

FTGCC - The Matches nobody won!

Since 1913/14 when the club first began competition cricket matches in the Reporter Cricket Association (now the Box Hill Reporter Cricket Association), there have been just seventeen (17) matches where neither team came home with a victory because the match ended in a Tied result. Amazingly two of these occurred against the same opponent in the same grade (4th XI) twelve months apart in 1993/94 and 1994/95, and then another two incredibly occurred just a month apart in the 2011/12 season!

#	Season	XI	Date (s)	FTGCC Scores		Opponent & Scores		
				1st Inn	2nd Inn		1st Inn	2nd Inn
1	1914/15	1 st	24/10/1915	117	82	East Doncaster	53	146
2	1939/40	2 nd	11/11/1939	67	7/46	Warrandyte	67	73
3	1961/62	2 nd	25/11/2961	102	8/92	Salvation Army B.H.	149	45
4	1968/69	3 rd	15/2/1969	69	9/45	Wantirna South	69	9/99 Dec.
5	1974/75	2 nd	15/2/1975	231		Mountain Gate	231	
6	1979/80	4 th	3/11/1979	65	142	Bluebirds	0/101 Dec.	106
7	1984/85	1 st	13/10/1984	140		Mountain Gate	7/140 c.c.	
8	1985/86	2 nd	12/10/1985	94		Bayswater	94	
9	1991/92	2 nd	15/2/1992	187		Knox Gardens	187	
10	1993/94	4 th	13/3/1994	162	1/59	East Ringwood	162	
11	1994/95	4 th	14/10/1995	8/104 c.c.		Warrandyte	104	
12	1996/97	4 th	7/12/1996	85		Warrandyte	85	
13	2005/06	3 rd	17/12/2005	137		The Basin	137	
14	2007/08	2 nd	19/1/2008	160		Eildon Park	160	
15	2011/12	3 rd	8/10/2011	7/200 c.c.		Johnson Park	200	
16	2011/12	1 st	5/11/2011	7/220 c.c.		Knoxfield	220	
17	2019/20	1 st	29/2/2020	109		Knox Gardens	109	
18								
19								
20								

1. 24/10/1914, 1st XI – 117 & 82 tied outright with East Doncaster 53 & 146

We scored 117 in our 1st Innings with Pat Staig (35) top scorer and then proceeded to skittle the home team for just 53 in their 1st Innings with Henry Richardson (4/5) and Jack McMahon (4/2 including a Hat Trick), the bowling stars. After comfortably leading East Doncaster by 64 runs, we suffered at their hands in the second and they gave themselves a chance of outright victory, when they dismissed us for 82. We batted and fielded one player short on Day 2 when Jack McMahon was absent, with their efforts leaving them 147 for victory.

They reached 8/144 and needed three runs as the game seemingly had slipped from our grasp, when George Williams started what would be the final over of the East Doncaster innings. He took a wicket (Caught & Bowled) with his first ball (9/144), but then disaster struck when the next went for two leg byes, only for him to take the final wicket (again Caught & Bowled), with his next ball. Their score was 146 and the two teams had played in the Association's first outright tied game.

At the end of the East Doncaster 2nd Innings both teams' scores stood at 199 runs each, with FTG 117 & 82 to East Doncaster 53 & 146. George Williams was the hero of the second innings bowling 4.3 overs, taking 6/24 which included dismissing their last three batsmen for 'ducks'.

The match had repercussions on our Premiership chances at the season's end as the absence of McMahon on Day 2, (he had spent the day working at his abattoir in the belief that the match was already won), probably cost us our first Premiership Pennant. With a career batting average over 18 per innings, it is likely that his attendance on Day 2 would have ensured victory for the team. He wasn't to know at the time, but his absence and the missed extra two points a win would have earned, ultimately cost the club not just the victory but probably its first Premiership Pennant as the season went down to the wire, and we finished second on the ladder, by a single point to Croydon who were awarded the 'B Section' premiership.

