 0 | -10.4 | 10.4 |
| Audit Fees | 750 | 750 | 0 |
| Bank Fees | 568.04 | 505.84 | 62.2 |
| Web Site Costs | 321.5 | 0 | 321.5 |
| Sundry | 522.5 | 0 | 522.5 |
| **Total Administration** | **2,495.44** | **1,632.23** | **863.21** |
| **Equipment** |  |  |  |
| General Equipment | 2,388.00 | 260.64 | 2,127.36 |
| Ball Sales | 0 | -640 | 640 |
| Ball Purchases | 7,570.50 | 10,497.60 | -2,927.10 |
| Bowling Machine | 200 | 0 | 200 |
| **Total Equipment** | **10,158.50** | **10,118.24** | **40.26** |
| **Ground Maintenance** |  |  |  |
| Curating Fees | 24,750.00 | 0 | 24,750.00 |
| Curators Fees Jamison | 0 | 13,732.66 | -13,732.66 |
| Curator Fees Kaleen | 0 | 7,847.66 | -7,847.66 |
| Curator Fees Aranda | 0 | 7,844.68 | -7,844.68 |
| General Repairs | 2,599.83 | 5,753.93 | -3,154.10 |
| **Total Ground Maintenance** | **27,349.83** | **35,178.93** | **-7,829.10** |
| **Player Development** |  |  |  |
| ACA Premier Program | -7,500.00 | -6,500.00 | -1,000.00 |
| Player Clinic | 4,500.00 | 8,000.00 | -3,500.00 |
| Coaching Course | 3,000.00 | 0 | 3,000.00 |
| **Total Player Development** | **0** | **1,500.00** | **-1,500.00** |
| **Donations** |  |  |  |
| Pink Stumps Receipts | -476 | 0 | -476 |
| Pink Stumps Donation | 476 | 0 | 476 |
| **Total Donations** | **0** | **0** | **0** |
| **Total Expenses** | **40,603.77** | **49,029.40** | **-8,425.63** |
| **Operating Profit** | **16,372.11** | **-4,863.10** | **21,235.21** |
| **Other Expenses** |  |  |  |
| Suspense | -415 | -300 | -115 |
| **Total Other Expenses** | **-415** | **-300** | **-115** |
| **Net Profit** | **16,787.11** | **-4,563.10** | **21,350.21** |

## Asset Statement

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bank Accounts** | **Actual** | **Last Year** | **Variance $** |
| ANZ A/c #446 | 8,722.04 | 11,939.74 | -3,217.70 |
| ANZ #454 | 36,360.82 | 16,356.01 | 20,004.81 |
| **Total Bank Accounts** | **45,082.86** | **28,295.75** | **16,787.11** |
| Trade Debtors | -1,520.00 | -1,520.00 | 0 |
| **Total Current Assets** | **43,562.86** | **26,775.75** | **16,787.11** |
| **Total Assets** | **43,562.86** | **26,775.75** | **16,787.11** |
| **Liabilities** |  |  |  |
| **Current Liabilities** |  |  |  |
| Audit fees | 1,210.00 | 1,210.00 | 0 |
| **Total Current Liabilities** | **1,210.00** | **1,210.00** | **0** |
| **Total Liabilities** | **1,210.00** | **1,210.00** | **0** |
| **Net Assets** | **42,352.86** | **25,565.75** | **16,787.11** |
| **Equity** |  |  |  |
| Retained Earnings | 25,565.75 | 30,128.85 | -4,563.10 |
| Current Year Earnings | 16,787.11 | -4,563.10 | 21,350.21 |
| **Total Equity** | **42,352.86** | **25,565.75** | **16,787.11** |

# Honour Board (2021-22 Season)

## Perpetual Award Winners

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Ken Fry Trophy – Club Champion | **Scott Murn** |
| Female Club Champion | **Amy Yates** |
| Bob O’Callaghan Trophy – Most Runs | **Scott Murn (347)** |
| Bob McMullan Trophy – Most Wickets | **Edison Marshall & Jibran Habib (18 each)** |
| WDCC Most Improved Player | **Lauren Burge** |
| WDCC Encouragement Award | **Jack Searl** |
| Geoff Sloane Memorial Trophy – 5th Grade Club Champion | **Jibran Habib** |
| Darryle McDonald Award – 1st Grade Best Player | **Scott Murn** |
| T20 Player of the Year | **Syed Jaffry** |
| Club Sticker | **Trent Hopkinson** |
| Alan McGann Award (Coaches Award) | **David Kusetic** |

