



## *Fifth XI Match Report*

**ROUND 17 – 21/02/09**

***Johnson Park vs South Belgrave***

JPCC 10/224 (R. Lowe 31, S. Tracy 27, D. Bourke 26, M. Goyne 23, J. Hilton 21)

Lost to

South Belgrave 7/225 (R. Lowe 3/52, Jo. Simmonds 2/17)

Playing South Belgrave on the Johnson Park main oval was something we were all looking forward to. Won the toss and batted against a team playing for a spot in the finals, which had only 3 players from when we played them in round twelve. A much stronger side would ensure a very competitive game.

The top order all made starts, however no-one went on to make a 50; two weeks in a row now. Lutz made 27, Rocket 31, before the lower order battled on to help compile 224, with Hilts, Oopa, Slug and Bourkey all being dismissed in the 20's. We needed some of these to go on, but with 3 run outs not helping our cause, our batting probably fell about 20 runs short. Interesting to note that every batsman hit at least one boundary.

We started well enough with the ball, Granty and Oopa each claiming an early one, before a hard hitting, match shaping partnership developed, with both batsmen making 50's. Then came the JP fightback, with Rocket and Oopa lifting with the ball, and all the JP fielders throwing themselves at everything. Rocket grabbed three vital wickets, and we were suddenly back on top. The match was eerily set similar to last week, with the last pair needing 39 to win. As much as we tried we were unable to get the final wicket, although a controversial caught behind wasn't given, and South Belgrave managed to overhaul the target.

A vital game against the top side next week, a must win game if we want to hold on to second spot. Let's pull our fingers out and go at them like sharks!

**ROUND 16 – 14/02/09**

***Johnson Park vs Wandin East***

JPCC 10/217 (R. Wallace 47, Ja. Simmonds 31, D. Morrison 30)

Lost to

Wandin East 8/222 (A. Grant 3/33, S. Embrey 2/49, D. Morrison 2/56)

Off to Dobson #2 to face Wandin East for the third time this season. Won toss and batted and at the end of the first over we were 1/4 after Rama walked (feathering one behind).

The Wandin East bowlers were bowling a tight line, however apart from Bot none of our top order got going after all getting starts. Lutz managed 15, but at 8/140 we were in a bit of trouble. Enter Daisy and Jamie who settled into a partnership that gleaned 61 runs, Jamie playing some nice shots and Daisy playing a very un-Daisy like innings, curbing his natural aggression and playing for the team. The returning Adam Grant made 10\*, before Jamie was run out on the second last ball of the innings. All out for 217, not bad considering what we were.

An excellent opening spell from both Daisy and Granty had Wandin East at 4/56 before a partnership got them back on track, and at drinks the game was evenly poised at 4/117. A wicket straight after drinks was what we needed and Ozza delivered, cleaning up the veteran holding up his own end. Scotty E. claimed a couple more and we were back on top. Granty cleaned up another, but the Wandin East batters were determined to see him off. With their best bat reaching his 50 it was down to the last two batsmen to try and make 50 odd. With Daisy, Bot and Hilts all nursing injuries our stocks were getting low, although a difficult chance was put down that would have won the game. Wandin East went for broke and managed to pass our total in a flurry of boundaries. A great match in which we were just pipped by 1 wicket. The game was played in great spirit, respecting those who suffered so much loss in the bushfires. A mention for Pikky who fielded brilliantly the whole innings, an example to all with his diving, catching and ground fielding on very tricky surface.

The Sharks will be back!

**ROUND 15 – 07/02/09**

***Johnson Park vs The Heat***

JPCC

Defeated

The Heat

**ROUND 14 – 31/01/09**

***Johnson Park vs Knoxfield***

JPCC 9/233 (D. Bourke 52\*, M. Goyne 40, R. Lowe 35, S. Embrey 20)

Defeated

Knoxfield 10/171 (G. Pik 4/22, D. Bourke 2/26)

Back at Fairhills HS (love that ground) to face Knoxfield. The Knoxfield boys were thought that it was a bit hot for cricket, so upon winning the toss I had no hesitation in sending them out into the field.

Rama was out early, well caught, and an unusually aggressive Oopa was also dismissed trying to stamp his authority over their attack. Scotty E. and Hilts settled down the innings a bit, before Scotty was out just as he was starting to look well set. Slug Goyne survived a first ball chance driving up-ishly at a ball he fancied, before Hilts was out caught behind swishing at a wide one. 4/65 and a partnership was needed. Daisy lifted a couple over the boundary, while Mick was playing a gem of an innings, hitting the ball to the boundary at will.