2. 11/11/1939, 2nd XI – 67 & 7/46 tied with Warrandyte 67 & 73

The first season the club fielded a 2nd XI saw a tied result in Round 3 at Ferntree Gully, when Warrandyte was dismissed in their 1st Innings for 67 (Ernie Doyle 5/15, Don Downes 2/18). In reply we were dismissed for the same score – only Fred Heginbotham and Jack Turnbull (15 each), made double figures and a young Jack Clark (Peter's father) scored 9.

Warrandyte batted again and were dismissed for 73 with Don Downes (3/6) and Ron Lomax (2/11) doing the damage and in reply we were 7/46 and perhaps fortunate that time was called, needing a further 28 runs with just three wickets in hand.

3. 25/11/1961, 2nd XI – 102 & 8/92 tied outright with Salv. Army Boys Home 149 & 45

The SABH batted first in a match played at Ferntree Gully and scored a healthy 149; Ken Mutimer (4/35), Bob Bailey (2/32) & Rick Joyner (2/41). They led by 47 runs when they dismissed us for just 102 in our 1st Innings with only Ken Mutimer (30), Rick Joyner (27) & Jim Kirkpatrick (15) getting to double figures.

With plenty of time left, Day 2 saw the young tyro's Joyner (6/6) and Mutimer (2/7) decimate the Boys Home for just 45 in their second innings, leaving us with 93 to get for victory. With five needed from the final over to tie the match (six to win) and with four wickets in hand it was achievable... Unfortunately a run out first ball, the loss of another wicket to a superb catch and a rash of close chances for both teams saw the match down to the wire when we needed two runs to claim victory of the final ball (8 Ball Overs) – only one resulted and the match ended in an outright tie

4. 15/2/1969, 3rd XI – 69 & 9/45 tied with Wantirna South 69 & 9/99 Dec

A Tie was a good result in this match played at Brenock Park when Wantirna South batted first and were dismissed for 69. Grantley Bland (5/22) was the star bowler and with support coming from Paul Martin (2/11) we were right on top. Stumps brought a different story, however, we were precariously placed at 8/60; Noel Hardwick (25), Don Ledger (13) and still needed 10 for a 1st Innings lead. On the second day Kim Mastertoun, Tony Goldsmith and Paul Hartnett saw us to 69, but when Kim was dismissed trying for the go ahead run, the scores were all tied up.

Wantirna South batted again and declared their innings at 9/99. Noel Hardwick (3/31) led the bowlers with Grantley Bland, Don Ledger and Paul Martin each taking two wickets. Just over 90 minutes remained and we were fortunate to escape with the Tie points when stumps saved us at 9/45 with Kim Mastertoun and Emilio Russo the not out batsmen. In a sad postscript of this match, one of the club's up and coming stars, Paul Martin, was lost forever when he tragically drowned in an accident at Wilson's Promontory at Easter. On a brighter note it also featured five men who progressed to become Life Members of the Club and three others who became 10 Year members.

5. 15/2/1975, 2nd XI – 231 tied with Mountain Gate 231

This match will always be remembered because of its tied result but if it wasn't for the all round efforts of Cliff James and Mountain Gate's – Bill 'Buck' Walford, the result would have been very different. Played at Mountain Gate we batted first and stand in Captain, Doug McMillan (regular Captain, Mick Kirkpatrick was in the 1st XI) would have been pleased to have 231 on the board. The star was Cliff who top scored with 84, ably supported by Doug (51), Peter Waters (39) and a hard hitting 21* including 3 sixes from George Tew at the end. Disappointingly the final three wickets all fell at 231 with Dave Duncan, and junior grade players Rob Blythe and Paul McMillan all making 'ducks' – if only they knew...

On Day 2 Mountain Gate set out chasing down the score in the knowledge that they would only bat 10 as one of their team members from Day 1 was absent. The Gully did everything right to win the match except get the star of Mountain Gate's innings; Walford, out. The other nine Mountain Gate batsmen contributed just 57 runs to their cause but unfortunately for us Walford contributed 163 not out and with the 11 Extras the scores were tied when a despondent Cliff James knocked over the final wicket. He thought the match had been lost as the scorers indicated Mountain Gate had won by a run, but on checking them an error was apparent. Cliff's effort of 84 runs & 5/93 off 21 '8 Ball' Overs were the equal of Walford's monumental innings but neither man would be victorious – the match was declared a tie.