## Grade Award Winners

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Batting (runs @ average) | Bowling (wickets @ average) | Captains Award |
| 1st Grade | **Scott Murn 361 @ 40.11** | **Luke Powell 15 @ 7.13** | **Keishav Muralietharan** |
|  |  |  |  |
| 2nd Grade - Men’s | **Ben Whyte 238 @ 119** | **Edison Marshall 14 @ 19.78** | **Sam Wightman** |
| 2nd Grade - Women’s | **Cherie Taylor 352 @ 44** | **Chloe McGann 11 @ 18** | **Carly Lea Olsen** |
| 3rd Grade | **Ryan Selmes 180 @ 36** | **David Kusetic 13 @ 15.30** | **Jack Searl** |
| 4th Grade | **Alex Butler 229 @ 57.25** | **Avyukth Sudharsan 17 @ 16.54** | **Basant Bhatt** |
| 5th Grade | **Puneet Rikhi 119 @ 23.8** | **Jibran Habib 16 @ 9.3** | **Aminda Weerasoriya** |

## Centurions

**Ben Whyte** 133\* vs Norths (2nd Grade)

**Alex Butler** 102 vs Ginninderra (4th Grade)

## 5 Wicket Innings

**Luke Powell** 5/20 vs Norths (1st Grade)

**Daniel Madden** 5/14 vs Weston Creek Red (5th Grade)

**Vishwesh Suman** 6/13 vs Queanbeyan (2nd Grade)

**Basant Bhatt** 5/16 vs Eastlake (4th Grade)  
  
Further season statistics are available via mycricket: **http://mycricket.cricket.com.au/common/pages/public/rv/cricket/battingav.aspx?id=CBA&save=0&entityid=3338**

# **Captains Reports**

## 1st Grade – Scott Murn

Season 2021/22 marked the beginning of a new era at Wests. No fewer than six club stalwarts hung up their boots, paving the way for a new generation of Wests first grade cricketers to make their mark.

It was always going to be a challenging season as the team sought to fill knowledge and experience gaps from the season before, made even harder by the effects of COVID and weather. Several disappointing performances in the white ball competitions revealed core areas for improvement, particularly with the bat. However, it was impressive to see the team bounce back strongly in the red ball competition.

Learning from experiences earlier in the season, first grade finished 3rd in the red ball competition before going down in a hard-fought semi-final to the eventual winners Tuggeranong. The team reached the semi-finals on the back of a convincing win against North Canberra and thrilling, close victories against Ginninderra and ANU.

There was a lot to be proud of with the progress the team made throughout the season. As a fresh team, we gained momentum as the season went on. The positive attitude, resilience and willingness to learn as showed by all players was encouraging to see. So too were the team's results in the red ball competition, which should give individuals and the team collectively confidence that we can continue to grow, compete and be successful in all three formats next season.

Team highlights for the season included:

* Reaching the semi-finals in the red ball competition
* Close wins against Ginninderra and ANU in the red ball competition, and against Weston Creek in the T20 competition
* Several strong wins against North Canberra
* Match winning partnerships involving Jordan Smith, Jordan Willoughby, Keishav Muralietharan, Pete McKell and Scott Murn

 Individual highlights for the season included:

* First grade debuts for Ben Whyte, Connor Brown, Ky Bryant, Jordan Willoughby, Brayden Jones and Viswesh Suman
* Fifties to Alex Corver, Callum Taylor and Scott Murn
* Match winning partnerships involving Alex Corver, Ben Whyte, Callum Taylor, Jordan Smith, Jordan Willoughby, Keishav Muralietharan, Pete McKell and Scott Murn
* 3 fas to Brayden Jones, Brendan Duffy, Ky Bryant and Lachie Malcolm
* 4 fa to Sid Sharma
* 5 fa to Luke Powell
* Match winning bowling efforts from Brayden Jones, Luke Powell and Sid Sharma

A big thank you to Trent Hopkinson, a highly deserving winner of this year’s Club Sticker award, for his tremendous support and tireless work behind the scenes before, during and after the season. Thank you also to our coaches, captains, committee members and off-field supporters, all of whom contribute enormously to the club’s pursuit of team and individual success in all grades.

**Scott Murn**

## 1st Grade Women’s – Matilda Lugg

This year was the first of the new restructured women’s first grade competition. Our ANU/Wests team put on some really good team and individual performances, and I was so pleased to see the efforts and commitment of all our players. With the new structure, many girls in our team played both second grade and first grade back-to-back on the weekend – so we are really grateful for this commitment to women’s cricket in the ACT.

We started the season well with a comprehensive win over TVCC/WCMCC and some really tight defensive bowling to combat Reakes’ attacking 100. Unfortunately, some inevitable games were cancelled to covid and rain – the two banes of cricket’s existence in these last couple of summers. What I loved about our team was the that we competed hard and kept ourselves in every game. We lost some absolute nail-biters in the T20 games and whilst these losses really hurt us in the overall standings and of course losing tight ones is frustrating, both our experienced and younger players learnt a lot from them. It was also really awesome to see these young players really step up and show courage in these close games. One example that stands out was Brie Dillon bowling in the final over of a close game against some Meteors batters. This competitive spirit and courage will bode really well for our competition in the future.