We reached 7/140, with plenty of overs left and big Rocket Lowe and Bourkey combined to really deflate the Knoxfield attack, who had sniffed half a chance. Rocket made a nice 35, while Dave Bourke continually showed his contempt for the bowling, posting 52 ret. We reached 9/233, a target Knoxfield would need to bat out of their skins to reach.

Oopa, as usual, knocked out the middle peg of a very cocky opener, setting the scene for some top order carnage. Rocket claimed his first wicket for the season, a leaping one hander by Oopa at slip, before a middle order partnership of 75 put some respectability to the score. Some great catching by all fielders, along with Pikky and Hilts combining for a sharp run out, Rama's two lightning stumpings, the second of which the umpire nearly didn't see, finished off the match.

Tooth Pik bagged 4 wickets with nice flight and added some variation to our attack. A win by 62 runs. The lowlight of the match was Oopa badly spraining his ankle on the edge of the pitch. He managed to bowl out the last 1 and a 1/2 overs of his spell though (as tough as an overcooked steak).

Go Sharks!

**ROUND 13 – 24/01/09**

***Johnson Park vs Eildon Park***

JPCC 2/88 (Lowe 55\*)

Defeated

Eildon Park 10/87 (A. Goyne 5/6, Jo. Simmonds 3/38)

Finally, the Grand Final replay from last year against Eildon Park, at Dobson #2. Unfortunately, due to the number of personnel changes, the game turned out to be a mismatch and we spanked them, with the game being all over before tea. Won the toss and sent them in, and an opening partnership of 33 certainly didn't give an indication of what was to follow. Ozza and Oopa tore through the batting line up, with another highlight being Pikky's direct hit run out and a few pairs of Panther pants being soiled before they had even commenced fielding. Ozza's particularly fiery spell even resulted in a stump being shattered, with a magnificent 5/6 off 7.2 overs.

All out for 87, but not before Bot's car took a hit from a swashbuckler's short stay. No tea break, straight into it, Rama and Rocket opening, Rama being pegged for 4. Rocket Lowe then turned on an excellent display of timing and sweet hitting, compiling four 6's and four 4's before having to retire on 55\*. We always new he was in the side for his batting anyway. Lutz and Pikky finished off the run chase, although Pikky was again unluckily caught in the final over.

Everyone happy to head back to the club early, Love that watermelon!

**ROUND 12 – 17/01/09*****Johnson Park vs South Belgrave***

JPCC 3/98 (Jo. Simmonds 50\*)

Defeated

South Belgrave 10/93 (Wallace 5/21, Morrison 2/13)

First game back after the break and it was off to the picturesque Rae's Land to face South Belgrave. Lost toss again and were asked to field. Oopa struck early, with a big inswinger taking out the captain's middle stump. The innings then became a procession, with wickets falling at regular intervals, with Bot and Daisy bowling impressively. Daisy had been bowling as quick as he'd bowled all season and was probably unlucky to only claim two wickets. Meanwhile Bot was carving through their middle order, before the number 8 came in and made a lusty 34, giving the innings some credibility. All out for 93 and we were off in the 29th over.

Hilts opened up with Lutz, making his first appearance for the season after numerous injuries, none of which had been cricket related. Both looked in good touch before getting out in identical circumstances- bowled by full tosses swiping across the line. Welcome back anyway Lutz, a nice return with 13.

Oopa and Tooth then chased down the runs, before Oopa had to retire on 50\* and Micky Goyne clouted the winning runs. Tooth was unlucky being spectacularly caught in the final over, one handed running with the flight of the ball. A return to winning ways and confidence restored.

The Sharks are back!

**ROUND 11 – 20/12/08*****Johnson Park vs Upwey***

JPCC 4/162 (Rawlings 50\*, Wallace 29, Lowe 22\*, Hilton 21)

Lost to

St Johns Tecoma 4/163 (Wallace 3/22)

Lost the toss at the Trampoline at St. Joes No.2 and were sent in to bat. Hilts and Oopa got off to a steady start, with Hilts in particular copping a few short ones from a fired up opening attack and Oopa his usual reliable self.

Hilts managed 21 before being run out and Oopa 19 before he was well caught at gully. Rama and Bot got the scoreboard ticking over, Bot compiling 29 and Rama a diligent 50 ret. Daisy came and went in an attempt to lift the run rate, before Rocket and Jamie batted out the innings, despite numerous swing and misses at an attack continuing to bowl short or wide of leg stump. 4/162, would it be enough?