6. 3/11/1979, 4th XI – 65 & 142 tied outright with Bluebirds 0/101 Dec & 106

The adage that 'cricket is a funny game' could easily have been derived from this match. Batting first we had a shocker and were all out for just 65 before tea on Day 1 with only Frank Mollo (27) making double figures. Nothing went right for the 4th XI as the Bluebirds big hitting Vern White opened his shoulders and smashed a quick fire 80 not out to see them in an almost impregnable position of 0/101 at Stumps. They declared at their overnight score and we then batted with more purpose in the second innings to score 142 and led by 106 runs. The batting improved with Frank McGowan (48) top scorer, Frank Mollo (27 again) and Don Young (20) the key contributors and the bowlers had a score to defend...

White started off in blazing fashion again and scored a quick fire 48 but got little support against the wily experienced pairing of Greg 'Wiffa' Smith and Frank Mollo who bowled 28 overs unchanged in the Bluebirds second innings. They took all the wickets to fall with the final wicket a 'direct hit' run out occurring when the last pair of Bluebirds batsmen were attempting the winning 107th run. 'Wiffa' (6/59) and Frank (3/40) carried the team from the depths of cricket despair to the unlikeliest of tied results... has there ever been a match of such cricket extremes?

7. 13/10/1984, 1st XI – 140 tied with Mountain Gate 7/140 c.c.

The 1984/85 season began with two One Day matches – the first was washed out but the second, played at home, was one of the most exciting in the memory of those present, and resulted in only the second 1st XI tied result in club history. We batted first and were all out for 140 in the final over of our 36 over innings with Mick Beyer (37), Chris Dockery (22) and John Franchi (20) the best scorers against a Mountain Gate attack led by ex Gully star Kim Mastertoun.

Mountain Gate commenced cautiously against our new ball attack that included boom new recruit, Norm Butters. He was supported by John Franchi (as a quick bowler) with medium pace bowling coming from the Mick Beyer, John Hamilton and the experienced Rob Sidebottom. Mick got the first two wickets – including a rampant Tony Hodgkins, who welcomed Norm to the FTGDCA with a huge six into the nets, for 29. Returning in a new spell, John got their two trumps – Keith 'Tuddy' Glover (65) and Darren McDonald (24) to a classic catch in the gully by Steve Flemming, and we were back in it.

Enter 'Sidey' - a Gully legend and masterful tactician from the 1960's and 70's, Rob returned as Capt/Coach at the request of Gus Bull's Committee to lead a young and mostly 'home grown' 1st XI squad. He stepped into the breach in this match and bowled 9 overs at the death and took 2/19 showing that anything was achievable. Incredibly, when the final over began it was Mountain Gate; despite the flying start Hodgkins had given them, who were looking anxious and nervous. They needed 4 off 6 balls, but lost two wickets to Sidey, one the third catch of the Innings to a young Rob Sevier, and the match finished in a tie with Mountain Gate 7/140 from their allotted 36 overs. A great match with a result that turned out to be the closest any opponent got to defeating us in a Premiership winning season.

8. 12/10/1985, 2nd XI – 94 tied with Bayswater 94

In a horrible batting performance at Gracedale Park, the 2nd XI was bundled out for just 94 by Bayswater, with top scorer Merrick Abraham (44*) and Mr. Extras the next best on 15 while Glen Faulkner, Paul Staples and Shane Phillips all made 'ducks'. Bayswater seemingly only had to bat their time and a win would result, but the Gully bowlers had other ideas.

Captain, Rob Hardingham knew that early wickets would put some pressure on Bayswater and when young charge Paul Staples broke through in his third over to get the first and second wicket and then Tony Malmberg followed up with two in his next over it was game on... A steady progression of wickets fell to the duo and while he didn't get a wicket, Shane Phillips, the only other bowler used was instrumental in obtaining a vital run out off his own bowling at the death.