We had some great individual performances across the season. After pestering me to let her open the batting, Amy Yates made a stellar 98\* off approximately 60 balls in our final T20, falling just short of a well-deserved ton. Of course, Yates bowled the house down for the whole season, particularly in our final 50 over win when she claimed a 6fa. Our Ms consistency for batting was Sarah Turner who started the season with a phenomenal 132\*, accompanied by a 50 and some really crucial 30s and 40s coming in at 3. Another highlight during the T20s was Liv Osborne opening the bowling and getting Claire Koski out game 2 of the day after Koski just made a blistering century the game before. She bowled an absolute jaffa to get her snicking off and put us in a really good position. Zoe Cooke made the team of the competition, establishing herself as a formidable all-rounder. Also, shout out to Cookie winning the Meteors bowling award this season as well!

It was really awesome to see our emerging Meteors superstars, Rach Carrol, Gen Montefiore Gardner and Chloe McGann winning in the u15 Margaret Peden shield. These girls were also part of a consecutive Country Championships win. We were really proud of these girls and all three of them played a really pivotal role with their accurate meds throughout our season. The Meteors future is in strong hands, especially considering the calibre of u15-19 girls across not just our team but the whole competition. Another highlight was to have Tooba, Romina and Shafiqa play alongside us. They recently settled in Australia from Afghanistan, and we were so grateful to have them in our team. We’re keen to have these girls join our clubs and Canberra cricket permanently! And finally, a shout out to Carly for her first-grade debut – she ran more kms and threw herself around in the field more than anyone else, even to the point of drawing a bit of blood. On that note, we had lots of debutants throughout the competition and each and every one of them made an impact on the game and were so adaptable with the roles they played.

Of course, a special thank you to Alisa Clarke and Jordan for their organisation and all of their work behind the scenes – we would have been nowhere without them. There were many games that they both got there hours before anyone else and we really appreciate their help and passion for the women’s game. Thank you to Wests and ANU for their support of women’s cricket and of course our wonderful parents that supported, scored, helped warm up and set up the field. Thank you to cricket ACT and the sponsors for making this possible. And of course, a final thankyou to all the girls for playing and being a part of the new first grade competition. It was my first time captaining for a long time, so thank you for your patience and for being such a great bunch to lead. An even bigger thanks to those that had to juggle second and first grade and Maddie of course, who had to drive over 3 hours to get to Canberra.

A common message throughout this report is the amazing commitment of our players and I really cannot stress that enough. This commitment to ACT women’s cricket has been so important for this new competition to establish a foundation which it can grow from. I can’t wait to see all of us keep improving and playing a pivotal role in getting this competition to an incredible standard in the near future. Women’s cricket in Canberra continues to grow exponentially and it’s so exciting for all of us to be a part of it.

**Matilda Lugg**

## 2nd Grade – Dan Cottam

Season 2021/22 was a year of transition for the WDCC seniors, and this was especially obvious

in 2nd grade. The twos were the only team to win silverware in 2020/21, but in the 18 months

since then, we have seen many players leave the club or retire, plus a handful of 2nd graders

take the step into 1st grade. The flow on effects of this were challenging at times but also

immensely satisfying, with many young players taking big strides this year and some 3s players

from previous seasons more than holding their own in the twos.

**Pre-Christmas One-Day Competition**

Our season started with a tough loss away to Weston Creek, who would go on to be one of the

benchmark teams for the year. We were dismissed for 102 but were saved some respectability

by two youngsters, Ky Bryant 21 (63) & Fletcher Tarry 15\* (77), who showed some fight down

the order. Creek got the score for the loss of just 3 wickets.

Round 2 was a wash out, with round 3 bringing one of our more disappointing losses of the year

to North Canberra at KT. Norths managed 8/170, with 2 fas to Syed Aqeel “Shack” Jaffary,

Bryant, and Sam Wightman, but another batting collapse meant we fell well short, dismissed for

119. Clint Lillepruun (29) and myself (31) were the only players to hit double figures.

Fortunately, we got our season going over the next few rounds. Our wins against Tuggeranong

at home, Queanbeyan away, and a hard-fought tie at home to Ginninderra was our best patch of

the season and got us back into the finals race.

The match against Tuggeranong at home was the only game played in the entire competition

that weekend due to heavy rain - a constant menace across the year. The team hit some form

with the bat, posting 8/192 on the back of Ben Whyte’s 62 at the top of the order. We also got

solid contributions from Jordan Willoughby (36), Jake Provan (32) and Sam Wightman (23\*) in

the top six. We then dismissed Tuggers for 140, with excellent figures to Ed Marshall (3/20 off

8), Ky Bryant (2/17 off 10), and Brayden Jones (2/30 off 8).