The St.Johns openers came out swinging, with young Trent boring the brunt being smacked for seven 4's off his first three overs. Ozza claimed the first wicket, before a woeful caught behind was not given, causing Ozza to almost blow his stack. Apparently the umpire was due to have his ears syringed but missed his appointment. The batsman went on to make 50, setting up the innings. The trap was set for the next batsman, who proceeded to hit it straight down Hilts' throat on the mid-wicket boundary, before it splattered all over him like an egg. Bad miss! The middle order steadied & chased down the target, despite the efforts of Bot claiming three wickets with the ball.

A bit of a jolt, losing top spot, but a loss for this team should prove character building.

**ROUND 10 – 13/12/08**

***Johnson Park vs Upwey***

JPCC

Drew with

Upwey

**ROUND 9 – 06/12/08**

***Johnson Park vs Footballers***

JPCC 3/107 (R. Wallace 41\*, D. Bourke 28)

Defeated

Footballers 10/83 (Jo. Simmonds 7/15)

Back at our spiritual home, Fairhills HS, for the first time this season, to face Footballers for the second time in three weeks. Won the toss and elected to bowl, as we had another early departure around five o'clock.

A sharp chance in slips, taken by Hilts off Daisy, set the tone for the day, before up stepped Oopa for the Johnny Simmonds show. Seven consecutive wickets, of which three were caught behind and three bowled. Only one was caught forward of the wicket. It was overheard from one departing batsman to another coming in, 'they're quick an they're swinging a mile'.

Of course, Rama was holding up his part of the bargain behind the stumps with 3 catches, one catch in particular a one handed screamer. Keefy Embrey and Tooth Pik chimed in for a wicket each as Footballers were cleaned up for 83, due mainly to a 25; a lusty 30no from the number 10 and 14 extras. The innings was highlighted by 7 ducks!

Oopa was virtually unplayable with his swing & control with a magnificent 7/15 off 8 overs and Daisy ended up with 1/7 off 6 overs (after having 1/1 off 5). Keefy has also become a secret weapon, with his spinners bang on target.

Bourkey and Slug volunteered to get the game over quickly, with the weather looking ominous and the first ball almost went for six. Slugger Goyne was pegged early (swinging hard) and Rocket Lowe was caught on the boundary after forearm jolting the previous delivery for 6. Bourkey was eventually well caught for 28 trying to launch one on to the moon and then Bot and Jamie settled down getting the runs (Bot making a very nice 41\* and Jamie 12\*) allowing us to call it quits before tea at 3/107 off 12 overs. What a great way to enhance our refreshment time. Back to Fairpark to watch the ones dismantle Ferntree Gully.

Let's keep it up Sharks going in to Xmas, as we have a couple of more difficult games before the break.

**ROUND 8 – 29/11/08**

***Johnson Park vs Wandin East***

JPCC 6/205 (M. Wainwright 42, K. Lee 28, G. Pik D. Bourke 24\*, Ja. Simmonds 20\*)

Defeated

Wandin East 6/196 (S. Embrey 3/50)

Played Wandin East at Dobson #2 and came across an opposition that were very keen to knock us over. Won the toss and sent the opposition in (hate that), but with two blokes having to leave before five o'clock we didn't have much choice. An awkward one hander put down by Hilts in slips off Daisy in the second over could have proved costly, as the openers got off to a solid start.

One big plonker then started teeing off on Daisy, with his favourite shot being the big fat edge flying over slips and he quickly reached his 50, before another one thought he'd try the same. Fortunately the old timer at the other end (who'd been given a life earlier) was keeping the run rate in check, hence there being no real urgency in getting him out.

Finally the first wicket fell at 130, quickly followed by another, a classy stumping by Rama. A couple of sharp catches by Keith Lee and Skippy Kallista featured in the middle order, before some tight bowling from new tyro 'Wanga' Wainwright and some clever flight from Keefy Embrey gleaning 3 wickets, resulted in Wandin East reaching 6cc196 off their allotted 40 overs.

Could it be enough?

Keith and Johnny Simmonds opened up. With Oopa out early and Keefy Embrey driving at one that wasn't there to drive, we were quickly 2/32. Enter Wanga on debut and after some very stylish leaves, he got together with Keith and set about chasing down the target. When the message went out 'you've got ten minutes left' (before he had to leave), Wanga set about flailing the Wandin East attack to all parts, turning the match on its head. When he departed (caught in the deep for 42) we were 3/105 and well set.

