



NORTH-WEST
YOUTH CRICKET

Contents

Introduction.....	6
Squad and Format.....	8
Pre Season Term 1	
North West Vs Christ College	10
Pre Season Term 1	
North West Vs Shirley Boys	15
Match Day 1	
North West 1st Xi Vs St Andrews 2nd Xi	18
Match Day 2	
North West 1st Xi Vs St Bedes 1st Xi	24
T20 Match Day 1	
North West 1st Xi Vs St Andrews 1st Xi	31
Match Day 3	
North West 1st Xi Vs Shirley Boys 1st Xi.....	37
Match Day 4	
North West 1st Xi Vs CBHS 3rd Xi Blue	45
T20 Match Day 2	
North West 1st Xi Vs Christchurch Boys 2nd Xi	51
T20 Match Day 3	
North West 1st Xi Vs Christ College 1st Xi.....	57
Match Day 5	
North West 1st Xi Vs Sydenham 1st Xi	64
Match Day 6	
North West 1st Xi Vs CBHS 3rd Xi Black	74
Match Day 7	
North West 1st Xi Vs Christ College 2nd Xi	82

Match Day 8	
North West 1st Xi Vs St Bedes 1st Xi	
Grade Final	87
Term 1 Review	92
Term 4 Pre Season Training & Tour	94
Pre Season Tour Match Day 1	
Intersquad Match.....	99
Pre Season Tour Match Day 2	
North West 1st Xi Vs Darfield Premier	109
Pre Season Tour Match Day 3 T201	
North West 1st Xi Vs Waitaki Boys High	110
Pre Season Tour Match Day 4 T202	
North West 1st Xi Vs Waitaki Boys High	116
Pre Season Tour Match Day 5	
North West 1st Xi Vs St Kevins.....	122
Pre Season Tour Match Day 6	
North West 1st Xi Vs Shirley Boys	131
Match Day 1 One Day Pool B	
North West 1st Xi Vs Christchurch Boys 2nd Xi	132
Match Day 2 One Day Pool B	
North West 1st Xi Vs St Thomas 1st Xi.....	139
Match Day 3 One Day Pool B	
North West 1st Xi Vs The Bye Round.....	147
Match Day 4 One Day Pool B	
North West 1st Xi Vs Christ College 1st Xi.....	150
Match Day 5 One Day Pool B	
North West 1st Xi Vs Shirley Boys 1st Xi.....	155

Match Day 6	Bottom 6	
North West 1 st Xi Vs St Andrews 1 st Xi		161
Match Day 7	Bottom 6	
North West 1 st Xi Vs Sydenham 1 st Xi		167
Match Day 8	Bottom 6	
North West 1 st Xi Vs St Bedes 1 st Xi		174
Match Day 9		
The Willows Traditional.....		180
Term 2 Review		181
2025 Review		182
Player Profiles.....		183
Jordan Sim		183
Dilan Wijetunga		189
Jasper Welford.....		195
Alex Guillemot		201
Aroon Deb		208
Bosilu Liyana Waduge		213
George Grayling		218
Kaden Fraser		225
Liam Kerr		230
Ollie Fifield		236
Olly Upjohn.....		242
Rory Wafer		248
Sam Carrell		253
Sam Waddell.....		259

William Timms	266
Zaak Zaman Hassanussaman	270
North West 1st Xi Stats 2025	277
Best Individual Performances Term 1	280
Best Individual Performances Term 4	281
North West 1st Xi Honours Board	282
Awards	283
Bowler of the Year	284
Batsman of the Year	288
Fielder of the Year	291
Coaches Player	294
Players Player	297
MVP	300
North West 1st Xi Class of 2025	303
Farwell to the Year 13's	304
Afterword	321

Introduction

No sooner had it begun, it had ended. For some, their final year, for others, it was just the start of the journey.

After farewelling a large bulk of Year 13 players from the previous year, it opened up a vast number of spaces in the 1st Xi to fill.

Last year was a season that promised so much, both for the 1st and 2nd Xi's, who were leading the way for the club and yet in truth, they both fell short of their goals.

A successful start to the year saw North West 1st Xi win their grade, before narrowly missing out on staying in the top grade at the end of the year while the 2nd Xi finished 3rd in both terms, missing out on promotion spots.

Now, a new year and new challenges await. With the next game always around the corner, there is little time to get accustomed to new teammates, especially with the varied time spent with them and yet, with most of them having been a part of the club for a long time now you could tell it was something they were all accustomed to and were more than willing to go out of their way to get along with everyone and right from the very start there was a great comradery amongst the squad.

The excitement and pure joy that could be seen whenever somebody performed extremely well was always so evident and yet they all seemed to be able to curb their ego's to realise they are a team, when one does well, they all do well.

Yes, there was competition for places, both in the playing squad and then with the roles inside the squad as well and yet it never caused friction. Instead, you could see that they were desperate to learn, to grow and they were all more than happy to help their fellow teammates do the same.

An example of this could be seen when our opening bowler claimed a catch to end the innings which also completed his new balls partners 5 wicket haul, yet it was him who seemed more thrilled than the bowler.

This is a team who wants to perform, wants to compete, and wants to succeed. No matter their role and no matter how they are asked to play, they give everything they can for this side and at the end of it all, at the end of this tumultuous year in which we farewell another large contingent of extremely valuable Year 13's there won't be a single person who will leave with regrets as they all know, that they have given everything to this side and realistically, you can't ask for anything more than that.

Squad and Format

There's always a sense of anticipation around trials for a club like North West, because it is never truly set as to who will come. We are unlike any other Youth side in that aspect and after welcoming in a whole host of new names and unfamiliar faces, we were faced with the difficult task of narrowing down 1st and 2nd Xi squads.

Having seen first hand the impact of selecting a bare bones squad of 12 in previous years 1st Xi's, we made the decision to name a squad of 15(it became 16), which was not an easy task.

There was such a large contingent of Year 13's from last year who finished out their time in Youth cricket, and it meant there were plenty of gaps that needed to be filled. After much deliberation and forethought, we settled on talented, and well round squad, which we felt was as strong as it could possibly be.

North West 1st Xi Squad 2025

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Alex Guillemot | 2. Aroon Deb |
| 3. Bosilu Liyana Waduge | 4. Dilan Wijetunga (vc) |
| 5. George Grayling | 6. Jaspar Welford (vc) |
| 7. Jordan Sim (c) | 8. Kaden Fraser |
| 9. Liam Kerr | 10. Olly Upjohn |
| 11. Ollie Fifield | 12. Rory Wafer |
| 13. Sam Carrell | 14. Sam Waddell |
| 15. Zaak Zaman | 16. William Timms* |

**Joined Halfway through 2025*

This year we also opted to change, if only slightly, our leadership structure. Opting away from the norm and selecting two vice captains to support Jordan Sim, who was named as Captain for his final year at the club.

He has been a part of the 1st Xi squad for nearly 2 years prior to this one, after having been picked for a handful of games as a Year 11, and we were looking forward to seeing him adapt and grow into the role as a leader.

Supporting him were two equally capable leaders in Jasper Welford, and Dilan Wijetunga, who have both shown the leadership qualities we are looking for. With these 3 forming the core leadership group, we were sure for a good season ahead.

After the disappointment of narrowly missing out on a place in the top 6, the 1st Xi found themselves playing in the Championship Grade. This started off with the Declaration format, to which we all thoroughly enjoy, before moving into the One Day competition at the back end of the year.

As always, the Declaration format is red ball game played in white, and plays exactly like a 2 day game, except with 1 innings and no bonus points for batting or bowling available, so very little incentive to get things moving.

However, despite being less than enthused about playing this type of match, it is a format that our teams have excelled at in the past and we will be looking to do the same here to begin the year in order to gain promotion back into the top grade for the white ball competition in Term 4. There is also the added excitement of a midweek T20 competition that will run for 3 weeks throughout the middle of the first term which we had put a team in for.

Pre Season Term 1

North West Vs Christ College

Cricket got underway for the majority of the 1st Xi side for 2025, with a North West Xi playing a Christ College Xi in a 50 Over Pre Season fixture at Christ College.

It was a team mixed of 1st and 2nd Xi players. There were three Current 1st Xi players, six former 2nd Xi players, now selected into the 1st Xi squad, and three currently selected 2nd Xi players.

Dilan Wijetunga, who was taking the role as captain for the day, won the toss and elected to bat under overcast conditions. The fixture was one in which all 50 overs should be batted, regardless of the wickets falling, so it was certain to be a long day ahead.

We stumbled early as it was very hard to face up with swing and seam very present in the overcast conditions, quickly finding ourselves 15-2 after 8 overs as we struggled to get any momentum. Bosliu Liyana Waduge



Rory Wafer during his innings in Pre Season

was the first victim of the large swing on offer, not offering shot and instead offering his wicket.

However, things swung quickly with a blistering 110 run partnership between Sam Carrell and Rory Wafer who was playing his first game for the club. Using just 113 balls the pair accelerated our score into the back half of the innings, with Rory bringing up a really tough, gritty 50.

Sam fell for 48, just short of his own half century and a mini collapse followed him, before

Aroon Deb and Rory again, banded together to put on 59 for the 6th wicket.

Rory was filled with confidence and blasted a monster 6 over midwicket and then went even bigger over long on before falling for 93 as he looked to go a third time.

Aroon rattled off 4 boundaries over and through the slips on his way to 26, but aside from a composed Alex Guillemot who finished with 15*, we lost wickets in clumps all throughout, including Sam Waddell for a pair of ducks as he came back in with just a couple overs to go.



Posting a healthy 234-12 on the board on a tough pitch, we were quite happy, and things got even better off the first ball of the innings.



Dilan produced the edge, and George caught well in the gully. Those two liked it so much they did it again the next ball and when Dilan bowled their #4 with the last ball of the 3rd over, we were in full control at 6-3.

Alex and Dilan conceded just 12 off the first 8 overs and Christs never recovered from the early set back.

Jordy Moore picked up the next wicket, hitting the top of middle as the batsman shouldered arms, before Bosilu had one of his own, lbw in his solitary over leaving Christs at 65-5 off 25 overs. This batsman would later join North West after the halfway point of the year.

Sam Waddell then got his first wicket, roughing the batsman up as he poked one to catching midwicket, before Sam Carrell, the pick of the bowlers in the end, got the first of his 4 wickets, bowling the batsman

through the gate as we picked up 5 very quick wickets in a 6 over period. Sam C's second was popped into short cover, before Alex Guillemot took our 3rd catch in at gully for the day, this time, off Sam W.

Sam C's third was popped to square leg before George trapped a batter on the crease and had his own wicket. Sam C got his 4th in his 9th over, tossing it up drawing the top edge which was caught at backward point before Liam Kerr got his own caught at mid wicket and suddenly things were happening very quickly.

We had rolled through their team of 14 and the opener had come back out to bat. He went after a couple before being outfoxed by Alex who drew a top edge once more and Bosilu took a smart running catch.

Sam W bowled 3 consecutive short ones and was thumped before realizing you can hit the stumps too and got his 3rd wicket and our 15th before Alex yorked a stubborn batsman and Christs elected to give up having batted 47 overs and finished 150-16.

It was a really good hit out to start the season, and with a whole host of top players to join in as well, it was looking rather exciting for the season ahead.

North West Xi Vs Christ College Xi
Pre Season - 25 Jan 2025

North West Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
B Liyana Waduge	b B Nation	1	6	9	-	-
R Wafer	b B Nation	93	153	103	12	2
R Siddiqui	b B Nation	4	18	19	-	-
S Carrell	c&b Z Croft	48	76	58	6	-
Z Chalmers	c Sharr b Hiatt	2	4	8	-	-
S Waddell	lbw Z Croft	0	1	3	-	-
A Deb	c Sharr b Currie	26	42	37	4	-
D Wijetunga	run out W Timms	10	28	25	-	-
G Grayling	c Sharr b Z Croft	1	8	5	-	-
L Kerr	run out L Mostert	3	17	8	-	-
A Guillemot	Not Out	15	20	20	2	-
J Moore	c Sharr b M Solai	0	6	5	-	-
S Waddell	c C DC b M Solai	0	5	2	-	-
B Liyana Waduge	Not Out	3	5	3	-	-

Extras: (b7,lb3,w11,nb7) 28
TOTAL: (12 wkts, 50 overs) 234

Fall of Wickets:
1-3 2-15 3-125 4-128 5-129 6-188 7-194 8-200 9-216
10-216 11-221 12-221

Christ College Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
L Hiatt	c Grayling b D Wijetunga	0	0	1	-	-
Z Croft	b J Moore	17	65	40	2	-
H Ensor	c Grayling b D Wijetunga	0	0	1	-	-
L Mostert	b D Wijetunga	4	12	10	1	-
W Timms	lbw B Liyana Waduge	28	99	64	2	-
C DC	c Guillemot b S Waddell	12	60	37	1	-
L Sharr	c Guillemot b S Waddell	15	30	16	3	-
B Nation	b S Carrell	4	4	5	1	-
B Meates	c Grayling	4	8	9	-	-
H Reekie	b A Guillemot	15	78	42	1	-
J Chapman	c Kerr b S Carrell	7	36	21	1	-
D Church	lbw Grayling	0	2	6	-	-
M Solai	c Siddiqui b S Carrell	0	4	6	-	-
G Currie	c Carrell b L Kerr	1	3	4	-	-
L Hiatt	c Bosilu b A Guillemot	11	12	13	2	-
C DC	b S Waddell	15	7	8	2	-
J Chapman	Not Out	0	1	1	-	-

Extras: (b4,lb3,w9,nb1) 17
TOTAL: (16 wkts, 47.1 overs) 150

	O	M	R	W	Econ
D Wijetunga	5	1	12	3	2.40
A Guillemot	5.1	2	10	2	1.94
G Grayling	6	1	26	1	4.33
A Deb	4	1	9	0	2.25
J Moore	6	3	13	1	2.17
L Kerr	6	1	12	1	2.00
S Carrell	9	1	19	4	2.11
B Liyana Waduge	1	0	6	1	6.00
S Waddell	5	0	36	3	7.20

Fall of Wickets:
1-0 2-0 3-6 4-35 5-65 6-72 7-77 8-86 9-97 10-116
11-117 12-118 13-119 14-132 15-150 16-150

**North West Win
by 67 Runs**

Pre Season Term 1

North West Vs Shirley Boys

At the same time, we were dealing with a few niggles running through the camp, a back spasm here, bruised finger there, sore ankle around the corner, and so it was something we were having to deal with as we approached the start of the season.

We had a second pre season fixture the following week, our last hit out before the start of the season, this one consisting solely of the 1st Xi squad and so we wanted to make sure everyone was fit and healthy as we negotiated that fixture.

The format was the same as the previous week, but this time our opponents were Shirley Boys High 1st Xi, a team that was a nice change of pace for me, having done battle 8 times in the last 3 years with their 2nd Xi.

It was Jordans first chance to captain his side and our first chance to see how operating with 2 vice captains would go. Of course, Jordans first act was to lose the toss and get asked to bowl first.

Dilan and Alex took the new ball, just as they had last week and from the get go, made it very difficult to score.

A 4 over spell each saw just 11 runs coming off the first 8 overs, but no wickets forthcoming as the pressure began to build.

Aroon and Liam kept it up following their openers as runs continued to be stifled with the rate hovering around 1.5.

It wasn't until our 3rd and 4th change bowlers came on that things really started to happen. Sam Waddell and Zaak Zaman both started poorly, giving away wides which led to extra runs, the first extras we had conceded, but from there, they brought it back in and once more got control of the contest.

Sam got the wickets underway with a brace both hitting the stumps, before Zaak lured a false shot and a top edge resulted in a simple catch.

Well on top, we never really relinquished it as Jordan rang the changes. Throughout the innings, 10 bowlers were used, and the wickets kept coming and were being shared around as well.

Chief destroyer was Sam W who picked up 5 wickets, with 4 of them hitting the stumps.

Sam Carrell nabbed another couple to go with his 4 from last week, while Jasper floated up a few off spinners of his own and took one for himself.

Then, when Dilan came on just after we added a run out to proceedings and took 2 in 2 balls for the second time in a week, hitting the stumps both times, we had bowled Shirely out for 119 in 43 overs and taking 13 wickets.

Eager to finish out the overs, Shirley sent out their strike batsman again who took to our death bowling, which wasn't as smooth or effective as we would have liked. There wasn't really any sort of plan with the ball and it saw 50 runs come from the last 7 overs which propelled their total towards 170 after the overs finished out.

Still, a very pleasing effort with the ball as our bowlers made life very difficult early on.

Seeing how much we had made them work for it, there was always going to be a tough period with the new ball, and it did seem very tough in the early exchanges.

Jasper and Ollie opened the batting together as they looked to settle our nerves.

A streaky boundary in the first over made the score look nice, but the rate began to slow down and then things started not to go our way as Ollie was out LBW. Jordan and Jasper rebuilt for a period ticking the score over to 40 while nearing the 15 over mark before Jordan was out, brilliantly caught in the gully.

From there, it was the Kaden and Jasper show. Kaden was initially slow to get into his innings, in absolutely no rush and at one stage was 10 off 40.

Meanwhile Jasper had got in and was quietly building a score and suddenly he was nearing 50, which he crossed with ease and the momentum was all ours.

Kaden began to accelerate as well and in the 32nd over, we drew level with Shirley boys having just lost the one wicket.

Jasper would retire for 64, but Kaden would continue and bring up a half century of his own, while Rory, Olly and Sam C also picked up starts as we built into the end of the innings.

The latter 2 running particularly well together as we finished up posting 220-4, a comfortable win with several good performances all around and we were looking ready for week 1 of the season.

Match Day 1

North West 1st Xi Vs St Andrews 2nd Xi

Glorious

One word that aptly described the situation, from the weather overhead to the length of the grass and speed of the outfield. It was a glorious day to play cricket, and we were lucky enough to be provided some brilliant conditions both natural and not as we got our season underway with a tricky fixture against St Andrews 2nd Xi on their home turf.

The boys swarmed to the ground in droves, invading in their deep green training shirts and quickly got into our work.

A squad of 12 was named with Bosilu and Liam being used in the 2nd Xi while Aroon missed out through personal circumstances, leaving us with a strong 12 for our first game of the season.

With the warm up underway, Jordan broke away to head out into the middle for his first official toss as Captain of the side and came away as a winner, electing to bat first on what look to be a very green, but hard wicket.

It would have a bit in it for both batsman and bowlers, and we wanted to make first use of it.

Jasper and Ollie F opened up, putting back together an opening combination that started back in the Colts, and had now reached the pinnacle at the club.

It was a circumspect start as STAC were diligent and tidy without troubling either batsman in the early exchanges.

Jasper took 15 balls to get off the mark, and we had crept along to just 7 off the first 5 overs. Then, after having got ourselves in and set, we were able to begin building.



The shackles were broken in back to back deliveries. The last ball of the 6th over and the first ball of the 7th, as both batsmen hit boundaries aerially over the legside and got their innings underway.

They put on 35 for the opening wicket before Jasper chopped on to end his stay, but the rate was climbing, and a good start allowed Jordan to come in and play freely.

Both he and Ollie started finding the boundary with frequency and ease. Jordan striking one bowler for 4 thrice in an over, before planting a massive 6 over cow corner with an elegant slog sweep off their seamer.

They put on 50 in no time, just 41 balls, but disaster struck on the last ball before drinks as Jordan feathered one to

the keeper and the stand was broken, right at the most unfortunate time.

Ollie brought up a brilliant half century with a boundary right after the break but then lost his wicket the very next ball as we started to slide.

Kaden and Rory, who was on his official club debut, began rebuilding. They were still able to score with ease and comfort, Kaden playing the most beautiful inside out drives off the spinner after dancing down to him. He picked up 3 boundaries, but again, we lost a wicket at in inopportune time.



*Ollie Fijfield, pictured after his half century
against St Andrews*

153-3 after 32 overs, we were sitting really pretty for a good total, but when Rory fell the dam burst, in a big, big way.

Olly U and Kaden had put on a small partnership of 12 before Olly chipped to cover, then when Sam C was bowled first ball the wheels were coming off. Kaden then followed their tracks back to the pavilion when he top edged a half tracker in the next over, just 5 short of 50. Suddenly we had lost 3-6 and we weren't done there.

Alex registered a duck of his own before Sam W, coming off 5 ducks in a row in all innings, resisted for a bit, as did George who struck a 6 over cow for his first runs of the

year with a slog sweep, but things happened very quickly when they were both out within 4 balls and we had lost 7-36 to be bowled out under 200. A really disappointing finish to the batting innings after such a positive start.

Still, we had runs on the board and we backed our bowling unit. Dilan took the new ball to start us off with Alex as his new ball partner. They started off as they had through both pre-season matches, not giving much away.

It only took till the 3rd over when the batsman gave up trying to play them and started swinging, connecting a couple of times for boundaries, before Alex had a tough chance grassed in the slips.

Despite the fact they were swinging at everything, runs weren't coming, and Alex got the breakthrough with a terrific away swinging yorker that took the edge of off stump in a brute of a delivery.

3 balls later and he had a second after a plan came off. Pushing his straight fielders back a touch, he went wide and slow and was rewarded with a skying catch by mid off.

Seeing that, Dilan copied and pasted his method a further 3 balls later and had a catch taken on the other side, this one at mid on. 3 wickets in 7 balls and we were well on top.

Alex had a second catch dropped at slip and then a third at gully, before Dilan had his first and our 4th drop in the cordon, this too at gully, but he responded by taking the batsman's stumps the next ball.

After a brilliant opening start, Sam W was thrown the ball and he took a wicket first ball with a dragged down half

tracker which was pulled to mid on before there was finally some resistance shown.

With STAC 33-5 after 12 overs, they needed to bat some time and a partnership of 28 was put together as they saw off Sam W and Zaak, before George snaffled a brilliant caught and bowled chance from nothing to pick up his first wicket for the year.

Again, another partnership frustrated us, and Jordan quickly turned back to his opening bowlers. In his 10th over, Alex finally had a catch taken at slip, finding the outside edge of the defending batsman who had put together 40 runs, Jasper taking a fine catch in the cordon.

Dilan followed his partner by picking up a 3rd of his own, hitting the stumps. Then in the first over after the drinks break, with us needing 2 wickets and STAC trying to bat 24

overs for the draw, he got his 4th, digging one into the ribs where Rory took a simple chance at short midwicket.

One wicket needed and Dilan was on for 5. Helmets came on and the field crept in close as Jordan threw the ball back to Sam W, who obliged by going around the wicket and bowling a nasty bouncer at the batsmen's head, taking his gloves with the ball ballooning to slip.



4 wickets to start the year for the vice captain

A really good win to start the season, and yet still a lot to improve upon.

 North West 1st Xi Vs St Andrews 2nd Xi
 Round 1 - 08 Feb 2025

North West 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
J Welford	b J Farrelly	17	30	35	2	-
O Fifield	c WiffenLal b E Higgs	53	73	56	9	-
J Sim	c Seatter b A Lilley	29	27	23	4	1
K Fraser	c Matulewicz b WiffenLal	45	68	63	5	-
R Wafer	c Lang b J Farrelly	12	34	26	1	-
O Upjohn	c Suter b J Farrelly	5	17	12	-	-
S Carrell	b J Farrelly	0	1	1	-	-
S Waddell	lbw B Stewart	10	29	23	1	-
A Guillemot	c&b W WiffenLal	0	11	7	-	-
G Grayling	b W WiffenLal	12	6	13	1	1
D Wijetunga	Not Out	1	2	3	-	-
Z Zaman	DNB	-	-	-	-	-

Extras: (b1,lb1,w3,nb1) 6
 TOTAL: (10 wkts, 43.3 overs) 190

Fall of Wickets:

1-35 2-89 3-105 4-154 5-166 6-166 7-172 8-176 9-188 10-190

St Andrews 2nd Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
S Seatter	c Fraser b D Wijetunga	15	28	20	2	-
L Sidey	b A Guillemot	3	20	12	-	-
I Matulewicz	c Sim b A Guillemot	4	1	3	1	-
G Suter	c&b G Grayling	18	56	38	3	-
A Lilley	b D Wijetunga	5	10	13	1	-
J Farrelly	c Fraser b S Waddell	4	6	4	-	-
Z Lang	c Welford b A Guillemot	40	83	59	8	-
B Stewart	c Wafer b D Wijetunga	13	73	54	1	-
Z Hoshek	b D Wijetunga	0	2	2	-	-
E Higgs	c Welford b S Waddell	8	34	17	2	-
W Wiffen Lal	Not Out	2	14	10	-	-

Extras: (w2,nb1) 3
 TOTAL: (10 wkts, 38.3 overs) 115

	O	M	R	W	Econ
D Wijetunga	9	2	23	4	2.55
A Guillemot	12	3	31	3	2.58
S Waddell	4.3	1	15	2	3.33
G Grayling	5	0	21	1	4.20
Z Zaman	4	2	11	0	2.75
K Fraser	4	1	14	0	3.50

**North West Win
by 75 Runs**

Fall of Wickets:

1-18 2-22 3-22 4-29 5-33 6-61 7-102 8-103 9-104 10-115

Match Day 2

North West 1st Xi Vs St Bedes 1st Xi

A win first up was a great way for us to start the season as we pushed for the top, trying to earn promotion into the top grade when Term 4 comes around.

This weekend we travelled to the colossus of a ground in St Bedes College, taking on their 1st Xi, one of the top sides in the grade and a side boasting tremendous talent amongst their squad.

It would not be an easy game for us and would test us in every department.

The pitch was green and soft, with a thick layer of grass on top and the smallest boundary was over 60m. In fact, to send a letter from one side of the ground to the other would have taken a second stamp and they were in their own time zone.

It meant that whatever total was scored, you should add at least another 30 or 40 to see the true score.

It was a special game as Aroon Deb officially earned his baggy, playing his 13th game for the club and Jordan celebrated by winning the toss and



Aroon receiving his baggy from the skipper before play

choosing to bowl first in what seemed like helpful conditions.

It didn't take long to realise there was no pace in the wicket so not only did you have to be full, but you had to be tight, or risk being hit through the line.

Dilan with the new ball in hand, found that out immediately as his first two balls, both full and wide were crunched through the offside. On another day, they both would have been boundaries, here, they were kept to a couple.

Alex started off the better of the two and had a sharp chance grassed at catching midwicket in his first over, a tight lbw call turned down in his second over, before breaking through with the first wicket in his 3rd over as Aroon, sporting the beautiful new baggy, took a sensational grab, inches off the surface as he dove forwards at square leg.

Then a couple of overs later when Alex took the outside edge, it was Jordans turn to pull off a brilliant catch with the gloves on. He dove in front of first slip and snatched it with one hand, just above the grass as it was never going to carry to the slip fielder, giving us our second.

Alex had started brilliantly, curbing the aggression that was being shown by St Bedes, taking 2-8 in a 6 over spell as we kept them to 22-2 off 12 after they were initially 16-0 off 5.

Jordan turned to the spin of Zaak to replace Alex while Aroon took the ball at Dilan's end, and they were effective early. Zaak nearly produced a wicket in his first over, a

miscued hack, slicing over cover for a couple while Aroon beat the bat twice in his first over.

Zaak then picked up his first wicket for the year as he drew the batsmen down the pitch, landing a lovely leg break which beat the edge and Jordan whipped the bails off, sending the batsman packing.

The skipper was then involved again as Aroon found the outside edge and Jordan took yet another good catch, falling in front of the slips.

After Aroon finished his 6 over spell, we had bowled 23 overs and conceded just 48 while picking up 4 wickets, so were pretty happy with our current efforts, and it got better when Sam W, replacing Aroon, got a little extra bounce and took the shoulder of the bat where Alex, who had snuck into gully, took our 4th brilliant catch of the day as he fell low and to his left. A bit of love between bowlers.

It was now that St Bedes started to build, they were showing more targeted aggression and attacking our loose balls. Suddenly, from 59-5 they had put on a solid partnership of 27 by the time the second drinks break came around at 34 overs.

On a ground like this, every wicket was so important, and we were constantly looking for breakthroughs.

George and Alex opened up again after drinks break as we made a double change, and it took 3.4 overs before that change worked wonders as Alex, who had barely missed his line and length all day, forced a leading edge which sailed into the sky and was comfortably held in the covers, giving Alex his 3rd.

Not to be outdone, George found his own line and length with back to back deliveries, smashing into the top of off and then the top of middle, roaring in celebration as the bails went flying both times.

3-1 in 8 balls and we were looking to wrap things up as quickly as possible, knowing every run was vital.

Alex saw George hit the stumps and thought, I can do that too, bowling an absolute peach which slipped past the new batsmen's outside edge, taking off stump, leaving him on 4 wickets and us still needing 1.

In search of quick runs, the slog was brought out and though Alex got hit once, ruining figures of what was 10ov 4-10, he would get him next ball. Bowling wider, he got the skied drive where Dilan made great ground and held onto another brilliant catch, looking into the sun while on the run.

5 wickets for Alex in just his third 1st Xi match and he had started the season with the ball brilliantly.

We'd taken 5-10 to finish out the innings and St Bedes had 101 to their name, not a lot and yet plenty, it would be a tough chase ahead.



Alex celebrates his maiden 1st Xi 5 wicket haul

It was Ollie and Jasper who opened up, facing 2 of the top schoolboy bowlers and did well to get us off to a great start.

It was slow, but they began building a foundation. Jasper opened our account in the third over with a slash over backward point for 4. Ollie was a little jumpy around the crease but got himself going with a drive through point.

The field was making it tough to score, however with good running between the wickets the score slowly started to creep up, while the required runs came down.

Just when they were starting to look set, Ollie fell, chipping one to short cover as he tried to flay it through the offside and when Jordan lost his leg stump first ball, suddenly 102 was looking a long way away as we sat at 17-2.

Kaden and Jasper began the rebuild and did a very good job as they blunted the attack, before finding ways to score. It wasn't with boundaries as they were few and far between, but through singles and twos and though it wasn't happening quickly, the two of them brought up the teams 50.

St Bedes turned to spin and that caused things to happen. Jasper holed out to cow corner from a dragged down delivery after getting away with a similar shot the over before.

Rory and Kaden put on another 15 together as the target came down, but when Rory failed to clear mid off and Kaden sliced one to backward point in the space of 15 balls, a win was looking extremely distant, with still 33 required and just 5 wickets in hand.

Olly and Sam W continued bringing that total down, one run at a time, before Sam found the perfect occasion to pick up two boundaries, both nicked through the slips and brought it down more.

Then, with the runs required at single digits, Sam was bowled off a good yorker, but he had done a great job in getting us close.

Zaak was busy at the crease and picked up a couple 2's with some less than conventional shots, before Olly put the finishing touches on a tough game, guiding one through the offside for a single.

Considering the opponents, this was a really good win for us and one that was hard fought, so an incredibly pleasing result as we moved to 2 wins to start the season.

 North West 1st Xi Vs St Bedes 1st Xi
 Round 2 - 15 Feb 2025

St Bedes 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
S Chapman	c Guillemot b S Waddell	18	103	70	1	-
T Borcoskie	c Deb b A Guillemot	13	19	20	-	-
J Whalley	c Sim b A Guillemot	4	9	10	-	-
J Hislop	st Sim b Z Zaman	10	28	25	1	-
M Boyle	c Sim b A Deb	3	20	21	-	-
R Mcnae	c Wafer b J Farrelly	26	60	55	2	-
N Wijemuni	Not Out	15	66	43	-	-
J Foley	b G Grayling	0	3	4	-	-
M Haines	b G Grayling	0	1	1	-	-
H Donaldson	b A Guillemot	1	10	9	-	-
C Thomson	c Wijetunga b A Guillemot	4	6	5	1	-
J Allison	DNB	-	-	-	-	-
Extras: (b1,lb2,w3,nb1)		7				
TOTAL: (10 wkts, 43.3 overs)		101				

	O	M	R	W	Econ
D Wijetunga	6	1	13	0	2.16
A Guillemot	10.3	5	14	5	1.33
A Deb	6	1	9	1	1.50
Z Zaman	11	1	32	1	2.90
S Waddell	5	0	21	1	4.20
G Grayling	5	1	9	2	1.80

Fall of Wickets:

1-16 2-20 3-37 4-44 5-59 6-91 7-92 8-92 9-95 10-101

North West 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
J Welford	c Wijemuni b M Boyle	28	83	64	3	-
O Fifield	c Borcoskie b C Thomson	9	33	22	-	-
J Sim	b C Thomson	0	1	0	-	-
K Fraser	c Chapman b M Boyle	24	75	54	1	-
R Wafer	c Haines b M Boyle	5	16	22	-	-
O Upjohn	Not Out	13	66	40	-	-
S Waddell	b N Wijemuni	12	40	31	2	-
Z Zaman	Not Out	5	13	8	-	-
Extras: (b5,nb1)		6				
TOTAL: (6 wkts, 40.1 overs)		102				

**North West Win
by 4 wickets**

Fall of Wickets:

1-17 2-17 3-52 4-68 5-69 6-96

T20 Match Day 1

North West 1st Xi Vs St Andrews 1st Xi

With a couple red ball games under the belt to start the season, our attention turned towards the white ball as we had entered into a midweek T20 competition playing against the top school's 1st Xi's in the Canterbury Region.

It is just a 3 week campaign, with a potential 4th if we managed to finish atop our group. Starting off we found ourselves drawn against St Andrews College 1st Xi, winners of the 1st Xi competition for 2024.

With games set to kick off around 3:30pm, it made it even more challenging for us as a club who needed to get players from multiple schools, all over the province and just being able to field a team on time could prove to be a difficult affair.

We made a change to the 12 as our youngest squad member Liam Kerr, came in for his debut for the 1st Xi before Jordan won his 3rd toss in a row to start the season electing to bowl first, choosing to try and chase down anything STAC put on us.

It was a really good start for us, the first 3 balls from Dilan yielded 2 dots and a scratchy single before he dropped short and was clubbed through midwicket. Early intent from STAC and we struggled to contain thereafter.

The first over went for 10 before Alex found himself being incredibly unlucky as he twice found the outside edge off wild slogs, but the ball found the gaps and the third man boundary, and he went for 13 off his first.

Another double digit over from STAC saw them rollicking along before Alex was taken for 23 as STAC continued to swing and survive with some luck as the score moved to 59-0 off just 4 overs.

Jordan made a change, throwing George the ball and he found some early reward, banging the ball in. He was clubbed out to deep midwicket, where Liam held on safely and we had finally broken a blistering opening stand.

Liam then took the ball at the other end and proved the toughest bowler to get away as he consistently hit the same line and length, only being hit for singles.

Spin was then brought in to try and slow things up as we found it difficult to get out of overs and Zaak was instantly effective, getting one to rip past the edge of their set opener who came down at him and Olly did the rest behind the stumps.

Liam continued on with his 3rd over, giving away just 16 from them as he proved to be our most consistent, even if he didn't have anything to show for it.

STAC brought up the 100 in the 10th over. After taking 59 from the first 4, the next 6 yielded just 43 as we had slowly begun to apply the brakes.

There was a quick double strike from Zaak as he removed their #3, bowling him and then the new batter got a leading edge off a gentle legside tuck which ballooned back to him as we finally started to have a say in the match.

Aroon did for a former North West 1st Xi player who had switched allegiances, after a mini cameo, finding his edge.

Kaden then came on to finish out the innings and snaffled a tough caught and bowled chance before Liam finished out his overs with an outstanding 0-19 from his 4.

Alex would grab a late wicket too as he closed out the overs.

STAC had amassed 172-7 in their 20 which was a good total, but after the start they had, we pulled it back really well. 113-7 in the last 16 overs which just goes to show how tough this game is.

On another day that first edge goes to hand and we keep them to 140/150.

Still, the wicket looked good, and we knew we had the batting to compete.

Jasper and Ollie opened up together and looked to get us off to a start to keep us in it.

Ollie struggled for his timing early on and wound up taking a lot of the strike, but he was unable to tick the score over as we crawled out of the gates.

After 4 overs we found ourselves having lost no wickets, but with just 9 runs on the board, already 50 runs behind where STAC were at the same stage, so a lot of catching up was needed.

Ollie picked up a couple scratchy 2's before mistiming to mid on and was out caught.

Jordan and Jasper got together with plenty to do, and they set about getting us back in the contest. Jasper leaning on a couple shots through backward point for 4 twice in consecutive overs before spin was brought on and they began picking up singles easily.

The 9th over was where things started to happen as we took 17 from it with Jasper getting the party underway with a boundary through the offside, before Jordan pulled out his trademark slog sweep and cleared the fence, following it up with a boundary the next ball as well.

Jasper came down at the spinner and lofted him over extra cover for 4 and then again Jordan hit a 4 and 6 in consecutive balls, both straight down the ground as they took 18 from the 10th over.

35-1 off 8 to 70-1 off 10

Then, when Jordan cleared the rope for the 3rd time in 3 overs, suddenly, we were in the game somewhat, still a long way off, but the run rate was down to 10.

Jasper began pulling out all the tricks, reverse sweeping the spinner multiple times and brought up his 50 coming back for 2 off one such shot.

Then, with 63 needed from 6 overs, Jasper fell, and we started to fall apart.

He sliced one to backward point, before Jordan was out lbw slog sweeping once more.

Rory blasted his second ball over midwicket for 4, but failed to clear long on the next ball and was caught.

Kaden got himself in a tangle and was stumped, switching his feet after being safe in the crease and then Olly lost his stumps first ball.

We had lost 4-6 in 7 balls and any hope we had, had dwindled fast.

Liam was caught at long on trying something special, leaving George and Aroon to finish out the overs, coming up 40 runs short at the end of the game.

We didn't start either innings well, but both times came back strongly and got ourselves into the game and while it looks comprehensive, we did make this game tough for St Andrews, and we have a lot to take from the game and learn as we move forward.

A 57 ball, 97 run partnership between Jasper and Jordan the standout, we just needed someone else to be able to go with them and help bring us home.

 North West 1st Xi Vs St Andrews 1st Xi
 T20 Round 1 - 19 Feb 2025

St Andrews 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
C Sharp	c Kerr b G Grayling	15	22	7	3	-
R Bond	st Upjohn b Z Zaman	49	41	32	8	-
J O'Rourke	b Z Zaman	21	27	20	3	-
A Earl	c Upjohn b A Deb	17	16	12	3	-
S Seatter	c&b Z Zaman	1	1	2	-	-
T Simpson	Not Out	18	39	23	1	-
J Nicolson	c&b K Fraser	20	17	20	1	1
H Horsley	b A Guillemot	7	11	7	4	-
A Kesar	Not Out	1	1	1	-	-

Extras: (b1,lb8,w10,nb4) 23
 TOTAL: (7 wkts, 20 overs) 172

	O	D	R	W	Econ
D Wijetunga	2	5	23	0	11.50
A Guillemot	3	3	44	1	14.66
G Grayling	2	4	20	1	10.00
L Kerr	4	10	19	0	4.75
Z Zaman	4	10	26	3	6.50
A Deb	3	8	20	1	6.66
K Fraser	2	4	11	1	5.50

Fall of Wickets:
 1-64 2-92 3-104 4-106 5-115 6-146 7-167

North West 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
J Welford	c Christie b J Nicolson	55	54	43	8	-
O Fifield	c Earl b J Christie	6	16	21	-	-
J Sim	lbw J Nicolson	41	44	27	2	3
K Fraser	st Seatter b H Horsley	8	11	10	-	-
R Wafer	c Kesar b J Nicolson	5	2	3	1	-
L Kerr	C Simpson b J Nicolson	1	6	3	-	-
O Upjohn	b H Horsley	0	1	1	-	-
A Deb	Not Out	2	8	8	-	-
G Grayling	Not Out	2	4	5	-	-

Extras: (b2,w9,nb1) 12
 TOTAL: (7 wkts, 20 overs) 132

**North West lose
 by 40 Runs**

Fall of Wickets:
 1-14 2-111 3-120 4-126 5-126 6-126 7-128

Match Day 3

North West 1st Xi Vs Shirley Boys 1st Xi

It was a strange old week leading up to this weekend's fixture. Training was cancelled on Tuesday due to overnight rain, yet it was 28 degrees in the middle of the afternoon.

Fast forward an hour and there was a torrential downpour with thunder booming overhead and the occasional flashes of lightning above the clouds.

With all that and the T20 mid week in mind, we had just the solitary, relaxed practice as we looked to step back into the whites and grab the red ball after a couple good wins to start the season.

We returned to Burwood Park, the location for the Pre-Season fixture which resulted in our victory against the same opposition for today in Shirley Boys 1st Xi, but that didn't mean we went in thinking this would be a walk in the park.

A change in ground saw the same lopsided dimensions, with a straight short boundary being complimented by a long square one.

A brand new deck greeted us and that meant it was hard to read, so Jordan was not unhappy as he lost the toss for the first time this season and was asked to bat first.

As they had to start the year, Jasper and Ollie once again got us off to a reasonable start, scoring freely in the first exchanges. The short boundary came in to play early as Jasper top edged a short delivery over his head to fine leg.

The ball carried less than 20m in the air and the fielder settled underneath it, but a stroke of fortune saw the ball clip an overhanging tree branch and he was awarded 6 runs, possibly the shortest 6 ever recorded and the ball never even crossed the rope.

Again though, just as they looked settled and comfortable, a wicket fell, Jasper drawn into a drive, could only edge through to the keeper behind him.

Ollie was looking good as he confidently drove on the up through the offside, or whipped balls through the leg side, but was undone by a knee high full toss which he sliced to point, and we were in early trouble once more at 39-2.



Jasper feathers one through to the keeper

Kaden and Jordan steadied together and took us to drinks, playing the ball rather easily. However, straight after the break, some unneeded aggression and poor shot selection saw the backs of Kaden, Rory and Olly, who all fell in the space of 8 runs and suddenly we were teetering at 69-5.

Jordan was still there and batting well on 21 off 55 at the time, but he needed some support and Sam Waddell stuck around with him for a short while, he too playing with ease, but again, threw his wicket away off another full toss, slapping it straight back to the bowler.