Our win against Queanbeyan at Freebody is one of the best I’ve been involved in at Wests.

Queanbeyan batted first on a very friendly pitch but a stunning 6/13 off 8 overs from promising

young off-spinner Viswesh Suman completely turned the game after Queanbeyan looked set for

a big score. We chased down the host’s 136 comfortably, led by Jordan Willoughby’s damaging

55 (62) at the top of the order. Maaz Khan (24) and Jake Provan (24\*) also chipped in.

We followed up that great win with one of the better games of cricket I’ve been involved in.

Ginninderra made 8/188 at Jamison batting first. Doubles went to Ed and Shack but Vish

followed up his 6 wickets with 10 overs for 15 runs to keep us in the game. We were in big

trouble early at 4/33 but a fighting 122 run partnership between two “youngsters” got us back on

track. Matt Broers (61 off 126) and myself (50 off 105) battled away to get us close to victory, but

another flurry of wickets meant that the game came down to the last over. Brayden, Vish and Ed

held their nerve and somehow scrambled 11 runs off the final over. It was a match to remember.

We required a win in the final game before Christmas to make the one-day semi-finals but

unfortunately fell well short against ANU. The lack of runs again came back to bite us, as we

were dismissed for 127, despite Matt Broers (33 off 91) standing up again. ANU got to the score

for the loss of just four wickets. Ed Marshall (2/13 off 8) was easily the pick of the bowlers.

**Twenty20 Competition**

The twenty20 competition this season was the first time we have played a full seven match

tournament in 2nd grade. It was spread out from late November through to the end of January.

Unfortunately, it was largely forgettable for us, as we were unable to win a match, despite the

club taking out the competition a year earlier.

The 1st and 3rd matches of the comp against ANU and Tuggeranong were abandoned due to

wet pitches. In between, we were soundly beaten by Queanbeyan at home, although Jake

Provan’s 32 off 24 in our score of 105 was a highlight.

We had another disappointing match against Norths after Christmas as we collapsed to 9/66

despite keeping Norths to 106. Credit to another young spinner Xavier Broers (3/19) and Matt

McGann (1/14) who were excellent with the ball though.

An 11 over match against Eastlake at Kingston the week after went to the wire but we fell just

short. Vish (15 off 12) showed some promise with the bat, whilst Connor Brown (1/7 off 2) was

good with the ball. Possibly our best performance in the tournament came the same day, with a

narrow loss to Ginninderra at Kippax. We restricted the hosts to 8/105. Connor (3/15) was again

outstanding, whilst it was awesome to see Xav and Vish put us on top in the game as they both

collected 2/15 off their four overs. Matt Broers (40 off 44) and Jake Provan (29 off 29) then put

us in a dominant position. Unfortunately, we hit the skids in the late overs and fell seven runs

short.

The final match against Weston Creek at home saw another improved performance with the bat

(4/123), with runs to Maaz Khan (41 off 41), Ben Whyte (37 off 43) and Kurt Johnstone (25\* off

27). We weren’t quite restrictive enough in the field though, and Creek were able to get to the

score with a ball to spare. Connor (3/16 off 4) and Ed (2/21 off 3.5) were clearly our best with

the ball and almost got us over the line.

**Post-Christmas One-Day Competition**

Due to ever-present covid issues, the two-day competition was switched to another one-day

competition post-Christmas. The first round was again washed out, although we did have Creek

2/42 off 15 overs. We were then comfortably beaten by Eastlake at Kingston, with the hosts

7/233 too much for us to get close to as we managed 9/157 in reply. Connor was again our best

with the ball (3/36 off 10), whilst Ben (43 off 77) continued his great 2nd grade form, as Vish (21)

and myself (20) chipped in.

We incredibly had our second tie for the year against Norths at home in round 3. Although in

contrast to the Ginners game earlier in the year, this was a missed opportunity. The match was

memorable for one of the season’s big highlights though. Ben Whyte’s 133\* off 148 was one of

the best knocks I’ve seen at this level. He carried his bat through the innings and hit 12 fours

and 3 sixes. We scored 5/233 largely thanks to his efforts. Unfortunately, we then put up clearly

our worst bowling and fielding performance for the year. Ed Marshall (2/31) was solid but we fell

well short of our own expectations, particularly in the last 25 overs.

A long trip away to Tuggeranong followed in round 4. Tuggeranong set 9/201 on a road with

Connor (4/43 off 9) and Xav (3/21 off 5) clearly our best with the ball. Kurt “I have a wedding”

Johnstone then exploded at the top of the order to give us hope. His 64 off 27 balls was a

stunning display of hitting which included 6 fours and 5 huge sixes. After he fell we then lost

regular wickets which meant we were bowled all out for 172, despite some lower order

resistance from Vish (24) and Ed (22).

