

Parramatta District Cricket Club – A Glimpse into the Past.

(By Tom Wood – Club historian)

An interesting exercise is to troll back into the Club's past and randomly select a few matches to provide current players and members with a glimpse into what has gone by in the past:

- **1983/84 First Grade v. Sutherland at Caringbah Oval** – Parramatta enjoyed an overwhelming outright victory over a shell-shocked 'Shire Team' – **Parramatta** started proceedings with a rousing total of **326** that was built on the aggressive batting efforts of Kenny Gentles 93, John Affleck 75, Mark Sargent 53, and former State player Len Richardson 30. When their turn came to bat the '**Sharks**' had no answer to the Parramatta attack and wickets tumbled quickly to see the local all out for a meagre **31** – left-arm pacemen Steve Moss **6/11** and Matt Bugg 4/22 doing the damage – **Sutherland's** second dig fared little better and they collapsed for **80** – this time medium-pacer and future Test Umpire Rodney Tucker was the major wrecker with **5/22** with strong support from right-arm paceman Gary Oakes who snared 4/35 – outright victory by an innings and 215 runs.
- **1947 First Grade v. Manly at Manly Oval** – The '*shoe was on the other foot*' when Cumberland came up against a strong Manly team and they were *well and truly* cleaned up on rain-damaged wicket. In their first innings **Cumberland** could only muster **42** with Richie Benaud 16 not out the top-score, **Manly** then also found the going tough and struggled to **5/61** before declaring (Fred Wright 3/36 and Arthur Howell 2/18). Second time around Cumberland again couldn't master the conditions nor the Manly bowlers to succumb for a disastrous total of **31** (George Clarke 11) and **Manly** duly collected outright points after making **0/15** in their 2nd innings.
- **1931/32 First Grade v. Manly at the S.C.G.** – This match again saw the Cumberland team achieve a resounding outright win, engineered by the spirited contributions of their three players with Sheffield Shield experience (Charlie Nicholls, Marc Bosley, and Len Leabeater). **Manly** crumbled in their first trip to the crease for **41** – strapping fast bowler **Nicholls** snatching **7/28** (6 overs) and left-hand swing bowler **Bosley** snapped up 2/15 – **Cumberland** then marched out and '*rattled up*' **3/218 decl.** – **Len Leabeater** providing a polished **110*** and **R. Evans** a fine 66, and in the process they added **166 runs** for the **3rd wicket** – **Manly** improved in their second knock making **113** with the combination of Nicholls 5/28 and Bosley 4/48 again causing the "Seasiders" downfall.
- **Second Grade 1984/85 v. Sydney at Old Kings Oval** – In an extremely high scoring match played on a superb OKO batting wicket Parramatta clawed their way to an unlikely victory after **Sydney** posted a commanding total of **6/384 decl.** [paceman **Steve Stewart** claimed **4/66**]. **Parramatta** applied themselves to the huge challenge with great resolution and were able to take match honours after they managed to make **5/385** – the team's great effort was bankrolled by '*wonderful under pressure*' batting from the experienced and rugged left-hander **Mark A. Ward** who produced a belligerent **114** and the promising young opener **Mark Crittenden** who compiled a determined **109** – they featured in a partnership of 143.
- **Fourth Grade 1973/74 v. University of NSW at Old Kings Oval** - Cumberland dominated a low scoring match and recorded a notable outright win that was principally due to the devastating bowling of tenacious fast-medium bowler Mick Haire and the sturdy left-arm paceman Tony Tully. **UNSW** crashed for just **50** in their first dig (**Tully 6/21 & Haire 3/28**), **Cumberland** then replied with **6/54 decl.** (Chris Gardoll 24) and sent the Students back to

the crease where they were promptly demolished for meagre total of **37 (Haire 5/19 & Tully 5/16)** – Cumberland knocked off the 35 runs needed for the outright win with the loss of two wickets.

- **Third Grade 1933/34 v. Paddington at Lidcombe Oval** – In a high scoring match for a 3rd grade game of that era, Cumberland after registering a massive score week 1 had to fight *'tooth and nail'* on week 2 to withstand a relentless Paddington and secure a hard fought draw. **Cumberland 8/380 decl. (Roy Baxter** stole the show with a stroke-filled **154** and was well supported by Ed Denneen 47, Harry McNamara 40 and Jack Tenie 36) looked to have achieved a winning total, but alas the **Paddo** boys thought otherwise and at stumps on day 2 were **9/355** (Bernie Jackson 3/51 & Ron Lewis 3/47).