Then, when Dilan was given LBW for a 5 ball duck in the same over, we were a long way off being competitive in this game.

Zaak came in to join his skipper and was resolute in his defence, and while his running between the wickets was rather lacking, he was doing a good job holding up one end while Jordan started to target the bowling a little more and be more aggressive.

He slog swept a 6 over cow corner and smashed a half tracker through the off side for 4 more, before going aerial again for another boundary. He was looking in sublime touch, but then was undone by a beautiful delivery that spun back in through his defences from outside off stump, just after we crossed the 100 mark.

Alex then lost his stumps from an identical ball first up and not only were we looking like being bundled out cheaply, but there was a good chance we would have to go out and field straight away with 35 minutes until the lunch break.

Enter George to partner Zaak.

With them together things started to turn ever so slightly in our favour. Shirley offered them little to no respect by not just bringing the field in closer but bringing in loads of catchers and having everyone inside the ring.

So, they took their time, waited for a slightly bad ball and then pounced. Didn't matter if it was aerial or not, didn't matter if it was hit well or not. With the field so close in, there was no risk and suddenly, the score was rising very quickly.

In no time at all it quickly became our highest partnership for the match, both of them latching onto anything short.

After 10 overs of spin, Shirley finally went back to their pacers, but they too were treated with disdain by our pair.

Zaak playing a sumptuous flick off the legs for 4 while George came down the wicket and whacked the bowler straight back over his head.

They battled for over 12 overs together before George fell, hitting one straight to square leg, but their partnership of 48 off 74 was invaluable as it had gotten us to 151, a score that was more than competitive and with our bowling, we backed ourselves to complete the job.

Dilan opened up with Alex and they were impeccable once more. Though the first ball of the innings slid down leg for a wide, the next 20 deliveries were all dots as Shirley found it hard to get our bowling away.

Dilan in particular was unplayable as every second ball seemed to go past the edge and he struck the opening batsman on the pads, right in front of middle, only for it to be given not out.

Again, it was Alex who provided the first breakthrough. He had the hot hand to start the season and in the last over of his spell, he nicked off their opener, and we had prized out a tough scalp early.

2 balls later and we could have had a second, but an edge was put down by Olly with the gloves, as he could only just get a hand to the ball, sprawling away to his right.

Shirley would knuckle down against the spin of Zaak and tried to go after George a little, but at drinks they were sitting at 30-1. With still 36 overs for them to score another 122, meaning there was no rush for them, so both teams were okay with current position.

Shirley's opener had been gifted a life or two with a drop and LBW not given early, and it was starting to look like he would make us pay when he took Zaak for 6 over square leg. However just 2 balls later, a brilliant piece of work in the field by Kaden saw him throw himself to the ground in a despairing dive, gather the ball and toss to Zaak who had made a smart move of his own to get to the stumps, and was able to affect a run out.

Another vital breakthrough for us.

Then, a moment of horror and potential disaster as Sam W found their best batsman's edge on naught, but it was put down at gully after a decent attempt.

That drop looked all the more costly when he blasted 2 boundaries off a Zaak over, and then followed that up by hitting 4 more, 3 of them in a row, off the next Sam over.

Sam would have the last laugh though, bouncing him out as Ollie took another good catch, running back while looking over his shoulder, but a lot of damage was done at 74-3. Halfway there, more than half their batters to come.

Aroon at the other end managed to pick up a wicket off a stinker of a delivery in his first over. It was very short and very wide and yet tapped politely to point for a simple catch which gave us our 4th, even if Aroon was too embarrassed to celebrate.

Jordan then came from the field with a slight niggles in his quad, leaving Jasper in charge as his stand in. Before he left, they decided to go back to Alex who had been so vital for us to start the year and had again been very good up top.

He was immediately impactful. Going across the left hander, he found the edge and this time it was Sam who got in the way. He took a brilliant, low diving catch in the gully, for our umpteenth good piece of work in the field.

Then, when Aroon bounced out the new batter just 4 balls later, suddenly, we were right back in it.

Within an over, Alex had another, pinning their stubborn #3 on the pads who had been battling away all day and this time it was given, much to our surprise. Just like that we had taken 3-2 in 9 balls, and it was our drinks that tasted all the sweeter.

It got even better shortly after drinks as Alex picked up his 4th wicket. In the first game of the season, he had 3 catches dropped in the cordon, today he had 3 taken.

This one was the best of the lot as Sam W threw himself to his right once more, this time aerially and snatched the ball with one hand as he fell to the ground in a spectacular acrobatic effort.

4 wickets to his name and 2 left to get, Alex was greedy, hungry to get back to back 5 wicket bags. He was practically unstoppable and found his way through the batsman's defences with a beautiful off cutter that gripped and beat the bat through the air, smashing into leg stump and for the second week in a row Alex had a 5 wicket haul.

1 wicket left to get, and Shirley were trying to shut up shop. Dilan had come back at the other end, and they only seemed to be able to hit it when it was straight, as he constantly went past the edge and had more than one close lbw shout turned down.

In the end it was none other than Alex who picked up that final wicket, in what was his final over. He'd nabbed 6 for the match, Kaden taking a brilliant catch, diving forwards at mid on to finish up. Another incredible piece of fielding to help us wrap up the game and in the end, a convincing win.

We'd taken 6-10 to rout Shirley for just 106 after it was a pretty even contest at 96-4 and again it was Alex who led

the way, taking an astonishing 5-7 in 5.2 overs in his second spell, finishing with 6-19, career best figures and taking his current wicket tally to 14, 10 clear of the chasing pack.

It is also the second best figures for a North West 1st XI player in the past 6 years at least, just behind former Captain Brayden McLeod who took 6-16 against St Bedes in 2023.

It also earns Alex his baggy after reaching the required 12 wickets, in just 4 games played, remarkable stuff and it makes it 3 wins out of 3 to start the new campaign.



Back to back 5 wicket hauls for Alex Guillemot and career best figures. 11.2ov 6-19

 North West 1st Xi Vs Shirley Boys 1st Xi
 Round 3 - 22 Feb 2025

North West 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
O Fifield	c Wilson b M Johnston	17	37	24	1	-
J Welford	c McIlraith b M Johnston	11	21	21	-	1
J Sim	b S Singh	39	90	81	4	1
K Fraser	c Stocker b A Kafle	13	27	32	-	-
R Wafer	c Johnston b A Kafle	1	6	5	-	-
O Upjohn	c Wilson b S Singh	2	12	14	-	-
S Waddell	c&b S Singh	4	10	16	-	-
D Wijetunga	lbw b S Singh	0	2	5	-	-
Z Zaman	Not Out	19	53	47	3	-
A Guillemot	b S Singh	0	1	1	-	-
G Grayling	c Newittisaks b Johnston	28	37	32	5	-
A Deb	DNB	-	-	-	-	-
Extras: (b4,lb5,w7,nb1)		17				
TOTAL: (10 wkts, 46.1 overs)		150				

Fall of Wickets:

1-26 2-39 3-61 4-65 5-69 6-79 7-79 8-103 9-103 10-151

Shirley Boys 1st Xi - 1st Innings

		R	M	B	4s	6s
R Withell	c Upjohn b A Guillemot	6	46	31	-	-
J Newitt-Isaks	run out Fraser/Zaman	28	78	61	1	1
J Wilson	lbw A Guillemot	21	91	67	3	-
D Bongartz	c Fifield b S Waddell	26	16	19	6	-
N Bennett	c Wafer b A Deb	0	16	8	-	-
A Brown	c Waddell b A Guillemot	5	12	8	1	-
J McIlraith	c Fraser b A Deb	1	2	4	-	-
L Stocker	b A Guillemot	2	24	12	-	-
S Singh	c Waddell b A Guillemot	3	8	13	-	-
A Kafle	c Fraser b A Guillemot	2	23	18	-	-
M Johnston	Not Out	1	14	9	-	-
Extras: (b5,lb1,w4,nb2)		11				
TOTAL: (10 wkts, 41.2 overs)		106				

	O	M	R	W	Econ
D Wijetunga	9	3	10	0	1.11
A Guillemot	11.2	5	19	6	1.67
Z Zaman	8	1	24	0	3.00
G Grayling	3	0	15	0	5.00
S Waddell	6	1	25	1	4.16
A Deb	4	1	8	2	2.00

**North West Win
by 45 Runs**

Fall of Wickets:

1-18 2-44 3-74 4-84 5-96 6-97 7-98 8-102 9-103 10-106

Match Day 4

North West 1st Xi Vs CBHS 3rd Xi Blue

Another beautiful day awaited us as we readied ourselves for our 4th round fixture, and our 4th away fixture to boot.

This time we found ourselves at Christchurch Boys High, to take on their 3rd Xi Blue side, a team struggling for form at the moment, but that could easily turn on what looked to be a brilliant batting wicket.

It didn't seem as though there would be much in it for the bowlers, and they would have to toil hard all day in order to get any rewards.

Fielding would be crucial as well as a lightning quick outfield complimented the wicket, and this could easily be a long day ahead.

Wanting to bat and make use of the wicket, Jordan lost the toss, and we were asked to bowl instead, frustrating, but we had a job to do.

There was just the one change to the side, Liam Kerr came in for his debut after being extremely impressive in the 2nd Xi side through the first 3 games, leading both the run scoring and wicket taking charts. He replaced leading wicket taker Alex Guillemot who was away for the weekend, and it was big shoes to fill with Alex leading our attack so nicely.

With him away, a chance was given to Aroon to open the bowling with Dilan, meaning we had 2 left armers using the new ball together for the first time.

We weren't great early. A lot of deliveries were wide and left alone as we struggled to get CBHS to play at anything. Then when we compensated and tried to bring the ball in closer, we went too far and got too straight, conceding runs through the bare leg side region on more than one occasion.

Still, we were able to prize the breakthrough when Dilan got one to straighten more than he had been and he beat the bat on its inside edge, thudding into the pad and after a somewhat boisterous appeal, the batsmen was given LBW.

It was our only wicket for the new ball pair as Jordan made early changes, turning to spin at one end and Liam on debut at the other.

His first ball was wayward, sliding down leg and wided, eventually collected by fine leg. Maybe there were some jitters to start, but from there, he never put a foot wrong.

CBHS had built nicely coming close to drinks without really getting away from us, but we needed a wicket and it was Liam who provided it in his 3rd over. Finding the edge, Olly collecting a simple catch behind the stumps.

Then a piece of magic.

First ball to the new batsmen, Liam induced a big drive which found the edge, but this time it was much thicker and flew hard, fast and low through the vacant 3rd slip region.

Suddenly, Ollie was there. Throwing himself fully vertical, arm completely extended, he flew through the air, and somehow, plucked the ball as it raced past him like a tracer bullet. A simply brilliant catch that was worth the

price of admission and would be extremely tough to beat for a better catch all year.

There would be no hatrick as a third slip, second gully and catching cover, all went in to place, but momentum was all with us and when Zaak prized a wicket off the first ball of the next over with a full toss, we'd taken 3 wickets in 7 balls leading into drinks at 48-4.

Then, we fell away slightly. We didn't come out of drinks the better side and our plans weren't working for us.

CBHS started to be more aggressive, and a small partnership built relatively quickly as Jordan rang the changes, going to Sam W and George, then throwing the ball to Kaden before going back to Dilan as we tried to prize the breakthrough with the 100 approaching.

At 90-4, we still felt like things were in control as this wicket seemed to be a belter and we were thinking that it would be more than possible to chase 200, but of course, we wanted to chase much less.

Again, it was a piece of brilliance that broke this 48 run partnership. Jasper, putting in his own admission for catch of the year as Dilan went angling across the right hander. He found the edge and Jasper, in nearly identical fashion to Ollie from earlier in the innings, threw himself vertically to his right, this time in front of the vacant second slip, and snatched the ball from the air with one hand.

It's hard to know which was the better effort.

That wicket turned everything towards us, and we let nothing slip, literally, nothing, I mean at all.

Rory produced a brilliant piece of fielding of his own to follow up in the next over as he put hesitation in the batsman's mind by chasing hard after the ball to his right inside the ring. One went, the other didn't and as he turned to go back, Rory picked up with one hand and threw the stumps down with just one to aim at from 15m.

Keeping the momentum going, Dilan bowled a double wicket maiden to follow, a leading edge caught at mid on saw us finally dismiss a batsman for the third time after surviving 2 clear wickets, both given not out. A second leading edge in the same over saw him snaffle it himself and when he had another batsman chopping on in his next over, Dilan had suddenly grabbed a 5 wicket haul.



Dilan celebrating his maiden 5 wicket haul for the North West 1st XI

It had happened so quickly it took some time to realise what had happened. It was the third 5 wicket bag in 3 games, all to our opening bowlers and Dilan was hunting a 6th to equal Alex's haul.

Liam came back and rounded up the innings, George taking a simple catch at midwicket and astonishingly, we had bowled CBHS out for just 91. Liam ending with 3-9 on debut.

In the last 45 balls of the innings, we had taken 6-1, Dilan with 4-0 in his share of 24 balls in that time. His first spell was 5ov 1-16 while his second 5ov 4-3, truly incredible.

Chasing a small total, Ollie and Jasper took on the attack early and when Ollie took the first and second balls of the second over for 4, it looked like this innings would be done shortly.

But when he fell, caught in the slips off the third ball, it put a wrinkle in our plans.

Jordan and Jasper then built well together, knowing they had plenty of time and not trying to lose their wickets. Jasper was more the aggressor as he sat back and climbed into anything short, hitting 4 boundaries aerially over the legside throughout the course of his innings with a pull shot.

Jordan meanwhile, was playing more on the front foot, hitting drives out through the field and it took just 60 balls for the pair to bring up a 50 run partnership and it seemed to all that they would finish it off and it was just a matter of when not if.

Unfortunately, with just 20 needed, Jordan holed out to mid on off the spinner, leaving the task up to Kaden who wasted no time in being aggressive.

He sent the first ball back over the bowler's head for 4 and when Jasper took 10 off the next over, we were within reach. Kaden finished it in 2 balls. Two boundaries, down the ground over the bowler's head for 4 and we had wrapped up another convincing win as we strode towards promotion into the top grade for Term 4.

Once more it was the bowling leading the way, while the batting made sure that the job was done effortlessly and there was no room for alarm.

4 from 4 now, with a busy week ahead.

 North West 1st Xi Vs Christchurch Boys 3rd Xi Blue
 Round 4 - 01 Mar 2025

Christchurch Boys Blue - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
D Krige	c Fraser b Z Zaman	9	56	46	-	-
J Irwin	lbw D Wijetunga	8	18	16	1	-
Z Norton	c Upjohn b L Kerr	16	30	31	2	-
H Glasson	c Fifield b L Kerr	0	1	1	-	-
J Page	c Welford b D Wijetunga	20	60	43	3	-
S Samarawickrama	c Kerr b D Wijetunga	27	64	49	5	-
C Temple-Doig	run out Wafer	0	4	3	-	-
T Hansen	c Grayling b L Kerr	0	27	13	-	-
F Dalton	c&b D Wijetunga	0	2	5	-	-
Z Haley	b D Wijetunga	0	1	3	-	-
T Griffin	Not Out	0	13	9	-	-
J Hill	DNB	-	-	-	-	-

Extras: (b5,lb1,w2,nb3) 11
 TOTAL: (10 wkts, 43.3 overs) 91

	O	M	R	W	Econ
D Wijetunga	10	4	19	5	1.90
A Deb	5	1	9	0	1.80
Z Zaman	5	1	18	1	3.60
L Kerr	5.1	2	9	3	1.74
S Waddell	4	2	9	0	2.25
G Grayling	3	1	14	0	4.66
K Fraser	4	2	7	0	1.75

Fall of Wickets:

1-16 2-42 3-42 4-42 5-90 6-90 7-91 8-91 9-91 10-91

North West 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
J Welford	Not Out	47	67	61	9	-
O Fifield	c Irwin b T Hansen	9	4	6	-	-
J Sim	c Glasson b J Hill	21	52	39	3	-
K Fraser	Not Out	12	6	6	3	-

Extras: (b4,nb1) 5
 TOTAL: (2 wkts, 40.1 overs) 94

**North West Win
 by 8 wickets**

Fall of Wickets:

1-10 2-72

T20 Match Day 2

North West 1st Xi Vs Christchurch Boys 2nd Xi

With a squad like ours, with players from all over Canterbury, there are times when we can be affected by schooling and such.

With the Gillete Cup on for our country boys for the week prior, it saw us lose nearly half our squad to the tournament. Because of this, we had our second round T20 match postponed to the following Tuesday in order to accommodate these players, giving us a full strength side.

A rare home game to look forward to, we found ourselves on Burnside #4, but heavy rain threatened to derail us before we started as a miserable Monday saw plenty fall throughout the afternoon and evening.

There was a hurried attempt to get the covers on the night before, leading to the saturation of the guys who did the job, but their efforts were not in vain as the pitch pulled up dry the following day when the covers were removed early.

There was plenty of water around, mainly in the run ups, but with no warmth in the day, there was a little concern it wouldn't dry in time.

Luckily, but the time we were ready to start, it had dried enough, and it seemed like the weather gods were smiling down on us.

CBHS won the toss and elected to bat, but we didn't mind the outcome as we would have preferred to chase.

Dilan was on the money in the very first over as he swung one back, doing enough to catch the splice on the attempted drive, which popped to mid on where a simple catch was taken coming forwards.

Alex was hit early in his spell, a tough chance that skyed miles in the air was put down amid a swirling breeze before he was taken down the ground for a couple of boundaries to finish the over as the wicket looked to be playing all right despite the rain.

A powerplay of just 32-1 put the game evenly balanced as Liam and Aroon came on to replace the opening pair.

It was Aroon who found success early, another catch taken at mid off as the lucrative year for Jordan and Kaden in the field continued, but it was our only wicket for quite some time as CBHS consolidated but didn't build quickly.

Aroon bowled 4 overs on the trot, conceding just the 20 as at the halfway stage CBHS had found themselves 55-2, so a position we were quite happy with as they hadn't gotten away on us, and we were able to pick up a couple scalps.

Jordan tossed the ball to Sam C, bringing his off spin to the table and he produced a good couple deliveries early, but one dragged down delivery went for a boundary and changed things.

He responded by being braver, tossing it up slower and wider tempting the batsman to go downtown, and was victorious when a sliced edge was caught easily by Ollie F.

Dilan came back after Aroon's 4 quiet overs and conceded just 4 singles in his last over, before Jordan went back to pace from both ends, introducing George for the first time.

He bagged a wicket, caught by the skipper at mid on which proved it to a great decision, before a brilliant piece of fielding from 3 players effected a sharp run out.

After an initial misfield from Jordan, he chased the ball down the ground, picked it up and fired to the bowlers end where George claimed it well, but realising the batsman was safe at his end, he turned and threw a bullet throw to Olly with the gloves, who whipped off the bails and we had nabbed another wicket.

Alex was thrown the ball once more and made it 4 wickets in 2 overs for us as he twice deceived batsmen with slower off cutters. Both gripped and beat the bat for its slower pace, hitting the stumps. To top it off, he conceded just the 3 runs from the over as well.

George, Alex and Liam then bowled the final 3 overs to close out the innings and while no more wickets came our way, we only conceded 16 runs in those overs, Liam again going for just 17 off his 4, though unable to pick up a wicket. He was proving to be our best bowler in the limited overs format.

That meant we had restricted CBHS to just 102-7 from their 20 and it gave us a great chance to beat one of the top 6 sides in Christchurch.

We would need a good start to give us much of a chance as while we definitely had it in us to chase this down, there was also a little bit in the wicket which would give opportunity for the bowling if we were slack. Jasper showed us just how difficult it really was to bat out there as he played out a maiden in the first over, being beaten on his outside edge 5 balls of 6.

Almost unfairly, Rory, who we promoted to open for the first time this year, was given 2 absolute gifts to start with. A full toss swinging down leg with no fine leg in place, and then a wide full toss, both of which he accepted with ease and grace and picked up two boundaries.

Jasper then came down the wicket thrice at the opening bowler, using his feet to try and negate the ball movement, and played the ball well through or over the offside, picking up 2's on all 3 occasions.

Then, disaster. After picking up a boundary of his own in the 4th over, Jasper slapped one back up the wicket and the ball was touched onto the stumps with Rory out of his ground backing up and he was forced to go for the unluckiest of dismissals.

Jordan came to the wicket and opened his account with a 4 through the offside. It meant we had put 32 on the board after 5 overs, a great start to the small, but tricky chase.

Jordan quickly began stamping his authority on the game as he hit 6's off consecutive overs. The first picking up a full toss on his ankles and somehow popping it over square leg. Then in the following over, riding the bounce of a short wide one and slapping it up and over the point boundary, a truly extravagant shot.

Those two shots broke the back of the chase as we now needed just 44 to win off 72 balls and we could just amble through to the target from this point on.

Then, a little stumble as Jordan failed to clear mid on and fell for a very quick 29, bringing Kaden to the crease who looked to just knock off the runs, together with Jasper.

With 23 needed, Jasper got a cruel non bouncing delivery, which unfortunately hit the stumps and he had to go for a measured 32 which was all that was needed in this chase, and it had all but ensured that we would get over the line.

Firstly Kaden, and then Ollie put a pretty bow on the game by hitting 6's in the same over. Kaden, coming down the wicket and going over extra cover in a glorious shot, before Ollie got down on one knee and slog swept high over cow corner.

On the 4th ball of the 15th over, Ollie poked a ball into the offside, called for a suicidal single, but was rightly sent back by Kaden, and with him being back in the crease before the ball was picked up, it was bulleted back in to the keeper, who dropped it, and this time Kaden was able to jog through off the misfield for the single run that was needed to complete the win.

A truly magnificent all round performance from the team which showed we can compete with the teams at the highest level, which will give us great confidence going forward.

 North West 1st Xi Vs Christchurch Boys 2nd Xi
 T20 Round 2 - 04 Mar 2025

Christchurch Boys 2nd Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
S Hinton	Russel c Fifield b S Carrell	30	64	39	2	-
J Lough	c Sim b D Wijetunga	4	2	3	1	-
B Morgan	c Fraser b A Deb	6	10	16	-	-
R Jones	run out Grayling/Upjohn	28	44	28	2	-
T Painter	c Sim b G Grayling	5	8	9	-	-
L Shanahan	b A Guillemot	3	1	5	-	-
D Harrington	Not Out	10	15	14	1	-
T Harrison	b A Guillemot	0	1	2	-	-
L Johnston	Not Out	2	10	5	-	-
Extras: (b4,lb1,w8,nb1)		14				
TOTAL: (7 wkts, 20 overs)		102				

	O	D	R	W	Econ
D Wijetunga	4	13	22	1	5.50
A Guillemot	4	14	19	2	4.75
L Kerr	4	14	17	0	4.25
A Deb	4	11	20	1	5.00
S Carrell	2	5	12	1	6.00
G Grayling	2	7	7	1	3.50

 Fall of Wickets:

1-5 2-33 3-72 4-81 5-83 6-86 7-86

North West 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
J Welford	b D Harrington	32	47	40	4	-
R Wafer	run out Stribling	8	12	7	2	-
J Sim	c Stribling b L Johnston	29	22	19	3	2
K Fraser	Not Out	18	22	16	-	1
O Fifield	Not Out	10	9	7	-	1
Extras: (lb2,w3,nb1)		6				
TOTAL: (3 wkts, 14.4 overs)		103				

Fall of Wickets:

1-19 2-65 3-80

**North West Win
by 7 wickets**

T20 Match Day 3

North West 1st Xi Vs Christ College 1st Xi

Just 2 days later and we were back at Burnside again, the same ground, the same pitch, but a different opposition and different conditions overhead.

The sun was out and it was glorious, warmth filling the air with no breeze to speak of, it was a perfect afternoon.

Christ's College 1st Xi is another top side in the top grade and this game gave us an opportunity to see where we were at as we looked to compete with the big boys come Term 4 if we were successful in gaining promotion in a few week's time.

Due to the lateness of school finishing, the game was delayed, firstly to 4pm, and then eventually to 4:30 as Christ's showed no interest in hurrying through their warm ups.

With a win at the toss, Jordan elected to bowl as we tried to replicate exactly how we went about our game just two days prior against CBHS 2nd Xi.

With no Dylan in the lineup, it gave Alex the first over for the first time this year in any format, and he started off with a brilliant 5 balls, keeping it to just 2 singles, but his final ball was short and wide and punished to the boundary in an auspicious start.

With the new ball at the other end was Aroon who too went for a boundary early, and after 3 overs Christ were sitting comfortable at 23-0.

Aroon made the first breakthrough in the 4th over, hitting the top of the stumps before our first bowling change saw Liam come to the crease with ball in hand and Kaden from the other end.

The powerplay ended with things even at 37-1 but when Liam bowled ex North West star Flynn Holdem, he provided a huge breakthrough in the match, turning the game ever so slightly in our favour.

The game seesawed then as Sam Waddell came into the attack and was bludgeoned for 10, before a double wicket maiden from the youngest in the team in Liam, heavily swung the game our way.

The second a stunning caught and bowled that gave him no time to react and yet he somehow snatched it from right in front of his stomach.

Sam W was able to grab a wicket of his own as we started to turn the screws, a simple catch taken by Alex, before Kaden came back to the bowling crease and probably outdid Liam in the stunning return catch. Ducking his head as it was thrashed back at him, somehow he was able to get two hands to it and hold on.

73-6 off 14 and it was looking really good for us, but things took a sudden, nasty turn.

Alex was thrashed for a 4 and a 6 to begin the over and despite coming back nicely to give away 3 singles, the last ball, which again should have been 1, was thrown wildly past the bowler's stump's and away to the boundary for 5 to the total.

We attempted to wrestle back control in the next over with a run out, but it was the wrong batsman of the two for us as it left Christs 105-7 off 17.

The last 3 overs were bowled by Aroon and Alex and were completely out done and torn apart.

Aroon first went for 17 with 2 4's and a 6 coming off it, then Alex went for 12 with a 6 and 4 of his own, before the worst of them all saw Aroon concede 20 off the last as one of Christs batsmen played a magnificent hand, and somehow, we were staring at 155 for victory.

50 runs in 3 overs to finish had really killed us, but we knew we could still chase it down with our firepower up top.

Jasper and Rory took to the middle to start us off and a tidy over from the bowler saw just 4 come from the first. We knew we would have to get off to a fast start so that we could try and stay in touch as we couldn't afford to let it drag to the same stage Christs had.

Jasper's stay didn't last long as he failed for the first time in the T20 comp, able to muster just the 5 through 2 overs before offering a simple catch.

Another tidy over in the third saw us languishing at 13-1 off 3 and already falling behind the eightball.

Jordan came in and showed a bit more aggression, hitting his second ball down to the boundary, but it was Rory who turned the tide a little.

He was bowled a short ball up round his head and he was on to it on a flash, absolutely middling everything about it

and sending it miles over the midwicket boundary for 6 with a brutal pull shot.

Then, Jordan would take the last 2 balls down the ground for 4, helping us to 17 off the over.

Rory continued on, taking a 4 through the offside as spin was brought in and then slog sweeping a second 6 out over cow, but on the last ball of the powerplay and with having already taken plenty from the over, he went again and top edged it straight up, falling for a belligerent 24.

With 47 runs in the powerplay we were quite happy but had probably lost a wicket too many.

It didn't matter who was bowling at Jordan, he was enjoying them, and a third consecutive double digit run over was scored on the back of a couple boundaries to his name, with Kaden noodling singles at the other end.

A second spinner came into the attack and offered Jordan the most pleasing of gifts, a high full toss which he accepted with glee and plundered 6 more over square leg.

Then again, later in the over, an even higher full toss allowed him to pick up 6 more, and offered him a free hit, but it was unfortunate he couldn't capitalize on that.

Even more unfortunate was that Jordan couldn't clear mid on in the following over and fell for 39, but he had gotten us ahead in the game in terms of run rate and we could still work our way to the total with 79 needed from 12 overs and 7 wickets in hand.

The boundaries disappeared as both batsman at the wicket tried to give themselves time to get in and focused on picking up singles or two's where possible.

A lot happened in the 12th over as Ollie fell trying to go big and the run rate was starting to climb quickly again, but Kaden stifled that by belting a 6 with the team hundred being brought up early in the 14th over.

52 were needed off the last 6 and Kaden started to put the foot down, trying to lead us to victory as we struggled a bit at the other end.

He dragged us forward, running hard for 2 and was able to pick up a boundary, but then, just as he found some fluency of his own, Olly was trapped leg before wicket while attempting to scoop, bringing Liam to the crease with us needing 30 from 3 overs.

Liam edged a 4 through 3rd man and then almost repeated it as he swung for the hills but this time, was brilliantly caught by short third man as the ball went wider.

The first ball at Sam Waddell went for 5 wides which really helped the total, making it 19 off 2 overs and a set Kaden at the wicket.

Christ's brought back their spinner and after a few singles in a row, Kaden came down the wicket to find the boundary that would keep us in the game but unfortunately walked past the kookaburra and was stumped.

That left the two Sam's, Carrell, and Waddell, to score 16 from the last over to steal a win.

The first 2 balls were dots, and it seemed the game was done, but a 2 off the next ball and some suicidal running from Waddell to get back to the non strikers end proved worth it when Carrell cleared long on, just enough to get 6.

Some more suicidal running saw Carrell needing to hit a 6 off the last ball for a famous win, anything else and we would fall short.

The Christs bowler nailed his yorker, not allowing Sam to get under it and we had come so close but fallen just 4 runs short.

As so happens in T20, one player can change the game in such a short space of time, and we had been on the wrong end of that this afternoon.

On another day, we get there and pull off an incredible win, but this will always feel as one that slipped away. In the end, a brilliant game of cricket.

 North West 1st Xi Vs Christ College 1st Xi
 T20 Round 3 - 06 Mar 2025

Christ College - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
F Holdem	b L Kerr	22	26	20	4	-
J Grace	b A Deb	8	13	9	1	-
A Viettone-Smithson	c Guillemot b S Waddell	19	32	21	2	-
J Hunter	c Fraser b L Kerr	7	7	8	1	-
F Harrington	c&b L Kerr	0	1	4	-	-
L Garry	c&b K Fraser	6	18	10	-	-
A Markham	Not Out	69	39	34	5	4
A Huston	run out Welford/Fraser	10	9	7	-	-
J-A Van Wyk	Not Out	9	13	7	1	-

Extras: (1b1,w3) 4
 TOTAL: (7 wkts, 20 overs) 154

	O	D	R	W	Econ
A Guillemot	4	7	46	0	11.50
A Deb	4	8	46	1	11.50
L Kerr	4	12	18	3	4.50
K Fraser	3	8	14	1	4.66
S Waddell	3	7	19	1	6.33
Z Zaman	2	4	10	0	5.00

Fall of Wickets:

1-24 2-38 3-53 4-53 5-61 6-73 7-97

North West 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
J Welford	c Redfern b B Campbell	5	9	11	-	-
R Wafer	c Grace b B Campbell	24	24	18	2	2
J Sim	c Holdem b J-A Van Wyk	37	28	23	5	2
K Fraser	st Harrington b B Campbell	40	51	37	2	1
O Fifield	c Campbell b A Viettone-Smithson	2	8	6	-	-
O Upjohn	lbw A Huston	4	20	11	-	-
L Kerr	c Hunter b A Markham	4	4	5	1	-
S Waddell	Not Out	3	8	4	-	-
S Carrell	Not Out	12	4	7	-	1

Extras: (b3,lb2,w12,nb2) 19
 TOTAL: (7 wkts, 20 overs) 150

Fall of Wickets:

1-9 2-47 3-76 4-85 5-124 6-129 7-138

**North West Lose by
4 Runs**

Match Day 5

North West 1st Xi Vs Sydenham 1st Xi

A win and a loss mid week saw us miss out on a 4th match in the T20 competition as there was only a final between the top two sides being played and so we looked ahead to Saturday as we attempted to keep our spot atop the table and push for a home final.

Another away game for us saw us travel to Hagley Park to play against the Sydenham 1st Xi, another side playing rather well this term and so it would not be an easy fixture.

There was a bleak outlook to start the day as heavy rain for most of Friday threatened to derail the contest before it even began.

Then the weather turned, and suddenly it looked like a great chance of play, as the expected overnight rain never amounted to as much as it was supposed to, and it was still very dry in town.

It wasn't until a few of us had arrived down at the ground that the rain joined the party, and it was quite heavy for a brief period.

Thankfully it stopped quickly and with a delay of half an hour in mind, we were able to remove the covers, which had done an admirable job, before Jordan went on to win the toss, choosing to bat first as we wanted to make first use of the surface while the outfield was still wet.

Before we began, we celebrated a brilliant start to year with a capping ceremony for Alex who had been a shining light with ball in hand. Then Rory and Jasper took to the middle to start us off on a still wet outfield.

Immediately, Jasper got to work, pulling the first delivery, a short ball down leg, off his hip for 4 and soaking the ball in the early stages.

Despite looking good to start, Rory again fell early, strangled down leg as his week of ill fortune continued, bringing Jordan to join Jasper in the middle.

Again though, wickets derailed our innings as though Jordan started promptly, Jasper got a good one that nipped back and hit his stumps, while Kaden came in and struggled with the seaming, bouncing ball.

The score was still rising steadily as Jordan and a few extras kept it ticking over, but the wickets column was looking crowded too.

Then when Kaden and Jordan both fell in quick succession, one caught at slip and the other mid on, we were in peril



Alex receives his baggy after taking 12 wickets through 4 games

at 61-4. Those wickets brought Ollie and Olly together to the crease, with neither having faced a ball.

Ollie started his innings off with a masterful drive through the covers for 4, while Olly was much more composed and circumspect.

It took him nearly 15 balls to get off the mark, but when he did, he did in style. Rocking back, he smashed a pull shot through the leg side, the ball racing away to the boundary.

Changes at both ends saw spin come on and both were immediately hit out of the attack.

Ollie in particular took a liking to them as he took multiple boundaries square and straight, including a 6 over long on causing both to be hooked out of the attack after just a couple overs as the opening bowlers came back.

A partnership of 64 between the pair was broken when Olly chased after a wider one and could only nick through to the keeper, but it was a vital knock in the context of the game.

Sam W came in looking for some runs of his own after a slow start to the year and started off cautiously in his innings as well.

Ollie was looking fluent and striking the ball well, and the pair were able to see through 6 overs or so until the drinks break at 34, meaning we still 19 overs to bat and we were looking good at 142-5.

Ollie brought up his second half century of the year off the last ball of the 35th over, offering up a run out chance as he called through a suicidal single, and eventually turned it into 2 via the overthrow.

Spin came back into the attack, and Ollie departed instantly as he was out caught, trying to take him downtown.

His dismissal changed gears for Sam who had been circumspect so far and was joined at the wicket by Zaak.

On 11 off 39, Sam suddenly whacked a pull shot over mid wicket for 4 as he showed a sign of intent and that one shot kickstarted his innings.

He took the pace bowler back over his head for 4 before Zaak fell caught behind to the spinner. That

didn't slow Sam though, he then took 10 from 2 balls to start the new over. Brutally despatching a short ball over square leg with a vicious pull shot for 6 and then again over midwicket for 4 more.

George looked busy as he always does, scoring off every ball, but he too nicked a wide one while chasing after it and the wheels started to fall off slightly towards the end of the innings.

Dilan then joined Sam and tried to feed him the strike who went aerially for boundaries twice more before a string of



Sam kickstarts his innings, taking the aerial route

dot balls caused him to get stuck and he would hole out for a brilliant 47.

The last ball of the 50th over was despatched down the ground over long on by Dilan for 4 glorious runs, and with 3 overs still to bat, Jordan pulled the pin on the innings, declaring at 210-9 and giving us an even 50 overs to try and bowl Sydenham out for the win.

The wicket definitely got easier to bat on as the day went on, so we knew it would be tough, but we had the bowling to make inroads. Dilan and Alex started us off and an immediate change was made as a damp spot through his run up meant Dilan struggled to find his line and length and took himself out of the attack.

Alex snagged a tough return catch to grab our first wicket, continuing the trend of him being the first

wicket taker in every match he had played so far this year, as George came in from the other end with bustling energy.

Sydenham looked at ease in the early stages, the seam movement had gone from the wicket and while there was some swing, we hadn't been threatening enough early, and they were able to build. A couple close calls going



Alex, with new ball in hand

against us never helped either. Then, in the last over of Georges spell, a well worked plan earned dividends.

Pushing square leg back 10m a couple overs earlier, he bowled a surprise bouncer that was taken on and the ball looped off the splice straight into the waiting hands of that square leg fielder, and we'd broken a dangerous looking stand.

Aroon had taken the ball from Alex, and he too was a little wayward early, but also could've had 3 wickets to his name if things had gone differently. Just before drinks, he had another extremely close LBW shout denied, for reasons unknown as we went into drinks with the game in the balance at 50-2 off 17.

Jordan threw the ball to Dilan who had swapped ends, and it paid off immediately as he produced an absolute Jaffer of a delivery, a left armers dream. He brought one back through the gate and struck middle stump, starting us off with a wicket maiden.

Sam W was bowling at the other end, but with their best bat at the crease, both bowlers were punished for errant deliveries and Jordan quickly changed to spin, who like Dilan, swapped ends after an over.

His replacement was Kaden who put his first one past the bat as suddenly the ball was moving a bit again. He hit the right line and length almost every ball and one took the edge as Jordan held a simple catch behind the stumps. 84-4 halfway through the overs.

Zaak took a bit of a hit as the batsman looked to go after him. Twice he was taken aurally for boundaries, one through midwicket and one down the ground. He then

produced a brilliant comeback after the second boundary as he got one to spin and bounce, catching the edge of the flashing bat, with Jasper taking another brilliant catch at first slip. Throwing his left hand out at the ball, he was able to pop it up, eventually catching it one handed while diving behind the keeper.

Kaden should have had a second not an over later as another challenging delivery took the edge and flew through to the keeper who held on easily, but the umpire shook his head and the batsman refused to walk, not for the first time this season and you could see tempers starting to flare as this could only be seen as a blatant dismissal.

It fired the boys up for a while, short balls at the body started flying in and the chatter got loud and in their face just before the second drinks break.

The runs had slowed up once more and after 34 Sydenham were 107-5. Needing 104 from 16 overs with 5 wickets in hand, it was still a balanced game, but we had a lot of work to do to bowl them out and win from this position.

Kaden finished out 6 overs with 1-8 in a brutal spell, but he should have had more than the solitary wicket to his name.

Aroon came back at one end and Alex at the other as Sydenham set about throwing their hands at the ball in an attempt to bring the runs required down.

For the first time in red ball cricket, Alex found himself under pressure in his second spell, and it was quickly apparent it was not his day.

Aroon was then edged over the slips in consecutive balls for 4 as he went short and wide, paying the price. Jordan dropped Jasper back into a fly slip before Aroon was thumped for a third boundary in the over, through the offside.

Finally, he then got one on target as he brought it back through the gate and destroyed the stumps. A huge celebration went up as this was the batsman who should have been out earlier, and the boys were extremely loud and in his face.

We had an opening and not 2 balls later, the continued fly slip came into play as Aroon dug one in, and the batsman took it on. Only managing a top edge the ball flew straight down Jasper's throat as Kaden and Alex converged on his position.

A double wicket over put us in the driving seat, even though it conceded 12 and now we had 12 overs to take the last 3 wickets. Another big over from Alex saw Jordan make a double change as Sam came on from his end and George was thrown the ball with 9 overs to go.

His first ball was brilliant and took the edge, with Jordan fumbling the catch as he celebrated too early but luckily held on in the end, and we had another wicket.

Runs went out of the game as Sydenham realised they were going to struggle to win and started batting for the draw with just 8 more overs to survive.

Sam put a couple past the nose, but his over was seen off and then George had the long handle taken to him as maybe Sydenham thought again about the win, taking 10 off the over.

7 off the next Sam over with 4 extra's not helping our cause meant with just 5 overs to go and the light beginning to fade, 45 were needed with 2 wickets in hand.

George had been banging away at the back of a length area and finally, the #10 pushed one back at him at height and speed, where he snaffled a tough reflex catch to his left, his second such catch this year.

Now it was 27 balls remaining and 1 wicket needed. 3 dot balls and Jordan went back to Kaden instantly who was now allowed to bowl again. He was made the batsmen play at everything but couldn't produce the desired wicket and now we were into the bonus overs. If we had batted 53, the game would be done and we wouldn't have got the win, but our early declaration gave us an extra 3 overs to use.

George set the batsman up with 3 balls wide outside off stump, all of which were left alone comfortably. Then, he went full, fast and at leg stump. Almost in a reflex, the batsman shifted his feet back swung his bat at the ball as he tried to avoid being pinned lbw, but succeeded only in flicking the ball to Ollie who was at leg gully and he held on very well, earning us a brilliant victory.

Considering everything, it was one of our best wins of the season and it had meant we were sitting alone atop the table with distance between us and second with a couple rounds to go.

George the standout with the ball while Sam and Ollie were brilliant with the bat to set us up late on with the ball and the declaration was simply perfect as we needed every ball we could and left just the 14 out there.