Round 5 against Queanbeyan was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to a wet pitch.

Round 6 at Kippax was another tough day as we were bowled out for 102. Matt Broers (53 off

99) played an outstanding lone-hand. We showed some fight with the ball but Ginninderra got

home with 5 wickets in hand.

We finished the season on a really positive note with a dominant win against ANU away. We

bowled out the home side for 155, which was a fantastic effort on a good pitch and outfield. We

probably should’ve been chasing even less, with ANU at one point being 8/83. Xavier Broers

(3/21 off 8) and a terrific one-game cameo from Zoe Cooke (3/19 off 6.3) caused a huge

collapse to put us well in control. Kurt Johnstone (60 off 52) then continued his late-season form

to put us in a winning position, ably assisted by Jake Provan (25 off 37). We eventually won

easily on Duckworth-Lewis (5/139 off 30) as a storm rolled in. It was terrific to finish the season

by singing the club song again.

**Summary and thank you**

Whilst the twos struggled to string together wins in 2021/22, it was still an enjoyable season,

thanks to a great group of guys who were a pleasure to spend time with and captain. We saw

Connor Brown, Ben Whyte, Ky Bryant, Brayden Jones, Viswesh Suman, and Jordan Willoughby

all make their first-grade debuts for the club. All of the boys spent time in 2s over the year and

deserved their chances at the top level in Canberra. In addition, we saw 2nd grade debuts for a

group of other young players including Riley Schipp, Xavier Broers, Jack Searl, Cameron Herd,

Aidan Gunning and Sean McFarlane. I look forward to them making up the core of the 2nd

grade team in the coming years.

Although we lacked wins, two outstanding individual performances from Vish and Ben will live

long in the memory, as will amazing games against Ginners and Queanbeyan. These are the

reasons we play cricket.

A final thankyou from me to Trent “Hoppa” Hopkinson for all of his help with team selections

throughout the year and to Scott Murn for the great direction he provided to the senior playing

group. The Westies Lions are in good hands and I look forward to a successful season 22/23.

**Dan Cottam**

## 2nd Grade Women’s – Claire Russell

Women’s cricket in the ACT introduced a new look structure this season, with the establishment of four combined 1st Grade Women’s sides, consisting of ACT Meteors players, local emerging talent, and club cricketers alike. The WDCC/ANU team saw our WDCC players (senior and junior) form part of this inaugural team and competition. Two clubs also entered teams into what is now known as the 2nd Grade Women’s competition, resulting in representation from all eight ACT Premier Cricket clubs.

Player numbers pre-season were excellent and excitement to take the field was evident, with the ACT still emerging from another COVID-19 lockdown. As was a common theme this season, the rain affected our ability to take the field and a total of five games were washed out. We welcomed new coach Michael Minns onboard. Minnsy brought fresh energy and endless expertise, providing insight into how we could play to our strengths and ways to target the opposition’s weaknesses. We embraced new players to our team: Lauren Burge, Madelyne Czubara and Genevieve Montefiore-Gardner. Lauren, who was new to the game of cricket entirely, showed promise and worked incredibly hard this season, even earning herself the WDCC Most Improved Player award at Presentation Night. Junior players Brie Dillon and Annabelle Harrison became regular players in our team, after joining us for a few games last season.

We started the season and Lynne O’Meara Cup 40 over competition, with two consecutively washed out games. In Round 3 we finally took the field, with light rain falling during play, and came away with strong win over ANU. We bowled them out for just 31 and chased this down in the 7th over. A special mention to Grace Kuchlmayr who then stepped in to captain the team for three games, while I was away on university placement. We then changed forms and commenced the T20 competition. After a wash out in Round 1, we continued our winning streak with wins against Weston Creek and ANU. Standouts from these games were Cherie Taylor (59) and Annabelle (2/3). In Round 4 we took it up a level and came away with our biggest win of the season; a 156-run win against North Canberra Gungahlin. Highlights from this game were a batting masterclass from Maddi (81\*) and solid bowling figures from Grace (2/2), Alisa Smith (2/4), Chloe McGann (2/12), Emma Greenhalgh (2/12) and Rachel Carroll (1/2). Making contributions with the bat were Genevieve (19), Cherie (19) and Alisa (19).

Our winning form continued with two more victories heading into finals. Against Queanbeyan in Round 5 we put 115 runs up with a nice partnership from Claire Russell (23\*) and Maddi (20\*) at the top. Brie’s huge 6 was one of many highlights from this match. We kept Queanbeyan to 9/62 and secured a 53-run win. Grace was very impressive with the ball taking 3/4, as was Rachel (2/8), and Annabelle (1/8) who also took two outstanding catches. Emma Kennard (1/13) was given the call up to make her senior debut and didn’t disappoint. We are excited to see her, and other junior WDCC players, make their way into the Women’s teams over the coming years. In Round 6 our well-rounded bowling attack managed to keep Eastlake to 7/73, with wickets to Grace (1/5), Alisa (1/10), Genevieve (1/11) and Emma (1/15). We were particularly sharp in the field, creating multiple run out opportunities, one from Maddi, and two direct hits from Rachel and Cherie. Cherie (27\*) and Carly-Olsen Lea (8\*) patiently steered us home and we reached the target in 18 overs, against what was a diligent Eastlake bowling attack.

