

Newcastle vs Sydney

Waratah Oval Newcastle - 16 March 2014



A bright sunny morning. The Sydney side was welcomed to a sparkling Newcastle with Pacific Ocean breakers rolling in to golden Newcastle beaches, Caves, Stockton, Redhead.

Waratah Oval was in good condition, with a lush outfield signalling a lot of leather-chasing and not many boundaries. Sydney won the toss and Peter Mikhail immediately chose to bat on a strip which was slow and low and the match got away on time, at 10am.

The Newcastle bowling attack was accurate and two wickets had fallen after seven overs (for eight runs). Two guest players for Sydney, Joe Di Tommaso and Glen Rota, and later Sterling Hamman were able to steady the innings somewhat and add some respectability to the score (combined contribution of 73 runs). Another guest, Paul Golledge, chipped in at the end with 15 runs, and an unremarkable Sydney innings ended at 122 in the 41st over.

This score, while not substantial, seemed competitive under the circumstances. The standout bowler for Newcastle was Michael Holt, an accurate and fastish seamer, with 5 for 15, from 8.1 overs. Very impressive. (He later had the misfortune to collect a ball under the eye, requiring five stitches). The Newcastle fielding was first-class.

A delicious barbeque and salad lunch was enjoyed by all. A big effort from Brenton Hart, who prepared the meal as well as performing much organisation prior to the match.

Enter Michael Redpath and Scott Elsegood, opening for Newcastle. They accumulated runs at five per over, without giving a chance, until Elsegood departed with the score at 44. Redpath overcame the slowish outfield by lofting the ball over the field and combined with Nick Barnett to take the score to 97, and shortly after, Redpath retired at 50, without offering a single chance. Tight bowling from Paul Golledge and Joe Di Tommaso, restricted the score somewhat, but wickets were very scarce.

The Sydney side lacked urgency in the field and runs were accumulated at will. Black clouds threatened from the south and a few wickets fell, until rain forced the players from the field, with the score at 5 for 115 in the 25th over.

The umpires, (Graham and Don) conferred and play was abandoned, with Newcastle, a well-deserved winner following a Duckworth Lewis process. An excellent day was celebrated with a few lagers and fellowship between the two teams.

Report from Paul (Neville) Mahoney



'Man of the Match' Michael Holt



Captains: Christian Hernandez and Peter Mikhail