North West 1st Xi Vs Sydenham Youth 1st Xi
Round 5 - 08 Mar 2025

North West 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
J Welford	b Q Helms	11	21	19	1	-
R Wafer	c Derry b C Durdin	2	9	6	-	-
J Sim	c H Durdin b P Hamilton	31	48	45	5	-
K Fraser	c Andrews b P Hamilton	2	24	13	-	-
O Fifield	c Andrews b J Farrelly	53	108	65	5	1
O Upjohn	c Derry b C Durdin	22	54	42	3	-
S Waddell	c Helms b J Chapman	47	91	70	5	1
Z Zaman	c Derry b A Nielsen	4	14	8	-	-
G Grayling	c Derry b Q Helms	8	11	12	-	-
D Wijetunga	Not Out	9	22	17	1	-
A Deb	Not Out	1	3	4	-	-
A Guillemot	DNB	-	-	-	-	-

Extras: (b9,lb2,w8,nb1) 20
TOTAL: (9 wkts, 50 overs) 210 Declared

Fall of Wickets:

1-12 2-24 3-53 4-61 5-125 6-151 7-169 8-188 9-204

Sydenham Youth 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
S Johns	c Fifield b G Grayling	23	54	46	3	-
F Hill	c&b A Guillemot	9	12	15	1	-
I Tutt	c Sim b K Fraser	24	84	57	2	-
W Herd	b D Wijetunga	6	14	9	1	-
C Andrews	c Welford b Z Zaman	32	44	31	7	-
H Durdin	b A Deb	14	43	42	-	-
A Derry	c Sim b G Grayling	28	60	41	4	-
P Hamilton	c Welford b A Deb	0	1	2	-	-
C Durdin	Not Out	14	39	24	2	-
A Nielsen	c&b G Grayling	4	17	15	-	-
Q Helms	c Fifield b G Grayling	0	7	7	-	-

Extras: (b5,w5,nb2) 12
TOTAL: (10 wkts, 47.4 overs) 166

	O	M	R	W	Econ
D Wijetunga	6	1	28	1	4.66
A Guillemot	6	2	32	1	5.33
G Grayling	9.4	3	27	4	2.79
A Deb	7	1	21	2	3.00
S Waddell	6	0	24	0	4.00
Z Zaman	6	0	21	1	3.50
K Fraser	7	4	8	1	1.14

**North West Win
by 44 Runs**

Fall of Wickets:

1-15 2-43 3-50 4-84 5-100 6-125 7-125 8-146 9-166 10-166

Match Day 6

North West 1st Xi Vs CBHS 3rd Xi Black

After the win last week which kept us lonely at the top of the table, we knew one more outright win would make it impossible for anyone to chase us down with one round to go.

We returned to Christchurch Boys High to play the second of their 3rd Xi sides in the competition. This one the stronger of the two, and also the side who was less interested in playing for a result and would rather play for the draw as had been seen in their previous results, so we knew today would be no different.

It was a very wet morning as heavy morning dew covered the ground and despite the blue skies and sun baking overhead, there was no warmth in the day which meant there was a decent chance for a delayed start.

Thankfully things started drying up, but we still wanted to make first use of the ball for a couple reasons, one conditions definitely suited bowling first, but our main reason was to make sure we could control the game with our chase later on and remove any chance they had of playing for the draw from ball 1.

Unfortunately, we didn't win the toss and were asked to bat.

Today was a day of celebration as not 1, but 2 players were celebrating their capping games.

George Grayling and Zaak Zaman, who debuted in the same game together and had played every game for the

1st XI together, reached their 12 game milestone and thus were awarded their caps, with both players providing some more than important contributions.

It didn't take long before the wicket started playing tricks as Jasper got a nasty one that stayed low and came back in, taking his inside edge and hitting the stumps, then in the following over Rory got a similar delivery and was out lbw as the ball hit his shin with him playing back to it.



George receiving his cap



Zaak receiving his cap

5-2 after 3 overs and we were in a lot of trouble.

The skipper and Kaden set about rebuilding our innings with a partnership built on running between the wickets and trying to put pressure back on the CBHS bowlers.

It worked early as we started slowly, and were beaten on our outside edge often, but outside

that, we were able to pick up ones, two's and even the occasional three, before our innings burst into life with

Jordan taking 3 boundaries from an over. Firstly hitting balls where the fielders weren't. Then when they moved the fielders to cover that spot, he hit it to where they had moved from, in some great batsmanship.

Slowly, we began turning things around until we started to feel like we were getting on top as we went into drinks at 70-2 with a brilliant 65 run partnership turning things around for us somewhat.

Spin had come on at both ends, but neither of the two at the crease were willing to let them settle. Jordan playing the sweep shot and picking up singles and turning the strike over.

Kaden played the sweep as well, but was much less effective, playing around it multiple times and it looked the shot most likely to bring about his downfall, which in the end it did as he pulled out the sweep and was bowled with big turn around the legs.

It broke the stand at 85, our largest in the declaration competition by some distance for the year and while frustrating to lose one, it had given us a platform from which we could launch in the back half of the innings.

Jordan went down the ground for 6 and hit one spinner out of the attack while Ollie looked a little scratchy early on in his innings against the spin.

Pace came back for 2 overs and Jordan brought up a brilliant half century during the meantime. Having celebrated the milestone, he was always going to put the foot down, launching his attack. Twice he took boundaries down the ground from the seamer, but when he left the

attack after the 27th over, it was the last we would see of seam bowling for the day.

Jordans innings would come to an end thanks to an unfortunate top edge as the ball stuck in the wicket and though we were still well poised at 118-4, it brought about a huge struggle.

Henceforth, we were unable to get any momentum and could do nothing to combat the spin threat while wickets fell continuously.

Olly was bowled for single digits and Sam W really struggled to turn the strike over with Ollie, who felt the frustration and tried to fix that by slogging down the ground, but only succeeded in holing out.

George and Sam stuck around together for a while, but nothing really happened as the score trickled along at a snail's place.

After 34 overs and sitting at 127-5, our goal had been to progress through to 200 by 45ish overs and declare to give us our best chance to win the game.

However, by the time 45 overs game around, we had just crossed 150.

Making the decision we would only bat 50 overs max, we tried to put the foot down, but George, Zaak and Sam all fell quickly, leaving us 9 down. If not for a 20 run partnership between Aroon and Alex at 10 & 11, which got us to 173 before Aroon holed out on the boundary with just 2 balls left in the 50th over, our total would have looked a little barren.

Still, we were 30 short and batted 5 more overs than what we had wanted and later on, that would come back to haunt us.

CBHS played for the draw from ball 1, happy to take a loss if it meant we couldn't bowl them out.

It took us until the 9th over before we prized one out, Alex adding another to his tally with Kaden pouching another good catch diving away to his right.

Dilan was a little short early and went for runs on a couple of occasions, so Jordan took him off and brought on Aroon.

But it was the change to spin with Zaak that saw things start to happen as he first had a wicket adjudged lbw, before Jasper held onto a tough chance to his right at slip and then when Aroon went back through gate and hit the stumps, we had picked up 4 by drinks.

The win for Christchurch Boys was already gone from the cards as they hadn't played any shots outside of the first couple of overs and so we could afford to be a little more aggressive.

George provided some passion and struck the batsman on the toe in front of middle in his 3rd over, being rewarded with a rare lbw.

Jordan brought himself on to replace Zaak and should have had a catch taken at mid off, but some sloppy awareness in the field saw it hit dirt with no one near it.

Then George, in his fifth over went bang bang. A shorter one into the ribs was popped to square leg and Ollie gratefully held on to the chance, before a couple balls later

he found the outside edge, easily caught by Olly with gloves.

A 4th wicket with the second last ball of his spell, jaggging back in and crashing into the stumps, put us well on top with 19 overs to go, as we just needed 2 wickets.

Unfortunately for us, CBHS went even deeper with their defensive strategies, dead batting literally everything.

The field crept in closer and closer with each ball until no fielder wasn't in a catching position, and Sam Waddell found the edge, but it went through vacant third slip for 4.

He also found the edge a second time, caught by the keeper, but given not out.

Eventually he had one caught at mid off in an intense spell that provided a bit of entertainment, and it left us 12 overs for one wicket.

No matter what we tried, or who we turned too, nothing worked. An extremely close LBW was turned down when the batsman was struck under the knee roll in front of middle not offering a shot, but player umpires will struggle to give anything out in that situation.

Eventually George bowled the final ball, dead batted into the ground and while we had still come away with a 67 run thrashing, it almost felt like a loss considering we weren't able to get the last wicket.

A frustrating opponent to play who didn't seem that interested in playing cricket, but another win seals our place in the top 2 to contest the final in 2 weeks' time, and practically ensures that we will come away as victors of

this grade after the seven round robin fixtures, regardless of the result next week.

Some great individual performances leading the way, and another feather in the belt on what has been a great start to the year.



George after producing his best figures for the North West 1st Xi of 8ov 4-13 in a man of the match performance

 North West 1st Xi Vs Christchurch Boys Black 3rd Xi
 Round 6 - 15 Mar 2025

North West 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
R Wafer	lbw S Totty	4	7	6	1	-
J Welford	b J Wilson	0	2	10	-	-
J Sim	c Wilson b S Pienaar	59	104	83	7	1
K Fraser	b R Liyana Waduge	38	75	53	4	-
O Fifield	c Askari b S Pienaar	18	51	45	1	-
O Upjohn	b S Pienaar	3	10	7	-	-
S Waddell	b R Liyana Waduge	13	40	37	2	-
G Grayling	st McLachlan b Liyana Waduge	5	10	11	-	-
Z Zaman	b R Liyana Waduge	8	17	23	-	-
A Deb	c McLachlan b Liyana Waduge	11	13	15	1	-
A Guillemot	Not Out	6	6	9	1	-
D Wijetunga	DNB	-	-	-	-	-

Extras: (b5,lb1,w1,nb1)

8

TOTAL: (10 wkts, 49.4 overs)

173

Fall of Wickets:

1-1	2-5	3-90	4-118	5-126	6-129	7-140	8-151	9-154	10-173	
Christchurch Boys Black- 1st Innings							R	M	B	4s 6s

S Askari	lbw Z Zaman	22	49	41	4	-
S Pienaar	c Fraser b A Guillemot	3	41	26	-	-
J Verster	c Welford b Z Zaman	4	15	11	1	-
P Williams	b A Deb	1	4	4	-	-
L Kirkland	c Upjohn b G Grayling	13	61	43	2	-
L McLachlan	lbw G Grayling	20	42	41	2	-
M Harvey	c Fifield b G Grayling	0	9	8	-	-
B Dowdle	c Sim b S Waddell	10	39	35	1	-
S Totty	b G Grayling	4	6	6	1	-
J Wilson	Not Out	13	74	57	2	-
M McLachlan	Not Out	4	45	32	-	-

Extras: (b2,lb1,w4,nb5)

12

TOTAL: (9 wkts, 50 overs)

106

	O	M	R	W	Econ
D Wijetunga	4	1	16	0	4.00
A Guillemot	8	5	11	1	1.37
A Deb	8	3	15	1	1.87
Z Zaman	7	2	23	2	3.28
G Grayling	8	1	13	4	1.85
J Sim	3	2	4	0	1.33
J Welford	2	0	7	0	3.50
S Waddell	4	2	6	1	1.50
K Fraser	7	3	8	0	1.14

**North West Win
by 67 Runs**

Fall of Wickets:

1-24	2-29	3-30	4-30	5-62	6-68	7-70	8-74	9-90
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Match Day 7

North West 1st Xi Vs Christ College 2nd Xi

After the frustrations of the previous week, which though was still a win in the end, left us with a sour taste in our mouth with our lack of being able to pierce through the defences of the tail end pair.

Still, the result, and others falling our way saw us sew up 1st place atop the table with a round to spare which was a brilliant effort for the squad, as we confirmed ourselves as winners of the Grade.

We went into our last round robin fixture against the Christ College 2nd Xi, who after a slow start had been building really nicely in recent weeks and were pushing for a place in the top 4 with the season coming close to an end.

Another week and another Capping celebration, this time it was Ollie Fifield who would receive his after scoring 200 North West 1st Xi runs, with 2 half centuries already for the year to his name.

It was another win with the coin toss for Jordan who chose to bat on what looked to be a very hard, flat wicket, but it didn't take long before it started to look like we read



*Ollie becoming the 5th player
to be Capped in 2025*

the pitch very wrong as the ball seemed to be doing a fair amount off the deck.

It accounted for the early wicket of Rory who lost his stumps as one stayed a touch low, before a disastrous communication error saw Jordan sent for an early BBQ as he was run out by the keeper.

Rocked by 2 wickets with less than 10 on the board, we rebuilt slowly through Kaden and Jasper, the long slow outfield proving tough to crack, but they were looking solid in defence and the pair at the wicket did their best to accumulate a score.

But after a partnership of 30, another double strike rocked us as Kaden fell lbw before Ollie nicked off to the keeper without scoring and we were in serious trouble at 40-4.

Jasper and Olly started to build again, getting us through to drinks, but with Jasper finally looking settled and in control, he drove hard at a wide one only managing a thick outside edge which flew to short third man who had been positioned there just a couple balls earlier and he was out for 33, a start, but we had needed him to continue.

Olly did his best to steady the ship at his end, but Sam W and George followed Jasper shortly after, a second lbw and a chipped shot accounted for them. Then Zaak recorded our 4th duck for the innings, losing his stumps to spin, making it 64-8.

Dilan and Olly were finally able to stick together as they fought off a spirited Christs attack. They weren't scoring quickly. In fact, 'slowly' doesn't even begin to describe their scoring, but they were still there and frustrating Christs.

They moved ploddingly along, pushing the score up to 70, then to 80, making their way towards the 90's before Dilan finally received a bad ball, a floated up full toss from the spinner, and picked out the one man on the midwicket boundary, out caught for 6 off 44 balls.

Our innings was wrapped up in the next over when another miscommunication, this time between Alex and Olly, saw the latter trying to farm the strike at the end of the over, and Alex was run out for our 5th duck for the day.

A miserable effort with the bat saw just 89 being scored.

It was a low total, but we had the bowling to be able to make a game of it if we could get early inroads, but both Dilan and Alex were guilty of straying too straight with no fine leg in place and after 5 dot balls, conceded a boundary in an over 3 times.

We did snag an early wicket, a crunching shot towards midwicket, saw a leaping Rory somehow get a palm to the ball and push it skywards, and he was able to catch the rebound on the way down giving us some hope.

We had chances, a dropped catch at slip, not easy, but one we needed to take, a few lbw appeals, even a couple balls dropping short of fielders, but the game was starting to slip away when Aroon bounced out their number 3, leaving 44 runs to win with 8 wickets in hand.

Zaak came into the game and made things interesting as he started to get turn and bounce, grabbing two wickets, but it wasn't enough as Christs strode over the line with just under 30 overs to spare, and 6 wickets in hand.

A humbling performance that highlighted our issues with the bat and a day where we were both a tad unlucky and completely outplayed.

Recording 5 ducks had really not helped our cause and every time we started to get into a place of strength, things changed for us, and quickly.

Though we fought hard with the ball and did a lot of good things, we weren't able to make those crucial breakthroughs that could have seen us put pressure back on Christ College and make them sweat a little bit.

Lots to learn after a tough day for the side.

Still over the course of the season, it could be considered an anomaly as we hadn't had any performances like this anywhere throughout the season and our hopes were still high with the final awaiting us next weekend.

North West 1st Xi Vs Christ College 2nd Xi

Round 7 - 22 Mar 2025

North West 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
J Welford	c Reekie b H Douglass	33	86	62	3	-
R Wafer	b B Bretherton	0	3	6	-	-
J Sim	run out L Sharr	4	6	6	-	-
K Fraser	lbw A Nijjar	16	21	31	1	-
O Fifield	c Sharr b H Reekie	0	3	2	-	-
O Upjohn	Not Out	20	97	56	-	-
S Waddell	lbw H Reekie	2	4	6	-	-
G Grayling	c Chapman b H Douglass	0	10	9	-	-
Z Zaman	b S Glennie	0	2	4	-	-
D Wijetunga	c Singer b J Chapman	6	41	44	-	-
A Guillemot	run out J Chapman	0	2	1	-	-
A Deb	DNB	-	-	-	-	-

Extras: (b2,lb2,w3,nb1) 8
TOTAL: (10 wkts, 37.4 overs) 89

Fall of Wickets:

1-3 2-8 3-38 4-39 5-59 6-62 7-63 8-64 9-89 10-89

Christ College 2nd Xi- 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
L Singer	c Waddell b Z Zaman	44	98	77	5	-
L Hiatt	c Wafer b D Wijetunga	5	26	20	1	-
W Timms	c Grayling b A Deb	12	43	28	-	-
Z Croft	c Guillemot b Z Zaman	10	30	16	1	-
L Sharr	Not Out	15	33	33	1	-
D Church	Not Out	3	24	20	-	-

Extras: (lb1) 1
TOTAL: (4 wkts, 32.2 overs) 90

	O	M	R	W	Econ	
D Wijetunga	5	0	15	1	3.00	
A Guillemot	5	2	14	0	2.80	
A Deb	6	1	14	1	2.57	
K Fraser	6	0	25	0	4.17	North West Lose by 6 Wickets
Z Zaman	5.2	0	11	2	2.44	
G Grayling	5	1	11	0	2.73	

Fall of Wickets:

1-15 2-47 3-68 4-73

Match Day 8

North West 1st Xi Vs St Bedes 1st Xi

Grade Final

Back-to-back finals in the 1st Xi Cup grade for our North West 1st Xi is a remarkable achievement as there hadn't been any top 2 finishes in recent times, so it was one we were extremely proud of. It not only proved we belong in the top grade and had cemented our position as such, but it gave us belief that we could contend with the top schools who were able to put more into the sport.



Pictured: North West 1st Xi before the Sydenham Fixture

Our opponents were St Bedes, the top pick in the Grade and a team we'd had to fight really hard with in our early second round fixture in order to grind a result out against them and is still probably one of our better performances of the year.

We would have to do something similar in order to come away with the win today.

The rarity continued as we found ourselves playing at home, which was a great way to end the season and with the blinding sun overhead, it was a brilliantly warm day with practically no clouds hanging around.

It was a fair bit of dew around that was causing us to think twice about our intentions with the coin and it made us settle on bowling first, especially considering our efforts the previous week, and that there is literally no advantage to batting first in this format.

However, we weren't the only ones to think of bowling and in Jordan's first attempt at tossing the coin, St Bedes called correctly and inserted us in to bat.

Ollie returned back to his opening spot at the expense of Rory who slotted back down into the middle order, but right from the first ball Jasper faced, we looked like we were in trouble.

A huge amount of swing from wide outside off and coming back in sharply back towards the body, saw him struggle to lay bat on anything as he played out a maiden in the first over.

While at the other end, there wasn't as much swing, but it was heavy on the uneven bounce, and we opened our account with an outside edge through the cordon for 4.

The third over of the match was a turning point, and it practically killed us out of the final already.

Jasper went first, bowled leaving the ball alone as it came back sharply. It was going over the stumps, but it came back so much it hit the underside of the bat, and the deflection took it onto the stumps.

Jordan came in at 3 looking to avoid a repeat of the first match against St Bedes, which saw him fall first ball.

His first ball was another sharp inswinger which cut him in half and took his inside edge which flew to the keepers left, but he didn't get a hand on it, and it flew away for 4, he'd survived by the skin of his teeth.

The very next ball and a similar shot this time saw the ball thud into his pad off the inside edge and balloon up where midwicket came in and dove forwards to complete the catch.

Kaden came in and lost his leg bail first ball as he too was cut in half by a huge inswinger and suddenly, we were 10-3 with 3 of our top 4 run scorers all back in the sheds with a combined 4 runs to their name.

It didn't get much better from there. Olly U fell for one, bowled by a ball which just went through the gate before Ollie F received a slow half tracker from their first change bowler and chipped it straight to square leg.

Rory struggled to combat the swing early but made sure to get bat on every ball or get his body in behind it and in doing so, wore a couple blows to the body. He was doing his best to survive, while Liam Kerr, in for George who was off doing his school production, tried to eat up some time together with him.

They put on a mini partnership of 9, before Liam became the next victim to lose his stumps as he was bowled with a huge gap between bat and pad.

Sam and Rory were looking set and put on 10 before Sam fell just after drinks, trying to hit the spinner down the ground.

His wicket saw Rory, who had been patient for his 8 off 34, decide to attack and after a brilliant inside out drive over extra cover for 4, he was sharply caught and bowled as he tried to slog sweep, but went a touch straight.

Aroon was out caught for a duck and then Dilan made a duck of his own, out lbw as our innings came to an end after 24 overs, with just the 44 runs on the board.

Definitely one of the tougher days going around for this group, and it was now a couple of weeks in a row with a big batting collapse and this time, it was in the biggest occasion as well.

With just 44 on the board, it was never going to be enough and despite our efforts, which to our credit, stayed at 100%. We never dropped our heads and gave up, fighting through till the last run, but St Bedes opener, in a situation probably made for him, just slogged from ball one and it came off.

At the other end Aroon picked up a wicket early, Rory catching out their other opener, then Liam who was brilliant in just his second game for us, nabbed their best batsmen lbw before Kaden bounced out the remaining opener. His 34 off 21 was enough to take game away from us and St Bedes polished off our miniature target with 7 wickets in hand and just 9 overs bowled.

A really tough day, nothing more to be said, but this performance can't take away what we had achieved through this first term, and we will quickly put it behind us as we move forwards into Term 4 and the top Grade where our aim will be to make Top 6 and earn the right to play 2 day cricket next year, in 2026.

North West 1st Xi Vs St Bede's 1st Xi
Grade Final - 29 Mar 2025

North West 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
J Welford	b M Haines	2	4	8	-	-
O Fifield	c Hanrahan b J Allison	8	44	31	1	-
J Sim	c Hislop b M Haines	4	1	2	1	-
K Fraser	b M Haines	0	1	1	-	-
O Upjohn	b C Thomson	1	12	9	-	-
R Wafer	c&b J Hislop	12	71	1	-	-
L Kerr	b J Grant	3	24	18	-	-
S Waddell	c Haines b S Chapman	7	26	23	1	-
A Deb	c Whalley b S Chapman	1	1	2	-	-
D Wijetunga	lbw J Hislop	0	8	9	-	-
Z Zaman	Not Out	2	4	4	-	-
A Guillemot	DNB					
Extras: (b1,w3)		4				
TOTAL: (10 wkts, 24 overs)		44				

Fall of Wickets:

1-6 2-10 3-10 4-13 5-17 6-26 7-36 8-40 9-42
10-44

St Bede's 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
T Borcoskie	c Sim b K Fraser	34	27	21	5	1
F Hanrahan	c Wafer b A Deb	1	10	3	0	-
J Whalley	lbw L Kerr	5	12	16	1	-
J Hislop	Not Out	1	11	8	0	-
M Boyle	Not Out	4	7	6	1	-
Extras: (lb1)		1				
TOTAL: (3 wkts, 9 overs)		46				

	O	M	R	W	Econ	
D Wijetunga	1	0	10	0	10.00	
A Guillemot	1	0	13	0	13.00	
A Deb	2	1	5	1	2.50	
L Kerr	3	2	4	1	1.33	North West Lose by 7 Wickets
K Fraser	2	0	13	1	6.50	

Fall of Wickets:

1-23 2-32 3-40

Term 1 Review

Season 1 Record **Table Finish** 1st **Final Position** 2nd

Played 8 **Won** 6 **Lost** 2

T20 Format **Group Finish** 3rd **Final Position** 5th=

Played 3 **Won** 1 **Lost** 2

Season 1 Stats Leaders Red Ball

Bowling

Wickets	Alex Guillemot	16
Best Figures	Alex Guillemot	6-19
Economy	Aroon Deb	2.13
Strike Rate	Liam Kerr	12.25
Average	Liam Kerr	3.25
Dot Balls	Alex Guillemot	264

Batting

Runs	Jordan Sim	187
High Score	Jordan Sim	59
Average	Jordan Sim	23.38
Balls Faced	Jordan Sim	280
Strike Rate	George Grayling	68.83
Minutes Batted	Ollie Fifield	354

Season 1 Stats Leaders T20

Bowling

<i>Wickets</i>	Liam K/Alex G/ Aroon D/ Zaak Z 3	
<i>Best Figures</i>	Liam Kerr	3-18
<i>Economy</i>	Liam Kerr	4.5
<i>Dot Balls</i>	Liam Kerr	24
<i>Strike Rate</i>	Zaak Zaman	12.00
<i>Average</i>	Zaak Zaman	12.00

Batting

<i>Runs</i>	Jordan Sim	107
<i>High Score</i>	Jasper Welford	55
<i>Average</i>	Jordan Sim	35.67
<i>Balls Faced</i>	Jasper Welford	94
<i>Strike Rate</i>	Sam Carrell	171.43
<i>6's</i>	Jordan Sim	7

Fielding

Red Ball

<i>Catches</i>	
Kaden F/ Jasper W	6
<i>Run Outs</i>	
Kaden F /Rory W	1

Fielding

T20

<i>Catches</i>	
Kaden Fraser	4
<i>Run Outs</i>	
Kaden F/ Jasper W	1

Term 4 Pre Season Training & Tour

The planning for pre season got underway pretty quickly after the end of the first term as we looked to plan as good a build up into the 4th term as possible with us looking to push for a place in the top 6 for 2026.

Like last year we had planned around a 6 week training programme, with alternating weeks of mixed team trainings along with specialist sessions with other coaches and senior players, before rounding off preseason with a number of fixtures and potentially, a quick away trip down south.

Also like last year, we booked out Sydenham's indoor Centre for 6 consecutive Sundays, starting off with a simple net session to get the boys back into the groove.

It was an absolutely perfect start as we had to cancel the first session due to a computer glitch not registering the booking, and without any chance to reorganize, we would have to wait another week.

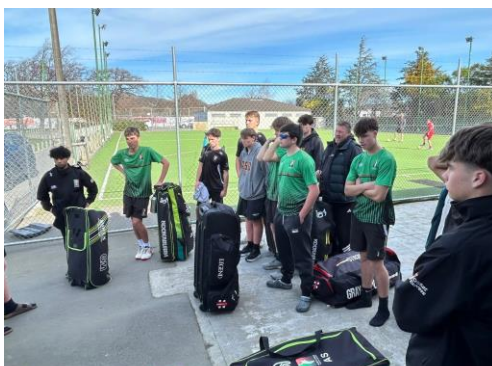
The second week came around quickly, and we started planning numbers for the Pre season fixtures ahead, plus we finally got our first net session under the belt. There was a bit of rust to be sure, with many having not picked up the bat or



ball for some time, but it was brilliant to get back into the nets.

The third week saw the first of our specialist sessions, with

Burnside Premier Men's opening bowler Alex Tait, coming down to run a fast-bowling clinic, while Burnside Premier Men's coach and opening batsmen Carl Huyser came down to run a batting clinic and we were so grateful and lucky for the opportunity to learn from 2 such players.



Burnside Coach Carl Huyser working with North West 1st XI Skipper Jordan



Burnside fast bowler Alex Tait watching on as George prepares to bowl



Images from Pre Season



The fourth week saw the spinners come into play, as this time, Burnside Premier Men's batsman Nick Gibb came to help work with the batters, alongside Burnside Premier Men's skipper Matt Hay, and Harsh Visavadiya, coach of the Merivale Premier side, who both came in to work with the bowling.

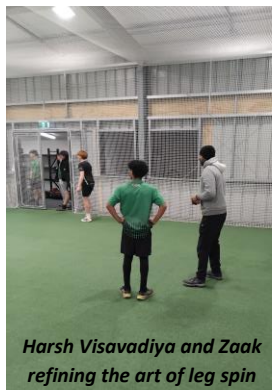


***Nick Gibb working with
Rory on playing spin***

Again, it was another awesome chance for the guys to learn something new in order to improve their trade and we were extremely thankful to be able to have their support in helping with our pre season.



***Matt Hay speaking with
the Off Spinners***



***Harsh Visavadiya and Zaak
refining the art of leg spin***



Jordan rips one down

Week 5 had another coach from Merivale turn up to run a batting clinic for some of the 2nd Xi players while the 1st Xi were supposed to have a fielding session outside at Sydenham Park, but heavy overnight rain caused that to be cancelled.

The last session held host to a full training session indoors for the 1st and 2nd Xi's in preparation for our upcoming Pre season games and trip away down south to Omaru in the following weeks ahead.

With our new sponsor onboard, it meant we had new playing kit created and delivered to us, which the 1st Xi would wear for the first time in their upcoming Pre season fixtures.

The kit was handed out during the third week to those who were around and was modelled off with the help of the two specialist coaches who were along for the day



1st Xi Players, Olly, Jordan, Jasper, Ollie and Sam W model the new playing kit beside coaches, Alex Tait, Zac Tait, Carl Huyser

Pre Season Tour Match Day 1

Intersquad Match

With the new season fast approaching and the end of the Pre season training sessions coming to a close, we turned our attention towards the next stage, some practice fixtures to prepare for the season.

Up first was a mixed Intersquad game between the 1st and 2nd Xi's, as we had plenty of combinations and things that we wanted to try out ahead of the season.

The game was originally scheduled to be played at Kirwee Domain. An absolute picturesque ground out in the country side. It would have been the third time in 3 years that North West had hosted a Pre season fixture out there and the second time for it to be an Intersquad match.

However, there was need for a late change and instead we headed to Tullet Park, a football ground, but it had a beautifully new artificial wicket.

It was a nice enough ground, especially considering football season had just finished and that we needed to move a number of goals off the ground before we could take to the park, with the grass not being too long either.

With the numbers we had available, we were nearly able to put together two full teams which gave us more than enough to be able to see some actual cricket to be played.

We scheduled a 35 over fixture in which all overs would be used, meaning that batsmen were given the opportunity to have a second life if needed, while the numerous overs

gave the bowlers plenty of opportunity to send a few deliveries down.

Jasper Welford captained the Green Xi while Dilan Wijetunga captained the Black Xi.

There were a number of changes to the teams as players withdrew, joined in, and some withdrew again in the weeks leading up to the game and we also welcomed in a new player in Will Timms.

A former Christ College 1st and 2nd Xi player who had changed schools throughout the year and was no longer eligible to play for his former school.

He joined the 1st Xi squad in place of Sam Carrell who had departed come the end of the first half of the year, rounding out our 15.

It was Jasper who won the toss for the Green team and elected to bowl first, which Dilan was more than happy to agree with as he wanted to bat. Rather bizarre considering that the opening batsmen wanted to bowl first and the opening bowler wanted to bat.

Opening for the Black Team were Olly Upjohn and Zac Chalmers as the hot sun made it feel like a summer's day and not very early spring.

Sam Waddell took the new ball and since it was the first time back bowling in a game like situation for pretty much all of the bowlers, there was not much intent used in the first spells as he and George who opened with him, eased their way into the season.

It was Olly and Zac who had the early running as they picked up easy runs through the leg side when either of the bowlers stray from their lines and lengths.

Olly in particular was damaging off anything straight and blasted some shots with authority off the back foot as he quickly got his teams innings underway.

Zac was a little more circumspect and the bowlers both went past his edge on a couple of occasions, but he still looked relatively untroubled.

Jasper made his first change after 6 overs, and Olly went on the attack even more, taking to Dilshan and Yatharth and by the time the pair finished out their opening spell, Olly and Zac had put together a 60 run partnership after just 12 overs and were in full control.

That was the last piece of control they would have during their batting innings, as Jasper made a devastating change in bowling, in more ways than one.

Zaak Zaman was introduced to the crease. His situation was a little strange, as he was named to play for the Black team, but was also picked to bowl for both sides as we looked to get him through some overs.

His first delivery was a beauty as he slid one past Olly's inside edge, clipping it on the way through to the stumps and he had quickly broken a dangerous stand, dismissing Olly for an impressive looking 37 from just the 45 balls

He started with a wicket maiden, and things only got better from there, at least for Zaak.

Rayaan Siddiqui, batting at 3, survived his first ball after he was dropped by stand in wicketkeeper Ollie Fifield, but he

held on to a second attempt in Jasper's 2nd over after he brought himself on to bowl.

Zaak grabbed his 2nd and 3rd in the same over, bowling Zac and having Aroon Deb caught at short midwicket for a duck.

Then in Zaak's 5th over, he nabbed 2 more. First was Liam Kerr, caught at midwicket, then Alex Guillemot nicked off and was caught by Olly Upjohn who had subbed in with the gloves.

Just like that, Zaak had 5 wickets against his own team and they were floundering at 73-6 after being 60-0.

Dilan and Jordy Moore resisted for a while as both of them got into double figures and Zaak finished out his 6 overs with 5-14, immediately racing off the field to pad up to come out to bat.

Dilshan came back into the attack and dismissed Dilan for 12 as he picked up the first of 3 in his 2 over spell at the back end of the innings.

In the meantime, Jasper threw the ball to Ollie, who bagged a wicket of his own, caught by Liam, who was also subbed on to field.

Dilshan picked up his 2nd and 3rd in the same over as he accounted for Rayaana's and then Aroon's second lives, with Rayaana's dismissal caught on video.

Alex came back in for a second life and played a beautiful, lofted cover drive for 4 off Yatharth, before Yatharth got him back with a snorter of a delivery that went past his nose and was gloved through to Olly.



Dilshan dismissing Rayaana, caught at mid on, in pictures

Jasper then threw the ball to Will, who was known as a part timer at best and he picked up 2 wickets in his only over, Yatharth catching Zaak who toiled hard for his 11. Then, when Liam picked out George, it cut short his second life, and this innings had spiralled out of control.

George came in to bowl the last over with Alex and Aroon at the crease, both in their third lives. Anything could happen and after Alex popped the 4th ball to Sam for a simple catch, the innings was done with 2 balls to spare, at 120-14.

A real struggle for the black team with the bat after being 60-0 early on.

Zaak the pick of the bowlers with 5, while the rest all chipped in.

The result was the least important thing to focus on in the match and as such, the scores were not even posted at the halfway mark.

There was a very short intermission and then we were back at it with Jasper and Ollie walking out to face Dilan and Alex with the new ball in hand.

Dilan started off with a maiden against Jasper, while Ollie left 8 balls in a row off Alex, all of them being a bit wide, and 3 being called as such.

A glorious drive off the front foot saw Jasper open his account with a 4, before he picked up and drop kicked Dilan over backward square for 6, the first of many in the Green Team's innings, while there were none in the Black Team's innings.

Alex finally got one to land and took Ollie's outside edge, which was really well held by Olly behind the stumps, bringing Jordan to the crease.

There was a change of bowling and Aroon came in to bowl for what seemed like the first time in forever, and when his first ball was dragged miles down leg, you had the feeling anything could happen.

Jasper plundered 12 from Aroon's first over, another boundary and a big 6 over square leg from a short ball seeing the runs go up, but things ended well for Aroon as again a ball sliding down leg caught Jordan's attention and he tried to deposit it over the houses next door, but sent it skywards, where Olly made a brilliant catch as he covered nearly 30m to claim the ball with both hands while diving forward.

That brough Will to the crease, the first chance for some to have a look at him and he started off with a classy cut through backward point.

Jasper was loving life as he hit his third and then fourth 6 of the innings, loving anything short, especially from Aroon.

Again though, in the end Aroon was the winner as Jasper pulled one straight to Dilan at mid on, out for a run a ball 37.

Former Rangiora High batsmen Rory Wafer came to the crease to join Will who had joined him now at the same school and initially struggled to find his timing and gaps early, surviving a lucky chance on 1 as he middled a glance straight at Dilan at mid on who could only see the ball burst through his hands as he jumped over his head.

Rory and Will batted very well together as they played in a partnership, with Rory taking the aggressive role, while Will ticked over the strike.

After a long rest, Zaak was introduced once more and the Black team hoped he could recreate his first innings form, and it didn't take him long to spin one past Will's outside edge as he came down the wicket, out stumped, breaking a partnership of 54 between the pair.

It was then quite a surprise with how well he was bowling, that Sam came out to the wicket and hit his first ball over long on for 6.

Rory hit Zaak for a 6 of his own and hit Rayaana for 2 more as he suddenly was striking at 120 and looking in fabulous touch, but he too fell to the mastery of spin that Zaak was tossing up, again caught by Olly.

This time though, he was fielding at third man having removed the gloves to have a bowl.

Remarkably over both innings, it was Olly's 7th catch for the day, and he had also affected a stumping.

George and Sam both came and went, out caught to Jordy and Dilan, and with still 7 overs to go, the lowest scoring players started padding up again, but cue the Dilshan and Yatharth show.

They blasted the ball all over the park and no one was safe.

Dilshan hit 3 maximums while Yatharth hit one and the pair put on 63 off just 44 balls, batting all the way through to the close of the innings, racking up the highest partnership of the day.

Dilshan finished as the top scorer with 39* while Yatharth had smashed 26* as they put an exclamation on a big statement win by Team Green.

In the end, the result mattered none, but the game was a lot of fun, and we got everything out of it that we were hoping for.

With a long Pre Season ahead of us, this was a wonderful start and a great hit out with a good bunch of people, who all made sure to treat this outing as though it was an actual fixture.



George and Ollie rocking their uniforms to start the year as the first winners of the Penalty Bibs

North West Green Xi Vs North West Black Xi
Pre Season Match Day 1 - 20 Sep 2025

North West Black Xi - 1st Innings

		R	M	B	4s	6s
O Upjohn	b Z Zaman	37	45	45	7	-
Z Chalmers	b Z Zaman	20	57	32	1	-
R Siddiqui	c Fifielld b J Welford	2	7	16	-	-
L Kerr	c Fifielld b Z Zaman	6	18	17	1	-
A Deb	c Waddell b Z Zaman	0	1	3	-	-
D Wijetunga	c (sub) b D Soysa	12	27	28	2	-
A Guillemot	c (sub) b Z Zaman	0	1	1	-	-
J Moore	c (sub) b O Fifielld	10	20	14	1	-
Z Zaman	c Sharma b W Timms	11	33	26	-	-
R Siddiqui	c Welford b D Soysa	0	1	2	-	-
A Deb	c (sub) b D Soysa	4	1	2	1	-
A Guillemot	c (sub) b Y Sharma	4	11	10	1	-
L Kerr	c Grayling b W Timms	1	9	6	-	-
A Deb	Not Out	1	5	2	-	-
A Guillemot	c Waddell b G Grayling	1	3	5	-	-

Extras: (b1,w9,nb1)

11

TOTAL: (14 wkts, 34.4overs)

120

	O	M	R	W	Econ
S Waddell	5	0	20	0	4.00
G Grayling	4.4	0	16	1	3.43
Y Sharma	5	0	24	1	4.80
D Soysa	5	0	28	3	5.60
Z Zaman	6	2	12	5	2.00
J Welford	6	1	11	1	1.83
O Fifielld	2	0	6	1	3.00
W Timms	1	0	2	2	2.00

Fall of Wickets:

1-60 2-63 3-64 4-64 5-73 6-73 7-91 8-96 9-97 10-101
11-111 12-118 13-119 14-120

North West Green Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
J Welford	c Wijetunga b A Deb	37	40	36	2	4
O Fifield	c Upjohn b A Guillemot	2	20	15	-	-
J Sim	c Upjohn b A Deb	2	4	4	-	-
W Timms	st Upjohn b Z Zaman	26	47	43	2	-
R Wafer	c Upjohn b Z Zaman	38	40	34	2	3
S Waddell	c (sub) b D Wijetunga	7	11	3	-	1
G Grayling	c (sub) b J Moore	8	17	20	1	-
D Soysa	Not Out	39	37	33	1	3
Y Sharman	Not Out	26	22	22	3	1

Extras: (b3,lb1,w14,nb1) 19
TOTAL: (7 wkts, 35overs) 204

	O	M	R	W	Econ	
D Wijetunga	5	2	15	1	3.00	
A Guillemot	5	0	27	1	5.40	
A Deb	5	0	42	2	8.40	
L Kerr	5	0	33	0	6.60	
J Moore	5	0	10	1	2.00	
R Siddiqui	3	0	28	0	9.33	North West Green Win by 84 Runs
Z Zaman	5	0	35	2	7.00	
O Upjohn	2	0	10	0	5.00	

Fall of Wickets:

1-17 2-30 3-53 4-107 5-122 6-124 7-141

Pre Season Tour Match Day 2

North West 1st Xi Vs Darfield Premier

Backing up from the intersquad match yesterday, this time was a game more based around the 1st Xi as we got closer to the beginning of the season.

We were scheduled to play a friendly fixture out at Darfield Domain, our first grass wicket for the season, playing against Darfield Men's Premier. Unfortunately for us, though it didn't rain on the day, there was enough around in the days preceding it that we were forced to call it quits before the Saturday came around.



Incredibly frustrating, but we had plenty more games planned and would look forward to making the most of those.

Pre Season Tour Match Day 3 T20₁ North West 1st Xi Vs Waitaki Boys High

This year, we were lucky enough to be able to put together a short trip away down south to Omaru, to play against a couple of schools as our Pre Season tour continued.

We had 3 games in two days planned on this trip, and first up was a double header of T20's against Waitaki Boys.

With only minimal items forgotten before departure, we travelled down on the Thursday afternoon, with a squad of 13 making the trip and were offered accommodation at St Kevins Hostel, the other school we would play against.

On Friday morning we loaded up the van, sans one playing kit and drove 5 minutes around the corner to Waitaki Boys who we would be taking on in the two T20's over the day.

While Jordan won the toss and elected to bat first on a beautiful morning, and we arranged for a swap for the second match,

meaning we would bowl first, George jumped into Kelvins truck to make a dash back to the hostel to grab his forgotten kit, thankful that we were batting first on this occasion.



It was the first time to be using our new sponsored one-day kit, and the boys were looking sharp in green as Jasper and Olly strode to the middle together as we tried out a new opening combination.



Waitaki Boys bowled well in the first 8 balls, keeping us to just 3 singles, before Jasper leathered a beautiful cover drive to the boundary for 4 and he was away.

Both he and Olly then capitalised on some loose bowling to end the second over and put the foot down in the third, before Olly was out caught at slip after his attempted scoop ballooned off his shoulder and floated through the air as we lost our first wicket at 18 inside the third over.

Jordan came out at 3 nursing a sore knee, which meant he was a little slow through the wickets and resorted to clearing the boundaries.

He found the pace bowling to his liking and thumped 3 huge 6's in no time at all. Swatting them down the ground and out over midwicket as he was clearly in the mood to hit and it more or less took all pressure off Jasper at the other end who was plundering boundaries of his own, making use of the spread fields to find gaps.