The team finished on top of the ladder, undefeated in the T20 Glenda Hall Shield Competition. However, it wasn’t until six weeks later we played T20 finals. This meant an early Sunday morning start taking on Queanbeyan in the Semi Final. Coming straight off our 40 over Semi Final win the day before, it was a big weekend of cricket for us. An 86-run batting partnership between Claire (51\*) and Rachel (34) helped us reach a total of 112. We worked hard to defend this, yet after a few missed opportunities in the field, Queanbeyan managed to chase this down in the 19th over and ended our T20 campaign.

We then resumed the 40 over competition with a significant 117 run victory and all-round team performance against Tuggeranong in Round 4. Standouts were Claire (59) and Cherie (58\*) teaming up and putting on a 135-run partnership. Chloe reached a personal best of 49\* with the bat and bowling wise Rachel (3/18) and Alisa (2/28) came away with multiple wickets each. Next, we had a narrow 5 run win over Queanbeyan in Round 6. Cherie (81), who was the standout with the bat, was assisted out in the middle by Alisa (17), and we reached a total of 153 runs. Behind the stumps Carly was as enthusiastic and encouraging as ever, boosting our team’s confidence as she did week in, week out. A brilliant effort by our entire bowling attack saw us narrowly secure the 5 run win, with a strong last over from Genevieve (1/18).

Our first loss came in our last round game played for the against Western Creek. We took the field after securing a ground to play on at the last minute. Brie (24) combined with Claire (22) for a strong opening partnership. Cherie (51\*) then put up yet another half century, supported by Rachel (28). We posted a total of 219, however Western Creek managed to chase it down in the 36th over only two wickets down. We finished second place and came up against Ginninderra in the Semi Final, with whom we hadn’t faced so far this season due to the wet weather. A superb bowling innings saw us bowl them all out 67 with our openers Rachel (3/11) and Chloe (3/12) both picking up a few wickets each. Supported by Genevieve (1/9) and Annabelle (1/8), and another two run outs in the field. In a tight contest we reached their total in the 19th over, with runs to Cherie (23) and Rachel (10), and we were off to the big dance!

In the Lynne O’Meara Cup Grand Final, we faced an experienced and familiar Eastlake side. We were without the heart and soul of our team Alisa, who nervously supported us from the sidelines, and Lauren, who was sadly unavailable for the game. With a relatively young side we gave it our all but unfortunately did not come away with the win. We set a target of 127 with contributions from Claire (17), Cherie (23) and Maddi (27), which Eastlake reached four wickets down in the 29th over. Chloe picked up 2/29, the best for us with the ball. To reach Grand and Semi Finals was, I believe, an extraordinary effort for a team with five players under the age of eighteen. Our team’s combination of youth and experience ensure we celebrated success throughout the season, and thoroughly enjoyed playing our cricket and spending time together as a group.

Cherie Taylor was named Women’s Player of the Year and took home her second SJ Moore Medal at the ACT Cricket Awards night, as well as Women’s Most Run’s – Second Grade. A reflection of another outstanding season with the bat for Cherie. We are hoping that despite her announced retirement, we can convince her to continue what has been an extremely successful cricket career at Wests over the last five seasons.

Thank you to the club and the committee, Minnsy, Alisa, Grace, my fellow team members, and our wonderful families and friends for their ongoing support. A special mention to the parents who regularly scored and at times umpired, and to coaches Zoe Cooke and Clinton Lillepruun for often providing extra support to Minnsy at our training sessions. If this season is anything to go by, I know next will be another great year for our team and our club.

**Claire Russell**

## 3rd Grade – David Kusetic

There are three things you can rely on in life; Death, taxes, and a rain affected cricket season. Despite the rain and Covid playing a significant role throughout the year, it was an incredibly bright season for the 3rd grade side. Across the season we had several 3rd grade debutants, with many playing their first games for Wests. Some of these players included:

• Jack Searl

• Cameron Herd

• Aidan Gunning

• Mitchell Gunning

• Dylan Valentine

Not only did these players fit seamlessly into our club culture, but they all performed fantastically as well. This performance was rewarded by several players earning their first games with second grade throughout the year.