The last wicket went to Paul Staples who finished with a 'bag' of 5/20 from his 17 overs, eight of which were maidens in an exceptional One Day bowling performance for a 17 year old. Tony finished his spell of 12 overs with 4/46 and Shane's 5 had gone for just 16 runs in a match that would not be remembered for the batting exploits, but for the dominance of the bowlers and the tied outcome.

9. 15/2/1992, 2nd XI – 187 tied with Knox Gardens 187

This match saw Knox Gardens compile a reasonable score of 187 on Day 1 at Ferntree Gully. The wickets were shared around with Ray Calvert's 4/68 from 22 overs the best performance. The other wickets takers were Lee Thomson (2/11), Glen Ennis (2/29) and Ray Rebecchi (2/13), while the Team's captain, Arnie Walters took 5 dismissals behind as Wicket Keeper. At Stumps we were 0/4 and well placed to pursue a victory on Day 2.

After recovering from 3/33, we reached 4/100 at Tea with Phil Beyer and a young Jason Adem at the crease. Just after Tea Phil was dismissed for 53 and the rest of the batting failed to fire until last man Lee Thompson, came to the crease to join Arnie who was 7 not out and the score 155. The score slowly increased, and the tension mounted with Arnie doing most of the work shielding Lee from the strike and attempting to score the 33 runs needed on his own – he almost did it.

In what would be the final ball of the penultimate over with 7 runs needed and just as he was looking to turn the strike over to face again, he hit the ball too well and it went to the boundary for 4. A good outcome although it put Lee on strike to their opening bowler, who had been brought back in desperation by Knox Gardens, frustrated at the comical running between wickets and general chaos that seemed to exist every time 'Thommo' went into bat.

The next over saw Lee hit a single off the first ball which gave Arnie the chance to score the two winning runs he needed to record a famous victory. The second ball was full and he hit it well, but on turning for the second and match winning run, 'Thommo' dropped his bat and returned to his crease! We got a single, the scores were level and he was on strike again. That's when the match ended, because despite pressure from his skipper to keep his head, Lee tried to hit the next ball to the fence, but instead it went straight to a fieldsman who took the catch and ended the match in a Tie. Arnie remained 29 not out in a real skipper's knock.

10. 13/3/1994, 4th XI – 162 & 1/59 tied with East Ringwood 162

After a series of narrow finals defeats, the 4th XI made it to the 1993/94 Semi Final against East Ringwood in a match played at Milperra Reserve. We won the toss and made an average score of 162 with four batsmen getting out in their 20's – Phil Jackson (26), Tony O'Dowd (25), Mick Woods (24) and Peter Manning (21).

To go through to the Grand Final the bowling would have to apply immediate pressure, so when Joe Larusso got the opening batsman out for a 'duck' it was a great start. Just as in our Innings the East Ringwood batsmen failed to dominate with Phil Jackson taking out their top order and putting us right on top at 6/81. Their number 8 batsman came to the crease, and shortly afterwards, when they were 9/123 and seemingly gone, launched a counterattack to edge them towards winning the match. He was there at the end when Phil took his fifth wicket in the innings as Peter Manning took a great diving catch. It finally ended the 10th Wicket partnership of 39 and the Innings for 162 and the match was tied.

As we finished the H & A Season higher on the ladder, the Tied result saw us progress through to the Grand Final where, unfortunately, despite 73 from Peter Manning and 44 from Andrew Carbery, a Hat Trick from Tony O'Dowd and 5 dismissals behind by Brett Patrikeos we went down by 8 runs to Kilsyth, 175 to 183.

11. 14/10/1995, 4th XI – 8/104 cc tied with Warrandyte 104

When weather prevented any play on Day 1 of this match the game became a one day fixture on a ground that had been wet for most of the second week. On the slow Ferntree Gully #2 Oval we toiled from our 40 overs for 8/104 cc with Greg Patterson (19), Luke Bowyer, in his first Senior Grade match (18), Peter Manning and John Dennis; 14 each.