Jordan was batting with a swagger as he continued to swing, but after a 63 run partnership with his vice captain, he was out caught looking for his 4th maximum.

In walked Sam Waddell at 4 and when he struck his third ball inside out over mid off for a one bounce 4, it already seemed like he was in great touch.

Again, he and Jasper put on a clinic of a partnership, built on finding the boundary as Sam was also nursing a couple of cuts on his feet.

Jasper brought up a brilliant 50 off just 35 balls with a whip over square leg for 6, while Sam was clearing the boundary down the ground, using his long levers to strike the ball with such authority.

With 15 balls left in the innings, Jasper finally mistimed a ball and was out caught for a magnificent 89 off 60 balls, with 14 fours and a six to his name.

The partnership between him and Sam was 93 off 54 balls and had put us in the ascendency. With a short time left in the innings, it was time to put the foot to floor, and Rory came and went trying to do so, while both Sam and Will cleared the rope once more each, with us finishing on 193-4 from our 20 overs.



First time in the new kit in the opening T20 vs Waitaki Boys



With a great total to bowl at, it was now our turn to use the Kookaburra and with a number of plans and ideas in place, as well as things to try, this was more about succeeding in those plans than anything else

Dilan and Alex took the new ball as they always did and there was an early chance that went begging as the ball fell to the floor.

Jordan rang the changes as he threw the ball to Aroon and Liam inside the powerplay and then to Rory immediately outside of it.

Sitting at 45-0 after 7, it was Rory who broke the deadlock as he found the opening batsman's edge, where Olly completed the catch behind the stumps.

The required run rate was starting to climb and each of the bowlers coming in were doing a great job to keep the runs down, bowling to their fields.

If there was one slight area of criticism for us in these early stages, we weren't always able to close out overs well enough, conceding boundaries on the last ball of an over 6 times throughout the innings.

Jordan used 9 bowlers throughout the first match as the only ones who didn't bowl were nursing slight injuries, or had the gloves on behind the stumps, and each bowler who came in did a very handy job.

Rory and Jasper were replaced by George and Yatharth, the former probably being the best in the first innings but didn't receive any rewards as he stuck to his area's and conceded just the 7 from his couple of overs.

Yatharth snagged two wickets in an over, both caught at cover by Alex, which ended up being our final two wickets for the morning game.

Waitaki were sitting at 68-3 off 11 overs, still needing 126 from the last 9, so we were well on top and though slightly frustrating to not pick up any more wickets, we were very disciplined as we bowled into the back end of the innings, conceding just the 68 in those 9 overs.

Waitaki finished up on 136-3 from their 20, a comfortable 57 run to start our tour and we had a great platform to build from for the rest of the weekend.

 North West 1st Xi Vs Waitaki Boy's 1st Xi
 Match 1 Pre Season - 26 Sep 2025

North West 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
J Welford	c Wilson b H Mavor	89	69	60	14	1
O Upjohn	c Unknown b B Wilson	7	9	5	1	-
J Sim	c Unknown b D McSkimming	29	23	17	1	3
S Waddell	Not Out	43	42	29	2	3
R Wafer	c Unknown b B Wilson	3	1	3	-	-
W Timms	Not Out	12	5	7	-	1

Extras: (lb3,w6,nb1) 10
 TOTAL: (4 wkts, 20 overs) 193

Fall of Wickets:

1-18 2-81 3-174 4-177

Waitaki Boy's 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
A Haywood	c Guillemot b Y Sharma	37	43	36	5	1
A Harroway	c Upjohn b R Wafer	19	29	19	3	-
D Kellynack	c Guillemot b Y Sharma	6	15	7	1	-
B Wilson	Not Out	20	40	17	1	1
H Mavor	Not Out	46	37	41	7	-

Extras: (lb1,w5,nb2) 8
 TOTAL: (3 wkts, 20 overs) 136

	O	M	R	W	Econ
D Wijetunga	3	0	15	0	5.00
A Guillemot	3	0	20	1	6.67
A Deb	2	0	26	0	13.00
L Kerr	2	0	14	0	7.00
J Welford	2	0	13	0	6.50
R Wafer	2	0	13	1	6.50
G Grayling	2	0	7	0	3.50
Y Sharma	2	0	14	2	7.00
W Timms	2	0	13	0	6.50

North West Win
 by 54 Runs

Fall of Wickets:
 1-45 2-65 3-68

Pre Season Tour Match Day 4 T20₂ North West 1st Xi Vs Waitaki Boys High

There was a very short break between the two games as the weather was supposed to come in as the afternoon wore on and we were already lucky as it had been forecasted to start at midday, but by 1:30, there were no signs we wouldn't get through the afternoon game as well.

This time there was no toss as our gentlemen's agreement after the toss before the first game, made sure that both teams had a chance to set a total, and chase a total.

This meant we were back out onto the park for another 20 overs of fielding, almost immediately after coming off.

Things changed around for us this time as we used a new opening pair with Aroon and Yatharth leading us off. Unfortunately, we got off to the worst possible start as Aroon was thrashed twice over midwicket for 6.

Some would say he could be considered unlucky as the ball went over the head of his boundary rider, but neither delivery deserved anything but a maximum.

Yatharth's first over wasn't much better and we were very quickly behind the game with Waitaki sitting impressively at 27-0 off the first couple.

Both bowlers came back well in their second overs, but still 39-0 off 4 and we were staring down chasing something similar to what we had posted first time around.

Things started to change when Dilan was thrown the ball for his only over at the start of the 5th.

His first ball was nicked to a deep second slip where Jordan held on to a brilliant catch above his head.

The brakes were on and after Liam's tidy over, the powerplay concluded at 51-1, a much better last 4 overs helping us back into the contest.

Jasper came into the attack and found immediate rewards as he castled the #3 and then responded well to being thumped down the ground for 6, by getting the batsman's edge the very next ball with Olly taking a sharp grab with the gloves for his second wicket.

Will got in on the act as he picked up our 4th, hitting the stumps himself and when Rory came in and had the opening batsmen caught behind the wicket, and his replacement caught at deep midwicket in the same over we had taken 4 wickets for 1 run in 13 balls and conceded just 16 runs in the past 5 overs.

This time, we used a 10th bowler for the game as Sam threw down a couple of overs and did a pretty good job considering the injuries to his feet, but it was George in the 15th over who struck the stumps twice to slow the scoring down even more and when Alex also hit the stumps to follow, Waitaki were still short of 100 and 9 down.

Then the two who scored big runs for them in the first game were together again and added a few more to the total, but Aroon picked up the 10th wicket with a peach of a half tracker outside off that was mercilessly chopped on.

That left 8 balls left in the innings, but with the mind to finish out the overs, Waitaki added a further 11 runs from those last 8 balls to post 128-10, a much more complete bowling performance for the side and made even more impressive after that start we were forced to endure.

We also changed up our batting for this second match as on this occasion, with Will and Rory opening the batting together.

It was clear from the start that they had defined the roles they were going to play. Will hit the first ball for 4 through backward point as he was delivered a nice, wide half volley, but his runs came through accumulation and running hard, while Rory played the role of the aggressor and was clearing the infield to find the boundary.

Suddenly, at the start of the second over, the weather had arrived, it had been threatening to fly overhead for the past half hour or so and now, there was some drizzle to contend with.

Still, we played on as it wasn't too bad and the boys in the middle were flying. That was until thunder boomed overhead, and the gentle rain turned into stinging hail.



Queue the mad dash to the changing sheds as players and spectators alike were pelted with stones, but the weather was always

looking clear behind us, and after a short 5 minutes or so, it had stopped, and the sun shone on us again.

It did take 20 minutes or so until play could begin again as there was a little water around that needed drying. We were very well placed at 43-0 after 5 overs when we were forced off, but when Rory struck the second ball over long on, just after we went back out to restart play, it was like they hadn't stopped at all, and the charge had resumed again.

Then our innings turned, and as it did, the weather followed. The bright sun that shone overhead was gone, replaced with a southerly that was intense and biting cold. The boys hurried to find anything they could to stay warm, huddling in a group together on the sideline.

Such was the winds strength that after Rory was out caught, mistiming a strike down the ground, both Will and Zac had trouble pushing their bat through the air, both out shortly afterwards, caught behind and LBW.

3 wickets for 16 runs saw a couple nerves run through the camp on the sideline, but that was eased when Jordan was gifted a waist high full toss with a leg side gale assaulting him first ball and he duly obliged by clearing the 50m boundary by another 20m.

He was on a roll and wanted to get the game done early, also hitting his 3rd and 7th balls for 6 before crashing 3 boundaries as well and after 10 balls he was striking at 310.

It wasn't just him either as Liam had also struck a couple lusty blows. Firstly, a bullet down the ground for 4, then sending one high into the sky and right down into the



Hailstones covering the wicket after the second Storm

chairs where our boys were huddled, all of them scrambling for safety as they lost the ball in the dark skies.

Thankfully no one but a chair was hurt as the ball crashed into it, leaving behind a mark.

The pair put on 50 in just 22 balls as victory was in sight for us, but when Jordan tried to send the ball out of Omaru and was bowled, then Liam nicked off in the next over and with hail again starting to come down in

the meantime, it didn't look like we would be able to finish.

As Alex walked out to bat, the hail was starting to get stronger and after playing a gorgeous French cut for a single from his first ball, the hail began teaming down and this time, there was no returning.

It just sat there with no chance to dry, and we were forced to abandon the rest of the game, but the old Duckworth Lewis calculations would have been in our favour had they been used.

Still, a brilliant day with nearly everything we wanted to do being achieved and we now looked forward to our final game tomorrow at St Kevins.



All Smiles: North West and Waitaki Boys

North West 1st XI Vs Waitaki Boy's 1st XI

Match 2 Pre Season - 26 Sep 2025

Waitaki Boy's 1st XI - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
L Evans	c Upjohn b R Wafer	17	41	23	3	-
A Harroway	c Sim b D Wijetunga	25	17	12	2	2
A Haywood	b J Welford	9	9	13	1	-
H Wilson	c Upjohn b J Welford	7	4	5	-	1
I Mclean	b Timms	0	3	7	-	-
E Strachan	c Guillemot b R Wafer	0	5	2	-	-
D Kellynack	b G Grayling	4	20	11	-	-
B Wilson	Not Out	40	43	28	5	1
D McSkimming	b G Grayling	1	1	2	-	-
L Rowell	b A Guillemot	0	2	5	-	-
H Mavor	b A Deb	10	9	8	-	1
J Kelland	Not Out	2	4	4	-	-

Extras: (b1,lb3,w9)

13

TOTAL: (10 wkts, 20 overs)

128

	O	M	R	W	Econ
A Deb	3	0	31	1	10.33
Y Sharma	3	0	25	0	8.33
D Wijetunga	1	0	4	1	4.00
L Kerr	1	0	6	0	6.00
J Welford	2	0	8	2	4.00
W Timms	2	0	7	1	3.50
R Wafer	2	0	11	2	5.50
S Waddell	2	0	7	0	3.50
G Grayling	2	0	16	2	8.00
A Guillemot	2	0	9	1	4.50

Fall of Wickets:

1-39 2-51 3-63 4-64 5-64 6-65 7-91 8-93 9-94 10-117

North West 1st XI - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
W Timms	c Haywood b L Rowell	30	37	31	5	-
R Wafer	c Rowell b L Evans	22	25	17	4	-
Z Chalmers	LBW L Evans	0	7	6	-	-
L Kerr	c Kellynack b A Haywood	20	23	17	2	1
J Sim	b B Wilson	32	14	12	3	3
O Upjohn	Not Out	0	3	0	-	-
A Guillemot	Not Out	1	1	1	-	-

Extras: (b4,lb1,w9,nb2)

16

TOTAL: (5 wkts, 13.4 overs)

121

**North West Win
by 36 Runs (DLS)**

Fall of Wickets:

1-49 2-59 3-65 4-116 5-120

Pre Season Tour Match Day 5

North West 1st Xi Vs St Kevins

The Saturday was the final day for our travels. We were only away three days and yet it had been a really awesome experience so far and we were very lucky to be able to have the opportunity to participate and play against these schools in a setting like this.

St Kevins had played host to us for the couple of nights we spent in Omaru and now it was time for them to play host to us for a game of cricket.

It was going to be a long day as we would leave for Christchurch almost immediately after the game and so the boys were prepared for another full day, this time, hopefully in the sun.

It is what greeted us that morning as we headed down the steep hill, cricket gear in tow. Though there was little to no warmth in the sun in the early hours of the morning it was still nice to see it overhead. Not only that, but the boys were also excited for the first proper test of the new season, that being to play out a full 40 over fixture.

Ideally it wouldn't get to that point, but all 40 overs needed to be batted, regardless of the wickets lost. Also lucky for us was that Derek Walker, a first class level umpire, had been sourced by St Kevins for the day and so it was an opportunity for the guys to see a real professional go about their work behind the stumps.

It was a second win for Jordan at the toss and once again he chose to bat and try to pile on the runs.

Once again it was Jasper and Olly who opened the batting together and were looking to get us off to a great start.

It was Olly who found the going much easier to start as he was able to tick over the strike off nearly every ball he faced, while Jasper did struggle to lay bat on ball in the first few overs and when he did, he would find a fielder, even missing out on a full toss or two.



Slowly he started to build, farming more strike from his opening partner as he would find ways to score singles late in the over, or Olly would give up strike early in the over.

After 7 overs we had built to 26-0, looking really solid and not really playing any risky shots and yet still somehow looking like it was tough to score.

Watching on as Jasper and Olly build the innings



The 8th over was when everything changed, starting with the weather as the wind blew over and the temperature dropped, but

everyone was just happy to be playing cricket.

Jasper was 10 off 27 at the start of the 7th over and struggling to find any fluency. Instead, it was Olly who started the over with a boundary before ticking the strike over to Jasper. He found his first piece of timing with an effortless flick over midwicket for 6 and followed that up with a boundary through the offside as we took 16 from the over and raced to 42-0.

That one full toss on his legs helped Jasper move through the gears and he was away with no one to stop him. He started finding gaps with almost every ball and punished the bad ones to the fence. Then with just 73 on the board, he brought up his second 50 on tour, this one off just 48 balls. His last 40 runs coming off just 21 rocks and doing so without a hint of risk.



Almost forgotten about at the other end was Olly, but that is extremely unfair to how he was batting. It was Jasper who was making all the waves at his end, while Olly just calmly stroked along behind him at a run a ball.

Neither batsman looked like giving their wicket away and soon enough the 100 run partnership between the pair was brought up and it had only taken 16 overs.

Olly was starting to find the boundary now as well as he pummelled a pull shot over midwicket for 4, but it was his running between the wickets and shot gapping for singles that was most impressive.

Drinks were called at 20 overs, and we couldn't have been in a better position at 138-0 with Jasper having reached 80 for the second time this tour, with Olly on 35.

The message was simple, keep going, but both boys were told the end was near as this was a pre season game and we still wanted others to have a bat.

Somehow, they stepped it up another gear. Olly doubled his boundary tally from 35 to 49 as he twice hit 4's, before coming down the wicket on 49 and planting the spinner back over his head for a gorgeous straight 6, raising his bat to the cheering crowd, and at the same time, walking off to retire having reached his milestone.

It did sadly put an end to the opening partnership which had reached an astonishing 173 in 24 overs

Zac came out to bat 3, a hard act to follow after that opening stand, but he too found an early boundary and was away.

Jasper meanwhile was inching his way through the 90's scoring singles off every ball he faced and received a life on 97 when he was put down in the deep.

Thankfully for all involved, he was able to carry on and on 99 he was gifted a full toss down leg and swatted it away

to fine leg for his 12th and final boundary, bringing up a brilliant hundred.

It was a superb innings that had a faulty celebration as he could not remove his helmet, but it was still an awesome thing to have witnessed. He would face one last ball, a free hit he launched down deep midwickets throat to be caught, but would walk off with an Asterix next to his name of 104 off 90 balls, scoring 94 off his last 63 balls faced to complete his ton.

If Zac had a tough act to follow, Jordans was even tougher as he replaced Jasper in the middle and did his best by clubbing his second ball miles over midwicket for 6 and his 4th was thumped through the covers for 4 more.

Unfortunately for us and Jordan, just as it looked like the fireworks would really explode, his slotted one straight to mid off and was caught.

Our first wicket, falling on 200, 27 overs after we had started to bat. Zac followed him soon after he decided to run himself out, before Rory and Will put on another small partnership as we looked to accelerate into the end of the innings.

Rory fell for 15 bringing Sam to the crease and he carried on from his form in yesterdays T20, blasting 5 fours and a huge 6 on his way to 37 not out.

Will got a leading edge back to the bowler for 18 of his own, and Liam went down swinging with 300 approaching.

George hit probably the shot of the day as he clubbed his 3rd ball off their opening bowler for the biggest 6 of the day and then hit the other one down the ground for 4, but

both he and Sam were bowled out in the last over as we fell just short of the 300 mark, finishing on 297.

Still an extremely impressive effort with the bat and we couldn't have been happier.

It was towards the end of the innings that the rain started to come down, but it was only light and had no effect on play, which begun promptly after the devouring of the lunch that had been provided, courtesy of St Kevins.

Back at it with the new ball were Dilan and Alex who both struggled with their lines early and 12 wides were bowled within the first 4 overs, really the only runs we gave away.

Finally, Alex was able to control his swing, bringing the ball back in against the left handed opener and ripping his stumps out, again brilliantly caught on video.



Alex demolishing the opening batsmen's stumps

Dilan wasn't going to let himself be outdone by his new ball partner and he too found a way through in the following over, also hitting middle stump. Our new ball pair grabbing a couple wickets early and had broken the game open slightly, following on from their term 1 form.

Needing over 7rpo from the outset, it was always going to be a tough chase if you fell behind and outside of the

wides, our bowlers and fielders did a great job in the early exchanges to keep ourselves on top.

Once more we used a great number of bowlers and though we weren't able to pick up any wickets through the middle period, the run rate was way down and after 10 they were 34-2.

Slowly St Kevins started to play more shots, targeting Jasper and his off spin, but it was him later who broke the stubborn, growing partnership which had moved into the 40's.



Dilan running in to bowl

He drew one big shot too many and the skied ball was well caught at square leg by Zac who had plenty of time to settle underneath it.

Rory then was thrown the ball for the last over before drinks and produced another wicket with his first ball, this time caught by Jasper, his first catch for the innings and certainly not his last.

That wicket meant St Kevins went to drinks needing 212 from 124 balls. We spoke at drinks about being ruthless and clinical from here, targeting to keep them under 150 and when Rory had the opener caught on the boundary for 37, we were in a good position to try and do so.

Will came in after Rory had bowled his spell and got a wicket of his own as he bumped out a batsman standing

over 6 feet tall, a rather remarkable effort, before Rory came back into the attack and picked up not just his 3rd, but also his 4th wicket, in the same over.

The first gave Jasper his second catch while Olly nabbed the first of 3 in a row for him to leave Rory dreaming of 5.

Aroon nicked off their player coach and Alex followed that up by catching the edge of the first of their batsmen returning for their second bat as we took our 10th wicket in the 34th over with St Kevins on 127.

There were still 6 overs to go, which was enough for George to grab two wickets in two balls, Jasper taking his 3rd and then 4th catches of the day to go with his hundred, before Olly added a 13th wicket as he ran out their player coach who batted a total of 4 times, as he attempted to sneak a bye.

If the first 78 overs of the match belonged to us, we lost the last two, conceding 31 as their player coach finally got away a few boundaries, flaying them through and over the outfield as he scored 28 off 11, but still it was a comprehensive win and a great way to finish our tour.

It was awesome to watch and from the start to the finish, we put in almost a complete performance and with the start of the season drawing near, it was a great time to be putting things together.

Now comes the unenviable task of a 4 hour drive home in the dark with 13 tired and grumpy teenagers.

Help.

 North West 1st Xi Vs St Kevins College 1st Xi
 Match 3 Pre Season - 27 Sep 2025

North West 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
O Upjohn	Retired Not Out	55	92	59	4	1
J Welford	Retired Not Out	104	101	90	12	2
Z Chalmers	run out Flores	8	17	14	1	-
J Sim	c Direen b C McLellan	10	2	6	1	1
W Timms	c&b F Sanford	18	37	23	1	-
R Wafer	c Smith b P Flores	15	10	16	1	-
S Waddell	b N Kelly	37	35	23	5	1
L Kerr	b N Kelly	1	3	3	-	-
G Grayling	b N Kelly	12	10	8	1	1
D Wijetunga	Not Out	1	1	2	-	-

Extras: (b1,w32,nb3) 36
 TOTAL: (7 wkts, 40 overs) 297

Fall of Wickets:
 0-173* 0-190* 1-200 2-202 3-220 4-265 5-273 6-296 7-297
 (*Retired Batsmen)

St Kevins College 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
B Gillies	c Guillemot b R Wafer	37	101	56	2	1
I Kelly	b A Guillemot	1	13	8	-	-
N Kelly	b D Wijetunga	0	4	5	-	-
H Fowler	c Chalmers b J Welford	29	51	52	5	-
O Waldron	c Welford b R Wafer	1	9	3	-	-
F Sanford	c Waddell b W Timms	11	33	14	1	-
C McLellan	c Welford b R Wafer	11	29	31	1	-
L Direen	c Upjohn b A Deb	3	9	12	-	-
W Smith	c Upjohn b R Wafer	0	1	3	-	-
P Flores	Not Out	11	37	22	-	-
F Sanford	c Upjohn b A Guillemot	3	11	7	-	-
N Kelly	c Welford b G Grayling	2	8	12	-	-
L Direen	c Welford b G Grayling	0	1	1	-	-
L Direen	run out Upjohn	6	4	3	1	-
L Direen	Not Out	28	8	11	3	2

Extras: (lb3,w24) 27
 TOTAL: (13 wkts, 40 overs) 170

	O	M	R	W	Econ
D Wijetunga	3	0	12	1	4.00
A Guillemot	5	0	14	2	2.80
A Deb	5	2	8	1	1.60
Y Sharma	4	1	11	0	2.75
J Welford	6	0	31	1	5.17
G Grayling	5	0	33	2	6.60
R Wafer	5	1	21	4	4.20
L Kerr	4	1	26	0	6.50
W Timms	3	0	11	1	3.67

**North West Win
by 127 Runs**

Fall of Wickets:
 1-15 2-19 3-73 4-86 5-93 6-111 7-117 8-117 9-117
 10-127 11-130 12-130 13-139

Pre Season Tour Match Day 6

North West 1st Xi Vs Shirley Boys

Our final Pre Season fixture was a one day game against eternal foe's Shirley Boys and after the disappointment of the rained out game against Darfield, this was supposed to be our first fixture on grass for the new season.

For the 3rd time this year we were playing out at Burwood Park, a ground that has done so well for us over the years, but with poor weather around for a lot of the weeks leading up to now, the pitches in Christchurch were not ready to accommodate games so early into October and we were forced to shift to an artificial wicket in order to get a game in.

As it happened, this back and forth did not matter in the slightest as heavy rain on early Saturday morning saw us call off the game a day early. Though the weather came fine in the afternoon and it looked like we might have made a blunder calling it so early, the forecasted rain for Sunday arrived in droves and there was no chance we could have got a game in.



Again

A disappointing way to end Pre season, but still, we had got in nearly 4 games which was a great effort and we now looked forward to playing our first competitive fixture.

Match Day 1 One Day Pool B

North West 1st Xi Vs Christchurch Boys 2nd Xi

Day 1,

The season has begun anew and with our goal of holding on to a place inside the top 6 for next year, we had to begin well.

We were drawn into Pool B, with the top 2 gaining automatic qualification into next year's top grade and the rest fighting out for the two remaining spots after a reconfiguring of groups.

Our first fixture was against Christchurch Boys High 2nd Xi at Christchurch Boys and after the rain of last weekend, it was a beautiful day that greeted us this morning.

No clouds, blue sky, burning sun, perfect cricket conditions and it was made better when Jordan won the toss to start of the season well with the coin at least, electing to bowl first.

It was a debut today for Will Timms, who was named in the 12 for the first time, but it was once again the familiar duo of Dilan and Alex who got us underway.

Dilan was on the money right from the start, but the first chance came from Alex as he was flashed over the cordon for 4. In just the second over, Dilan broke the stumps of the CBHS opener, giving us our first wicket for the term, and Alex followed that up by getting his first wicket in typical Alex fashion with Jasper taking a nice grab at second slip off a genuine edge.

A couple quick wickets had put us on top early, and it got better when after a frustrating quiet spell, Alex won the battle of patience and tempted the #4 into a wide drive, only slashing the ball to George at point who held on well.

Then when George hit the stumps in his first over, we had CBHS on the ropes at 25-4 and 2,3,4,5 in the batting order had combined for a total of 1 run before being dismissed.

The soft wicket and variable bounce a huge factor, but then disaster. Aroon managed to take the edge off a slashing cut of their #6, who too was on naught at the time and that would have made it 25-5, but instead the catch was dropped in the slips, and we would live to rue that chance as the day wore on.

Slowly, Boys high got back into the game as they were patient and waited for us to err before scoring.

Spin was introduced right before drinks, before quickly swapping ends right after it, but no breakthrough was coming.

We made plenty of changes with the ball, Sam came into the attack and looked dangerous but couldn't find a wicket.

Both Alex and Dilan came back for second spells, and then in the 33rd over, with the score approaching 100, finally a piece of luck went our way when Aroon bowled their opener for 51 as the ball stayed a touch low.

Just two balls later and we sent a batsmen packing for the 4th duck for the day when Rory held onto a simple chance and Aroon had a double wicket maiden, right before drinks.

Things got even better when George completely outfoxed the other set batsmen with a beautiful slower ball that came back in and struck him on the pad, and he was out lbw.

There were no complaints coming from the batsmen who knew the decision would not fall in his favour.

3 wickets for 1 run had the game even again at 100-7, but that 74 run partnership in the middle was a huge outlier.

After drinks, George grabbed his third wicket with a stunning caught and bowled effort as he hurtled after a leading edge and dove forwards with two hands, clutching it millimetres off the ground.

At the other end, Aroon had less luck as we put down an even easier chance than the one 25 overs ago, and to make matters worse, he was slogged for consecutive boundaries immediately afterwards.

He would have the last laugh as he grabbed a third wicket of his own, but it was an expensive over, especially in the context of the match.

A third catch was then dropped off him in his next over as we went hunting for the last wicket, and this was no tougher than the last one, making him feel quite frustrated, and it was left to George who for the second time this year, finished with a 4 wicket haul against a CBHS team and on the same ground.

We had bowled them out for 137, not a huge total, but considering one partnership was 74 and there were 5 ducks from other batsmen, it did seem a much tougher score than just what it seemed like on paper.

Jasper took up his usual opening position and with Ollie missing out today, his place was taken by Will on debut, and the pair began very steadily in the early exchanges.

It wasn't easy to bat at all, but they were doing it tough and hanging in there, but when Jasper mistimed a full toss as the excitement of being able to score got to him, it triggered an epic downfall, one we had seen plenty of before and it made it extremely difficult to recover from.

Will followed Jasper when he poked at a short ball as the ball stuck in the wicket and he couldn't get through the shot, offering a simple chance to square leg.

Jordan went the very next ball to start the new over as he thumped a wide delivery down the ground, but straight to mid off.

Two balls later and Kaden, playing in his first competitive bat since the Grade Final in term 1, scored the same he did that day, though this time he faced a second ball.

Bowled for a duck and we had fallen from 10-0 to 14-4 in the space of 9 balls, putting us firmly into a hole and we needed a partnership like what CBHS put together for their 5th wicket in order to get back into the game.

Rory and Olly came together with neither having faced a ball and they dug in against the openers who were making life very tough for us, and we were struggling to put away our scoring opportunities as well, but they were doing a great job keeping the ball out which was doing all sorts.

Then, just when it seemed like Rory had figured out the surface, he played the wrong line.

In the last over of the opener's spell, with him tiring in the heat somewhat, Rory struck two boundaries, finally breaking the shackles.

Both timed nicely over the leg side field, but off the very last ball, he was squared up and edged straight to first slip and the 5th wicket fell with us still in the 30's

Olly was still in and batting comfortably and Sam, in at 7, was holding his own, both getting through to drinks.

Then, when Sam played a glorious cover drive to the boundary two balls after drinks, it seemed like he had finally gotten used to the wicket, but just like Rory before him, he was out immediately after hitting his best shot of the day, bowled with an absolute peach.

George came in and flailed the bat around a couple of times, picking up a couple singles, but eventually was out caught slicing to point.

Nearing the end and Olly, who not for the first time this year had done a great job holding up his end as he tried to keep us in it, but with the constant falling wickets he had to try and score a little quicker and edged to the keeper chasing a wide one.

Alex may be leading the way with wickets taken, but he is also in front in a rather unfortunate statistic as he picked up his 4th duck of the year, creaming a drive off the spinner straight into the hands of the cover fielder.

Aroon looked the best of the lot really. Coming in at 9, he played a measured and controlled innings, biding his time, including a beautiful drive through the offside for 4, but he too fell to the temptations of the spin and was caught

someway in from the boundary as he tried to hit a 6 into the wind, with the ball just hanging up in the air.

It ended what had been another rather lacklustre batting display, that for the 3rd consecutive competitive game, going back to term 1, we had been bowled out for under 100 which was somewhat alarming.

Still, there was plenty of good stuff to take away from today. Our ground fielding was excellent, we bowled well for most of the game, and if we can just get the batting right, then we will become a very dangerous team to play against.

Though a loss, the first game was in the bag and behind us and we could now look forward to the rest of the season.

North West 1st Xi Vs Christchurch Boys 2nd Xi

Round 1 - 11 Oct 2025

Christchurch Boys 2nd Xi - 1st Innings R M B 4s 6s

S Hinton Russel	b A Deb	51	134	97	5	-
J Lough	b D Wijetunga	1	3	3	-	-
B Morgan	c Welford b A Guillemot	0	7	6	-	-
R Jones	c Grayling b A Guillemot	0	16	0	-	-
D Harrington	b G Grayling	0	1	5	-	-
T Painter	lbw G Grayling	36	102	79	4	-
L Mitchell	c Wafer b A Deb	0	1	2	-	-
L Shanahan	b A Deb	14	15	11	3	-
L Johnston	c&b G Grayling	0	7	2	-	-
M Stribling	b G Grayling	16	19	15	3	-
T Harrison	Not Out	1	4	6	-	-

Extras: (b1,lb2,w13,nb2) 18

TOTAL: (10 wkts, 39.3 overs) 137

	O	M	R	W	Econ
D Wijetunga	6	1	22	1	2.66
A Guillemot	7	0	25	2	3.57
A Deb	8	2	31	3	3.87
G Grayling	7.3	0	23	4	3.06
Z Zaman	6	0	25	0	4.16
S Waddell	4	0	8	0	2.00
J Sim	1	0	6	0	6.00

Fall of Wickets:

1-9 2-12 3-23 4-25 5-99 6-99 7-100 8-110 9-123 10-137

North West 1st Xi - 1st Innings R M B 4s 6s

J Welford	c Harrington b M Stribling	3	11	11	-	-
W Timms	c Johnston b M Stribling	4	14	11	-	-
J Sim	c Painter b T Harrison	3	4	3	-	-
K Fraser	b T Harrison	0	1	2	-	-
O Upjohn	c Morgan b L Johnston	13	77	38	1	-
R Wafer	c Russel b M Stribling	15	27	32	2	-
S Waddell	b L Johnston	8	25	19	2	-
G Grayling	c Mitchell b L Johnston	4	5	9	-	-
A Deb	c Stribling b McLachlan	8	37	30	1	-
A Guillemot	c Jones b L Mitchell	0	9	12	-	-
D Wijetunga	Not Out	4	7	16	-	-

Extras: (b4,lb1,w11,) 16

TOTAL: (10 wkts, 30.4 overs) 78

North West lose
by 59 Runs

Fall of Wickets:

1-10 2-13 3-13 4-14 5-34 6-49 7-54 8-65 9-70 10-78

Match Day 2 One Day Pool B

North West 1st Xi Vs St Thomas 1st Xi

After the disappointment of last week, we put in a hard week at training as we looked to take the learnings needed from how we performed with the bat in hand as we stepped into our second round fixture against St Thomas 1st Xi, a very strong side in the grade.

We were drawn to play on Burnside, which was a nice surprise as we very rarely get games there and it was a beautiful morning as we arrived down at the ground.

There was one change to the 12 this week, with Ollie Fifield rejoining the matchday squad, with Zaak dropping down into the 2nd Xi side for the weekend.

Jordan made it a second successive week with a win at the toss as he once again chose to bowl on a deck that looked quite flat and hard, but we knew that it wouldn't be entirely that straightforward.

Dilan got us off to the perfect start in the first over of the game as he angled across the right hander and got a thick outside edge which was brilliantly caught in the gully by Sam as he threw himself to his right.

Extra's hurt us early as we were guilty of bowling several front foot no balls and a plethora of wides, accounting for nearly half the runs inside the first few overs.

An early change was made with the ball as Jordan threw the ball to George who was in some fine form and got lucky with a wayward first over which cost only the 6 runs.

Still, he was persisted with and another short ball got some steep bounce and caught the splice on the attempted pull shot, which looped slowly into Aroon's hands at square leg.

After initially misjudging it, he held on well and we were happy with our start early on.

St Thomas then began building a partnership and though Aroon came into the attack and looked extremely tidy, he was unable to find a breakthrough, before Kaden was thrown the ball for the first time this term and just like he had been all season, he was brilliant with the ball in hand yet got no reward.

He beat the bat nearly 3 times an over, had a couple tight lbws turned down before finishing up his 6 over spell conceding just the 17, which was doing a great job of slowing St Thomas's roll.

Drinks came and went with St Thomas well placed at 80-2, but we struck immediately after the break. Sam Waddell getting a bit of extra liftoff the surface and claimed his first wicket for the new term with Olly taking a simple catch behind the stumps.

Again, St Thomas built a partnership as they frustrated us with quick singles and the injury crisis in the side continued to rise.

Having started the day with Jordan still nursing his hurt knee, George rocked up with muscle soreness, Rory took a knock in the warm up. Sam then hurt his back taking the catch in the first over, both Will and Dilan took sharp blows to the knee as they stopped powerful shots and were forced off the field for a time,

It was almost comedic how many players were taking knocks, and it meant that our fielding was becoming a little slack as we were unable to sprint after the ball.

Rory was thrown the ball for his first chance to bowl in a competitive match for the year and in his first over was miscued straight up in the air, but it landed safely as the closest fielder could not make the ground because of his injury.

Then it happened a second time and again off Rory, but this time slicing the ball over point and no luck was falling our way.

St Thomas #3 brought up a very good 50, but Jasper did for his wicket with a beautiful piece of bowling that suckered him in and got the edge through to Olly who took a good catch off the flashing cut.

Then Dilan produced a brilliant bit of fielding at mid on as the new batter hit and run straight at him, but Dilans pick up was clean and he launched himself into a dive throw at the stumps, and the direct hit was enough to send him packing for a duck.

Two quick wickets had us right back in the game and we fought back well, conceding just the 63 from the middle 17 overs and grabbing 3 wickets as well. 143-5 and it was game on.

Alex was thrown the ball for the first over after drinks and produced a beauty first up. Angling in and swinging away, he bowled a pace bowlers dream ball as he went past the outside edge and hit the top of off stump

With that wicket, we went back to all pace as we tried to get through the tail with Aroon coming back for a second spell and then Dilan replaced Alex after a couple overs.

Into the last 10 and we hadn't managed to grab another wicket, but had slowed the scoring down slightly and when Dilan grabbed his second wicket, hitting middle stump with a glorious inswinger, we were thinking that anything under 220 would be ideal.

Sam forced their last true batsmen into an ungainly swipe, which was well held by Aroon, but his 44 was a very good effort and helped steady his side through the middle.

Dilan picked up his third and our ninth, taking the outside edge through to Olly for another catch with the gloves on and then Alex came back on from the other end to clean up, handing Olly his 4th catch for the day leaving St Thomas bowled out for 213.

Extra's had meant we would be chasing over 200 as they third top scored, which was a definite frustration, but we did a brilliant job to clean up the tail after they were 196-6 just a few overs earlier.

Dilan the standout with the ball as he picked up 3-20.

The wicket was definitely not easy to bat on, but it also wasn't a minefield and there were runs to be had if we played ourselves in and gave ourselves time to score.

This week, Olly opened up with Jasper as we put back together the partnership from pre season in hoping for a similar effort.

Both batsmen looked comfortable inside the first 3 overs, but again, we found ourselves in early wicket trouble as we lost our first on 7.

It continued a worrying trend for us as in 10 games so far, excluding the T20's, we had only managed one 30 run partnership for the first wicket, one 20 run, and four in the 10's as we continued to put ourselves under pressure.

Olly was the victim on this occasion as he closed the bat face too early while trying to flick and the ball looped back to the bowler who took a good catch coming forward.

Jordan then came in at 3 and was gifted a life on the first ball he faced when he spooned the ball straight to point where a very simple chance was put down.

Thankfully for the fielder it was a no ball, and he was spared any blushes. The free hit went unpunished, but Jordan did get off the mark with a boundary before being caught at mid off for the second successive week the very next ball.

In at 4, Kaden was looking to score his first run in 3 bats, and did so, but both he and Jasper were struggling to find gaps and without extra's our score would not be moving along at all.

Jasper finally got his innings underway off his 22nd delivery with a glance for 4. Kaden was then the third to fall as he couldn't drop his hands in time as a short ball reared up at him, flicking his glove on the way through to the keeper, with Kaden choosing to walk knowing he had hit it.

On his return to the side Ollie looked very much the same as Kaden before him as he struggled to turn over strike and after batting for the same amount of time and facing

the same number of balls for just the 1 extra run, he too fell caught behind and we were drifting aimlessly once more at 38-4.

That got even worse when Rory chipped back to the bowler similar to Olly earlier and we were 42-5 and staring down the barrel of being bowled out for under 100 for the 4th consecutive game.

Finally, there was some resistance.

Jasper started looking more comfortable and fluid with Will Timms at the other end and though it was slow going they were able to put together a partnership.

Jasper was scoring slightly more freely and found the boundary on occasion, while Will was having to fight for his runs, but he was still batting and that was keeping us in the game.

Slowly the score crossed 50, then 60, 70, 80 and then to 90 as they brought up their 50 run partnership, showing all the batsmen preceding them how to go about batting on the wicket.

Then, something to celebrate, Jasper brought up his 50, having scored more than half the teams runs at that point in time, a simple wave of the bat to celebrate before getting back to it and at drinks after 34, we went in at 110-5, needing 104 off 96 and a couple set batsmen, so we were still in the game.

Except that drinks break was the worst thing that could have happened to us.

As it often does, it breaks momentum and after being slow out of the gates for the first couple overs after drinks,

Jasper leathered a cut straight to backward point who held on, and he was dismissed for a fine 59. Strangely, we had now scored 4 half centuries this year, two scores of 53 and two of 59.

Immediately after his wicket, Will became the third caught and bowled victim as he chipped the leg spinner back to him.

George came out with the game plan of batting time, getting into the game with singles and then start swinging, before blasting his fifth ball straight to extra cover, out for a duck.

Batting with the tail, Sam smoked a 6 down the ground, before he nicked one to the keeper and Alex showed some patience and grit to knock the ball around for a while, but he eventually dragged his feet and was out stumped for 6.

All out for 131 and an 82 run loss which again highlights our problem with the bat, and we now had even more to learn from as we move into the bye round.

Might not be a bad thing as we attempt to get these boys back to full fitness before our next game.

 North West 1st Xi Vs St Thomas 1st Xi
 Round 2 - 18 Oct 2025

St Thomas 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
A Steel	c Waddell b D Wijetunga	0	3	4	-	-
J Lough	c Deb b G Grayling	7	40	23	-	-
J Jacques	c Upjohn b J Welford	52	121	92	7	-
P Ross	c Upjohn b S Waddell	21	48	30	3	-
C Wright	C Deb b S Waddell	44	109	77	1	1
H Pratt	run out Wijetunga	0	2	5	-	-
G Pratt	b A Guillemot	12	26	18	1	-
G Wiseman	b D Wijetunga	19	35	18	2	-
J Scott	c Upjohn b D Wijetunga	6	16	9	-	-
M Harris	c Upjohn b A Guillemot	8	16	13	1	-
T Feary	Not Out	0	4	4	-	-
Extras: (b3,lb2,w32,nb7)		44				
TOTAL: (10 wkts, 47.3 overs)		213				

	O	M	R	W	Econ
D Wijetunga	7	2	20	3	2.85
A Guillemot	7.3	0	39	2	5.20
G Grayling	4	0	24	1	6.00
A Deb	6	1	34	0	5.66
K Fraser	6	0	17	0	2.83
S Waddell	7	0	35	2	5.00
J Welford	6	0	20	1	3.33
R Wafer	4	0	19	0	4.75

 Fall of Wickets:

1-2 2-40 3-87 4-118 5-120 6-145 7-196 8-201 9-211 10-213

North West 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
J Welford	c H Pratt b T Feary	59	154	110	8	-
O Upjohn	c&b T Feary	4	5	6	-	-
J Sim	c Harris b T Feary	4	7	4	1	-
K Fraser	c Steel b G Wiseman	1	20	17	-	-
O Fifield	c Steel b M Harris	2	20	17	-	-
R Wafer	c&b G Pratt	1	4	4	-	-
W Timms	c&b J Scott	19	92	68	-	-
S Waddell	c Steel b J Scott	9	22	16	-	1
G Grayling	c Phillips b T Feary	0	3	5	-	-
A Guillemot	st Steel b J Scott	6	20	27	-	-
A Deb	Not Out	0	1	5	-	-

Extras: (lb2,w21,nb3)
 TOTAL: (10 wkts, 46 overs)

26
 131

**North West lose
 by 82 Runs**

Fall of Wickets:

1-7 2-13 3-25 4-38 5-42 6-113 7-113 8-115 9-127 10-131

Match Day 3 One Day Pool B

North West 1st Xi Vs The Bye Round

Match Day 3 for Term 4 saw us given the bye for the weekend and we were unable to organize a game with the team in Pool A who also had a bye, and it meant our players were forced to look elsewhere for their cricket for the weekend.