Keith Lee had played some glorious shots for his 28, before Pikky and Rama got together for a couple of classy cameos and the Wandin East fielders were not moving far off their fielding spots.

Jamie and Bourkey finished off the chase with 9 overs to spare, with Jamie hitting his first 6 and Bourkey treating the opposition bowling with his usual contempt.

All in all a comprehensive win over a very deflated opposition.

**ROUND 7 – 22/11/08      *Johnson Park vs Belgrave***

JPCC

Drew with

Belgrave

This match was abandoned due to the rain.

**ROUND 6 – 15/11/08      *Johnson Park vs Footballers***

JPCC 8/276 (A. Goyne53\*, J. Hilton 44, M. Goyne 43, G. Pik 34, D. Rawlings 33\*)

Defeated

Footballers 9/140 (S. Embrey 3/12, A. Goyne 2/16, Jo. Simmonds 2/23, P. Kallista 2/35)

Away at Dobson #2, against reigning B3 premiers Footballers and after winning the toss (finally) we had no hesitation in batting. Oopa's first low score for the season, out caught for 2, quickly led to us being in early trouble at 3/22, before Hilts and Jamie steadied the ship with a good partnership. The Goyne brothers then took over in the middle order, lifting the run rate by smashing them to all parts (Anthony hitting four 6's and Mick being unluckily caught on the boundary for 43). Anthony brought up his first 50 with another boundary, before Pikky and Deano provided some more fine shot making further down the order, ensuring we reached a very healthy 8cc276 off our 40 overs.

Another great opening spell with the new ball from Ozza and Oopa, quickly had them 4/23, with a couple of experienced batsmen absolutely non-plussed at the deliveries that

knocked them over. Mick 'Jonty' Goyne in the gully took his regulation blinder, while special guest Mozzie took a nice catch (as well as bowling four very tidy overs), before retiring once again. Skippy Kallista chimed in with two wickets, before Keefy Embrey cleaned up the innings with a catch and 3 wickets, including an impressive stumping from Deano. Watch out when Rocket Lowe finds his range and line (a few that did were almost unplayable).

Go Sharks!

**ROUND 5 – 08/11/08**      *Johnson Park vs Ferntree Gully*

JPCC 1/124 (D. Rawlings 50\*, Jo. Simmonds 46)

Defeated

Ferntree Gully 8/114 (Jo. Simmonds 2/11, P. Kallista 3/18)

Away again, at Dobson #1 (again) playing Ferntree Gully. Lost toss again and finally a side that won the toss elected to bat first against us. The two openers looked solid, but were batting very slowly and as soon as they tried to up the run rate, bang! Skippy Kallista claimed his first wicket in the fifths and the score suddenly went from 0/45 to 5/49. Good catches a feature by the Goyne brothers. A youthful Ferntree Gully's lower order batted out their overs, but amassed only a paltry 8cc114 off 40 overs.

Deano & Johnny Simmonds opened the batting and the score reached 96 before the unthinkable happened; Johnny Simmonds was dismissed! Out - caught. Jamie Simmonds came in and helped polish off the win with a couple of his straight boundaries (10 no) and ensured Rama reached his first 50 of the season.

Another solid team performance, with catching and ground fielding excellent. Let's keep it up.

**ROUND 4 – 01/11/08**      *Johnson Park vs Knoxfield*

JPCC 10/140 (J. Simmonds 51\*)

Defeated

Knoxfield 10/112 (A. Goyne 4/15, T. Mazurek 2/6, Jo. Simmonds 2/21)

First home game for the season played at Dobson #1 against Knoxfield. Lost the toss (again) and were sent in to bat (again!). Will they ever learn? Another solid opening stand between Oopa and Scotty, against some very accurate bowling, before both Scotty and K.Lee got done by a couple of beauties. Wickets fell steadily through the middle order, however Johnny Simmonds crafted another classy 51\* (which held the innings together) with support from Keith Lee and Mick Goyne.

Knoxfield had become very cocky, and were giving plenty of lip; uh-oh, wrong thing to do with our guys, as we stored up plenty of ammunition to fire at them at their turn to bat. JPCC all out for 140.

The Knights got off to a fair start at 0/25, but stumps started flying everywhere as Anthony and Oopa smashed through their top order, and it quickly became 6/28. Loose lips were now stained pants, although a partnership took them to 101, and back in the game.