As far as season performances went, 3rd grade was a train that continuously picked up steam throughout the year. After a slow start missing the 1 day and T20 finals, we lost only one round match on our way to the 2-day finals. Some last-minute tinkering to the schedule had us facing Queanbeyan at Brad Haddin oval. After a red-hot start, we had the Blue Baggers 9/90, only to fall victim to the Pete Solway effect. He went on to make 60 runs and dragged QBN to 150. Despite some good starts with the bat, we were unable to chase the target and hence ended the 3rd grade season.

Finally, just wanted to thank everyone who made season 21/22 possible. It was definitely a tough year of transition for the club, but it couldn’t have happened without all of the volunteers, parents and families involve.

**David Kusetic**

## 4th Grade – Syed Jaffry

Firstly, I would like to thank the club for giving me the opportunity to captain the club’s 4th Grade team. Although, it was a challenging year but I enjoyed the season and tried my best for positive results and I am satisfied with my contribution towards the development of all junior players that played with me during the season.

It was a delayed start to the season but a difficult one due to the COVID-19 pandemic and rainy weekends. After some initial challenges, 4th Grade team was able to find some momentum towards the second half of the season and hence qualified for the altered red ball one-day final. There has been a lot of positives during the season with junior players making an impact during the season. I am confident these juniors will be able to improve on the performances in coming seasons. With constant training and fitness improvement sessions during off-season, these young cricketers will be able to improve in future.

I am thankful to the all the players that were part of the 4th grade team and contributed towards a successful season. The below mentioned junior players were the standout for their improvement and contributions during the season.

1. Ayaan Humayun

2. Avyukth Sudharsan

3. Basant Bhatt

4. Charlie Bailey

Lastly, I would like to thank Trent Hopkinson with whom I had numerous discussions during the selection process and making sure we have a balanced side with the available resources.

**T20 COMPETITION**

T20 cricket is a tough competition where there is no rest time and it was difficult for the juniors to adapt to the challenges of this format. Although we had some exciting games towards the end of the competition but unfortunately, we couldn’t make the finals.

**Top Performers in T20 Competition (Batting):**

* Syed Jaffry - 190 runs
* Sudha Rama - 67 runs
* Toby Chugg - 54 runs

**Top Performers in T20 Competition (Bowling):**

* Ayaan Humayun - 8 wickets
* Avyukth Sudharsan - 7 wickets
* Sudha Rama - 6 wickets

Syed Jaffry was the standout performer during the T20 competition and was eventually presented the ‘T20 Player of the year’ award for the club during the club’s presentation ceremony.

**ONE-DAY COMPETITION**

The one-day competition started with washouts to Weston Creek and Eastlake in the first two rounds. Round 3 game against Norths was almost another washout but it was agreed to play a reduced over match. With a number of juniors in the team and not having enough training sessions due to COVID restrictions before the season, hence the juniors and the new players needed time to get use to the challenges of premier cricket. Unfortunately, we lost the game to Norths after setting a target of 102 in 20 overs. Round 4 game against Tuggeranong was yet another wash out for us. Round 5 game against Queanbeyan was the first full game of the season where we had a challenging time chasing 177 runs, with Syed Jaffry top scoring with 54 runs. Rain once again claimed our Round 6 game against Ginninderra whereas in the last round game against ANU, we defeated them convincingly with Alex Butler (76 runs) and Sudha Rama (63 runs) top scoring for us. With ANU needing 222 runs to win were bowled out for 74 runs as we finished the One-Day competition with 4 washouts, 2 losses and 1 win.

**Top Performers in One-Day Competition (Batting):**

* Syed Jaffry - 116 runs
* Alex Butler - 89 runs
* Sudha Rama - 67 runs

**Top Performers in One-Day Competition (Bowling):**

* Avyukth Sudharsan - 6 wickets
* Sudha Rama - 5 wickets
* Ayaan Humayun - 4 wickets

**CACT 1 DAY COMPETITION (TWO-DAY COMPETITION)**

We started the two-day competition with another washout to Weston Creek followed with a convincing win against Eastlake where Basant Bhatt was the standout bowler claiming 5 wickets for 16 runs. Chasing 102 to win, opening batsmen in Syed Jaffry (56\*) and Rohan Karumudi (33\*) had an outstanding partnership where we won without losing a wicket. Round 2 game against Norths was somehow played at Brad Haddin Oval, where we batted first and scored 159 runs with Ayaan Humayun scoring 51 runs. In response Norths were able to win a very close game by 1 wicket in the last over.

Round 4 game was against Tuggeranong, where we chased a target of 182 runs in the last over of the innings. Another exciting game of cricket where BJ Thom scored 15 runs off the last over and we won by 7 wickets. Earlier Syed Jaffry (59 runs) and Ayaan Humayun (52) batted well to set up this exciting finish.

We lost our Round 5 game against Queanbeyan whereas Round 6 game was washed out against Ginninderra.