A number of boys who had taken knocks or were injured over the weekend chose to rest, while Ollie, Sam and Zaak were all picked in the 2nd Xi to play as Bosliu and Liam were ruled out through injury.

Jordan and Alex also rested after having niggles to their knees and back respectively, while Olly and Will chose to play for their country clubs in Kaiapoi and Ohoka.

Kaden and Jasper were both picked to play for Merivale Papanui, as was Rory.

Aroon chose to rest while Dilan played for Heathcote and George suited up for Merivale as well.

While it was disappointing not to get a game in ourselves, it was really good for our boys to be playing cricket anywhere they could get it.

Rory and George found themselves in the same side for Merivale as they were thrust into a game in a poor position, well behind in a two day game. George was given the single over before the other side declared their innings but was pretty happy with his over before both boys were out for single figure scores.

Rory hit his first ball for 4, but didn't add to his tally, and George made his way to 7, attempting to play proper cricket shots and not slog across the line, before he was eventually dismissed.

Ollie took the gloves for his country side and did a solid job behind them, affecting a couple of dismissals, but was chucked down the order to bat. He hung around for a while before chasing a short wide one and edging to the keeper.

Will found himself playing a pair of T20's for Ohoka, coming away with a win and a loss, scoring run a balls 30's in both outings with the bat for him after coming in through the middle order.

His first knock of 32 was out of 82 total runs for the side as he was the only one who stuck around for any length of time. Will also picked up a wicket as he was thrown the ball in the death overs.

Kaden and Jasper played for Merivale Champs together with Jasper bowled for 10, while Kaden went onto to score 20 before he was dismissed.

Dilan played for Heathcote and scored a cheeky 4 runs with the bat before picking up a very impressive 2-14 off 7 overs with the ball in an effort he was very pleased with.

Lastly. Sam, Zaak and Ollie kitted up for the 2nd Xi, with all of them showing their capabilities.

Ollie and Zaak opened the batting together with Zaak scoring 10 or so, before Sam came in at 3 and scored a very nice 21 before he was out caught trying to hit over long on, but it was Ollie who was the star of the weekend

as he belted 85 to top score, but was disappointed to throw away a 100.

Some very good performances over the weekend, but what was most important to us was that the boys used the time, whether it was in the middle or with the ball in hand, to learn from what had not been working for us to start the year and that they could take those learnings and impart them into their own games, which would be a huge help for us as we head into a game against one of the big names in New Zealand Schoolboy cricket.

Match Day 4 One Day Pool B

North West 1st Xi Vs Christ College 1st Xi

It was a beautiful day as we were finally back playing cricket after a week away from the action.

Plenty had happened in the meantime and our injury list was growing larger as Jordan finally succumbed to that knee injury and was named as 12th man, but unlikely to be able to provide much.

Aroon missed out entirely with a back injury and so we had just 11 and the spare man was Jordan.

His injury meant Jasper was named as captain for his first proper fixture leading the side and he got off to a wonderful start as he continued our winning streak at the toss, electing to bat first on what looked to be a really good batting deck.

Runs had been scored a plenty on this wicket to start the year and we were sorely needing some. It was however a fourth week wicket, so it wouldn't be all one way.

Jasper and Olly opened up together and started off strong against a quality opening pair as they got through the first few overs untroubled, despite the swing and bounce.

Olly hit a couple nice boundaries to start but was then completely undone by a beautifully disguised slower ball which caught him on the front pad in front of middle and he was out lbw.

Again, after a promising start, we had lost an early wicket and put ourselves under pressure.

Ollie came in at 3 in replacement of Jordan, who would bat, but rather low down, fresh off his 85 the week before.

However, it was a different ball game up against these Christs bowlers and he struggled to lay bat on ball, only doing so to fend away the bowling.

Jasper meanwhile was looking in good touch again as he drove a beautifully 4 through the covers and we were suddenly in the best position we'd been with the bat for quite some time at 34-1, which is a little sad to say.

Unfortunately, Ollie's stay was finally brought to an end as he misjudged the gentle swing from middle and lost his off stump.

In at 4, Kaden was instantly positive as he struck a 3 from his first ball.

Jasper then cleared the massive boundaries with a disdainful pull over square leg for a huge 6 that even had the opposition nodding their heads in appreciation.

Just like had happened to us so many times though, when someone was set, they lost their wicket and even worse for us, it happened back to back.

Jasper top edged a ball that wasn't quite there to pull and was really well caught down at fine leg before Kaden chipped a full toss to midwicket and suddenly we were 58-4 after being 56-2 and in danger of another sub par score.

Ex Christs 1st Xi player Will Timms and his now Rangiora High school teammate Rory Wafer began rebuilding our innings as they stuck through some tough times, Will in particular as he took verbal barb after barb, ticking the score over as he could.

Rory played himself in and then started to attack the spinner, pulling out the slog sweep for 4 on three separate occasions as he was looking in great touch, but was undone by spin in the end, just when it looked like he was set for a big total.

Then when Sam was bowled for just 2, we were once more floundering and it took the steady measured approach from George and Will as they put on a very good partnership of 30 together, and suddenly we were looking like we could possibly post a challenging total of 170+

How quickly the game of cricket changes.

Will was strangled down the legside for a very well made 31, Zaak chipped one back to the bowler for a duck, Jordan, batting at 10 with the intention of swinging for the hills, was brilliantly caught at midwicket off the first ball as he tried doing so and George followed not 3 balls later as we had lost 4 wickets for 1 run in under 10 balls.

A really poor way to finish our innings and it left us feeling quite short on what still felt like a good wicket.

We would have to bowl really well to stand a chance, and it was the usual suspect in Alex who got us off to the perfect start when he had the opener caught in the gully for a duck, a beautiful catch by Sam, a very impressive combination continuing to succeed this year.

From there, things started to slide a bit as Christs took the long handle to our bowlers, not respecting them in the slightest and the game quickly got away from us.

George did managed to get a breakthrough, but that was more down to another stunning effort by Will at short

cover who took a full blooded drive to the body, somehow holding on.

In at 4 was Christs best and former North West Youth player Flynn Holdem, but his stay was short as George had him pulling to Rory who again held on for a great catch.

Christs were still cruising towards the target, but our fielding had been top-notch, and it stayed that way when Kaden nicked off the number 5 for a duck, with Alex this time taking a great catch as he dove forwards from backward point.

That made it 75-4, still 52 needed and we were in with a sniff of a chance.

Just as quickly as that hope was kindled, it began to extinguish as Christs continued to swing towards the target.

Zaak was brought on and had a hint of fortune in an LBW dismissal given his way as he picked up their #3 for a match winning 47.

There was still time for Sam to grab an LBW of his own as he struck the pads in front of middle, but with only 13 needed after that and still 4 wickets in hand, it was if not when for Christs and they completed the victory inside 20 overs, but with just 4 wickets left.

It was a great fight from us with the ball as we again rued our effort with the bat. To get this game as close as it was, is a great effort. Our fielding was outstanding and all 4 catches we took were extremely difficult, so it was pleasing to see all of them held on to.

Another tough loss, but plenty of improvements made.

North West 1st Xi Vs Christ College 1st Xi
Round 3 - 01 Nov 2025

North West 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
J Welford	c Hunter b A Markham	26	63	47	2	1
O Upjohn	lbw F Holdem	12	22	17	2	-
O Fifield	b Viettone-Smithson	1	22	15	-	-
K Fraser	c Holdem b A Markham	7	25	14	-	-
W Timms	c H Hiatt b C Redfern	31	82	75	2	-
R Wafer	c L Hiatt b A Huston	20	38	44	3	-
S Waddell	b A Huston	2	10	7	-	-
G Grayling	c Campbell b C Redfern	9	37	22	-	-
Z Zaman	c&b J Grace	0	4	4	-	-
J Sim	c Campbell b J Grace	0	2	1	-	-
D Wijetunga	Not Out	0	3	2	-	-
Extras: (b1,lb3,w13,nb1)		18				
TOTAL: (10 wkts, 41.1 overs)		126				

Fall of Wickets:

1-19 2-34 3-55 4-58 5-87 6-95 7-125 8-126 9-126 10-126

Christ College 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
H Hiatt	c Waddell b A Guillemot	0	6	8	-	-
J Hunter	c Timms b G Grayling	36	41	35	7	-
A Markham	lbw Z Zaman	47	71	37	5	-
F Holdem	c Wafer b G Grayling	8	10	11	-	-
L Hiatt	c Guillemot b Fraser	0	7	4	-	-
L Garry	lbw S Waddell	17	11	25	2	1
J Grace	Not Out	0	14	1	-	-
A Huston	Not Out	14	8	9	2	-
Extras: (lb2,w4)		6				
TOTAL: (6 wkts, 19.2 overs)		128				

	O	M	R	W	Econ	
D Wijetunga	4	1	15	0	3.75	
A Guillemot	3	0	22	1	7.33	
G Grayling	5	0	30	2	6.00	
K Fraser	4	0	31	1	7.75	
Z Zaman	2	0	13	1	6.50	North West Lose
S Waddell	1.2	0	15	1	11.25	by 4 Wickets

Fall of Wickets:

1-1 2-57 3-68 4-75 5-106 6-114

Match Day 5 One Day Pool B

North West 1st Xi Vs Shirley Boys 1st Xi

Match Day 5 presented us with another opportunity to grab our first win of the season as we played hosts to Shirley Boys High 1st Xi. The second time we had played them this year after meeting once in the declaration format, and also our second fixture at Burnside Park.

This time we were lucky enough to be drawn on the #1, and a beautiful day greeted us which was a surprise considering the nature of Burnside park, but there was no wind to be felt as Jasper won the toss and elected to bowl first.

We felt it was a pretty good wicket to bat on, but also that it would stay true over the course of the day, so the toss became, what did we want to do, rather than have to do.

Having won the toss and taking the ball first up, we knew that we would have to be tight and in control early to create any sort of pressure.

It was another important and special day for us as we celebrated yet another capping game, with Olly Upjohn earning his baggy after 12 games for the side, making him the 6th player to be capped this year.

Once the ceremony was done, it was the familiar pairing of Dilan and Alex and they got us off to a stunning start as both bowlers bowled maidens.

Alex, who has a love of playing against Shirley, was getting the ball to swing ridiculous amounts, while Dilan was getting excess bounce and lift to go with his swing.

With the score still on 0, Dilan took the first wicket as the pressure building from the lack of scoring, caused a rash shot against the bouncing ball and a spliced chance to Jasper was all that was offered and he held on easily.

It took 20 balls before Shirley got their first run and it was a wide. In fact, it took 29 balls before a run was credited to any player, but after being slogged over mid off for a couple, Dilan won the battle as he picked up a second wicket.

A well planned trap working to perfection as the batsman pushed one straight to Kaden at short midwicket.

Dilan wasn't done there and quickly grabbed his 3rd as Shirley couldn't handle what he was dishing up.

At the other end, Alex was going past the outside edge with nearly every ball as the exorbitant swing kept beating the defensive bat.

In his 4th over he was finally rewarded with a wicket as Will took a sensational catch at first slip, falling down to his right as again, Alex had a wicket caught in the cordon.

We had Shirley in tatters early at 11-4 and with the way Alex and Dilan were bowling, they didn't look done yet.

Dilan was unplayable and unlucky not to grab another wicket as he finished a sensational opening spell of 6ov 3-6.

Alex did finish his opening spell with a second wicket as he again drew an edge, this time caught by Olly as we had reduced Shirley to 19-5 after the opening 12 overs.

Jasper turned to Sam and Kaden as we looked to keep the pressure up, but a couple loose deliveries saw us get no

more wickets into the drinks break with a mini partnership being put together.

After the drinks break, Jasper threw George the ball at one end, but it was Kaden who was continuing at the other, who broke the partnership.

Using a unique field setting with dual catching mid wickets, he was pleased to see it come off as a toe ended pull was well caught by George, who rather amusingly, had questioned why he was so close to Ollie literally as Kaden was preparing to run in and bowl.

George seemed to be the only player involved as he first took that catch, then two balls later was fielding in the covers and saved a certain boundary as a booming shot through the offside thudded into his chest as he got himself behind it.

The over also came to an end with that ball and now with ball in hand, George grabbed his first wicket as Jasper claimed his second catch at mid off.

George then took a second as he struck the stumps to pick up our 8th and then with the required amount of rest having passed for Dilan and Alex, Jasper went back to them immediately, giving them the chance to clean up the tail.

Again, Dilan was brilliant, and he was hunting a second 5fer for the year, but wickets eluded him and instead it was Alex who claimed the 9th as he bowled a peach of a delivery to nip away just enough to clip the top of off stump.

Then, in his last over and with Dilan already bowled out, Alex took the 10th and his 4th striking the batsman on the

foot in front of middle stump and the batsman was sent on his way.

We had routed Shirley for just 64 in 31.1 overs as Dilan and Alex took 7-35 off 19.1 overs between them in a stunning performance by the new ball duo.

With just 65 to chase, and the wicket we still felt was quite good, we wanted to make sure we wrapped up our chase as easily as possible.

Olly and Jasper opened up together and Jasper showed us all just how good the pitch really was when he dropkicked a full ball on leg over square leg for a one bounce 4 and we were away.

Olly started the better of the two as he was extremely positive, hitting a couple boundaries to start, before being gifted a free hit and leathering the resulting delivery over mid wicket for 4 in a brute of a shot.

Just when it was starting to look like we would canter over the line by 10 wickets, Olly fell lbw for the second week in a row with the score on 33 after just 5 overs.

Evidently, we weren't finding it as tough to bat on, despite the loss of our wicketkeeper.

Ollie replaced him at the wicket and he was in a hurry to finish the game. There was a short period in which he settled in and then when they brought spin in to the attack, he'd had enough.

He blasted a huge 6 down the ground over long on, and then did the same in the following over, this one was even bigger and that brought us within one stroke of victory.

Again, it was Ollie who went after the ball after Jasper blocked out a maiden in the over before. He finished up against the spin as he thumped the ball down the ground once more, this time it only went for 4, but it was enough to finish the job and we'd put in a full team performance and finally grabbed ourselves a win in this half of the year and hopefully we could build on this success as we dropped down into the Bottom 6 pool, to fight off for 2 places in next year's top grade.

We found ourselves with 3 games to play in the Bottom 6, St Andrews 1st XI, Sydenham and St Bedes, needing to win at least 2 and hope other results went our way if we wanted to progress.

 North West 1st Xi Vs Shirley Boys 1st Xi
 Round 4 - 08 Nov 2025

Shirley Boys 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
J Mcilraith	c Welford b D Wijetunga	0	5	11	-	-
J Wilson	c Upjohn b A Guillemot	8	52	28	-	-
J Newitt-Isaks	c Fraser b D Wijetunga	2	10	7	-	-
D Bongartz	b D Wijetunga	1	1	4	-	-
N Bennett	c Timms b A Guillemot	0	7	8	-	-
A Brown	c Grayling b K Fraser	13	54	33	1	-
R Withell	Not Out	17	90	54	1	-
L Stocker	c Welford b G Grayling	0	3	4	-	-
S Singh	b G Grayling	2	7	7	-	-
C Hemmingway	b A Guillemot	10	28	21	1	-
A Kafle	lbw A Guillemot	2	7	10	-	-
Extras: (w9)		9				
TOTAL: (10 wkts, 31.1 overs)		64				

	O	M	R	W	Econ
D Wijetunga	10	3	17	3	1.70
A Guillemot	9.1	2	18	4	1.96
S Waddell	3	0	12	0	4.00
K Fraser	6	1	10	1	1.66
G Grayling	3	1	7	2	2.33

 Fall of Wickets:

1-0 2-5 3-8 4-11 5-19 6-35 7-37 8-39 9-62 10-64

North West 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
J Welford	Not Out	15	43	31	2	-
O Upjohn	lbw D Bongartz	16	19	17	3	-
O Fifield	Not Out	24	23	24	1	2
Extras: (b1,w8,nb1)		10				
TOTAL: (1 wkts, 11.5 overs)		65				

Fall of Wickets:

1-33

**North West Win
 by 9 Wickets**

Match Day 6 Bottom 6

North West 1st Xi Vs St Andrews 1st Xi

It was that time of year again, Show week, which as always brought about a Friday game instead of Saturday and we had rather predictably been drawn to play against St Andrews first up in the Bottom 6 Grade. Even more predictably, we were the away side, our third trip to St Andrews this year.

We were still without Aroon and Jordan who were both still out with injuries, however we called in the services of Liam Kerr, as with all other grades being cancelled due to the heavy rain Thursday morning, the 2nd Xi were able to call on some Colts players in order to fill their squad and so there was no trouble for us to take an extra player to give us 12.

Whether it is fortunate or not, rain was forecast for Thursday and Saturday with Friday being perfectly fine, however a failure at the covers saw water creep underneath and severely dampen one large area around a length at one end of the pitch and it caused a big delay to the start of the game.

It took nearly 3 hours from just after 7am with a pair of leaf blowers on the wet spot before it was safe enough to play on, but it was still not a wicket you could afford to lose the toss on.

Naturally as we had won 6 in a row, it was predictable once more that we would lose and we were asked to bat.

The game was also reduced to a 42 over affair after we lost the first hour due to the water damage.

There was a fair bit in the wicket early as some moved off the seam, slower balls held and gripped a touch, making it difficult to bat in the early exchanges.

Before we went out to bat, we celebrated 2 more caps being won. Rory Wafer, starting at the club at the start of the year earning his after 12 games for the side, and Sam Waddell the other, also for playing 12 games, so it was a pretty special occasion for them and the side.

We hoped that we could take that feeling and put it into our cricket, but unfortunately as had been the case for some time now, our batting disintegrated from the top.

Jasper and Olly both looked comfortable in the first couple overs, but Jasper was undone by a cutter, which took his top edge as he looked to flick square and he was out early.

Ollie, in at 3, followed him for a duck as he missed a straight one and was bowled.

Again in early at 4, Kaden looked good to start and began building a partnership with Olly at the other end, but their



*Rory receiving his cap from stand in
Skipper Jasper*

keeper got into our owns head, and he played an uncharacteristic shot as he came down the wicket and tried to hit it out of the park.

Then, when Will was bowled for a duck and Rory fell for one as well, we'd slumped terribly once more and were floundering at 23-5 and in a lot of trouble.

Kaden and Sam had to start rebuilding. Sam looked to get himself set, taking 17 balls to get off the mark. Doing so with a gorgeous straight drive for 4, our first boundary for the day and one of only three hit in the innings.

They batted through to drinks, raising a 30 run partnership together, Kaden in particular looking very good as he ticked over the score where he could.

Then, as it often does, the drinks break broke our flow, no matter how much of a trickle it was.

Sam chipped the spinner back to the bowler and was out caught and bowled, then Kaden got a horror decision for lbw where he both hit it, and it pitched outside leg, plus a whole host of other things that didn't work with it.



Sam receiving his cap from Jasper before attempting a rescue act with the bat

He was visibly frustrated after finally getting some time in the middle, but he was forced to go off.

Liam played the shot of the day as he wasn't ready when the spinner bowled the second ball he faced, and yet somehow he was able to react and swivel on the short ball, planting it over square leg for 6.

Unfortunately, that was pretty much it for us as we collapsed further.

Liam and then George, both decided to get caught at long on and then after a little stubborn resistance from the last pair, Zaak was out to a rather impressive catch at short midwicket, leaving us bowled out for 78, another underwhelming total.

Still, we knew we had the bowling firepower to make this chase difficult and that was our main focus as we went out to bowl.

Dilan started us off with a perfect maiden and then Alex bowled a tidy follow up over as we hadn't made it easy to start.

Unfortunately, Alex was forced off due to a slight injury after his first over and while he was recuperating, Dilan bowled a superb second over.

First, he nicked off the opener with an absolute seed, and then two balls later destroyed the stumps with a lovely inswinger, removing both batsmen for ducks.

These quick wickets gave us hope and when Alex returned to bowl after just an over off, we still thought we could pull off something special.

Dilan had a third chance skied high that Jasper made good ground to get too, but was unable to hold on and unfortunately, we never got another one after that.

St Andrews remaining opener and #4 batted really well on what was an ever improving deck under the sun and we couldn't stop the flow of runs.

It wasn't that we bowled badly, in fact we were quite good, but the St Andrews batsmen were too good for us on this occasion, and we slumped to a deserved 8 wicket defeat.

A tough loss to take after all the progress we had made, but a lot can be put down to the toss, so while there are plenty negatives from this game, there are also positives we can take to learn from as we move into our last two and most important games to come.

North West 1st Xi Vs St Andrews 1st Xi										
Round 5 - 14 Nov 2025										

North West 1st Xi - 1st Innings						R	M	B	4s	6s

J Welford	c Simpson b A Earl	2	5	14	-	-				
O Upjohn	c Hair b R Bond	3	29	18	-	-				
O Fifield	b R Bond	0	4	5	-	-				
K Fraser	lbw L Hall	22	88	57	1	-				
W Timms	b A Kesar	0	8	6	-	-				
R Wafer	c Simpson b J Sidey	0	2	3	-	-				
S Waddell	c&b J O'Rourke	13	45	37	2	-				
L Kerr	c Bond b L Hall	9	10	13	-	1				
G Grayling	c Bond b L Hall	2	7	7	-	-				
D Wijetunga	Not Out	5	16	17	-	-				
Z Zaman	c Kesar b L Hall	1	9	14	-	-				

Extras: (b5,lb2,w12,nb1)						20				
TOTAL: (10 wkts, 31.4 overs)						77				

Fall of Wickets:										
1-5	2-9	3-19	4-21	5-23	6-53	7-66	8-67	9-71	10-77	
St Andrews			1st Xi - 1st Innings			R	M	B	4s	6s

S Hair	c Upjohn b D Wijetunga	0	6	8	-	-				
C Sharp	Not Out	41	67	49	4	-				
J Nicolson	b D Wijetunga	0	71	37	-	-				
J O'Rourke	Not Out	31	51	31	5	-				
Extras: (w5,nb1)						6				
TOTAL: (2 wkts, 15.2 overs)						78				

	O	M	R	W	Econ					

D Wijetunga	6	1	21	2	3.50					
A Guillemot	3	0	16	0	5.33					
K Fraser	3	0	16	0	5.33					
L Kerr	2	0	14	0	7.00					
Z Zaman	1.2	0	11	0	8.25					

						North West Lose				
						by 8 Wickets				

Fall of Wickets:										
1-5 2-5										

Match Day 7 Bottom 6

North West 1st Xi Vs Sydenham 1st Xi

With just a couple rounds to go, we were in must win territory and needed other results to go our way if we wanted to sneak into 6th place and earn a spot in the top grade for the beginning of 2026.

This week we were up against Sydenham 1st Xi, a side we had beaten in Term 1 in what was a really great game.

Today also marked the last game at the club for Dilan and Rory, who would both miss the final game as they were away, becoming the 4th and 5th of the Year 13's to have played their final game for the club behind Sam C, Jordan and Bosliu.

We wanted to send them off on a great note, and it started well with Jasper returning to winning ways at the toss as he elected to bowl on what looked to be a green wicket, but one that would play well for both sides.

We wanted to make first use of the ball and hope the pitch held up as the day wore on to try and chase down their total.

Dilan took the new ball for the final time and was right on the money early, but he was unable to find a breakthrough as he had an lbw shout turned down and number of play and misses in the first couple overs.

Alex went one better, or worse depending on your viewpoint as again he found an edge into the cordon, but a relatively simple chance went begging and for the first

time this year we had conceded an opening stand over 30, then 40 and finally 50.

It was Zaak Zaman who provided our first wicket as he trapped the batsmen on the crease in front of the stumps and he was rewarded with a wicket to his name.

The scoring was slow but accumulative as Sydenham went into drinks with the game evenly poised at 59-1.

From there we sought to strangle as there was little assistance from the wicket.

Kaden thought he prized out the opener, but with there being an unsure situation around a potential bump ball, the batter was given the benefit of the doubt, much to Kaden's frustration.

A few words were exchanged, and then it was Kaden who had the last laugh, quite literally to as he caught out the same batsmen, not forgetting to give him a send off as he walked off.

Jasper was the provider as he floated up a full toss, with Kaden perfectly placed to make the catch.

Sydenham came out of the second drinks break looking to up the ante, and succeeded for a couple of overs, but very quickly, Dilan halted them in their tracks.

He took a stunning caught and bowled effort, which was his 38th and final wicket for the North West 1st Xi and had gotten us back into the game.

At the 40 over mark it was Sydenham who were well in the ascendancy at 161-3 and they were looking to push towards 260, but George had other idea's

Firstly, he found the edge of the more aggressive of the batsmen and Olly took a simple catch behind the sticks, and they liked it so much they did it all again 2 balls later.

Alex returned at the other end and had a wicket caught at long off by Jasper after a slower ball was skied high towards him and when Kaden produced a bullet throw to run out the 7th wicket, we were suddenly thinking at trying to bowl them out.

The very next ball and Rory took a stunning catch at cover sweeper.

Not stunning by its tremendous difficulty, but due to the fact it came down with snow on it after what felt like a 30 second hang time.

It went so high and yet he made great ground to it, making it look a lot easier than it was as he clutched it well with two hands.

George picked up the 9th with Sydenham a couple short of 200 and we hoped to be able to bowl them out for under that mark, but it wasn't to be, and Sydenham added 16 in the final 20 balls to finish on 213-9.

How crucial would that last run stand prove to be.

It was Olly and Jasper who opened together, and they looked very fluid and in command early on, which had been the case for a lot of the season, but it usually fell apart quickly.

Today we built well and soon we had posted our highest opening stand for the year, a measly 35, but things were starting to come right.

Then suddenly, they weren't.

Neither batsman looked like getting out and so it was a complete surprise to see Olly walking back after he top edged the spinner.

Then a couple overs later, Will tamely pulled one straight to square leg and we were beginning to slide early.

At drinks we were 79-2 and feeling in command, but the drinks break often brings about a loss of concentration.

However, it wasn't this that saw the back of Kaden, but a second straight week of a rough lbw decision.

When he fell, Ollie and the Sam followed in quick succession, both caught and bowled trying to play square to ones they should have hit straight, and we were floundering at 107-5.

Amongst all of that, Jasper had looked brilliant and brought up a second half century of the term as he belted the ball to all parts, and it seemed like he was batting on a different track to the rest of them.

He needed someone to stick with him, and Rory did that.

The run rate wasn't an issue and so between the pair they were patient, bided there time and then began to pick up runs. A single here, a 2 there and finally a boundary off a loose ball.

Very quickly the partnership rose, and the target score came down. It crossed 50, then 60 and 70 and just as it got close to reaching 80, Jasper survived a close run out chance coming back for 2 to the non strikers end.

A direct hit had him.

The next ball he faced he cut through backward point to the boundary for 4 and brought up a sensational hundred,

seemingly oblivious to the fact that he had just tried to run himself out on 99* for a run that wasn't even his.

He raised his bat and helmet to the supporters, but there were still runs to get and he had to go and get them.

Then, from the jubilation of his hundred, to the agony that followed.



Jasper celebrating his 100

In the next 12 minutes, we lost 5 wickets for just 7 runs as we threw away a golden chance to win.

From 189-5, Rory was caught and bowled with a stunning one handed grab. Jasper's vigil came to an end as he top edged a wide one through to the keeper.

Then Dilan, George and Liam were all bowled within the space of 7 balls as our capitulation was complete and we were cosigned to another frustrating loss which had ended any slim chance we had of sneaking into the top 2 of the Bottom 6, which we had not really deserved based on our performances so far this term.

Still despite the loss, we had a lot to celebrate as we had our end of season break up a week early. With all 15 of the current squad being down at the game, it was a great way

to sign off as we had a BBQ down at Sydenham Park in the setting sun.

Since it was the last chance while we were all gathered as well, we celebrated all those who were moving on from the club and those who had been capped throughout the year, which was an unprecedented 8 people.



All 8 North West 1st XI Players who were capped in 2025 (Zaak Z, Alex G, Aroon D, Sam W, George G, Olly U, Rory W, Ollie F)

While there will be some frustration as to how the season ends statistically, this was a great year with a great group of players.

 North West 1st XI Vs Sydenham 1st XI
 Round 6 - 22 Nov 2025

Sydenham 1st XI - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
C Fairhall	lbw Z Zaman	16	65	42	2	-
I Tutt	c Fraser b J Welford	40	126	97	3	1
S Johns	c&b D Wijetunga	35	90	62	3	-
J Moynihan	c Welford b A Guillemot	29	56	32	3	-
A Derry	c Upjohn b G Grayling	21	17	18	3	-
C Andrews	c Upjohn b G Grayling	0	1	2	-	-
H Durdin	run out Fraser	17	17	14	2	-
P Hamilton Morrison	c Wafer b A Guillemot	2	13	6	-	-
C Durdin	Not Out	12	21	13	-	-
H Hood	c Wijetunga b G Grayling	4	5	8	-	-
L Harris	Not Out	5	13	8	-	-
-						

Extras: (lb2,w28,nb2) 32
 TOTAL: (9 wkts, 50 overs) 213

	O	M	R	W	Econ
D Wijetunga	6	0	36	1	6.00
A Guillemot	10	0	48	2	4.80
G Grayling	8	1	36	3	4.50
S Waddell	6	0	28	0	4.66
Z Zaman	4	0	11	1	2.75
R Wafer	3	0	9	0	3.00
L Kerr	3	0	12	0	4.00
K Fraser	6	0	19	0	3.16
J Welford	4	0	12	1	3.00

Fall of Wickets:

1-55 2-104 3-134 4-161 5-161 6-173 7-192 8-192 9-197

North West 1st XI - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
J Welford	c Derry b C Andrews	106	174	122	15	-
O Upjohn	c H Durdin b H Hood	12	41	29	1	-
W Timms	c Harris b H Hood	3	13	8	-	-
K Fraser	lbw C Andrews	8	23	18	1	-
O Fifield	c&b C Andrews	9	11	17	2	-
S Waddell	c&b C Andrews	1	5	5	-	-
R Wafer	c&b S Johns	22	66	42	3	-
D Wijetunga	b S Johns	1	7	8	-	-
L Kerr	b C Andrews	0	5	2	-	-
G Grayling	b S Johns	2	1	4	-	-
A Guillemot	Not Out	0	1	0	-	-

Extras: (lb1,w29,nb2) 32
 TOTAL: (10 wkts, 42.1 overs) 196

**North West Lose
 by 17 Runs**

Fall of Wickets:

1-18 2-22 3-22 4-29 5-33 6-61 7-102 8-103 9-104 10-115

Match Day 8 Bottom 6

North West 1st Xi Vs St Bedes 1st Xi

Now into the last week of the season and we were playing a familiar foe in St Bedes. We very much wanted to forget the last time we played them, and we had a chance today to grab a consolation win after our chances of progression had fizzled out the week prior.

We made a big change for the game as Dilan and Rory had both finished out their time at the club after last week's game and this gave an opportunity to Oscar Colhoun to debut, a Year 10 in the Colts side who had been putting up some impressive numbers as of late.

It was yet another win at the toss for Jasper who, when including pre season games, made it 11 wins out of 12 tosses for our captains this term, which is statistically incredible.

He elected to bowl first on what we thought was a pretty flat batting wicket, but it was rock hard, and we hoped to extract some bounce early and trouble the opening St Bedes batsmen.

There was swing and bounce early on, but St Bedes rode their early luck well and then cashed in when we were loose and the score was climbing quickly.

Alex had bowled the first over for only the second time this year after first doing so in one of the T20's, and Liam took the new ball at the other end, only the fourth opening bowler we used all year.

Shortish boundaries and a quick outfield meant mistakes were punished and so we had to make an early change, with Oscar thrown the ball in just the 8th over.

George came in from Alex's end and after a couple of 'rubbish' deliveries, as described by himself after the fact, he bowled a pearler that took the edge and was caught at gully by Sam.

That wicket brought a little slowing to the scoring, but a second breakthrough was not coming until George picked up the other opener lbw as he was trying to drag us back into the contest with St Bedes 97-2 after 17 overs.

Kaden took the ball from Oscar's end while Sam came in from the other and it seemed like every second ball Kaden bowled went past the outside edge. It took some time but he was finally able to prize out a wicket that looped to cover off a cross bat heave.

He should have had a second as the new batter was dropped on a duck, and he made us pay, with both batsmen bringing up half centuries after the fact.

The innings was becoming frustrating because we would bowl a great over, only miss with one ball and get hit for 4 or 6, which was killing us.

The runs were climbing, and it was looking like we were going to be chasing a mammoth total as they were 230-3 with 8 overs to go.

Kaden came back in and finally got a wicket for us as we got rid of the batsmen we had dropped on naught, just 52 runs later and then Alex with his second last ball for North West, picked up his 31st wicket for the year as he hit the top of off stump.

Oscar thought he had his first wicket as he was slogged high into the day sky and out to the boundary where Ollie held on to a brilliant effort as the ball was towering for such a long time.

He had however, crossed the boundary.

Still, it didn't take long before Oscar did get his first wicket as he got an edge through to Olly behind the stumps.

Meanwhile, the St Bedes #3 had brought up a very good century, and he had been the one to put us to the sword.

To make matters worse, we dropped him in the last over, even though the damage was done, it was quite frustrating, even though Oscar did pick up a wicket the next ball.

Still, St Bedes had amassed 273-7 from their 50, and while we were glad to have not conceded the 300 it looked likely for a while, it was still a huge total to chase.

We had the batsmen to do it, and considering only Jasper had fired so far, they were all due, so we had a chance.

That was until we found ourselves 23-6 in the 9th over.

Another disastrous start. Firstly, Jasper was run out in the first over off a free hit after a miscommunication with Olly, who was promptly bowled next ball.

Will tapped one to point and Kaden dragged on before Olly gloved one through to the keeper as our top 5 scored 3 runs off the bat between them.

Oscar hit a lovely 4 to get off the mark before he too, nicked off and with just 7 runs scored by our top 6, the game was basically over.

Now the goal was to pass 44, which was what we were bowled out for the last time we played St Bedes.

Sam provided a glimmer of hope that when he effortlessly drop kicked one over square leg for 6, but we he got out with the score on 34, it was looking like being wrapped up very quickly.

Suddenly, there was some resistance shown as Alex joined Liam at the wicket and the pair had some fun.

Alex played what was most certainly the shot of the year as he came down the wicket to the opening bowler and hit him inside out over extra cover for 4 with a technically beautiful shot. High elbow, straight arms and boy did he middle it, making sure to hold the pose after.

Such was the class of that shot that he, batting at 9 and with the score at 40-7 chasing 274, instantly had long on and long off go into place.

At the other end, Liam swung and swung hard, hitting 5 sixes, the most in an innings for any 1st Xi player this year, on his way to 57.

He scored just our second half century of the term to go with the ton Jasper scored last week, enjoying the pace of the wicket and the short ball as he rocked backwards and pull high over backward square leg on multiple occasions.

Bringing up his 50 with a laced cut through backward point, it was making our innings look more respectable.

At the other end, Alex was looking just as good, and when Liam finally holed out for 57 off 5, the partnership the pair had put together was our highest for the term, going past Jasper and Rory last week, with an 86 run stand today.

Zaak joined Alex as the bowlers were enjoying the time in the middle, but when he left one off the middle of his bat to slip, it brought in George, who like Alex was now batting in his last innings for the club.

They were stubborn and put on 25 run partnership, with Alex entering the 40's and we were all hoping for the same thing, but unfortunately for Alex, he fell short when

George was brilliantly caught on the rebound at slip.

It meant we had suffered a 119 run defeat, which was a big loss, but considering the fact it was looking like 240 at one point, it was a decent effort from our tailenders.

Disappointing to end the season with such a loss, but this was also much more enjoyable to watch.

For now, we say goodbye to a great number of veterans, and we still hold onto a good core for next year.

Till then, we might need to do a bit extra work with the bat.



Liam Kerr, pictured after his 57 vs St Bedes in the last round

 North West 1st Xi Vs St Bedes 1st Xi
 Round 7 - 29 Nov 2025

St Bedes 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
S Chapman	lbw G Grayling	22	60	35	3	-
T Borcoskie	c Waddell b G Grayling	38	44	41	6	-
J Foley	Not Out	103	176	127	11	3
M Boyle	c Kerr b K Fraser	12	33	18	1	-
J Hislop	c Timms b K Fraser	52	95	65	7	-
C Thomson	b A Guillemot	2	6	4	-	-
H Donaldson	c Upjohn b O Colhoun	7	9	6	-	1
D Cox	c Fraser b O Colhoun	2	6	5	-	-
M Haines	Not Out	0	1	2	-	-

Extras: (lb6,w26,nb3) 35
 TOTAL: (7 wkts, 50 overs) 273

	O	M	R	W	Econ
A Guillemot	10	0	46	1	4.60
L Kerr	6	0	39	0	6.50
O Colhoun	8	1	31	2	3.87
G Grayling	8	0	50	2	6.25
K Fraser	10	1	47	2	4.70
S Waddell	3	0	19	0	6.33
J Welford	1	0	11	0	11.00
Z Zaman	4	0	24	0	6.00

Fall of Wickets:

1-57 2-79 3-102 4-234 5-246 6-263 7-273

North West 1st Xi - 1st Innings		R	M	B	4s	6s
J Welford	run out	1	3	1	-	-
O Upjohn	b M Haines	0	5	6	-	-
W Timms	c Donaldson b D Cox	0	6	4	-	-
K Fraser	b D Cox	0	25	14	-	-
O Fifield	c J Whalley b C Thompson	2	31	20	-	-
O Colhoun	c J Whalley b C Thompson	4	16	9	1	-
S Waddell	c Donaldson b J Allison	7	16	11	-	1
L Kerr	c Donaldson b J Hislop	57	80	59	3	5
A Guillemot	Not Out	42	107	81	5	-
Z Zaman	c Cox b M Boyle	2	8	7	-	-
G Grayling	c Cox b M Boyle	9	30	29	-	-

Extras: (lb4,w15,nb12) 31
 TOTAL: (10 wkts, 38.1 overs) 154

**North West Lose
 by 119 Runs**

Fall of Wickets:

1-3 2-3 3-6 4-12 5-22 6-23 7-34 8-120 9-129 10-154

Match Day 9

The Willows Traditional

The most anticipated and prestigious fixture on the calendar for any side lucky enough to receive an invite.

The Willows annual traditional fixture brings the game back to the roots and is one of the most important dates on the calendar for any side.

This year North West was invited to play in what was the last Willows fixture for 2025, on the 21st of December, right before Christmas.

It was a challenge for us, with school having long been wrapped up, and even prizegiving already been and done, just being able to put a team out was a task in itself.

That being said, this report will have been finished and published before this fixture has been played, which is an unfortunate way to conclude our games, but a later edition will come out that will include a report from this match, though like in previous years, the stats from the game do not count towards personal totals.

Let's hope we get a nice day out as we say goodbye to 2025

Until then, thank you

Term 2 Review

Season 2 Record Pool Finish 4th Final Position 9th

Played 7 Won 1 Lost 6

Season 2 Stats Leaders White Ball

Bowling

<i>Wickets</i>	George Grayling	14
<i>Best Figures</i>	Alex Guillemot	4-18
<i>Economy</i>	Dilan Wijetunga	3.21
<i>Strike Rate</i>	George Grayling	15.21
<i>Average</i>	George Grayling	12.14
<i>Dot Balls</i>	Alex Guillemot	298

Batting

<i>Runs</i>	Jasper Welford	212
<i>High Score</i>	Jasper Welford	106
<i>Average</i>	Jasper Welford	35.33
<i>Balls Faced</i>	Jasper Welford	336
<i>Strike Rate</i>	Liam Kerr	87.84
<i>Minutes Batted</i>	Jasper Welford	453

2025 Review

2025 Record

Played 18

Won 8

Lost 10

2025 Stats Leaders

Bowling

<i>Wickets</i>	Alex Guillemot	31
<i>Best Figures</i>	Alex Guillemot	6-19
<i>Economy</i>	Dilan Wijetunga	3.20
<i>Strike Rate</i>	George Grayling	17.37
<i>Average</i>	George Grayling	11.37
<i>Dot Balls</i>	Alex Guillemot	486

Batting

<i>Runs</i>	Jasper Welford	453
<i>High Score</i>	Jasper Welford	106
<i>Average</i>	Jasper Welford	28.31
<i>Balls Faced</i>	Jasper Welford	708
<i>Strike Rate</i>	Jordan Sim	84.31
<i>Minutes Batted</i>	Jasper Welford	887

Player Profiles

Jordan Sim

Year 13, Captain, Wicketkeeper Batsman

Jordan comes into 2025 as the most experienced member of the North West 1st Xi, playing in his 3rd year in the top team at the club.

He had been an integral member of the squad throughout 2024 and was named to Captain the team for the 2025 season, leading a team mixed with both experience, and talent.

There was a lot of pressure on Jordan for the year as he took on the triple role of Captain, Wicketkeeper, and top order batter, which meant he had a lot on his shoulders and probably expected himself to excel in all area's.

Jordan is one of a rather large contingent of Year 13's in the squad for the year but has more caps than the rest of them combined, having played in over 30 1st Xi fixtures heading into the year.

With having started at North West back as a little Year 9, he finishes out his 5th and final year still at the club, which is a rarity in recent times. Only a handful of players from each year group normally make it through the full 5 years at the club, so it is always special to see those who do.

Starting as probably one of the smallest Year 9's to have joined the club, Jordan quickly established himself as one of the top players in a very strong team in Year 9a.

Batting in the top order most weeks, he also had the responsibility with the gloves, a role he both relished and excelled in.