At one stage Warrandyte were cruising at 5/80 from 30 overs seemingly needing to just keep the scoreboard ticking to bring up the final 25 runs and an easy victory. In need of a breakthrough, the Captain; Brett Patrikeos threw the ball to Peter Manning who then produced the best spell of his career to take 5/9 from his 5 overs. When Warrandyte's score stood at 8/104, they needed one run to win with two wickets in hand and the 39th and 40th over remaining for them to get it.

Peter commenced his final over and three balls later the match was tied – he clean bowled the final two batsmen for 'ducks' and was probably chiefly responsible for the remarkable tied result.

12. 7/12/1996, 4th XI – 85 tied with Warrandyte 85

Incredibly just over 12 months later the same two teams in the same Grade played in another tied match in almost identical circumstances! Weather prevented any play on Day 1 at Warrandyte and the match was reduced to a 40 over one day game on a slow outfield.

We batted first and were all out for just 85 with Glenn O'Byrne (22) the top score and Les Ayton (13) and number 11 batsman: Malcolm McLean (11) the only other double figure scorers. After being shot out for just 85 the bowlers had their work cut out for them, but Ray Calvert (3/34) and Bruce White (4/19) did the damage while a young Clint Brewster (2/7), collected the final two wickets to tie up the match.

Only John Dennis played in both tied 4th XI matches against Warrandyte in 1995/96 and 1996/97, however siblings and fathers from the Manning (Peter 1995, Barry & Dean 1996) and O'Byrne (Kevin 1995, Glen 1996) families also featured heavily in both games.

13. 17/12/2005, 3rd XI – 137 tied with The Basin 137

In a batting scorecard dominated by Alan McKenna's 67*, 137 didn't seem to be enough against the heavy hitting team from The Basin in a match played at Ferntree Gully on the old oval. The only support for Alan came from Robbie Lamont (14) and Darren Stephenson (14) and a big effort by the bowlers was going to be required to get a win.

The Basin started their innings well with Pat Lee and Peter Greenslade accounting for the first four wickets. The score progressed from 4/60 with their best batsmen; Boyd doing most of the scoring. When he was on 58, he was run out to an Alan McKenna direct hit and the entire match complexion changed. At the death their tail-enders had no answer for the experience of Darren Stephenson who took 3/12 from 8 overs. When the scores were level the final pair had increased their score from 127 to 137, but then up and comer, Jess Moore, chimed in with the last wicket ensuring a tied result by bowling their number 11, just as they had sensed victory.

14. 19/1/2008, 2nd XI – 160 tied with Eildon Park 160

This match took place on the main Ferntree Gully Oval between two teams who had struggled for wins all season. Eildon Park batted on Day 1 and were dismissed for 160 with Dave Anstey (4/58 from 23.4 overs) the star with support from Seb Colakidis (2/14) and Brian Hall Jnr. (2/19). At Stumps we were in command of the game at 1/44 in reply, although the knowledge that the team had struggled to build scores all season would have meant a degree of discomfort still existed.

Day 2 took a turn when ex FTGDCA U/21 star, Todd Burley had a day out and proceeded to rip the top order apart and after 51 overs we were 8/98 with Burley the star having taken 5/21. The 9th wicket saw the biggest partnership of the match unfold as Craig Moss was joined by Mick Mazzanti and the pair added 48 to take the score to 146 before a mix up had Mick run out for 35. Craig then partnered number 11, Josh Chamberlain - the pair added 14 to tie up the game but when Josh was run out for the go ahead run the two teams had fought out a gripping tie.

15. 8/10/2011, 3rd XI – 7/200 tied with Johnson Park 200

This match was the first of two tied games in the 2011/12 season and came about after we had scored a reasonable 7/200 in a 45 over Round 1, One Day game. The score was tempered by the knowledge that our bowling was a little thin and we were going to try to defend the score on what was Johnson Park's smallish #2 Oval. Our innings was highlighted by Craig Moss's 50 and Michael Reed's 55 with support from Wayne Woods (23) and Gary Lynch (20) who combined to deliver a target for the opposition to chase down.