Enter Rashan (who had been bowling well) who combined with Scotty to affect a vital run out, quickly followed up by another - game over, as young Tim Mazurek cleaned up the tail, again making a mess of the woodwork.

Special mention to Scott Embrey who did a great job standing in behind the stumps (and being involved in two run outs), also to Rashan and Tim for filling in and providing some youthful exuberance for our team in the field.

Sadly, the match was soured when a couple of our players discovered their kit bags had been relieved of a mobile phone and cash while in the rooms; gone but not forgotten!

**ROUND 3 – 25/10/08**

***Johnson Park vs St Johns Tecoma***

JPCC 6/210 (R. Wallace 50\*, Jo. Simmonds 50\*, J. Hilton 24, A. Goyne 21)

Defeated

St Johns Tecoma 10/141 (R. Wallace 3/29, Goyne 5/46, Jo. Simmonds 2/19)

Third away game in a row against current top side St.Johns at St. Joes College. Lost the toss and were sent in to bat on a lively rubberised pitch. It was unusual to see a pitch with so much bounce, and St. Johns obviously fancied themselves to knock us over. With the ball doing a bit we were in early trouble at 2/5, however the steadying influence of Johnny Simmonds, coupled with the fluent stroke play of Rob Wallace soon had us back on track. Both batsmen again reached their 50's, bringing up unbeaten centuries in the process. Some good down the order contributions from Hilts, the Goyne brothers and Gary Pik allowed us to bring up a competitive score of 6 for 210.

Saints were off to a solid start with a 41 run opening stand and the perennially unlucky Dale Morrison once again having a catch dropped off his bowling. However once the first one stuck we proceeded to put on a catching exhibition, taking eight in all and the Saints bats hesitant to hit the ball in the air. Anthony Goyne was the main benefactor (with 5 taken off his bowling), while the ever reliable Bot and Oopa took 3 and 2 wickets respectively, cleaning up a by now shell-shocked St. Johns for 141.

3 in a row for the 5ths and top spot on the ladder. First home game at Dobson against Knoxfield this week, let's keep up the great team camaraderie Sharks.

## **ROUND 2 – 18/10/08                      *Johnson Park vs Upwey***

JPCC 7/277 (J. Hilton 55\*, R. Wallace 51\*, Jo. Simmonds 50\*, M. Goyne 36, G. Pik 24 )

Defeated

Upwey 7/264(R. Wallace 2/35, Jo. Simmonds 2/57)

Won the toss and batted at the cabbage patch at Upwey. As one of last season's finalists in B1 Upwey were pretty confident, but we soon put paid to that with a 50 run opening stand between John Simmonds and Scott Embrey. The season's first 50 was reached by Rob Wallace, quickly followed up by Johnny Simmonds and further big hitting

contributions from Pikky, Mick Goyne and a 55\* from Hilt. This led to us being bowled out for 277 in the 40th over.

Upwey set about vigorously chasing down this target, but we soon had them 3/41, with some tight bowling from Daisy and a magnificent caught and bowled from Johnny S.

After Daisy left we were forced to field one down and the Upwey batters took full advantage, with some big sloggng mixed in with a few good shots. We looked in a bit of trouble with our tiring bowling attack, but a huge second effort from everybody in the field and fine bowling at the death by Bot, cleaning up the last two (clean bowled), ensured a second win for the 5ths.

Let's keep up the good efforts.

### **ROUND 1 – 11/10/08            *Johnson Park vs Wandin East***

Johnson Park 10/193 (Ja. Simmonds 47, D. Bourke 27, K. Lee 21)

Defeated

Wandin East 8/91 (A. Goyne 3/17, D. Morrison 2/30)

The 5<sup>th</sup>'s travelled up to Wandin East [surely this isn't FTG district!] to open the season against one of last season's grand finalists. Lost the toss and we were sent in to bat.

Off to a scratchy start with an early wicket, but a strong middle order performance, with 8 players reaching double figures, ensured we set Wandin East a competitive target of 193. Good clean hitting from Jamie Simmonds being the highlight.

Daisy had us off to a flyer with a wicket 3rd ball, & pretty soon we had them 5/36 & out of the game. A good first up performance from A.Goyne with 3 wickets and a catch.

A good fielding performance all round led to us knocking them over for 91, a great start to the season, with only 4 of last season's premiership side fronting up.