It was in the Year 10 Colts where Jordan showcased all of his ability with the blade, in a knock of 131 against St Bedes, which put everyone in the Senior Youth teams on notice as one to watch coming through.

He was selected for the 1st Xi as a Year 10 to play against the Willows in the traditional fixture in the latter half of 2022 for an unofficial debut.

Moving into Senior cricket and with a strong squad ahead of him, he was initially selected for the 2nd Xi in his Year 11 year but would only make 3 appearances for the side.

A single scoring shot on his 2nd Xi debut saw him dismissed for 3, before a patient, yet brutal 29 in his second game against Mt Hutt College, which came in a game where 140 runs were scored for 20 wickets, were enough to show his ability and the 1st Xi was soon to come calling.

That 29 was worth a 70 or 80 on any other ground and from there, he was picked to play 1st Xi cricket for his official debut. Unfortunately for him, he would only bat once, picking up a duck, but he showed more promise in the T20 fixture against CBHS 1st Xi, with a knock of 26, showing his lack of fear and defiant aggression against the country's top cricketing school.

He returned to the 2nd Xi for the final game of the season, which was also a final for the team, batting brilliantly as he racked up 31 in no time at all, but an unfortunate dismissal, caught off his back leg by the keeper ended it abruptly.

He played the entire second term with the 1st Xi, batting in the middle order and played a crucial, match turning knock of 36 to help seal a hugely impressive win over St Andrews College 1st Xi.

It was then a no brainer for him to make the 1st Xi again as a Year 12, this time given much more responsibility as he batted in the top order for the first time.

Through the first half of the year, he amassed 203 runs at an average of 40.6 and a top score of 57, which came in the final against St Thomas, proved it was the right call, and he was consistently making scores over 30, with 4 in 7 innings.

A top score of 42* in Term 4 helped him to over 300 runs for the year, which was among the top 3 for the 1st Xi and more than double his tally from the previous year, showing a vast improvement.

It was this factor, along with his clear growth in leadership, that we saw as a big factor in promoting him to captaincy.

A role he may not necessarily have been all that familiar with, but one he took too very well.

Eager to learn and happy to listen and take advice from others, he grew in the role throughout 2025

There were big changes in the makeup of the squad for this year. All the top order from last year were gone, it was just Jordan and one other who remained, which meant we had to rely heavily on them to score the bulk of the runs, while the newer members of the squad took the time to adjust.

He started the season off with a belligerent knock against St Andrews 2nd XI, before falling the last ball before drinks.

Just like last season, it was a term full of great starts, but he was unable to convert as his scores list is full of 20's and 30's. Only once was he able to cross the 50 mark in an intelligent knock against CBHS on a tricky surface.

He showed that he was capable of not just playing aggressively, but also able to knuckle down and fight when things got tough.

Arguably, his best knock came against Shirely boys where he scored at his slowest strike rate of the year, but in a situation where wickets were tumbling all around him, he was able to keep calm, find ways to tick over the score and built us towards a total.

Jordan was utterly outstanding for us during the 3 round T20 competition, picking up a score each game, and in all 3, it put us in a position to go on and win the game. He scored over 100 runs during his 3 turns at the crease, and cleared the rope 7 times, making bowlers and fielders alike, fear him at the crease.

Term 4 offered up a new challenge once more as we tried to fight for the top 6 and again, we were going to need to rely on the skipper to put in a big shift, but things didn't go to plan for him as an injury to his knee caused him some discomfort and he wasn't able to perform as he would like.

He travelled away to Omaru for our pre season trip and played some brutal shots as he smacked 71 runs from just 35 balls through 3 innings, hitting seven 6's throughout, as

it looked like he would still be able to play a part in the coming term.

He wasn't able to contribute in the first week with the bat, but it was also the best his knee felt as he was clearly hampered in our match against St Thomas.

Our hope was the bye would treat him well with a bit longer to rest, but it didn't go as we would have liked and he could only muster enough to bat at 10 in our fixture against Christ College as he attempted to stand and swing.

Ultimately it was found he was in need of surgery to repair a torn meniscus, which quickly put an end to his season in an absolute travesty, both for him and us as a side.

Still, it was an impressive year for the skipper who had a lot thrust on his shoulders, expecting to both lead the batting unit and the side and from the first game of the season, he showed us why he was one of our best.

While he would be bitterly disappointed at how his season ended via injury, nothing can take away how good he was throughout the first term, putting up near on 300 runs.

It is a year he can look back upon and know that he had done a very good job for the side.

Jordan Sim

North West 1st Xi Stats 2025

Matches	15
Innings	14
Dismissed	14
Runs	301
Balls Faced	357
Minutes Batted	438
Average	21.50
Strike Rate	84.31
4's	35
6's	10
% of Runs in Boundaries	66.45
Ducks	2
50's	1
High Score	59

Dilan Wijetunga

Year 13, Vice Captain Left Arm Medium Pace

Dilan, like Jordan entered his last year at North West cricket in 2025. It is his 4th year at the club after joining as a Year 10 and it was quickly apparent of the talent and ability he had with the ball in hand as he was immediately placed into the Colts side.

A traditional left arm seamer, one who attempts to bring the ball back through the gate, Dilan relies more on accuracy and swing over pace and it has served him extremely well over his time at the club.

He took over 15 wickets in his first season at the club, with 9 of them coming in the second half of the year. They were spread out over every fixture as he never went wicketless throughout a match, ending with an average of 17 and an economy hovering around 3.5 runs per over.

He was another who was identified as being a future leader of the 1st Xi bowling attack, and having seen his skills first hand, he was selected as part of a very strong 2nd Xi squad as a Year 11.

Opening the bowling in every fixture throughout that year, he brought a different dimension to the attacks that there hadn't been previously, and his constant nailing of line and length made him a very difficult bowler to target. Though it doesn't show up in the stat sheet, he was able to produce a number of wickets at the other end, by keeping things tight and in control.

He was never one for the big haul, instead he would come in, quietly collect 1 or 2 wickets, take his cap back and wander off and that would be his day done.

It wasn't just with the ball that he was able to have an effect on games either. He was a brilliant fielder for the side, finding himself in the cordon on multiple occasions and taking great catches, but it was against St Andrews 2nd Xi with the bat where he made one of his best contributions.

Though he would only end with 8 not out, he was involved with a 50 run partnership for the 10th wicket, which dragged us from 52-9 to 102, and ultimately led the way for a remarkable 12 run win.

6 wickets in the first term, he found more rewards in term 4, bagging 9 wickets with a best of 2-8, bowling a remarkable 41 dot balls of 47 for the game. Again, it was much more of the same for Dilan, 1-2 wickets practically every week and a haul of 15 for the year at 21.93 is a brilliant tally in a team full of wicket takers as he ended the year as the 2nd Xi's third top wicket taker.

Off the back of his successful year prior, Dilan was selected a part of the 1st Xi for his Year 12, and while a large squad of bowling options meant he ended the year having bowled a startling 32 overs less than in 2023, he ended with more wickets to his name, taking 16 for the year at an average of just 14.6.

It was a brilliant year for the opening bowler, but with the team set up as it was, he rarely came back for a second spell as he wasn't needed, which was more than a little frustrating for the quick.

He returned best figures of 3-16 in devastating spell against Ashburton 1st XI as they routed them for just 62.

Coming back into the team for his final year at Youth cricket level, Dilan became a huge part of our leadership group and was named as one of two vice captains.

Being able to take some pressure off Jordan and help bowlers make plans, set fields and etc, it was a position that Dilan had earned through his time at the club and the growth that he had shown, both on and off the field.

Right from the first game in round 1 of 2025, Dilan showed us his class, as he led from the front with the ball, picking up a brace of wickets in his opening spell with the new ball, before coming back to clean up the tail and in the process, recording a new best figures for the club with 4-23 vs St Andrews 2nd XI.

After taking a back seat behind his new ball partner for a couple weeks, he would then produce an even better effort against Christchurch Boys, bagging a first 5 wicket haul with a remarkable second spell of 4-0 from 4 overs to finish with 5-19.

Yet, despite those two brilliant performances, it was his lone wicket against Sydenham which was probably his best delivery of the year. A sharply jagging back sumptuous peach of a ball, which hit the top of off, dismissing Sydenham's best batsmen for next to nothing and swinging the game slightly towards us.

11 wickets at 12.18 to start the year puts him well on track to better his previous years haul, and we still hadn't seen the best of him.

He was on the money early to start the white ball season, picking up our first wicket for the term with a beautiful inswinger that took out middle stump and bowled a beautiful spell against much fancied St Thomas picking up 3-20 on what was a pretty good batting wicket.

He was even better against Shirley boys as he bowled a stunning opening spell of 6ov 3-6 in a devastating display of swing bowling that had the opposition in all sorts of trouble on a flat surface and though he wasn't able to pick up any more wickets in his second spell, 3-17 off 10 overs is a phenomenal effort and with his third wicket, Dilan brought up 50 wickets for North West Senior Cricket, with 35 of them coming in the 1st Xi in 29 appearances.

He is the second bowler in the side to reach this landmark and the third is not far behind him either as the strength of our bowlers continues to shine.

Dilan has been incredible in his leading of the attack this year, both with his leadership capabilities and what he has done with the ball, and it is no small effort for him to achieve what he has done, still with more time to add to his total.

He bowled an outstanding spell up top against St Andrews 1st Xi as he picked up two of their best batsmen for a duck in a single over, but it was unfortunate as he didn't have enough runs to play with for it to be meaningful in the end.

Dilan finished up his North West career a week early as he jettisoned off to Sri Lanka shortly after the game against Sydenham 1st Xi.

Dilan round out his career with one final wicket, a stunning caught and bowled effort, which was his 38th and last wicket for the 1st Xi.

That is a record for most wickets for a pace bowler for the North West 1st Xi in at least the last 4 years since PlayHQ came into effect.

Those 38 wickets came at an average of 14.16 and a strike rate of 25.89 with a best bowling of 5-19 which was recorded this year, and he also signed off with a best season haul off 22 wickets, again achieved this year

Dilan played for the 1st Xi 31 times in his two seasons as front line bowler for the side and was always one of the deadliest whenever he had the kookaburra in hand.

Dilan Wijetunga

North West 1st Xi Stats 2025

Matches	16
Innings	9
Dismissed	4
Runs	26
Balls Faced	119
Minutes Batted	109
Average	6.50
Strike Rate	21.85
4's	1
6's	0
% of Runs in Boundaries	15.38
Ducks	2
50's	0
High Score	9*

Matches	16
Balls Bowled	570
Maidens	20
Dot Balls	434
Dot Ball %	76.14
Wickets	22
Runs	304
Average	13.82
Economy	3.20
Strike Rate	25.91
Wides	20
No Balls	8
3Fer's	4
5Fer's	1
Best Figures	5-19

Jasper Welford

Year 12, Vice Captain Opening Batsman, Off Spin

Jasper completes our leadership group as he was also named vice captain alongside Dilan. The youngest of our leadership group, his word was of no less importance and his role within the team was up there at the peak.

Despite only being a Year 12, he already had the experience of leading the batting side for the 1st Xi, when as a Year 11 he was tasked with the daunting duty of opening the batting against some of the toughest age group bowlers going around and he did a remarkable job.

Not only did he lead the way with the bat, but the knowledge and maturity he showed meant he was more than deserving of having such an important role within our side.

Jasper followed his brother Gideon into North West, coming to the club as a Year 9 and it was easy to see his talent, right from the outset. One of the first names picked for the Year 9a side, he stood up right from early on in the season and was able to put together a string of strong performances in a strong side.

It was in the second half of the year however where he truly made his mark, scoring 211 runs at 52.75 with 2 half centuries and a high score of 61* off 57 against Christchurch Boys.

Jasper would also make his debut for the Colts team as a Year 9. Again, he would play against Christchurch Boys, where he scored 19.

Off the back of a stellar season, it was no surprise to see him selected for Colt's duty, where he slotted in at the top of the order. In the first round of the year, he scored just the solitary run, which was an auspicious beginning, but it would prove to be his lowest score for the entire rest of the year, as he scored double figures in every game for the rest of the first term.

Sadly, there were a lot of starts for the opening bat, but he was never able to convert, scoring 158 runs at 22.6. At least that was the case in the Colts, where an empty weekend saw him fill in for one of the Year 10 sides and he piled on the runs, bringing up a first club century, scoring 116 off 97 balls, before retiring not out.

Carrying over into Term 4 and things seemed to click and rapidly for Jasper. Scoring 158 runs in a term is by no means a poor effort, but he just could not stop scoring in the latter half of the year.

9 innings, 345 runs at 49, with 3 half centuries and a second hundred, his first for the Colts. 50's against STAC CBHS and Shirley boys, before racking up another score of 116 against St Bedes in their knockout semi final.

Jasper finished the year with over 500 runs for the Colts and 600 runs for North West for the year, and remarkably, was not the top scorer in his own team.

On the back of a strong year, there was a great opportunity for Jasper to make his way into the 2nd Xi as a Year 11 and make his case for a 1st Xi spot, but with a mass exodus of senior players, that chance came even earlier, as he was selected straight into the North West 1st Xi.

It was a very lean start to the season, as through 3 rounds, he had batted only once, and scored 0 runs from just 4 balls. Being so young in the side, he found himself well down the order and the opportunities to bat were not frequent, but with failings at the top of the order, he was given a chance to open in as early as the fourth game, and it was a spot he never relinquished as the year wore on.

A relatively quiet first half of the year saw just 62 runs at 15.5 from his 4 chances to bat, but he was able to help the team towards the 1st Xi Declaration cup title.

Heading into term 4, he found early success against St Bedes with a decent start before he was able to convert a start into a good score against St Andrew 1st Xi with a measured 56, his first 1st Xi half century.

He backed that up with another half century against Christ College 2nd Xi and then went one better, playing a beautiful knock to set the team up in the must win game in order to stay in the top 6 for the start of this year. 104 off 130 balls against Christchurch Boys High 2nd Xi, the first century for the 1st Xi in 3 years and Jasper's 3rd hundred for North West.

327 runs at 32 was a brilliant effort for a young Year 11 of which so much was being asked.

With a relatively inexperienced batting line up in 2025, we would need much of the same and better if we wanted to compete once more.

It was a familiar story for Jasper throughout the first half of the term, a lot of starts, but unable to convert, and he, more often than not, lost his wicket to himself, rather than was got out.

A blistering half century in the T20 competition against St Andrews 1st Xi and a composed 47* vs Christchurch Boys 3rd Xi were his best knocks, but it was just a taste of what he can do with the bat and there is much to look forward to in Term 4.

Jasper exploded into life instantly during the pre season fixtures. Starting off in the intersquad with a more measured run a ball 37, it still included 4 sixes, all off the left arm pace of Dilan and Aroon, but it was in the Tour of Omaru where he really shined.

Batting twice he scored 193 runs off 150 balls with scores of 89 in the first T20 and 104* in the 40 over fixture, looking in complete control of proceedings.

He continued his form through the start of the white ball season, picking up his first half century since the T20 game against St Andrews early in first half of the year, with a patient knock of 59 against St Thomas 1st Xi which saved us from another truly embarrassing effort and made our loss much more respectable.

With Jordan suffering from an injury, Jasper was named to take over as captain of the side and his first game in charge was a tough affair against Christ College.

He continued his good touch with the bat but would be disappointed to lose his wicket for 26 and was then immediately put under the pump with his tactical decisions as Christs went after the bowlers, but he did a more than admirable job and was a big part of why we got as close as we did.

Everything clicked for him in his innings against Sydenham as he looked in sublime touch, firstly bringing up a

chanceless 50, before carrying on and converting it into 3 figures.

His second competitive 100 for the 1st Xi after knocking one up his first last year, and third overall after his one in preseason a few weeks back.

He was the lone hand as he hit 106 of the teams 196 and he made the game look a lot closer than it actually was.

An incredible knock by someone also juggling captaining duties as well as the responsibility of the batting unit.

He brought up 750 1st Xi runs in that hundred and also 450 for the year at the same time, becoming the leading run scorer for the North West 1st Xi since the introduction of PlayHQ.

It was a year in which Jasper stood above all other with the bat in hand and the stats prove that as well.

With everything placed upon his shoulders, especially in Term 4, it was an incredible effort by Jasper, who handled everything thrown his way with a maturity beyond his years and it was impressive to watch him go about his work.

Jasper Welford

North West 1st Xi Stats 2024

Matches	18
Innings	18
Dismissed	16
Runs	453
Balls Faced	708
Minutes Batted	887
Average	28.31
Strike Rate	63.98
4's	57
6's	2
% of Runs in Boundaries	52.98
Ducks	1
50's	2
100's	1
High Score	106

Matches	18
Balls Bowled	78
Maidens	0
Dot Balls	49
Dot Ball %	62.82
Wickets	2
Runs	50
Average	25.00
Economy	3.85
Strike Rate	39.00
Wides	1
No Balls	0
3Fer's	0
5Fer's	0
Best Figures	1-12

Alex Guillemot

Year 13, Opening Bowler Right Arm Medium Fast

Alex is another in our large contingent of Year 13's in the 1st Xi, but one who has taken a very different route to the top from the rest. There probably aren't many people who have had to fight as hard as Alex for his success in North West Youth cricket.

He was someone who people could see had the ability, but in the early days, it was not quite the same level as others, and he was often the next one in line.

He started off his North West career as a Year 9 in the 9b side, narrowly missing out on a place in the top 9a team which was bowler heavy and he was unlucky to miss out on a place, his first near miss.

While I'm sure he was disappointed to miss out on that team, he put everything into his cricket and had a number of stellar performances at the 9b level, just waiting for his chance to play up a grade.

Unfortunately, the 9a side was very settled with little chance or opportunity provided to the players below who were trying to push their way into the side. It was this lack of opportunity that saw Alex miss out on the chance to play in the 9A side.

This led to his selection in the Year 10 side as he was again unlucky to miss out on the Colts team.

Again, Alex was a huge part of the success in that team and his individual performances were good enough that this time, when the opportunity did arise, he was selected

to make his Colts debut, though he did only get to play the one game for the side.

Into Senior Youth cricket and Alex again found himself missing out on the top sides, as he began the year plying his trade for one of the 3rd Xi sides.

It was a shaky to the year as he went wicketless through his opening two games, but showed remarkable prowess with the willow in hand, notching up an impressive score of 81 off 96 balls against Darfield School.

His best figures for the first half of the year also came against Darfield in a later match with 3-33.

One of the standouts in his side, he jumped at the opportunity that was provided to him after the halfway point of the year.

With a flurry of players leaving from both the 1st and 2nd Xi's, it meant that spots opened up, and Alex jumped at the chance to go up a grade and prove himself.

He made an immediate impact on his 2nd Xi debut. Asked to do an extremely tough job of bowling into a headlong gale, he bowled a brilliant 6 over spell where he picked up 3-29, already his best figures for the year.

To push himself through, again and again, into a wind that was strong enough that even the trees themselves were being torn from the ground, it showed a toughness and a fight to want to be there.

He showed moments of class throughout the rest of the year, chipping in with wickets here and there, but it all came together against Shirley Boys, where he ran riot with a devastating opening spell.

Coming in at first change, he knocked off 4 Shirley batsmen as they just couldn't play him. He also should have had his 5th on the last ball of his spell had lbw's been a thing.

He ran through them and left Shirley in a lot of trouble and it didn't take long after he came back to the crease to nab his 5th, his first 5 wicket haul for North West.

5-25 against a top side in the grade and he ended the year having taken 13 scalps for the 2nd Xi, leaving him as the 4th highest wicket taker for the year, despite having only played half the season.

Having been a first change bowler as a Year 11, in Year 12 he rightly, took the new ball.

Over the course of the year, Alex was the bowler used the most. When things got tough, he was the one thrown the ball and asked to change the game.

He picked up 8 wickets through the 6 games to start the year, chipping in with 1 per game, but there were always chances to go down, through slips or balls just falling short of fielders.

Though there was no large haul for him this year, he took a best of 3-38 against St Thomas 2nd Xi, who were the best side in the competition and beat the 2nd Xi comfortably on both occasions they met, as he finished out the year as the second leading wicket taker with 14 at 21.71.

His performances then earned him the chance to make his 1st Xi debut in a crunch match against Christchurch Boys High 2nd Xi, and while he returned tidy overs of 4 over 0-20, he was unable to add a precious 1st Xi wicket to his tally for the year.

Finally, into his senior year and after all the effort and missing out on those top teams, Alex was named in the 1st Xi.

Things didn't start so great for him with the bat as he fell for a 9 ball duck in the first game of the year against St Andrews 2nd Xi, but it was with the ball we needed him to perform the most.

Taking the new ball, he nabbed 2 wickets in his first spell, removing a couple highly dangerous batsmen, before returning later on and nicking off their top scorer with an absolute peach.

3 wickets to start the year and things only got better from there.

He was unplayable against St Bedes, conceding just 10 runs in 10 overs before a dirty slog added 4 to that total. The next ball Alex got his revenge and picked up his 5th wicket for the innings with a simple catch to mid on. He'd had an edge through to the keeper, an edge to backward point, two leading edges straight up and hit the stumps as he just proved impossible to play on the day.

5-14 against the top side in the grade, his second 5 wicket haul for the club and his, for the time being, best figures.

It would take only a week before he would better it. With the game against Shirley on a knives edge, Alex took 5 wickets in his second spell to run through them, on the same ground where he took 5 wickets against their 2nd Xi when he was just a Year 11.

This time he grabbed 6 and finished with a new best of 6-19. Again, all but one of his wickets were caught behind

the wicket, bowled or lbw as he had the ball doing whatever he wanted to start the year.

His haul also earned him his baggy cap, taking the required 12 wickets in just 4 games, which equalled the record for the fastest to earn their cap and also has the 2nd best figures for a North West 1st XI bowler in the past 6 years at least.

His end of the season was quiet in comparison to the beginning, but still took 19 wickets at 12 to lead the team at the halfway mark of the year. His wicket tally for the first term brought Alex's total wickets in Senior cricket at North West to 50 at an average of 17.76, through 1st, 2nd and 3rd XI cricket, a brilliant achievement in just 2 and a half years.

He started well once more in Term 4. Though no huge hauls, he got his first with an edge into the cordon, and a second edge into gully as he continued hammering away on a length.

A pair of 2 wicket hauls to start Term 4 with 3 of those caught behind the wicket sums up Alex as he constantly teases and draws batsmen into the drive, resulting in their downfall.

He put in another brilliant performance up against Shirley Boys as he continued to torment them, this time taking 4-18 off 9.1 overs as he ended with figures of 20.3 overs 10-37 against the men in yellow in 2025, an astonishing average of just 3.7.

After leading the wicket tally halfway through the year, he kept pace with the leaders in the white ball format as well,

always chipping in with 1 or 2 here and there and brought up 2 major milestones in the same match.

30 wickets for the year and 60 wickets for North West Senior, with still a game to go.

With Dilan gone for the last round match, it was Alex who had to shoulder the responsibility of leading the bowling unit and though only able to grab the solitary wicket, which saw him fall agonizingly short of the record for wickets in a season for a North West 1st Xi player, he brought us back into the game with a economical spell late on when St Bedes wanted to be more aggressive.

Not to mention he played a beautiful innings with bat in hand to post 42* and show the batsmen before him how it was done,

It was a knock that showcased everything Alex could do with bat in hand and is something we will look back on and wonder if we could have got more of that out of him.

Still, a wonderful career at North West for Alex. Missing out on the top teams at the first time of asking, every time, and yet with how much he has grown and matured as a player is a testament to his character and he deserved the performances that he was able to produce this year and he like the others, will be very tough to replace in the coming years.

Alex Guillemot

North West 1st Xi Stats 2025

Matches	17
Innings	8
Dismissed	5
Runs	24
Balls Faced	139
Minutes Batted	160
Average	10.80
Strike Rate	38.85
4's	6
6's	0
% of Runs in Boundaries	44.44
Ducks	4
50's	0
High Score	42*

Matches	17
Balls Bowled	687
Maidens	25
Dot Balls	486
Dot Ball %	70.74
Wickets	31
Runs	457
Average	14.74
Economy	3.99
Strike Rate	22.16
Wides	19
No Balls	9
3Fer's	4
5Fer's	2
Best Figures	6-19

Aroon Deb

Year 12, Left Arm Medium Pace

Aroon Deb, another youngster in the side with plenty of experience as he starts his second year in the 1st Xi while only being in Year 12.

The small, nippy left armer that surprises you with pace and bounce, while getting shape back in towards the batsmen has caused mountains of problems for so many batsmen throughout the years.

Aroon came to club as a Year 9, being one of the cheekier attendees for the camp of that year.

His sharpness with the new ball was a constant threat and he picked up a truck load of wickets as the year wore on.

It was in the second half of the year that he truly exploded into form as he rounded out 7 games with 14 wickets at an average of just 5.5 for the Year 9a side.

A devastating spell of 5-7 against St Bedes which saw him pick up his best figures for the year and a 4 wicket haul against St Andrews, proved to be his best performances with ball in hand, while he also wasn't afraid to swing the willow.

Aroon also made his debut for the Colts as a Year 9, returning tidy figures of 1-18 against Christchurch boys High.

He was then picked in the Colts side as a Year 10, leading the way with the new ball.

His first term was hampered through injury, and he wound up missing the first 5 weeks and it saw him struggle slightly upon his return, picking up just the 2 wickets through 4 games in his limited efforts with the ball.

He returned in full force in Term 4, bowling near on his full quota each week as he ripped sides apart, picked up a further 17 wickets through 9 games and recording best figures of 4-31 against St Andrews.

19 wickets for the year again led the way for his team in a season that saw them compete all the way through until the final which was ultimately a tough loss. It was an incredible effort from Aroon to lead the wicket taking standings, despite effectively playing just half the season through injury.

Aroon was then selected to be part of the 1st Xi while only a Year 11, but it wasn't entirely certain what role he would play within the side.

Initially expected to spend most of the first half of the year playing for the 2nd Xi to build up his match fitness and to get a good number of overs under his belt. Instead, he never made an appearance for them, playing each week as part of the 12 in the 1st Xi.

Again though, it was a team full of bowling options and he found opportunities a little lacking, never bowling more than 6 overs and wickets were scarce, returning best figures of 2-1 as he came on to clean up vs Ashburton.

Injuries hampered him again towards the start of Term 4 as he missed the first 3 matches but returned for the final 4 games and nabbed a few wickets to add to his tally.

9 wickets to his name for the year, but also just the 50 overs bowled as well as he fought through his injuries.

He was once again selected for the 1st Xi as a Year 12, with the expectation that he would play a much larger role with the ball than the part time role he had the previous year.

After missing the first week, he returned to the side for week 2, where he was presented with his baggy cap for playing the required 12 games.

It was a much more profitable term for Aroon as he took 11 scalps, 8 in the declaration format and 3 in the T20's as he bettered his entire previous years tally in just the first half of the year.

His best figures were 2-8 against Shirley Boys, but he often found himself grabbing the vital breakthrough, or creating wicket pressure from his end, and his presence could not be understated.

Yet we know there is more to come from Aroon, with his best still ahead of him.

He had an initial quiet start to pre season, but showed us exactly what he could do in our first white ball match as he picked up his best figures as a 1st Xi player with a damaging 3-31 against Christchurch Boys 2nd Xi and he should have had more but 3 unfortunate drops off his bowling cost him from adding to his match tally.

It was much the same against St Thomas as he bowled some great deliveries, mixed in with the wayward, but again had a tough chance grassed that could have seen pick up another wicket. Only a wrong call on a no ball, startling the fielder and seeing the ball hit the dirt.

Like his skipper, he too succumbed to an injury, his being the typical back injury for a fast bowler as that forced him onto the sideline.

What was originally hoped to be something he could shake off and quickly return, it didn't take long before hopes were dashed as a near stress fracture put him out for 9 weeks, which very much put an end to his season which made our efforts much harder.

Still, credit must go to Aroon who still turned up to support and provide help on the sidelines.

It was a year in which Aroon would have felt that luck had gone against him. A few catches down off his bowling, or lbw's turned down. While he didn't put up the numbers of his front line bowling partners, he did really well in supporting them and making sure he was not an easy target to go after.

He was our second most economical bowler excluding the T20's and was asked to bowl the tough overs when the batsmen started to get away.

It was a pretty good year overall for Aroon who recorded more wickets at less runs than last year and now all we need is for him to recover in time for next season where he will likely take on the responsibility of leading the line.

Aroon Deb

North West 1st Xi Stats 2025

Matches	12
Innings	6
Dismissed	3
Runs	23
Balls Faced	64
Minutes Batted	63
Average	7.67
Strike Rate	35.94
4's	3
6's	0
% of Runs in Boundaries	52.17
Ducks	0
50's	0
High Score	11

Matches	12
Balls Bowled	378
Maidens	12
Dot Balls	273
Dot Ball %	72.22
Wickets	14
Runs	232
Average	16.57
Economy	3.68
Strike Rate	27.00
Wides	16
No Balls	6
3Fer's	1
5Fer's	0
Best Figures	3-31

Bosilu Liyana Waduge

Year 13, Allrounder, Right Hand Bat, Wrong un's

Bosilu Liyana Waduge, the wrong un merchant. A batsman by trade, he has taken to throwing up wrong un's with some plentiful success. Originally just a decent net bowler, he, quickly turned into a front line spinner in just a few weeks time as he tried to perfect his craft.

Bosliu joined the club as a Year 9 and impressed early on, being selected into the Year 9A side, which was one with immense talent.

Known for his patience and defensive technique with bat in hand, he struggled to reap the rewards for his application at the wicket.

He would bat for long periods and look good while doing so, but struggled to turn over the strike and that was often what caused the loss of his wicket.

He was not the most prolific of scorers in the first year as he was only able to notch a couple scores in the 20's, but he was also able to hold down an end as he didn't give his wicket away easily.

He found the 2-day format to be much more appealing and after earning selection into the Colts side in Year 10, he scored far more runs than he had as a Year 9.

Predominately opening the batting, he was able to turn those starts into scores, notching a high score of 50* as he scored 151 runs from 7 innings to go with his first half century for the club.

He found the white ball format much harder in term 4 as he once more found a little trouble turning the strike over, scoring under 50 runs for the term, with a top score of just 26.

In Year 11, after he narrowly missed out on selection for the 2nd Xi, he took a sabbatical from North West Cricket and jumped ship across towards Sydenham after playing a single game for the 3rd Xi, in which he scored 45*

He would wind up playing in the same grade as the North West 2nd Xi and even played against them, but after the halfway point of the year, he chose to return to North West and fight to earn a place in the 2nd Xi, to which he did.

He did struggle to get out of first gear at times, but he showed his ability when he put together a really good knock of 44 against Weedon's 1st Xi, who were the strongest team in the grade.

With the make up of the team, Bosilu batted everywhere in the top 6, with no position nailed down for him, but he didn't care, happy to do his part for the team.

Even then, as a Year 11 and having left the club, then come back, he still was nothing more than batsmen who was a handy net bowler.

He only bowled 8 balls for the 2nd Xi upon his return and picked up just the solitary wicket, but from then until the start of 2024 where he returned to the 2nd Xi, this time with his place in the side nailed down, things changed for him with the ball and dramatically.

In an early practice session, it was noted how deadly his deliveries were, and there was immediate thought into

how he could be utilised as the year went on and in the first game of the season he was unleashed upon an unsuspecting Christ College.

9 overs later and he walked off the field holding the ball aloft as he celebrated an incredible 6-25.

Adding in his batting and Bosilu found himself filling in the roles that were needed, becoming the sides everywhere man. He was anywhere and every in the batting order, bowling order and in the field.

He would slide up and down the order depending on what was needed, batting everywhere from 1-6 and some games he didn't bowl at all, while others he was our most used bowler.

He notched a high score of 36 against the top team in the competition and always fought hard to keep his wicket

Whatever his role, he was more than happy to play it and take part and that was a major part of why he won the Coaches Player award honours at the end of the year.

Never griped about his role within the side and gave it his all each and every week. Bosliu also won the prestigious Senior Fielding trophy, having taken 11 catches over the course of the year.

He wouldn't play a game for the North West 1st Xi in Term 1 of 2025 after being named in the extended squad of 15 at the start of the year.

Instead, he found himself nailed down as an opening batsmen in the 2nd Xi, where he put up some solid numbers, scoring 137 runs at 22.8 with a high score of 67 against St Bedes. He faced 139 balls in a marathon innings

as he anchored the team's innings and allowed the 2nd Xi to post a big total in an impressive win.

He never picked up the ball throughout the first term, choosing to bowl only at trainings, and with the 4th term ahead, he will be looking to get a place in the 1st Xi and make his long awaited debut.

It was a familiar story for 1st Xi players this year as Bosiliu was only able to play one fixture in Term 4 before he succumbed to an injury of his own and it was also a season ending injury, meaning he was unfortunately not able to make his debut for the 1st Xi, which was coming in the early weeks of the season, so it's a shame he was unable to avoid the injury curse plaguing our side.

Still, it was a good year for Bosiliu who had a lot of responsibility as the oldest player in the 2nd Xi, having to carry the batting as he opened up.

Bosiliu was a player you could always rely on to make sure he looked after his wicket, and was always someone who got on with everyone, a true team player.

It is a shame he wasn't able to play a fixture for the 1st Xi, as it was the only thing he hadn't done, but he should still be happy with what he has accomplished over his time at North West.

Bosilu Liyana Waduge

North West 2nd Xi Stats 2025

Matches	10
Innings	10
Dismissed	10
Runs	215
Balls Faced	429
Average	21.50
Strike Rate	50.12
4's	22
6's	0
% of Runs in Boundaries	40.93
Ducks	0
50's	1
High Score	67

Matches	10
Balls Bowled	24
Maidens	0
Dot Balls	15
Dot Ball %	62.50
Wickets	0
Runs	37
Average	-
Economy	9.25
Strike Rate	-
Wides	2
No Balls	3
3Fer's	-
5Fer's	-
Best Figures	0-5

George Grayling

Year 13, Allrounder, Right Hand Bat, Medium Pace

George Grayling, another of the numerous Year 13's that fills this squad, and another huge improver on the cricket field over his time at North West.

He is also into his 5th year with North West, joining as a rather energetic Year 9 who loved to play the game and get involved in anything he could.

Like Alex, he narrowly missed out on selection in the Year 9A squad, but his performances for the 9B side showed he could definitely bridge that gap.

He hit a blistering maiden half century against St Bedes, facing just 30 balls for his 52 and averaged just 6.5 with the ball through the first half of his Year 9 cricket.

The opportunity to play 9A cricket was fleeting, but it was he and Alex who were fighting for the possible chance to play for the side and it was George who, on the back of these performances, was able to push his way into the Year 9a team where he played in a couple of games towards the end of the year.

His form and improvement saw him earn a well deserved selection into the Colts as a Year 10 where he bowled one of the best spells by a North West Colts player, recording incredible figures of 6-8 off 6 overs against St Thomas Colts with his aggressive style of bowling.

Stepping into senior cricket, George was the 13th choice for a 12 man squad and was initially set to miss out on the 2nd Xi, but a last minute change saw him brought into the

2nd Xi squad, where he was expected to fill a role both with the ball and with the bat.

One of the numerous all rounders in the side, the initial thoughts were leant more towards his batting capabilities as a whole host of bowlers meant there would be limited opportunities with ball in hand for him.

He made his 2nd Xi debut against St Thomas and came in late, scoring 13* to help us ice a chase of 190 in 35 degree heat.

Then, his chances to bat dried up a little as the 2nd Xi often found themselves winning comfortably and he was only able to add one other double figure score come the end of the term.

However his bowling had become vitally important.

It took until his 3rd game before he nabbed his first wicket, but it was extremely crucial. St Andrews needing just 14 to win with 4 wickets in hand, and it was George who broke a crucial partnership. Picking up the first of 4 wickets to be taken for 0 runs as the win was grasped by 12 runs.

He finished the year with 9 wickets at 20 as the white ball format in Term 4 proved to be a happy hunting ground for him, using his pace and aggression to its fullest.

As a Year 12, he was again selected to be part of the 2nd Xi, but this time round he would be a leading part of the side.

Again though, he found his chances with the ball were limited early on as the 2nd Xi ran through teams and he was only offered chances with the ball in 2 of the first 4 games.

But George always has something in him, something that can change the game just like that.

That exploded to the forefront in the 5th round game against St Andrews as with 40 runs needed and 5 wickets in hand, George was thrown the ball.

When his first ball bouncer produced the simplest of caught and bowled dismissals, you knew something was going to happen and with sweat pouring down his face and visible exhaustion painted on him, George steamed in for his 6th over, giving everything he had for the team and when the stumps were broken for the 10th wicket halfway through that over, George had picked up his first 5 wicket haul for the 2nd Xi, finishing with 5-16 in an utterly incredible performance.

That effort spilled over into the rest of the year and the confidence boost he gained from that affected his batting and fielding as well.

Again, he was the match winner just a week later as he first racked up an impressive and vital 33 with the bat, before taking 3-21 off 9 overs, taking the last wicket in the fading light with just 4 overs left in the day as Shirley Boys battled for a draw.

He ended the first term as the 2nd Xi's leading wicket taker, despite only taking 1 wicket through his first 4 games.

At the start of the year, George was not one whose name was tossed about when thinking of a possible 1st Xi debut, but very quickly he was being taken notice of, and suddenly, it wasn't just a thought, it was happening.

He impressed greatly during the preseason fixture for the 1st Xi against a Senior Men's side and the effort with which

he showed in the field, it was going to be hard to deny him the opportunity to debut.

And debut he did. The first week of the Term 4 season, George made his debut against St Bedes 1st Xi,

Following on from that success, George returned to the 2nd Xi for the second game as the North West 1st Xi were playing the Willows. With the opportunity to play in the traditional fixture provided to the Senior Boys, George took the opportunity of his own to captain the 2nd Xi side in replacement of Jesse Milne who was playing in the Willows fixture.

You would never have known that he hadn't had much experience as Captain as he led a remarkable recovery in the match.

Firstly with the bat as he scored 14 down the lower end of the order, helping us limp to 131 all out. Then with the ball he was outstanding. Taking the new ball for the first time, he was able to marshal a huge response from the side who took early wickets to get back into the game. George then returned at the end with the responsibility firmly on his shoulders and with the last ball of his 10 over spell, he picked up his 3rd wicket to end the game in a remarkable tie, taking 3-26 in the process.

From there, George returned to the 1st Xi and played each and every week for them for the rest of the year.

It was a little bit of a shame as he was in line for all 3 awards for the 2nd Xi at the halfway mark of the year, but instead George was recognised and rewarded as the most improved Senior Cricketer at North West, a thoroughly deserved achievement.

It was no surprise that he was then named in the 1st Xi squad for 2025. Picked to be a strike enforcer with the ball and pick up a few handy runs down the lower end of the order, things looked bright for him right from the first game when he slog swept a big 6 to get his year underway and then nabbed his first wicket in the first week.

He went oh so close to a hatrick in the second game against St Bedes, before a rousing effort with the bat from #11 sparked us to win the game against Shirley Boys.

Coming in with us in a lot of bother at 103-9 George put together a really important innings, finding the gaps with ease and showcasing his speed between the wickets as he scored 28 from 32 deliveries and helped us over the 150 mark, turning the game in our favour.

Then, after a couple wicketless weeks, George found his groove, picking up 4-27 vs Sydenham as he led us to victory, taking the final wicket with just a couple overs left in the match.

He then improved his best figures a week later with a blistering spell of 4-13 in another victory. 11 wickets at 10 in the declaration format was an excellent return and had him tied for 2nd for most wickets taken.

George started right from where he left off as he picked up his 3rd four wicket haul for the year in the opening one day fixture when he took 4-23, getting a fantastic caught and bowled that saw him sprint forward toward a leading edge and launch himself through the air, getting two hands to the ball from just above the grass, holding on to a spectacular catch.

Each and every week that George bowled henceforth, he got something to happen.

The pitch might have been dead and batting simple and suddenly George would pop up and grab a wicket.

Aside from the fact that he was extremely passionate in celebrating any wicket he got, you could say George was like a silent assassin, because he kept getting wickets and without really noticing, he flew to the top of the leaderboard in Term 4 and was quickly catching up to Alex who was leading for the year.

George got 2 wickets in 5 games of 6 that he bowled in for the 4th term, being as consistent as ever and at the end of the term, he finished with 14 wickets to his name, even more than in the first half of the year to finish with a stunning haul of 27.

Like Alex and Dilan before him, George also ended up with 50 wickets for North West senior, over the 1st and 2nd Xi's and he did so at a better strike rate than the two above.

Even this year, George had the best strike rate amongst all bowlers for the year, and he was a constant threat.

Unassuming, and then he pounced and you were out.

George is someone who cannot be replaced for what he brings to the team. His energy, enthusiasm and everything about him is impossible to replicate and he will be missed dearly now that his time at the club has come to an end.

Another, like Alex, who had to fight to prove himself at every turn, and at the end of it all, he has come out ahead.

George Grayling

North West 1st Xi Stats 2025

Matches	16
Innings	12
Dismissed	11
Runs	81
Balls Faced	159
Minutes Batted	161
Average	7.36
Strike Rate	50.94
4's	7
6's	1
% of Runs in Boundaries	41.98
Ducks	2
50's	0
High Score	28

Matches	16
Balls Bowled	469
Maidens	8
Dot Balls	324
Dot Ball %	69.08
Wickets	27
Runs	307
Average	11.37
Economy	3.93
Strike Rate	17.37
Wides	29
No Balls	3
3Fer's	4
5Fer's	0
Best Figures	4-13

Kaden Fraser

Year 12, Allrounder, Right Hand Bat, Medium Fast

Kaden joined North West as a Year 9 and very early on was identified as someone with massive potential. He was selected into the Year 9A side and plundered runs for fun in a side that was extremely dominant.

Right from the start of the year he was one of the most consistent performers. He had a better second half of the year, averaging near 30 with the bat and a high score of 51 in the last game of the year against St Andrews college.