Johnson Park's top order all got going with Ben Donovan's (2/29) the best of the regular bowling, but at 4/130 things looked grim. At the break our Captain (Michael Reed) implored his team to lift and the next hour delivered an amazing fight back led by a critical change in the bowling that brought on part timer Andrew Hibbins. Hibbins got a key wicket and then the fielding tightened up, producing two runs outs and another wicket to Hibbins with Johnson Park reduced to 9/190. The last pair came together with 11 runs needed and was able to bring the scores level before a mix up resulted in another run out and the Third XI had achieved the first tied match of the season.

16. 5/11/2011, 1st XI – 7/220 tied with Knoxfield 220

This match produced only the third 1st XI tie in club history. In a remarkable result the 1st XI protected a score of 7/220 when the Knoxfield batting imploded in the final stages of a match they should have won. We were led off on the first week with a great opening stand of 122 by Mark Teofilo (78) and Jayden Bradbury (40). Knoxfield slowed the pace of the game and we ground out 7/220 with Ryan Handley (23) and skipper Shane Richardson (32*) ensuring a competitive target.

Knoxfield began their chase with a similarly strong opening stand that reached 87 before the first wicket fell. They worked their way into a seemingly impregnable position at 3/148 before Shane introduced his slow off breaks and bowled an inspired spell. He bowled 18.2 overs and finished the match with 4/40. These figures included an amazing spell when he took the final three wickets in just 8 balls. When Alan McKenna clutched the final catch from a top edge to square leg to dismiss their number 11, the game had ended in a tie with just 4 balls remaining in the match. This was an astonishing finish to a game that had everything but an eventual winner; with both teams putting forward a claim for victory right up until the final over was bowled.

17. 29/2/2020, 1st XI – 109 tied with Knox Gardens 109

This match produced the fourth 1st XI tie in club history. The final Home & Away round of the 2019/20 season was a 40 Over One Day match played at Knox Gardens, with both teams vying for 2nd position on the DeCoite Shield ladder and a double chance at a Grand Final berth. The winner would stay in second place and play the Qualifying final against ladder leaders Monbulk, while the loser would be engaged in a cut-throat elimination Semi Final against the 4th placed team.

We batted first but never got going, losing wickets at regular intervals, and collapsed from 3/60 to be all out for 109 with 10 balls remaining in the 40 over innings. Rhys Hayes-Rosario top scored with 18, and five others made double figure scores, but no one played an innings that held the team together. It would take some form of miracle to extract a victory from this point and the team clearly needed early wickets to have any hope. Captain-Coach Jason Kilby effected the first wicket with a magnificent pick up and throw to see the Knox Gardens opening batsman short of his ground and then, as occurred in our innings, wickets fell at regular intervals. Jake Evans & Pat Mastertoun chimed in with a wicket each and then first season young blood; Nick Woods bowled the spell of a lifetime to capture 3/17 from 7 overs (at one stage he had 3/10).

His spell and a wicket to Josh Henry, saw Knox Gardens tumble to 7/60 and we were right on top. Their tail then 'wagged' until another run out (the third of the innings); Harry Cowling to Ben Swift, saw them 9/89. We needed one wicket and their last pair needed 20 runs. Jason went back to his opening bowler: Harry, for the final push for victory. Slowly but surely Knox Gardens, led by #8 Josh Curnow whittled down the lead until Harry took the ball for the 40th and final over with the scores level. On the third ball he bowled a disconsolate Josh Curnow (who top scored for the match with 29) and the 1st XI had booked a spot in the Qualifying final, achieving a result nobody expected – a tie – to remain second on the ladder.

In a footnote to the season, in the following weeks Qualifying Final we defeated Monbulk scoring 8/252 and booked a place in the Grand Final. However, the final match was never played as the Country (and the world) was severely impacted by the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic which instantly shut down all activities across the world. Post season, the FTGDCA Executive ruled that the 2019/20 DeCoite Shield Premiership would be shared between Ferntree Gully and Monbulk.