We managed to claim a double bonus point win against ANU in our last round game of the season to be in the semi-final of the competition. ANU batted first and were bowled out for 84 runs with Avyukth Sudharsan claiming 4 wickets. In response, Syed Jaffry scored 32 runs (16 balls) and Alex Butler scored 33 runs (19 balls) to win the game in 9.4 overs.

It was a great achievement for our young side to be in the semi-final against Ginninderra. We batted first and scored 196 runs with Alex Butler scoring an excellent century (102 off 108 balls). In response Ginninderra were bowled out of 162 runs with Avyukth Sudharsan claiming 4 wickets to set up a final match against Queanbeyan.

The final match against Queanbeyan was at Brad Haddin Oval where we were defeated by an experienced Queanbeyan side. Chasing 183 runs we were bowled out for 95 runs.

**Top Performers in CACT 1 Day Competition (Batting):**

* Syed Jaffry - 225 runs
* Alex Butler - 140 runs
* Ayaan Humayun - 113

**Top Performers in CACT 1 Day Competition (Bowling):**

* Avyukth Sudharsan - 11 wickets
* Basant Bhatt - 8 wickets
* Steve Luby - 7 wickets

**SUMMARY**

* It was an excellent season for 4th grade team and I would like to thank all the players that played in the side and contributed towards the overall success of the team
* It was great to have experienced players in Alex Butler, Steve Luby, Sudha Rama, Baden West, BJ Thom and Mick Cohen who were always willing to help the juniors at various stages of the games
* Close and exciting games helped the juniors to learn which will be beneficial for future seasons
* Syed Jaffry was the standout performer during the Cricket ACT 4th Grade season and hence was awarded the Dean Moore medal award at the Cricket ACT Awards ceremony
* Syed Jaffry also claimed the top batsman award at the Cricket ACT Awards ceremony for 4th Grade

Finally, thanking all the club’s committee members specially James Harrison, Jordan Smith, Ed Marshall, Trent Hopkinson, Scott Murn, Daniel Cottam, David Kusetic and Jibran Habib for their excellent work and continued support during the season.

**Syed Jaffry**

## 5th Grade – Jibran Habib

Wests’ 5th grade season was a largely successful one, setting aside narrowly missing out on semi-finals. Due to the contribution of lockdowns and rain, with the delayed season start we played 10 games, winning 7 and losing only 3. Given that the previous season there were two 5th grade teams, one team finishing closer to the bottom and the latter finishing as joint premiers, there was a lot of competition for spots each week this season minus some weeks with availability issues related to covid-19, which was expected and managed well by the selectors and captains. Majority of experienced players returning this season in the sole 5th grade team, were from the weaker team from the previous season. Players like Toby Chugg and Matthew Hollingsworth stood up both in terms of the occasional important performance, but also in the leadership and mentorship they provided to junior players. With a lot of juniors in the team, this senior core group was a significant contributor in terms of instilling confidence in our talented juniors, who were able to contribute significantly to wins due to the guidance and inspiration we provided.

**Juniors**

We had some very significant contributions from juniors. Notably, Aswath Suman scored our grade’s only 50, scoring 54 in a game we narrowly lost by 3 runs in the last over against Norths. Matthew Ellwood showed potential with both bat and ball and took some great catches in the field. Aminda Weerasooriya who won the captain’s award, played two crucial innings in games where had a batting collapse, without him holding the fort in those 20 off about 60 and 15 off about 50 ball innings, we would have been struggling but it allowed us to bat 40 overs each game and defend the totals we would set the opposition. Finally, Corey Bailey and Nitish Mohan formed part of the bowling attack, bowling economically, and picking up wickets consistently. Nitish took 3 wickets in a must-win game to keep us in semi-final contention and was the difference between a win and a loss against at the time 3rd ranked Tuggeranong.

**Reflections**

This being my first season as captain, which many people were aware of, I did need guidance at the start of the season with some decision-making. 2 of our 3 losses came before the Christmas break as we only played 3 games before January due to rain. In the remaining 7 games we won 6 games, losing only 1, and won 4 out of our last 4 remaining games in a row. This reflects learning more about me and about my capacity as a captain. We also learnt a lot about ourselves as a team, particularly from the losses before Christmas, and we took that on board as a learning experience when we resumed cricket after Christmas. We played with an aggression that was both fun but competitive.

The last 4 wins that we had were very comprehensive wins, with all 11-12 players contributing in some way to the win. If we play like this next season, with a similar senior group of players, and new or some continuing juniors from our large junior talent base, then I think we will do quite well. We did not have the usual level of impact players such as old ex-first grade players playing in our team, but in the end the results showed that we did not need them if we work together and focus on the basics. The aim for next season is to build on the success of this season because in a normal season a team with only 3 losses is guaranteed a semi-final spot at a minimum. We look to continue with the standard that has been set and bring a trophy home which I strongly believe this 2021-2022 team is capable of.

**Jibran Habib**