Not just a talented batsman, but a handy bowler as well, he was used sparingly at times but was always able to provide something when it was needed.

After a strong start to his North West career, he was named in the Colts side, where he was extremely dominant, racking up what is probably the highest total yearly runs that has been recorded for a Colts side.

He made his name batting at 3, a position he made his own and no one was going to be able to take it off him.

Throughout the entirety of the first term, he made 35 plus in 6 of his 7 innings, adding 2 half centuries to the books, with a 76 against Christchurch Boys and then 57 against Sydenham to round out the first half of the year.

Then, after missing 3 of the first 5 games to start the 4th term due to other sporting commitments, he exploded with a phenomenal century against St Andrews, notching 106 off just 93 balls.

A week later and he made it back to back centuries, this time scoring 119 off 110 as he helped his side win in a very impressive semi final performance.

2 hundred and 2 fifties for the year saw him amass an incredible 579 runs in 13 innings at 48.25 in what was a stellar year for the kid.

It wasn't just with the bat that he showed such dominance. An injury hampered his bowling, meaning he didn't pick up the ball in the entirety of the 4th term, but 10 wickets at 16 in the first term showed just how dangerous he was in all facets of the game.

Again, like Jasper, it was expected that he would slot into the 2nd Xi as a Year 11, where he would be able to play a pivotal role as a batsman at the top of the order, but a spot opened up in the 1st Xi and he was selected as a part of the squad.

However, with a very allrounder heavy squad available and him being the youngest in the side, it was he who ended up having to take on the sacrificial role and despite playing each week, he found himself batting 7-9 most weeks, depending on who else was selected.

Throughout the first term he was only afforded the chance to bat in 3 of the 8 games. His debut knock saw him batting at 6 and coming to the crease with the team in major strife at 23-4 chasing just 106 to win. He played a mature knock, putting on a 50 run partnership for the 6th wicket to get the team within 10 and then knocked off the winning runs with Jasper at the other end, hitting a 6 to win the game.

He finished on 36* but with only 2 other opportunities to bat due to some easy wins, it saw him finish with just 55 runs to his name for the first half of the year.

It was a tough start for him again in term 4 with just 5 runs from 3 innings, but again, it was coming in low down and then trying to get the team to a total before the innings was done, before he scored a much needed 31 against Timaru Boys, again rescuing them from an awful start, but this time it wasn't enough as they fell 13 runs short.

Once more, due to injuries, he was barely used with the ball to start the year, and though his overs picked up towards the end of Term 4, he still only got through 44 of them.

6 wickets to his name at 37 with a best of 2-7 saw a modest return, yet it showed that he was getting back to his best as the 2025 season approached.

This year, having paid his dues as a young Year 11, he was now thrust into the top order with big expectations that he would be a leading part off this batting unit.

He started off the season with an impressive knock of 45 against St Andrews, but fell at an inopportune time, before putting in a crucial performance with the bat against St Bedes. Though he only ended with 24, it was worth double or even triple in the context of the game.

He hit 18* against Christchurch Boys High in the second T20, which sealed a huge win and an even more impressive knock of 40 against Christ College 1st XI which got us close after a mid order collapse.

He would have been disappointed not to go on with some of his starts, but 150 at 21.4 in the red ball to go with 84 at

33 in the T20 saw him total over 230 runs for the 1st term, double his entire total for the previous year.

Also, having recovered from his constant injuries, he was used with more intent with the ball taking 4 wickets in the first half of the year.

Kaden also led the way in the field taking 10 catches and being involved in 2 run outs throughout all competitions.

In contrast, the 4th term wasn't as kind to Kaden, particularly with the bat in hand.

A pair of ducks to start the season, and he ended with one as well, while he only managed a score in double figures once.

It was a pretty good 22 on a dodgy track at St Andrews, doggedly staying in the fight while his team mates fell around him, before he fell victim to some not so brilliant umpiring as he was out lbw, when in all likelihood, it was not out in all facets.

Then when it happened again the next week, you could tell it wasn't his season.

Coupled with that was the numerous dropped catches in the cordon off his bowling, and the even more numerous times he beat the bat only to end with nothing to his name, it was a bit of a frustration for him.

However, it was still a year in which he found himself in the top 3 for runs scored and was one of the most economical bowlers we had, even if the wickets didn't represent how well he had bowled.

Kaden also ended as the leading catcher, beating even the wicketkeeper, showing a safe pair of hands, taking 13.

Kaden Fraser

North West 1st Xi Stats 2025

Matches	18
Innings	17
Dismissed	15
Runs	254
Balls Faced	437
Minutes Batted	579
Average	16.93
Strike Rate	58.12
4's	18
6's	2
% of Runs in Boundaries	33.07
Ducks	4
50's	0
High Score	45

Matches	18
Balls Bowled	420
Maidens	8
Dot Balls	302
Dot Ball %	71.90
Wickets	8
Runs	232
Average	29.00
Economy	3.31
Strike Rate	52.50
Wides	18
No Balls	0
3Fer's	3
5Fer's	0
Best Figures	2-47

Liam Kerr

Year 11, Allrounder, Right Hand Bat, Medium Fast

Liam is the youngest member of the 2025 1st Xi squad and the only Year 11 named in the side. He earned a place in the side after impressing both as a junior and in the trials held at the start of the year as we looked to press in his development.

Liam joined the club as a Year 9, following in his brother's footsteps who was also a North West 1st Xi cricketer.

He joined the club as a bowler who was able to find the boundary when he had bat in hand, but it was his pace and bounce that were somewhat frightening.

He was picked to play in the Year 9A side after attending the trials where he had a somewhat bizarre start to his Year 9 cricket with the bat in hand as through 15 innings, he was only able to make it into double figures on 3 separate occasions.

Twice, he went on to score half centuries. His first, a rapid 25 ball 56 against Sydenham and the second a 43 ball 53 against St Bedes. In between those scores was a flurry of low single figure efforts that saw him finish up his year with 160 runs at 14.55.

With the ball in hand, he was devastating. Because of the setup of the competition, he never found himself bowling a full complement of overs, but he took 17 wickets at 15.29 with a best of 3-13 vs Shirley Boys as he finished as the top wicket taker in his Year 9a side.

He was taking wickets weekly and always one of the most consistent performers in the side in what was a tough year for the team.

He was picked in the Colts side in Year 10 where he found himself doing the double duty of opening the batting and the bowling.

This year, he was a little more consistent with the bat. While not being able to convert his starts into bigger scores and not reaching the half century mark, he got starts more often and finished with a higher run tally of 176 with a high score of 37 against Christchurch Boys.

Meanwhile his bowling went from strength to strength.

He took a wicket in each game throughout the first term, grabbing impressive hauls of 3-33, 3-26 and 4-40, the latter of which being the best figures for the year. He kept it up in the second half of the year, taking wickets in all but two of the games played, taking a whopping 24 wickets at 22.75, once again leading his team in the wicket taking department.

With his tall height causing uncomfortable bounce and his pace on the up, he was proving to be a very difficult assignment to face.

It wasn't just his stats we were looking at when we made the call to select him in our extended squad for the 1st Xi.

It was made clear to him early on that he would likely play the majority of the season with the 2nd Xi, but would be focused on helping develop him in our trainings and keeping notice of his performances so we could call upon if needed.

Right from the first game he showed us something we hadn't seen too much of from him at the crease, a certain level of maturity and calmness as he composed a very nice 52 batting at #3 in the 2nd Xi.

He followed that up with a startling 3-12 to round out a thoroughly impressive debut performance for the 2nd Xi.

Again, he took wickets in every game he played for the 2nd Xi, taking 14 through 5 games at a seriously impressive 8.8 average including two 4 wicket hauls and a best of 4-15. He also scored 142 runs at 28.4.

He finished out the first term as the leading run scorer and leading wicket taker for the 2nd Xi, despite playing a game less than the rest.

When the T20's came around, it was a good chance to get Liam involved and he made his 1st Xi debut in the first T20 Vs St Andrews.

Though he didn't take a wicket, he was one our best with the ball, going for just 19 off his 4 overs, coming on to bowl at a time when the scoring rate was in the mid teens, and he was able to slow the scoring up considerably.

Liam played all 3 T20's, with a similar result in the second match, this time going for 17, but not picking up a wicket.

In the 3rd game though, things aligned for him, and he bowled a double wicket maiden, finishing with 3-18 from 4, our best figures for the game, and the entire T20 competition, which he also finished as our leading wicket taker in.

He also topped the charts for the lowest economy conceded, showing he had absolutely no fear about bowling to such senior and quality individuals.

After 3 weeks of stunning individual performances at 2nd Xi level, a chance opened up to come up a grade and Liam was selected to make his official debut.

Again, he showed no signs of nerves as he came in for his first spell and early on, he was sitting on a hatrick as he produced edges off consecutive deliveries, one to the keeper and one to the slips, which I still can't believe was actually caught.

He would grab the last wicket as well to complete a rout and finish with remarkable figures of 3-9.

Liam would then don the whites for the 1st Xi again in the final, and this time he got to showcase off his batting skills, but a tough wicket and impressive bowling made it hard. He did well to hold out his end, but the end came soon enough.

Again though, he was impressive with the ball as we tried to defend a paltry total, and he picked up 1-4 off 3 overs.

With Term 4 rolling around the focus was around making sure Liam stayed fit and healthy and avoided his back issues.

Liam again proved his worth with bat in hand but was unfortunately not able to carry on with any of his 3 starts through 4 innings with the bat in the 2nd Xi, while he was also able to pick up a further 7 wickets in those games with a best of 3-32.

He did unfortunately miss out on one game through injury and then big injury numbers saw him play the last 3 games of the season for the 1st Xi, which unfortunately saw him go wicketless.

However, it was an incredible season for Liam as he picked up 28 wickets to finish as the second highest wicket taker behind Alex in the senior Grades of youth cricket for North West.

His first two innings with the bat didn't last long, though he did have a memorable shot for 6 against St Andrews where he wasn't even facing up when the ball was bowled and still cleared the rope, but it was in the last round game against St Bede's where everything he hit found the middle of the bat.

He cleared the boundary 5 times in an impressive half century that saw him post the 3rd highest score for the term behind his stand in skipper.

Considering he is only Year 11, he has a long, bright future ahead of him.

Liam Kerr

North West 1st Xi Stats 2025

Matches	8
Innings	6
Dismissed	6
Runs	73
Balls Faced	100
Minutes Batted	129
Average	12.17
Strike Rate	73.00
4's	4
6's	6
% of Runs in Boundaries	71.23
Ducks	1
50's	1
High Score	57

Matches	8
Balls Bowled	187
Maidens	4
Dot Balls	119
Dot Ball %	63.64
Wickets	7
Runs	132
Average	19.50
Economy	4.07
Strike Rate	28.75
Wides	11
No Balls	3
3Fer's	2
5Fer's	0
Best Figures	3-9

Ollie Fifield

Year 12, Right Hand Opening Bat

Ollie is both a fresh face, and a returning one to the 1st Xi of 2025 as he was selected after a stellar 2024 with bat in hand. Predominantly an opening batsmen, a position he found himself in at the start of Year 10, he has found himself bouncing around the lineup a little this year.

Now into his 4th year at the club, he made a memorable start to his North West career, picking up a dreaded duck on debut for the Year 9A side, but quickly showed what he was capable of with a run a ball 70 a few weeks later. As the year progressed, so did his performances and it was becoming extremely clear about the ability he had.

Then, to start off Term 4, he would make a shocking debut for the North West 2nd Xi, as with no game scheduled for the first week, and a mass shortage of players from the 1st Xi, saw them pull numbers from the 2nd Xi, who in turn had to find bodies to fill the gap. Ollie was one of two Year 9's to play for the 2nd Xi that day.

He wasn't just a number either as he picked up a run out with a remarkable diving stop, before coming in to see out the win, scoring an incredibly valuable 13* in what was a low scoring affair.

His selection into the Colts side came as no surprise and it was here that he made the change into becoming an opening batsman.

With the middle order nailed down, it was either opening or lower order and Ollie wanted to bat. Early on, he would

rue a lot of missed chances as he would get starts but would be unable to convert them in the red ball format, but it was in the white ball in Term 4 where he really started to shine and showed such a great partnership with his opening partner in Jasper.

He scored 3 half centuries for the term and scored over 30 for 5 consecutive weeks as he posted a high score of 65 and when the year finally came to an end, he had amassed 391 runs at the top of the order and averaging 28. Ollie was an intergral part of the core batting group who all amassed totals near and above that mark as they proved to be such a hard side to defeat.

He was selected into the 2nd Xi as a Year 11, but despite his success as an opener, there was little chance he would start as an opening bat early on in the year as there were a whole host of senior options ahead of him.

However, when one of the opening batters was selected to play for the 1st Xi in the opening week of the season, it opened the door for him to have a go at the top of the order right from the outset.

It was a wet, miserable day, with a soggy pitch and slow outfield, making it extremely tough to score. However, Ollie was impressive on his way to 20 before being dismissed by an ankle height bouncing delivery.

Another chance atop the order a week later for the same reason as the first week, saw him raise his bat for a brilliant 60, and he backed it up the following week with another 60, stamping himself as the first choice opener.

Both scores were crucial in the context of the game and helped us come away with big wins.

His form saw a sudden call up to open the batting for the 1st Xi, and he would make 3 appearances for them throughout the first term, scoring a very handy 31 to set a platform in the final of the grade, helping to set up North West for victory.

He finished the first half of the year as the 2nd Xi's second highest run scorer despite batting 3 less times and he averaged 52.5 for the term.

Considering the start to the year, there was a very real possibility that the amount of game time he would see with the 2nd Xi would drop as he had put mountains of pressure on the guys above, who all of a sudden had to start performing to keep their places.

However, a nonchalant fielding injury, sustained while diving to save 4 runs in pre season, effectively ruled him out of all 1st Xi cricket for the term, despite making himself available to play for the 2nd Xi almost each and every week.

He did manage to make one more appearance for the 1st Xi, opening the batting against the top cricket school in the country, but that injury he had flared up, and he would no longer get any more opportunities in the top grade.

Instead, after missing a game to rest, he came back with a flourish and though his knee was still sore and got worse as his innings wore on, reducing him to stand and deliver, he plundered the bowling of Sydenham to all parts of the ground, scoring 90 off just 83 balls, his 3rd 50 in 7 bats for the 2nd Xi.

He would make it 4 in 8 the next week as he scored 66 for the second time in the year.

All in all, in 9 games played for the 2nd Xi for the year, he would finish as the top scorer on 7 occasions and both time he was not the top scorer, he posted 66 and was beaten by the same someone making triple digits.

Ollie scored 419 runs at 52.4 for the 2nd Xi, hitting 4 half centuries and striking at 90, ending as the second highest run scorer for the side by just the solitary run behind another who had a stellar year and as a result, was named as the 2nd Xi MVP for 2024, as well as the leading Senior Batsmen.

Once more, after he was named in the 1st Xi for 2025, it wasn't certain as to the role he would play with the bat. Would he continue on a partnership with Jasper at the top of the order or would he be used throughout the middle order.

As it turned out, it was both and he was able to succeed at both. He started the year atop the order and brought up an impressive half century in the first game against St Andrews, racking up 53 off 56 balls before falling while trying to clear the fence.

He opened in the next three games as well, but although he got starts in both, he was moved to the middle order as we looked to strengthen our lineup, and it proved to be a masterstroke as he brought up his second half century for the year, this time helping the team out of some strife and posting his second score of 53.

He would move back to the top of the order for the last game of the season and struggled hard against a terrific bowling display.

He also came in late in the second T20 game to finish it off, hitting a big 6 over cow with a brutal slog sweep, finishing as the third highest run scorer in the team, posting 167 runs at 20.88 in red ball cricket.

Term 4 was a different challenge for Ollie. He was unable to come away on the pre season trip and missed out on selection for week one of the season, but was quickly brought back into the side in the second week, but was back in the middle order.

Ollie jumped between 5 & 3 for the rest of the season, struggling to find some runs when needed, but did hit a very nice 24* to ice the game against Shirley 1st XI.

It was a case of getting in but not cashing in and wasn't able to add more to his first terms total.

He hadn't posted the large bulk of runs that he'd done last year, but it was still a decent haul, though he would have like to convert a little more frequently.

With still a year to go at North West, Ollie will be looking to cash in and score some big runs next year to leave the club on a high.

Ollie Fifield

North West 1st Xi Stats 2025

Matches	17
Innings	17
Dismissed	15
Runs	223
Balls Faced	394
Minutes Batted	487
Average	14.87
Strike Rate	56.60
4's	22
6's	5
% of Runs in Boundaries	52.91
Ducks	3
50's	2
High Score	53

Olly Upjohn

Year 12, Right Hand Top Order Bat, Wicketkeeper

Olly has now been at the club 4 years and is another of the Year 12's that fill this Year's 1st Xi. Olly joined the club as a Year 9 and started his North West career off being selected into year 9A, playing alongside the likes of Jasper, Ollie and Kaden who joined together to form an extremely dangerous top 4.

Olly has mixed handedness, which ultimately means he bowls left handed but bats righthanded, and thrown in amongst all of that is that he is also a natural wicket keeper.

He found it hard to get any consistency in his batting throughout his first year, because of the constant jumping around in the order and found himself in the middle just 3 times throughout the first term as some comfortable wins saw his bat lay untouched in the kit bag.

He would join Ollie in making his 2nd Xi debut in that game against St Andrews as a Year 9, donning the gloves as well and doing a splendid job considering the age difference amongst the side. He was also able to make an impact on the game, combining with fellow Year 9, Ollie to affect a run out that turned the game in our favour.

He wouldn't manage to contribute with the bat, but it was still a very impressive day out for the young man. Heading back down to Year 9, he picked up a rather unwanted piece of memorabilia as he got 6 consecutive ducks in a time period he would rather forget.

The bounce back would prove worth it though as he was able to bag his first half century for the club in what was the last game of his Year 9 career.

Despite the lean run, the talent and effort were obvious and so he was selected into the Colts, where he would start off with another duck, but any thoughts of a repeat year would change, and change quickly.

His run scoring started, and it he found some great form, bagging his second half century towards the end of the first term.

Then, things improved out of sight for him come the second half of the year. After knocking up 70 in the first game of the term against St Andrews, he scored 40 in 4 of his next 6 innings, and although he was dismissed in all but one of those occasions, they were all in situations where the innings were coming to a close, and quick runs were needed.

He would remarkably finish with a score of 47 in 3 of those 4 innings as well.

In the last game of the season, he brought up 400 total runs for the year at an average of 27.27 and one can't forget the most out of pocket performance for him in the first game of the year.

Ollie picked up just the 6 wickets for the year, bowling in only 5 of 6 games in the first half of the year, and not at all come the second half of the year, yet he produced the best figures for any Colts player for the year, taking 5-19 against Shirley Boys in what was a truly impressive, yet baffling display to look back upon. He then donned the gloves full time and put the bowling into the background.

With a successful year under his belt, he stepped forward into senior cricket and was selected to play for the 2nd Xi with the idea he would perform a similar role in the batting line up.

In just his 3rd attempt at 2nd Xi level, he produced a sparkling 100. Taking just 69 balls and putting on a clinic of how to bat at speed and never look like giving away your wicket.

There wasn't a single shot in anger, nor did anything go aerially as he manipulated the fielders where he wanted them and plundered runs for fun.

When he brought up his hundred with a simple drive through the offside, he soaked in the applause as the captain declared, leaving him on 100 with red ink, a great way to start the year.

Though he didn't cross 50 again for the rest of the term, he was definitely our best and most consistent with the bat as he put up 224 runs at 44 to his name, leading all run scorers, not just in the 2nd Xi, but in all senior cricket as well and was someone who was pushing for a spot in the 1st Xi where he would get the chance to play for them in a preseason fixture in between the two terms.

His knock in preseason for the 2nd Xi saw him notch a well made half century as well, as he looked ready for the term ahead.

A double header for the 1st Xi presented him with the opportunity to make his debut and he was at the crease when the final run was scored with a single ball left as North West chased down a huge total against the giants of St Andrew College 1st Xi.

He had a lot of starts for the 2nd Xi, but found it hard to press on, but a tough 47 against the competition leaders put him right back in track.

Then, everything would click for him in the 6th round against St Andrews battling against the variable bounce and early tough stages, he fought his way through it, to score his second, yes second, 100 of the year, this time finishing on 103.

He only crossed 50 in competition twice all year and on both occasions, converted them into 100's. He became the first 2nd Xi player in 4 years to score a 100 for the side and he did so twice.

He finished the year as the leading run scorer, with 420 runs to his name, one more than second place Ollie Fifield, with an average of 42 for the year, a stunning effort.

His performance's saw him selected into the 1st Xi for 2025 and he debuted as a wicketkeeper in the first game as well, sharing the duties over the course of the term with the skipper.

Finding himself in the middle order, he played a brilliant hand against St Bedes, scoring 13* off 40 rocks to help us win the game. While the total does not seem impressive, the context in which it was scored was massive. In deep trouble chasing just barely 100, he dug in deep, held his wicket, and ticked over the scoreboard with help at the other end and got us over the line.

He had a top score of just 22, which was another fighting knock as players fell around him, but he was able to build a big partnership with Ollie, which helped set us up for an incredible win.

Then Term 4 came about and it brought about some big changes four squad, with Olly probably affected the most

With some players missing, it gave Olly a chance in pre season to head to the top of the order and open the batting, a very tough job, especially when keeping duties are also involved, but he proved it to be a good decision when he was a part of that massive partnership with Jasper against St Kevins, bringing up a very good half century before retiring.

He didn't immediately start the season as an opener after that, but was a part of our opening combination for the last 6 games we played.

He would probably find it a frustrating half of the year because there was so often when he looked good, set and comfortable and the next he was walking back to the pavilion without much really happening.

Olly got starts in practically every game, but was never able to carry on and he will be another looking forward to the next year and season ahead.

Olly Upjohn

North West 1st XI Stats 2025

Matches	18
Innings	16
Dismissed	14
Runs	130
Balls Faced	325
Minutes Batted	490
Average	9.29
Strike Rate	40.00
4's	10
6's	0
% of Runs in Boundaries	30.77
Ducks	2
50's	0
High Score	22

Rory Wafer

Year 13, Right Hand Bat

Rory is the odd man out in this side as he joined the club for his last year of senior cricket in Year 13. He came to us from Rangiora High School, where he had spent his previous 2 years of senior cricket playing in their 1st Xi and had even come up against North West sides on a couple of occasions.

Leaving the school team for personal reasons, he found himself at the 1st Xi trials for North West and immediately impressed everyone with his willingness to take on pace and confidence in his attacking shots.

He was selected into the wider training squad, but it was not certain as to whether he would suit up with the 1st or 2nd Xi when the season actually began.

As a Year 11, he made his debut for the Rangiora High 1st Xi, in a game against the North West 1st Xi, where in an amusing coincidence, he was out lbw for a duck to former Rangiora High 1st Xi player Brayden McLeod, one of his 5 victims for the day, who was also making his debut for the North West 1st Xi.

Being a young player in a senior side, he found himself batting well down the order most weeks, without much opportunity given to him, but he did get a chance at 3 in a game against St Andrews 2nd Xi, where he knuckled down for 96 deliveries, scoring 25, his highest score at the school in Saturday competition.

119 runs for the year after bouncing around the order wasn't a terrible effort with the stick in hand for such a young player in a side with no place nailed down and competing against the top schools in the province.

He was selected again in the 1st XI as a Year 12 and in late February, played for the school in a knock out Gillete cup game against Burnside High, a school filled with North West talent, 4 of whom are now team mates with him in the squad.

He scored an impressive 58 off 69 balls that day as he led the way in a remarkable recovery that nearly saw Rangiora pinch an unlikely win after losing 3 wickets in the first 3 overs.

He had a more productive second half of the year but was unable to capitalize and turn the starts into big scores.

Ultimately, he decided to make the switch to North West Youth Cricket and beside from a net, the first chance we got to see him was in a preseason fixture against Christ College.

He brushed away early nerves and put a spurned chance behind him after walking out to open the batting.

He held our innings together at the start after a couple loose early wickets, before building a big partnership through the middle with Sam Carrell.

Then, when Sam fell, just after Rory brought up a hard earned half century, he put the foot down, turning his innings into a big one. He hit two massive 6's down the ground, showing us all his power, but was eventually dismissed for 93 as he slogged across the line, knowing he was close to retiring.

Still, an extremely impressive debut for him and this was ultimately the performance that showed he deserved a place in our final XI.

He started off batting in the middle order and was positive from his first innings but made it a habit of throwing his wicket away, right when he got settled in, a theme for the first 3 weeks of the season.

We mixed things up and gave him a chance up the top of the order for the second T20 fixture against Boys High where he started with authority, but that ended swiftly and unluckily as he was run out backing up.

A couple of days later and back at the top of the order, he played a short but blistering innings against top competitors Christ College, banging a couple massive 6's on his way to 24, but went once too many in the over as he plopped one straight up to cover.

A couple of days later and things fell apart again as once more opening the batting, this time he was strangled down leg as things really didn't seem to be going his way before a skiddy low delivery from the wet pitch thudded into his pads and he was out early again the week after that, with a lot going against him.

Back into the middle order against St Bedes in the final, he was our only show of resistance as he wore a few on the body, dug out tough deliveries and defended his wicket extremely well, making our only double figure score of the day, but when the lower end of the tail came out to bat, he tried to find some runs before the innings was done. He hit a beautiful drive over extra cover for 4, but was smartly caught and bowled the very next ball as he tried to slog sweep over cow.

Though a lean season, there was definitely enough ability there that we knew we could and would be getting more out of him later on in the year.

The term 4 season started like it had ended for Rory.

After a pretty successful pre season where he notched up a couple good scores and was looking in good touch, he found himself as the top scorer in the first game of the term, after doing the same in the last game of the first term.

However, like the first term, he only ended up in the teens as another capitulating batting display saw us crumble to another below par score.

Rory was a lot freer flowing against the white ball and found his timing more than in the first term, but just like in the first term, any time he got a start he would get out, something not exactly foreign to this team.

Scores of 15, 20 and 22, all at times of struggle against opposition of quality where he got starts that he would have liked to carry on with, particularly that last score where his wicket triggered the downfall against Sydenham.

Still, it was a pretty good year for Rory who joined the club under extremely tough circumstances, as a Year 13 with no real connection to anybody before joining, and yet he was someone who put everything he could into every game and was the total team player.

Rory Wafer

North West 1st Xi Stats 2025

Matches	17
Innings	15
Dismissed	15
Runs	131
Balls Faced	261
Minutes Batted	330
Average	8.73
Strike Rate	50.19
4's	15
6's	2
% of Runs in Boundaries	54.96
Ducks	2
50's	0
High Score	24

Sam Carrell

Year 13, Allrounder, Right Hand Bat, Off Spin

Sam Carrell is the last of our Year 13's in the squad for 2025 and has had a revolving door relationship with the 1st and 2nd Xi, as he has constantly been rotating back and forth between the two side since the latter half of his first senior year of cricket.

He came to North West as a Year 9, already as a spinning allrounder. Also a natural fielder, he was selected into Year 9A in his first year with North West.

He was a critical player for the side, always able to affect the game in any one of the three areas of the sport, scoring some handy knocks down the order, as well as chipping in with numerous wickets.

Following a successful first year, he was selected into the Colts in Year 10, where once more he was able to contribute to all areas, but it was his batting that shone the most, notching over 200 runs for the year with an average of near 20, a high score of 39.

With a side heavy on bowling, his opportunities with ball in hand were often slim and they used to come in near the end of the innings where he was able to earn rewards in doing so, 10 wickets for the year a healthy return for a modest effort with the ball.

2nd Xi selection awaited him as he stepped into senior Cricket, where he was expected to play an integral part as our main spin option with some lower order runs coming in handy.

His debut against St Thomas 2nd Xi saw a crucial 15 runs from his blade as we chased down a high total before a brilliant 29* against Sydenham helped in a 60 run partnership to lead us to victory after stumbling into early wicket trouble.

He was a constant threat with the ball as well, taking 8 wickets through the first term, with a best of 2-6 in the same game against Sydenham ending as his best figures for the year.

He would double his tally by the end of the year, taking 16 wickets at 14.9 to finish as the second highest wicket taker for the team, contributing with a wicket in nearly every game.

A blistering 39 on the first day of the 2nd term in a howling wind showed us that we had plenty more to see from him with the bat in hand, but after following that up with an impressive, but modest score of 21 vs Rolleston college, he would finish with a pair of ducks to close out his season with the 2nd Xi.

However, with his efforts with the ball and attitude towards the game, Sam was selected to make his debut in for the North West 1st Xi.

His false debut was in the second game of the season as he played solely as a sub fielder but made his actual debut in a game against Ashburton. He would play 3 times for the 1st Xi and while he was only afforded an opportunity to bowl once and bat once, it was still a great experience for him as he moved on through his North West career.

In Year 12, he was selected the 1st Xi squad, where right from the outset he was named in the matchday 12. He

played in 5 of the first 6 games for the 1st Xi, though one fixtures of those was abandoned.

The 1st Xi had a terrific first half of the year and Sam wasn't required to bat on any of those occasions which was unfortunate for him and yet showed the brilliance of the team.

Chances with ball in hand were slim as well, as a plethora of options and dominant bowling effort in that first half of the year providing few opportunities for him.

He did make the most of it in the one chance he did get to bowl, picking up 2-14 from 6 overs against St Bedes, his first wicket in the 1st Xi.

Sam was then moved to the 2nd Xi, where he would be able to get more of an opportunity with both bat and ball.

His first game for the 2nd Xi showed us everything he was capable of as he hit an impressive 27, 6 boundaries in the innings as he helped recover the team from a massive momentum slide that saw them lose a clump of wickets early and allowed them to post a somewhat reasonable total.

He was then crucial with the ball as he got through 10 overs on the trot, picking up important wickets to finish with 2-28. He then picked up season best figures of 3-43 from 12 against Shirley as the 10 man 2nd Xi pulled off an unlikely win.

6 wickets through 3 games for the 2nd Xi was much more like the Sam Carrell we knew.

He stayed with the 2nd Xi throughout Term 4 as the 1st Xi had made some changes, and put in a brilliant bowling

performance in the last game of the season, though he wasn't rewarded, earning only 1 wicket, but making himself incredibly tough to play.

Again, with his batting he was able to find a number of starts, but struggled to go on with it, often losing his wicket after getting well set.

He was then selected into the wider 1st Xi squad for 2025 because of the wealth of experience and ability we knew he had.

He stood up during our pre season fixture against Christ College, putting together a big 110 run partnership with Rory, before falling just short of a deserved half century, putting his name forward for final selection.

Week 1, he was picked in the 1st Xi but got a corker of a delivery first up to lose his stumps and then wasn't required with the ball.

Selected into the 2nd Xi for the second week, Sam started putting forward the performances we know he can.

137 runs in 6 bats at 34.25 for the 2nd Xi with a high score of 44 against St Bedes, in an innings that lasted just 27 deliveries. He scored in double figures every time he batted but was unable to convert those starts into big scores.

He also picked up 6 wickets to his name with a best of 3-55 also against St Bedes.

He donned the colours of the T20 side to play in the 1st Xi T20 competition and bowled two handy overs against Christchurch Boys, picking up 1-12, before nearly pulling off a miracle in the final over against Christs with the bat.

Needing 14 off 3, he cleared long on with a huge 6, before scampering back for a suicidal second to get back on strike for the last, needing 6 to win.

It wasn't to be however, but Sam got us mighty close in one we had let slip away, and fast.

Sam would finish up his North West Career at the halfway mark of the year, choosing not to return to the club in term 4.

He was a brilliant and ever reliable servant for the club who was shuffled around more than any other player which is always an extremely tough ask of anyone, let alone a schoolboy.

Yet Sam always gave his all for every team he played for, and it is a shame he chose not to finish out his final season with the club.

Sam Carrell

North West 2nd Xi Stats 2025

Matches	8
Innings	7
Dismissed	5
Runs	149
Balls Faced	150
Average	29.8
Strike Rate	99.33
4's	20
6's	3
50's	0
High Score	44

Matches	8
Balls Bowled	222
Maidens	5
Wickets	7
Runs	146
Average	20.86
Economy	3.95
Strike Rate	31.71
Wides	9
No Balls	1
3Fer's	1
Best Figures	3-55

Sam Waddell

Year 12, Allrounder, Right Hand Bat, Medium Fast

The tallest member in the side, it is a title that Sam has always held, in every team he has been in since he joined North West, all the way back in Year 9.

He was selected to the Year 9A side following the trials, as he was seen as a handy all rounder who was able to bowl steady medium pace deliveries, with steep bounce and sharper and sharper pace. He loved to trouble batsmen by being able to hit an awkward length and with his height and natural bounce, it became his biggest asset

With the bat he made the use of his long levers to drive powerfully down the ground, with it being his favourite shot. It took until halfway through his first year of senior cricket until he was able to develop shot making off the back foot, making his game very much centred around those drives.

Never afraid to take the bowlers on either, he could definitely be a handful in all areas of the game.

Added into to all of that was his fielding, he was the true definition of an allrounder. With huge buckets for hands and great hand eye, he was able to snag everything that came his way, which was such a huge asset to have and come the start of the season, with places in the matchday squad on the line, it would be these factors one would take into consideration.

He was selected into Year 9A as for his first year in North West, but only had a couple of chances to bat through the first half of the year.

A top score of 29 showed he had capability, but he would have liked to score more often.

A tough term with the ball saw him go wicketless to start, but he was able to adjust and make a big improvement through to the end of the year.

Best figures of 3-15, while both batting and bowling averages hovered around the 17-18 mark as he was able to make some key contributions.

He was selected to play for the Colts the following year and fell into the same pattern of being able to get starts with bat in hand, but unable to continue, along with the familiar theme of gifting his wickets away.

He struggled with injury for a lot of the year as he kept growing physically and tried to make adjustments around that. It led to him bowling just the 24 overs for the year, a best of 3-26 which was still a great effort.

Having recovered from his injuries and never looking better, it was an easy decision to pick him for the 2nd Xi as a Year 11. Picked to bat at 7 and provide some valuable runs lower down the order, it was his bowling to which we were looking to get the most out of from him as the year began.

He immediately showed us his worth with his first innings for the 2nd Xi, notching his highest ever score for the club with a powerful 43 in a huge partnership with fellow traveller Ollie Upjohn.

He blasted 7 boundaries, all of which flew through the mid off to cover region of the field, and none of them went aerial.

It showed his power and capability, which made the team as a whole look that much stronger. A few weeks later he cracked 40 again, this time caught out for 42 as he helped us stage a bit of a recovery. Coming in at 52-3, he steadied us to 212, putting on partnerships, also of 42, with two separate players.

That same game also provided his first wicket for the 2nd Xi, and a crucial one at that. Breaking a long partnership that was threatening to see the game out for a draw but was quickly undone by Sam's pace and bounce and the win was eventually sealed with less than 4 overs left in the match.

He put in his best effort with the ball with a terrorizing 3-10 the following week, each of his 3 wickets smashing into the stumps as he was just completely unplayable.

He added 7 wickets in just 3 games with ball in hand as he again had to avoid bowling due to a sustained injury during the white ball season while again showing us glimpses of what he was capable with the bat but had no standout performances. Each time he got a start it was familiar routine of throwing his wicket away, much to our disappointment.

Sam produced an incredible piece of fielding that turned our first one day game of the season on its head. Fielding at gully, he chased down the ball to third, but a shoulder injury, which was stopping him from bowling, meant he couldn't throw the ball in with any pace and yet, somehow he still hit the stumps from distance, running out a

batsman who had just made 50 and we would go to take 4-20 to tie the game after posting a miserable 131.

He finished up the year with 180 runs at 16.37 while taking 11 wickets at 14.55, a very good year for an all round player and yet there was so much more to come.

In just a few weeks from the end of the season to the start of the new one, Sam seemed to have put on a couple yards of pace and during the trials, he was really getting the ball through and was selected in the wider training squad for the 1st Xi.

Not having a place nailed down, he had to show us what he was capable of during the pre season fixtures, but had a disaster with bat in hand.

A pair of ducks in the same game, though it has to be said it's tough when you middle a ball and are still out lbw. Still, a second effort didn't do much better for him, however he was able to show us his class with ball in hand, ending with 3-36.

The second game of pre season saw him bag a 5 wicket haul as he looked increasingly menacing with the ball in his hand and he was standing up and telling us he was ready to play 1st Xi.

Into the season, and he was picked to make his debut in the first week of the competition and was finally able to end his run of ducks, which had extended to 6 innings through all competitions, with a deft glance for 4 off the first ball he faced.

It was a short innings though as he was pinned lbw after making double figures.

He then put together a crucial knock the following week against top side St Bedes, scoring a valuable 12 to help us over the line.

Then, a couple of weeks later Sam showed us everything he can do. Again, coming in with us in trouble, he was able to take his time at the start of the innings, build into it slowly and start scoring by ticking over singles when he could. When Ollie fell, breaking a big partnership between the pair, it was Sam who started playing aggressive, with some swashbuckling hits out through the leg side, including an incredible pull shot, which he hit with disdain over midwicket for a big 6.

He would fall just short of a first North West half century for 47, but it had got us to what would be a match winning total.

He had opportunities with the ball each week, and was able to chip in here and there with wickets, picking up 5 in the red ball format while grabbing another one in his sole T20.

Placed in the slips to start the year, he had a shaky beginning in the cordon, but took an absolute stunner off Alex for one of his 6 as he was one of the star players we had fielding behind the wicket.

A good start to the year for Sam, but there is still more to be expected.

His pre season away was better than everyone aside from Jasper as he showed us his batting capabilities, belting quick fire runs in both the T20 and 40 over fixtures and he also showed us what he could do with the ball in hand, starting the term very well. He was able to extract pace

and bounce from slowish wickets and making himself a handful to go after.

Unfortunately for Sam, aside from the odd moment of brilliance that came out of nowhere, he was, like a few others, lacking in the runs department when the season came about.

With only one double digit score to his name, a dogged effort against St Andrews on a tough wicket, which showed us he had more than enough class, there was a little too much to early and often found himself throwing his wicket away, usually after he had done some good work earlier on as well.

He was given less chances with ball in hand as well as a host of other options meant there was a lot more shared bowling around and Sam only got through 24 more overs adding 3 wickets to his tally from the first term.

Sam had his hand in a little bit of everything throughout the year, popping up when needed and there's no doubt next year, he will be looking to take on the leading allrounder role.

Sam Waddell

North West 1st Xi Stats 2025

Matches	16
Innings	14
Dismissed	13
Runs	138
Balls Faced	307
Minutes Batted	368
Average	10.62
Strike Rate	44.95
4's	15
6's	3
% of Runs in Boundaries	56.52
Ducks	0
50's	0
High Score	47

Matches	16
Balls Bowled	341
Maidens	8
Dot Balls	232
Dot Ball %	68.04
Wickets	9
Runs	236
Average	26.22
Economy	4.15
Strike Rate	37.89
Wides	19
No Balls	0
3Fer's	0
5Fer's	0
Best Figures	2-15

William Timms

Year 12, Right Hand Bat

Will Timms joined North West halfway through the year after transferring to Rangiora High School and switching allegiances to our Cricket club.

He made his first introduction to North West cricket by participating in the intersquad fixture at the start of Pre Season for the term 4 season and by the end of the day, he had fit in nicely. He was already getting along well with the squad and his ability was well noted, so he took up the last spot of the 15 for the squad for the latter half of the year after the departure of Sam Carrell.

A week later and he came with us on our Pre Season trip to Omaru where he impressed once more and was pushing those guys from the first term for a place in the match day 12 for the 1st Xi.

Will came to us from Christ College, having joined there from the outset and playing all his previous Youth cricket for them. Mostly a batsmen, he has been known to occasionally use the ball and with his part time medium pace, it gave us another option to use should we need it.

Playing for the Year 9a side, he had a top score of 54, which was against North West Year 9a, though he struggled to find big runs against opposition, while with the ball he was able to chip away and grab a handful of wickets at 23, not a bad return at all.

Into Year 10 and he was selected into the Christ College Colts side, where he built upon the previous year's runs,

totalling over 300 for the year with a high score of 74, again against North West as he was showing his love for playing against the green and black, averaging 23 for the year with bat in hand.

His returns with the ball were a little more meagre as he only sent down 15 overs, a best of just 1-15.

His progress continued on into Year 11 as he was selected to play in the Christ College Junior Development side where he racked up the runs. Again scoring over 300, but passed 50 on 3 occasions this time around with a high score of 69* against Sydenham and an average just under 35.

He was growing into his batting with each year he got into Youth Cricket.

Now, as a Year 12, he was selected as part of the Christ College 1st Xi, where he was given the unenviable task of opening up, despite having been largely a middle order batter in previous years and did find himself struggling somewhat.

He also played in a couple games for the Christ College 2nd Xi, including the fixture against North West where College came out on top and also played against us in Pre season back in term 1 where he was dismissed by Bosilu.

Now as a member of our squad, we were looking forward to seeing what he could bring to our side and he showed us what he could bring to our team with a measured 26 in the intersquad and then opened the batting in the second T20 vs Waitaki Boys, where he knocked the back off the chase by anchoring the innings with 30.

He had only been with us for a couple of weeks, but was already showing great worth and giving those others in the squad plenty to think about with their performances, as he would be waiting in the wings. He was thrust into opening for the first game of the season as the rest of our middle order was pretty set. He looked comfortable and in command early on in his innings before he mistimed a pull shot when the ball didn't come on to his bat.

The following week he slotted in at 7 after injuring his knee during the fielding but was part of a crucial 71 run partnership with Jasper after we had again fallen apart early, crumbling to 40-5, leaving us in a disastrous area.

He then settled into the middle order against his former school in Christ College and played a beautiful anchoring innings where both Christ wanted to get him for naught, and Will was determined not to get out for naught.

Instead, he piled on 31, rescuing our innings from its standard slip, but when he was strangled down leg, it triggered a collapse and we fell short of a reasonable total after that.

That would remain Will's highest score for the rest of the season as he struggled to find gaps to score and eventually got out.

A pair of ducks sandwiched a single figure score in the last 3 games of the season as he found the going particularly tough, but he will bounce back next year and with a full year at the club behind him, we can't wait to see what he can accomplish.

William Timms

North West 1st Xi Stats 2025

Matches	7
Innings	6
Dismissed	6
Runs	57
Balls Faced	172
Minutes Batted	215
Average	9.50
Strike Rate	33.14
4's	2
6's	0
% of Runs in Boundaries	14.04
Ducks	2
50's	0
High Score	31

Zaak Zaman Hassanussaman

Year 12, Bowler, Right Arm Leg Spin

From the tallest to the shortest member of the squad for 2025

Zaak Zaman, the little leg spinner that has shown so much growth over the past couple of years as a player. There wouldn't be many who has shown more growth as a player than him during his time playing for North West.

Now in year 12, he returns to the 1st Xi having spent the latter half of 2024 in the first team squad after some impressive performances.

It would be both fair and unfair to say to him that the spin department was solely in his hands, with the others being none more than part timers, but Zaak, with his leg spin was who we had expected, and hoped would be able to lead the way for us with the ball in hand.

Zaak joined North West as one of the smallest of Year 9's and had already leant heavily into leg spin, which, when he got it right, was really tough to handle, even for his own side.

Zaak had a great start to 2022 as he picked up 5 wickets at 16 through the first term but did struggle a little bit towards the end of the year as he was only able to pick up another 2 wickets at 31.

Being a spinner on artificial is not always fun, especially at such a young age.

With the bat in hand Zaak always looked like one of the best in the side technique wise but always struggled to find gaps and had little power to begin with so he would always just occupy the crease without being able to turn the strike over as much as he would like.

Still, he had plenty of ability and showed it with a sublime knock of 30* against Christchurch Boys in an unbeaten 73 run partnership with Jasper as they chased a modest total to win, despite the early trouble.

Zaak was then selected in the Colts for 2023, again as one of their main options, but he found bowling to be incredibly tough.

While others grew bigger and stronger, Zaak didn't change much and it hurt him and his bowling, as all of a sudden, the same players who were struggling to play him the year before, were not finding it as hard and he often found himself taking the brunt of the attacking shots from opposition players.

The loopy spin was proving to be a little less effective, Zaak also missed the first half of the year and was only available to play in the one day competition. He took just 3 wickets at 42.33 for the year with a best of 2-15 against St Bedes, but we always knew he was a far better spinner than what those statistics showed.

There was a lot of responsibility placed upon his shoulders when he was picked as the frontline spinner for the 2nd Xi as a young year 11.

With no other options to use at the start of the year, he was the first choice spinner, and he needed to show that

he had been able to make the improvements from the year before.

There was a lot more thinking and thought process going into his bowling and he was less and less just throwing the ball up and hoping.

He went wicketless on debut as he came on toward the end of the innings with just a wicket to go but bowled to some extremely unconventional fields and was still able to keep it tight.

Then the following week, he showed us all what he was all about as he again came on late after our seamers up front had ripped through the top order, and bowled a terrific, but short spell, grabbing 3-6 in that time.

He seemed to be going from strength to strength when he grabbed another couple, both of them bowled around the batsmen's legs, spinning big and hitting off stump in the following week as he was starting to get into his groove.

Unfortunately it was then the wheels fell off as he just really struggled to get the ball to land, resulting in a rough day at the office against Shirley, where he offered up plenty of full tosses and half trackers.

It can happen with leg spin though and so he went down to the 3rd Xi for a week to try and get through plenty of overs and regain his control.

All things considered, he ended with 7 wickets at 13.6 which was not a bad effort at all, and took 9 wickets for the term including his double in the 3rd Xi.

Pre season came around and it was clear that something had changed and he was starting to look a lot more confident in himself.

This effort was quickly noticed and with how he was bowling, the coaching staff for the 1st Xi were keeping an eye on him and the more time went by, the more he went from being just an option, to a viable one.

He played in the pre season fixtures for the 1st Xi where he impressed against the older generation, snatching a sharp caught and bowled that he had no right to catch, before also playing a pre season game for the 2nd Xi, where he was the best on the park, picking up 1-11 off his 5 overs as he bowled against players who would be competing in that top grade of schoolboy cricket.

Suddenly, Zaak found himself making his debut for the 1st Xi, alongside George who also was selected for his debut in a fixture against St Bedes 1st Xi. Zaak took 2-7 off 4 overs as he helped wrap up what was a very close run win.

Zaak would only play one more fixture for the 2nd Xi, and there he posted his highest score of the season, a classy 16* in a 22 run partnership for the last wicket which proved to be crucial as the game ended in a tie.

After that, Zaak played every game for the 1st Xi, as he made himself to be un-droppable with continued great performances with the ball, even with its limited use.

He finished with 6 wickets at 24.7 for the term, not a bad effort considering his young age and bowling the hardest craft of them all.

Backing up from that, he would be selected again, this time as the lead spinner in the 1st Xi for 2025.

Being the only non pace, first choice option, he was always able to provide something, even when he wasn't at his best.

He produced a few ripping deliveries on the opening day of the season, spinning past the edge, but ended the day wicketless as luck ignored him.

Then, he picked up his first wicket for the year against one of the top batsmen in the grade, dragging him down the wicket and beating the edge, with the keeper doing the rest behind him.

While against Shirley he ended with no wickets in his personal column, he did affect a vital run out, dismissing one of their opening bats who was playing a strong hand and helping Shirley towards victory.

He was also in the middle with George for that all important partnership for the last wicket which saw us post enough to get the win, Zaak finishing with 19* from 47 balls in a really impressive knock.

This came the week after he finished 5* against St Bedes, helping us knock off the last few runs to win that thriller, the highlight being his duck pull swipe, down to fine leg for a couple.

He was able to chip in with wickets throughout the term and finished with 7 wickets at 20, a best of 2-11 against Christ College 2nd Xi.

He was brilliant for the 1st Xi in the T20 comp as well. Coming into bowl in the opening game against St Andrews, who were blasting the side all over the park at above 10 runs per over, Zaak was able to switch things in our favour, ever so slightly. He bowled, definitely his best spell of the

year as he picked up 3-26 from his 4 overs, equalling Liam, Alex and Aroon as the leading wicket takers for North West throughout the T20's.

He found the going with the white ball to be a little more difficult and he bowled a lot less in term 4 than he had to start the year.

He was targeted and milked for runs a little, but was still able to pop up and grab a breakthrough when needed. He gave us hope against Christs by removing their set batsmen and made inroads against Sydenham by dismissing their opener after a good start by their batsmen, but those would be his only wickets in the 1st Xi for Term 4, though he did play a couple games down in the 2nd Xi while we were mulling over our selections.

He found himself opening the batting in one game and had plenty of catches dropped off his bowling during those two games, but did pick up a handful of wickets as well.

A great learning year for the young leggie who, with some experience now under his belt, will be able to lead the spinning unit with greater authority next year.

Zaak Zaman Hassanussaman

North West 1st Xi Stats 2025

Matches	16
Innings	9
Dismissed	6
Runs	41
Balls Faced	120
Minutes Batted	124
Average	6.83
Strike Rate	34.17
4's	3
6's	0
% of Runs in Boundaries	29.27
Ducks	2
50's	0
High Score	19*

Matches	16
Balls Bowled	416
Maidens	8
Dot Balls	276
Dot Ball %	66.35
Wickets	12
Runs	260
Average	21.67
Economy	3.75
Strike Rate	34.67
Wides	8
No Balls	1
3Fer's	1
5Fer's	0
Best Figures	3-26

North West 1st Xi Stats 2025

55	Dot balls bowled by Alex Guillemot Vs St Bedes 1 st Xi (Team High) 87.3% of balls bowled
31.79	Percentage of runs scored in the total innings, for the last wicket partnership between George and Zaak against Shirley Boys 1 st Xi (48 of 151)
10	Number of runs to take the last 6 wickets against Shirley
38	Number of balls to complete Alex's 6 wicket haul
1	Number of runs to take the last 6 wickets against CBHS Blue
14	Number of balls left in the match when George took the 10 th wicket Vs Sydenham 1 st Xi to win the match
3	Consecutive overs in which a wicket was taken. Alex & Aroon Vs Shirley Boys 1 st Xi
18	Percentage of runs scored in boundaries Vs Christ College 2 nd Xi (16 runs scored) Team Low
1	Number of balls of 1 st Xi cricket for Sam Waddell to take his first wicket in 1 st Xi Cricket
5	Different players to take a wicket during an innings.
31	Consecutive dot balls. Dilan, Kaden & Liam Vs CBHS Blue
25	Consecutive Dot balls by a single bowler. Dilan Vs CBHS Blue
198	Shortest match in terms of balls bowled. Vs St Bedes on Match Day 8

- Red = Red Ball
- White = White Ball
- Pink = T20

- 97** The highest Partnership for the year. Jasper and Jordan Vs St Andrews 1st Xi (57 balls)
- 18** Most runs scored off an over. Jasper & Jordan Vs STAC
- 13** 6's hit by all players across the T20 competition
- 5** CBHS 2nd Xi Batsmen dismissed for ducks. (Team High)
- 71** Partnership between Jasper and Will Vs St Thomas. 54.2% of the total Score
- 82.89** Percentage of Dot Balls bowled against Shirley Boys by the team. (155 of 187) Team High for One Day Comp
- 3** Number of boundaries conceded against Shirley Boys(Team Fewest)
- 229** Number of balls left in the Victory against Shirley Boys (Team High)
- 86** Highest Partnership in OD cricket for the 8th Wicket against St Bedes. Liam Kerr and Alex Guillemot
- 8** Number of Players to be Capped in 2025
- 80** Collective wickets taken in 2025 by the Year 13's
- 1019** Total runs scored for 1st Xi by Year 13's (All Matches)
- 105** Total Wickets taken for 1st Xi by Year 13's (All Matches)
- 141** Combined 1st Xi Caps by retiring year 13's in the squad

- Red = Red Ball
- White = White Ball
- Pink = T20

- 199** Combined 4's hit over the year
- 32** Combined 6's hit over the year
- 89** Catches taken for the 1st Xi
- 13.80** Team Batting Average
- 16.99** Team Bowling Average
- 141** Wickets taken in all competitions
- 11** Different Wicket Takers
- 2001** Runs Scored by team over 2025 off the Bat
- 4561** Total Minutes Batting at the Crease for the Team
- 2551** Dot balls bowled in 2025. 70% Of balls bowled were dots
- 21** Number of People to play 1st Xi in 2024. Pre-Season matches included
- 103** Maidens in 2025. 17.05% of overs Bowled
- 28** Ducks scored by 1st Xi Batters
- 9** Batsmen to hit a 6
- 1217.1** Total overs played for 1st Xi 2025
- 3.7** Alex Guillemot Average Vs Shirley Boys 2025. 10 Wickets
- 27** Combined total for both innings Rory Wafer top scored for the team. (12 Vs St Bedes, 15 Vs CBHS)

- *Red = Red Ball*
- *White = White Ball*
- *Pink = T20*

Best Individual Performances Term 1



Red Ball



Rory Wafer*	93 (103)	Vs Christ College Xi
Dilan Wijetunga	9ov 4-23	Vs St Andrews 2 nd Xi
Ollie Fifield	53 (56)	Vs St Andrews 2 nd Xi
Alex Guillemot	10.3ov 5-14	Vs St Bedes 1 st Xi
George Grayling	28 (32)	Vs Shirley Boys 1 st Xi
Alex Guillemot	11.2ov 6-19	Vs Shirley Boys 1 st Xi
Dilan Wijetunga	10ov 5-19	Vs CBHS 3 rd Xi Blue
Liam Kerr	5.1ov 3-9	Vs CBHS 3 rd Xi Blue
Jasper Welford	47* (61)	Vs CBHS 3 rd Xi Blue
Sam Waddell	47 (70)	Vs Sydenham 1 st Xi
Ollie Fifield	53 (65)	Vs Sydenham 1 st Xi
Kaden Fraser	7ov 1-8	Vs Sydenham 1 st Xi
George Grayling	9.4ov 4-27	Vs Sydenham 1 st Xi
Jordan Sim	59 (83)	Vs CBHS 3 rd Xi Black
George Grayling	8ov 4-13	Vs CBHS 3 rd Xi Black

**Pre Season*

Best Individual Performances Term 4



White Ball



Jasper Welford*	89 (60)	Vs Waitaki Boys Xi
Jasper Welford*	104* (90)	Vs St Kevins 1 st Xi
Rory Wafer*	50v 4-21	Vs St Kevins 1 st Xi
Jasper & Olly*	173* (144)	Vs St Kevins 1 st Xi
George Grayling	7.30v 4-23	Vs CBHS 2 nd Xi
Jasper Welford	59 (110)	Vs St Thomas 1 st Xi
Dilan Wijetunga	70v 3-20	Vs St Thomas 1 st Xi
Dilan Wijetunga	100v 3-17	Vs Shirley Boys 1 st Xi
Alex Guillemot	9.10v 4-18	Vs Shirley Boys 1 st Xi
Jasper Welford	106 (122)	Vs Sydenham 1 st Xi
Liam Kerr	57 (59)	Vs St Bedes 1 st Xi
Alex Guillemot	42* (81)	Vs St Bedes 1 st Xi

**Pre Season*

** T20 Pre Season*

North West 1st Xi Honours Board



Milestones 2025



Jasper Welford	700 Runs North West 1 st Xi
Jordan Sim	600 Runs North West 1 st Xi
Kaden Fraser	350 Runs North West 1 st Xi
Ollie Fifield	250 Runs North West 1 st Xi
Dilan Wijetunga	35 Wickets North West 1 st Xi
Alex Guillemot	30 Wickets North West 1 st Xi
George Grayling	30 Wickets North West 1 st Xi
Aroon Deb	20 Wickets North West 1 st Xi
Zaak Zaman	15 Wickets North West 1 st Xi
Alex Guillemot	60 Wickets North West Senior
Dilan Wijetunga	50 Wickets North West Senior
George Grayling	50 Wickets North West Senior

Senior Includes 1st 2nd & 3rd Xi

Awards



With the end of the season, it brings out the time for awards, which is such a special time of year.

An award is quite simply, recognition for your achievements, and what you have put in over the course of the year.

There are 3 main awards categories at NWYC, Coaches Player, Players Player and MVP but that doesn't begin to cover everything that goes on in a cricket side and so here we will honour 3 further categories, and the players who have had great success and been standouts in those departments.

It has been an decently good year, and it is time to recognise those who have been outstanding in their respective areas.

Bowler of the Year



Throughout the more recent years of North West 1st Xi Cricket, bowling has always been the strong suit. Most of the games that were won, especially at the top level were done through a brilliant bowling performance, either team or individual which led the way to victory.

Again, in 2025, this was also the truth. There were so many

wasn't always easy to make sure they were all used and every week it was someone different who stood up and put in a masterful performance. In just term 1 alone, there were already three 5 wicket hauls to seam bowling, which was as many to that denomination in the past 5 years, and a number of other hugely impressive performances.

Bowling is one of those categories where statistics rarely tell the story. You can't just look at volume of wickets, because that doesn't tell the story of chances created, or decisions going against you, or when those wickets were taken.

That being said you cant ignore statistics either because the end game of bowling is to take wickets and so there needs to be a cross connection.

This year there were a number of outstanding bowlers who were all in consideration for picking up the top bowler for the 1st Xi.

All of our seam options were brilliant for practically the entire year as they got to use the ball far more often than they had done, especially in the past couple of years of 1st Xi cricket, with spin dominating.

Now, it was the pacers turn to take charge and with a very seam heavy line up, it was brilliant to see how well they all did.

The top 3 wicket takers were all Year 13 seam bowlers and every time they got the ball in hand it looked like there was an opportunity to pick up a wicket and this award in name could go to anyone of them, as they stood above the rest, with 60% of the wickets taken by bowlers for the year, shared between the 3 of them.

All of them took over 20 wickets this year in an unprecedented feat, with a number of stunning individual efforts.

George, single handedly dragging us to victory in the dark against Sydenham in term 1, always popping up with a wicket when it was needed.

Dilan started off incredibly well in match day 1 against St Andrews and yet got better as the year went on, picking up both a best return on the year with 22 wickets, and best figures of 5-19 as he ripped apart CBHS with a tormenting display.

Alex, who picked up back to back 5 wicket hauls with his constant probing length as he too flew out of the gates at the start of the year before picking up a standard 1-2 each week. This could go to any one of the 3 of them, but

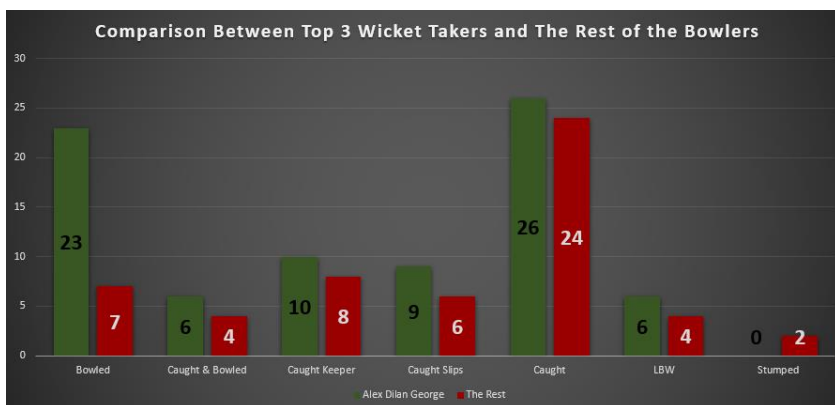
The North West 1st Xi Bowler of the year is

Alex Guillemot, Dilan Wijetunga, George Grayling

I have never had any of these shared before and this really was a toss up as despite the fact that Alex was clear out in front in terms of wickets taken, the other two were brilliant in their own right as well and I couldn't possibly separate them when you look at what they have achieved as a bowling unit.

Between the three of them they took 80 wickets compared to the other 8 bowlers who picked up wickets combining for 55.

They led the comparison for every type of dismissal as well except for stumpings, which should be expected.



12 of the 16 3wicket hauls that were taken by North West 1st XI bowlers this year came from these 3, while all 3 5wicket hauls came from them as well and a staggering 1726 deliveries were sent down, compared to 1898 by the other 11 bowlers, so you can see just how heavily they were relied on by their captains.

They took their 80 combined wickets at an average of just 13.35 in comparison to 22.49 for the rest as they stood above and it was clear that they were the leaders of our unit.

Therefore I do not think it a stretch to award this to a trio who have given everything this year and won us many a game through their efforts and brought respect to the art of pace bowling.

What a year the 3 of these guys have had.

Congratulations to Alex Dilan and George.

Batsman of the Year



With the bowling being the mainstay for the side, it was the batting that had let us down on occasion and at times we did find it really difficult.



After a strong start to the year, we started slipping as a team and couldn't get out of the rut before the season finished out. There were plenty of times where guys got in and got a start, but whenever they needed to carry on and turn it into a big score, there was a loss of concentration, or the wrong shot choice and it cost them their wicket.

Still, there were some outstanding innings that were put together it was pretty tight at the top of the leaderboard for most runs scored, at least for a while.

Ultimately though, it was a pretty easy decision to make in the end.

The North West 1st Xi Batsmen of the Year

Jasper Welford

Our stoic opener and someone who always fought hard to stay in the game and for a lot of the year he was doing it solo. He started the year off solidly, but would have been disappointed not to carry on and then in the second week he scored an extremely valuable 28, which on another would have been 50+.

He brought up his first half century for year in a classy knock at St Andrews in the T20 competition as he displayed his wits and extremely clever cricketing ability to be able to manoeuvre the ball where he wanted it and scored without having to swing across the line.

A composed 47* against CBHS in a comfortable win was unlucky as he was deserving of a half century and through the 11 games in the first term, he was our top scorer on 5 occasions.

Away on the pre season trip and he showed us everything we knew he could do and more as he blasted 89 in a t20 and then 104* in the 40 over game that followed.

He brought up 300 runs for the year in a wonderful knock of 59 against St Thomas 1st Xi on what was a tough wicket and a tough position to bat in as he watched 5 wickets fall at the other end before 45.

One of only two batsmen to average over 20 for the year, he was easily our best on show and though he would have been disappointed not to kick on with some of his starts, you always felt assured when he was at the crease.

He made batting look easy at times, even when things weren't going well and that was evident by the fact that he spent over 880 minutes at the crease and faced over 700 balls, which was mountains higher than anyone else.

Jasper was heads and shoulders above the rest, topping nearly every single statistical category for the year that regard the bat in hand, and then he decided to go and knock up a second 1st Xi ton on top of all of that to really pull away from the rest, in what was a fantastic effort with the willow against Sydenham in Term 4.

It was made even better by the fact that no one else crossed 22 in our side as they all truly struggled to bat and score, and yet Jasper looked so at ease.

The difficulty at which it took to get him out made him our standout batter for the year and he deserves to be mentioned as someone who truly made a difference to our games.

What a year from the Vice Captain and yet there is still much more we can expect to see from him.

Congratulations to Jasper.

Fielder of the Year



If you want to be a top team in any level or grade of cricket you compete in, then fielding is such an important area that you need to be the best in.

Its one of those things that slips under the radar as

small acts go unnoticed because it is expected, to a point that only when something extraordinary is done that we take notice, but you need to celebrate even the smallest success, because that is how you will succeed more as a team.

Done well, you don't even notice fielding.

Done poorly, it is incredibly noticeable.

It is such an important facet of the game to get correct because it can easily switch the momentum. All of a sudden if that half chance is taken, or the hustle after the ball to save one run is there, that is how a good side becomes great.

That is something that the 1st Xi were extremely lucky to have an abundance of in 2025, great fielders.

There were moments in the field that literally changed the game. Jasper taking a catch at slip in the first week against St Andrews to remove a set batter just when they were starting to get back into

the game. Kaden and Zaak combining to run out the opener against Shirley, or Sam W taking a screamer at gully which was the first of Alex's 5 wickets in that spell. Then there was Ollie F's catch in the dark against Sydenham to wrap up the game.

All moments that could have been missed and might have changed the outcome, but we were lucky enough to grab a hold of.

We caught an unprecedented number of catches in the slips in all formats as our fielders were incredible for the best part of the year and the number of stunning reactive catches in close was numerous.

There were so many players who could have won this award, which is another one which can't just be determined on statistics. It was probably our best area of the game as even if we hadn't batted or bowled as we liked, we were always switched on in the field. but in the end, there is a winner

The North West 1st Xi Fielder of the year is

Kaden Fraser

This could have gone to anyone as fielding was definitely a standout for us this year, but Kaden stood out above the rest.

Whether it was catching or ground fielding, he was always locked in you knew if the ball went anywhere near him something could happen.

Kaden picked up 3 run outs for the year while no one else managed more than 1, with exactly half of the total run outs earned for the season coming from his arm and he

was also the leading outfield catcher for the side with 13 catches to his name.

The only one close to him was the one who you'd expect to be, and that was the wicket keeper.

Any time the ball went near him you felt the catch was secured and he pulled off a couple very tough ones as well, diving away to his right and him front of him.

Cricket is a game of moments, and in the field, Kaden turned more of those moments into wickets for us, or shifted momentum slightly.

Whether he was in close or on the boundary, you knew he was switched on and would give you everything and that is all you can ask from anyone.

While I'm sure he would have loved to contribute to other areas more as well, it should be noted just how big of a presence he was in the field.

Congratulations Kaden.

Coaches Player



The Coaches player of the year is the first of the official awards handed out by the club.

It is an Award that is given to the player who as chosen by the coaches, was the indivual who had contributed the most to the team.



This doesn't necessarily mean on the scoreboard or in the stats book. It is in any and all factors. How they react to being dismissed, attitudes at trainings and games.

Someone who they designate has had a massive impact on the team and is deserving of being recognized for that fact.

Every Coach is different and will therefore look at different factors and criteria when making their decisions, but the constant is that it is not based off statistics.

This was a challenging choice to make, which was just so awesome because there were many players that fit the bill. Their dedication to the team, effort, and teamwork they tried to inspire were extremely visible, whether they were performing well or not, which was another important factor.

It is easy to be up and about when things are going well, but if you are struggling and feeling a bit down, that is when you can tell the players who are trying to fight through it and come out the other side.

The 2025 Coaches Player of the Year for the 1st XI

George Grayling

Every coach wants a George. Usually more than one. The guys that wears his heart on his sleeve, puts everything he has into every moment.

Nobody has worked as hard as George this year and that is always awesome to see.

With the bat in hand, you could constantly see him trying to work out how to be better, how he could contribute more for himself and therefore the team.

In the field he never gave up on any ball, always chased the ones that seemed certain for a boundary, believing he could get there.

With the ball, he's the type of guy to blow physics out of the water and truly give 110% to every ball that he bowled, and you could see the passion overflowing within him every time he got a wicket, no matter if it was the opener or the guy batting 11.

If someone else does well with bat ball or in the field, George is always the first one there to congratulate and he gets just as excited about others performances as his own.

He's the ultimate team player. While of course he wants to do everything and be involved every time he can, he's also aware that others may be dialled in and he has to take a step back and that doesn't get to him.

He's just happy others are going well and then you give him a chance, and he's got more energy than a child who as just enjoyed their first soft drink.

It is for this and many other reasons that George stands out above the rest and it is a privilege to be able to award him with the Coaches Player award.

George is also the inaugural winner of the bib award. The bright pink bib was the reward for anyone who did anything slightly silly. For example, forgetting their gear for a match day or training, being late without letting anyone know and for a whole host of other reasons.

Whoever was in possession of the bib had to wear it to every training session and to warm up for every match day. This was something that was brought in after Term 1 ended and George came out on top, beating all others, earning the bib a whopping 8 times as the season wore one, 3 clear of any other chaser.

Congratulations George

Players Player



The Players Player Award is arguably the most prestigious of the 3 official awards because there is no higher recognition than that of your peers.

It's an award that is chosen by the players as to who stood out the most for them in the side for 2025

Being the recipient of this award effectively says that your teammates have noticed all the effort and everything that you have put into the year, even if you may not be scoring runs or taking wickets every week, and it tells you just how valued you are in the side and are now being acknowledged by the team for what you have done throughout the year and to me, that is the highest of honours.

Nobody has the same outlook or through process when it comes to choosing their players player, whether it be based solely on performances, or stats. Maybe they look to leadership or how you act on field, but no matter what, there is always a deserving winner.

The 2025 Players Player of the Year for the 1st Xi

Dilan Wijetunga



Dilan has had an outstanding year, both with the ball in hand and with his role as Vice Captain. Expected to lead the bowling attack from up top with new ball in hand, and then provide as much help to the rest of the bowling unit as possible in order to make it easier for them.

It meant he had a lot on his plate, but it was something he was able to do extremely well, and it was recognised by his teammates, which is the basis behind his receiving of the award.

Dilan took 22 wickets at just 13.82 while maintaining a consistent economy of 3.20 which led the way for the side. He bowled an impressive 95 overs for the year, which was nearly 35 more than in 2024 as he shouldered a heavy bowling load.

Dilan bagged his first 5 wicket haul on the back of a stunning 4-0 spell which tore through a CBHS side, and he was ever the consistent bowler, almost too good to get wickets at times.

His spell against St Andrews where he only got a couple of wickets was breathtaking as they found it impossible to play him.

It was like that for him pretty much all year as he just kept churning out great bowling performances and it is awesome to see that his teammates had noticed the effort that he was putting in.

As the only Year 13 bowler returning to the side who played the whole year for the 1st Xi the year prior, and having just a couple bowlers behind him who had played 1st Xi cricket, he was expected to lead the way and show

the young guys coming through how to compete at this level and it is something that he has done extremely well.

31 games at 1st Xi level with 38 total wickets to his name is a testament to how good he has been in the couple of years in this side and for Dilan to bow out with the Players Player award is nothing more than he deserves.

Congratulations Dilan.

MVP



MVP, the pinnacle of the 3 awards that are given out. The one that everyone wants to win.

Most Valuable Player

Those 3 words say it all, the most valuable player on the team. The most valuable player who contributed to cricket for the North West 1st Xi for 2025.



As a coach, you want every decision around awards to be a tough one, you want it to be close because then hopefully that means you are coming off the back of a successful year and there are a number of players who have stood up and had a fantastic year of cricket for the team.

Of all the awards given out, MVP is the one that is based on statistics the most, but that doesn't mean there are no other factors. How and when are crucial points to consider as well. Did those runs help the team, what sort of situation did their performances occur in? and again it doesn't necessarily have to be on the pitch.

Just like other awards, there are so many things to consider before making a decision and this year, it wasn't a decision made easy.

There were so many players who had done great and

consistent things over the year that there was need for a deeper look into the season to be able to make a decision and after a long deliberation

The 2025 Most Valuable Player for the 1st Xi

Alex Guillemot

Alex completes the Grand Slam for all 3 official awards going to the bowlers after a brilliant year by our front 3 Year 13s.

The trio were absolutely brilliant all year and there was not much to separate them, especially in the wicket's column.

But it was Alex who led the way at the top with 31. He also produced the two best match figures of 6-19 and 5-15, both in red ball, while also providing our best match figures in the one day game with 4-18.

He was far and away the most used bowler by Jordan and Jasper for the year, bowling an astonishing 114.3 overs for 2025, 19 more overs than Dilan who was the closest to him.

Every time we needed a wicket, he was one who the skippers called on, and he was also a death bowler in both white ball formats.

Alex was the leading wicket taker in both the Declaration and T20's formats, while in the One Day format he was second in the charts, 2 back from George who had an outstanding campaign himself.

Alex missed one game throughout the year and we played a game less than previous years and yet he still fell just 1 wicket short of equalling the record for most wickets in a

year for a North West 1st XI bowler as he was just one of the most consistent performers we had.

Up top he would swing the ball away and have the batsmen poking and prodding. Then he would come back later in the innings for his second spell and pick up a pouch full of wickets.

40% of the team's total wickets that were caught in the slips belonged to Alex and though there is no stat that captures it, he would also have had the most drops in that region as well as his constant probing with the new ball caused edges to fly into the cordon with some regularity.

It was a sensational year for the Year 13 who aside from one game at the end of last year, was thrust into the side completely fresh and given the new ball role, something he has obviously thrived in.

A truly remarkable year and capped off with a thoroughly deserved MVP award. What a way to sign off at North West.

Congratulations Alex.

North West 1st Xi Class of 2025

North West 1st Xi Class of 2025



<i>Alex Guillemot</i>	<i>(21)</i>	<i>Aroon Deb</i>	<i>(24)</i>
<i>Bosilu Liyana Waduge</i>	<i>(0)</i>	<i>Dilan Wijetunga</i>	<i>(31)</i>
<i>George Grayling</i>	<i>(23)</i>	<i>Jasper Welford</i>	<i>(33)</i>
<i>Jordan Sim</i>	<i>(41)</i>	<i>Kaden Fraser</i>	<i>(33)</i>
<i>Liam Kerr</i>	<i>(8)</i>	<i>Olly Upjohn</i>	<i>(19)</i>
<i>Ollie Fifield</i>	<i>(21)</i>	<i>Rory Wafer</i>	<i>(17)</i>
<i>Sam Carrell</i>	<i>(6)</i>	<i>Sam Waddell</i>	<i>(16)</i>
<i>Will Timms</i>	<i>(7)</i>	<i>Zaak Zaman</i>	<i>(23)</i>
<i>Oscar Colhoun</i>	<i>(1)</i>		

Numbers in brackets are caps



Farwell to the Year 13's

It's no easy feat to make it through to the end of Year 13, especially at a club like North West. A lot of juniors come in as Year 9's and as the years wear on, they may find they've made great friends at their schools, and chose to move on and play for them, or instead they might be offered scholarships to the more prestigious schools who offer what we can't.

Every year we farewell only a handful of Year 13's. Last year there were only 7 who had played all 5 years at North West Cricket, and 9 Year 13's total.

This year things are slightly different though, as in the 3rd Xi's, there were almost two full sides of players who were finishing up, nearly all of whom had started as Year 9's and gone through together.

It is a pity that after the halfway mark of the year, some of those players decided to move on as well, not quite finishing out their time.

In the 1st Xi squad, there are also a number of Year 13's who are saying goodbye to the club now that the season is over.

7 of the full squad of 15 are moving on, with only 3 of those 7, completing all 5 years at North West Youth Cricket.

Jordan is the only player in the 1st Xi squad to go from the Year 9A starting side, all the way through to the end, while there is another in the 3rd Xi who was also in

that 9A side. Sam C and Bosilu were also both members of the Year 9A side as well, but both missed half a year throughout their time here. George and Alex were in the Year 9B sides and fought their way through plenty in order to finish as 1st Xi players. Dilan finishes out 4 years after starting in the Colts while Rory played out just the solitary year.

So, it's very clear, it's not easy to play through 5 years at this club, but for these guys, to have gone through as they have, to grow, both their games and themselves, is a testament to the effort and drive they have put in.

With a pick and mix side from so many schools, and the many teammates they have shared over the years, as well as those we have already farewelled, building those lasting relationships can be another huge challenge, but watching the way these guys have gone about their time at the club has been a privilege.

At times it has been incredibly difficult, on the end of some less than reputable results, and other times there has been pure elation with the joy of some big or impressive wins.

There have been so many impressive performances from this group who are moving on, no matter which team they were playing for and each of them has given their all to every game they have played during their time here.

They will be missed, both what they bring on the field and off it. They've all been fantastic ambassadors for

the club and have contributed massively to the improvement and building of North West Cricket.

I just want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of them, as well as congratulate them all on what has been a fantastic few years and I hope that no matter how things have turned out for you here, whether you think you have succeeded or not, that you have all enjoyed your journey through Youth cricket at North West.

Speaking from my own perspective, it has been awesome having you all at the club and being able to watch your growth, from all the way back in 2021 when you joined as little Year 9's, still boys, and now leaving as men.

I wish all of you the very best in your journey forward from here, whether it be in cricket or not and just want you all to know that what you have done for the club will be long remembered.

While I wish I was able to provide you your stat lines for your entire North West Career, even for me that was a bit of a stretch. Instead, I was able to put together your stats from your 3 years as North West Youth Senior Players, no matter the teams you were involved in.



Pictured: Year 13's Bosilu, Dilan, Alex, Jordan Rory, George together after the game against Sydenham. The end of an era at North West Youth Cricket

I hope that you will come to look back on this time fondly, with some great memories, and at the end of the day, I hope more than anything, that you have enjoyed yourselves, both on and off the field.

Good luck to you all.

Alex Guillemot

Teams Played For:

Junior Year 9B Year 10B Year 10 Colts
Senior 3rd Xi 2nd Xi 1st Xi

Batting

North West Senior Cricket 2023-2025

Matches	45
Innings	28
Dismissed	19
Runs	349
Balls Faced	645
Average	18.37
Strike Rate	54.11
4's	40
6's	0
Ducks	6
50's	1
High Score	81

Alex Guillemot

Bowling

Matches	45
Balls Bowled	1721
Maidens	49
Wickets	62
Runs	1102
Average	17.77
Economy	3.84
Strike Rate	27.76
Wides	89
No Balls	25
3Fer's	8
5Fer's	3
Best Figures	6-19

Bosliu Liyana Waduge

Teams Played For:

Junior Year 9A Year 10 Colts

Senior 3rd Xi 2nd Xi 1st Xi

North West Senior Cricket 2023-2025

Batting

Matches	31
Innings	27
Dismissed	25
Runs	410
Balls Faced	938
Average	16.40
Strike Rate	43.71
4's	32
6's	0
Ducks	2
50's	1
High Score	67

Bosliu Liyana Waduge

Bowling

Matches	31
Balls Bowled	216
Maidens	216
Wickets	13
Runs	176
Average	13.54
Economy	4.89
Strike Rate	16.62
Wides	26
No Balls	6
3Fer's	0
5Fer's	1
Best Figures	6-25

Dilan Wijetunga

Teams Played For:

Junior Year 10 Colts

Senior 2nd Xi 1st Xi

North West Senior Cricket 2023-2025

Batting

Matches	45
Innings	18
Dismissed	9
Runs	66
Balls Faced	239
Average	7.33
Strike Rate	27.62
4's	5
6's	0
Ducks	3
50's	0
High Score	12

Dilan Wijetunga

Bowling

Matches	45
Balls Bowled	1592
Maidens	46
Wickets	53
Runs	867
Average	16.36
Economy	3.27
Strike Rate	30.04
Wides	87
No Balls	21
3Fer's	5
5Fer's	1
Best Figures	5-19

George Grayling

Teams Played For:

Junior Year 9B Year 9A Year 10B Year 10 Colts

Senior 2nd Xi 1st Xi

North West Senior Cricket 2023-2025

Batting

Matches	44
Innings	34
Dismissed	27
Runs	228
Balls Faced	461
Average	8.44
Strike Rate	49.46
4's	23
6's	1
Ducks	4
50's	0
High Score	33

George Grayling

Bowling

Matches	44
Balls Bowled	1121
Maidens	21
Wickets	53
Runs	708
Average	13.36
Economy	3.79
Strike Rate	21.15
Wides	81
No Balls	26
3Fer's	7
5Fer's	1
Best Figures	5-16

Jordan Sim

Teams Played For:

Junior Year 9a Year 10 Colts

Senior 2nd Xi 1st Xi

North West Senior Cricket 2023-2025

Batting

Matches	44
Innings	40
Dismissed	37
Runs	755
Balls Faced	1059
Average	20.41
Strike Rate	71.29
4's	86
6's	16
Ducks	5
50's	2
High Score	59

Jordan Sim

Bowling

Matches	44
Balls Bowled	36
Maidens	2
Wickets	2
Runs	9
Average	4.50
Economy	1.50
Strike Rate	18.00
Wides	1
No Balls	0
3Fer's	0
5Fer's	0
Best Figures	2-2

Rory Wafer

Teams Played For:

Senior 1st Xi

North West Senior Cricket 2025

Batting

Matches	17
Innings	15
Dismissed	15
Runs	131
Balls Faced	261
Average	8.73
Strike Rate	50.19
4's	15
6's	2
Ducks	2
50's	0
High Score	24

Sam Carrell

Teams Played For:

Junior Year 9A

Year 10 Colts

Senior 3rd Xi

2nd Xi

1st Xi

North West Senior Cricket 2023-2025

Batting

Matches	34
Innings	24
Dismissed	20
Runs	339
Balls Faced	426
Average	16.95
Strike Rate	79.58
4's	50
6's	4
Ducks	5
50's	0
High Score	44

Sam Carrell

Bowling

Matches	34
Balls Bowled	990
Maidens	19
Wickets	33
Runs	629
Average	19.06
Economy	3.81
Strike Rate	1130
Wides	28
No Balls	3
3Fer's	2
5Fer's	0
Best Figures	3-43

Afterword

The afterword.

The final piece of this, shall we say in depth and extensive look into the season that has been North West 1st Xi Cricket for 2025.

This is now the 4th edition of my end of Year Report, and the first Edition tackling the 1st Xi and I can say that each year they seem to grow bigger and bigger and balloon out of control.

This year's one in particular has been a long, long road. The time spent on it is more than I'd care to admit, with somewhere close to 10,000 minutes having gone into this and over 50,000 words. I started working on this volume just after the first pre season game of the year in against the Christ College XV, all the way back in January, constantly editing and making changes or adding to it as the weeks went by and before I knew it, the page numbers were getting ever closer to the 300 mark.

Countless hours were spent researching statistics and old scorecards in order to put together the player profiles, with numerous stats sheets built, which would need a thesis of their own to go through and are not seen within this tome.

Yet despite all the time and effort, it has been really fun writing it and a great way to look back on the journey the players have taken to get where they are.

So, to anyone who managed to make it all the way to the depths of this report and didn't drown, whether you

skipped to the end or finished through it, I thank you for taking what was probably an extended amount of time.

Personally, I just want to thank everyone who was involved with the North West 1st Xi, whether it be parent help or the players themselves, because none of this happens without you.

A massive thank you and applause for Alistair Sim, who has spent a huge amount of time this year organizing everything, whether it be trainings, pre season games, coaches to help out at sessions and everything in between, it has been awesome to work alongside you.

Nothing would be possible without his help and that's without even mentioning that he is the one coaching this side, so I hope that people have appreciated the work that he has put in this year, because I know it certainly made everything a lot easier for myself.

To the players, it was an incredible season that saw some fantastic performances, both team and individual and I couldn't be more proud of the results that you were able to produce.

There was never an easy game, and we were made to fight hard to get any result and yet it was truly enjoyable to be a part of the side.

As mentioned earlier, it is never easy to be a part of a club like North West where building relationships can be tricky due to the lack of sociability outside of the cricketing circle and that's why it was fantastic to see the way you all got around each other all year.

The fact that over half the side, plus parents turned out to watch George in his schools production just showed what

kind of team we are and that is something that I'm most proud of, even more than the results on the field.

To be a part of this side was a huge privilege and will live long in my memory.

Having now finished my 6th year at the club, I was lucky enough to have celebrated my 100th competitive match(107) as coach of a North West side, having taken various teams throughout my time. Year 9a, Colts, 2nd Xi and 1st Xi and while they have all been a challenge, it has been fantastic all the same.

For those who know me well, they know how much I live this game, how much I try to be in every moment and so now, having been involved for 6 years, I can still truly say I love being a part of this club.

It's not always been easy and some years it's been downright tough, but I have always wanted to be involved as much as possible.

I have seen so many players come and go over the years, I've witnessed some incredible and some awful performances, all part of the game and yet there is always something that has been able to surprise me.

To sign off, thank you once again to everyone involved, this year wouldn't have been the same without you all and I hope you know that all your help and support is always appreciated and I hope that you were able to have as much fun as I did.



Zac Tait