

**Sydney Classics Cricket Team – South African Tour 2016**  
**Report on Match 5 – Franschhoek – Groot Drakenstein CC**  
**4 March 2016**

***Groot Drakenstein 3/137 defeated Sydney Classics 8/135***

Match 5 was played at the picturesque Groot Drakenstein Games Club just outside Franschhoek – an hours driver north east of Cape Town.

And it was a memorable game for several reasons.

Firstly the setting – the Franschhoek valley. The farms in this beautiful valley encircled by the Groot Drakenstein Mountains were granted to several French Huguenot families by the Dutch East Indies Company (VOC) in 1694. The first settlers (numbering 222 persons) brought with them considerable skills as farmers, crafters and viticulturists, leaving a marked influence on the areas, which the Dutch named De Fransche Hoek (French Corner).



We were given a wonderful history, geography and culture lesson by the host club legend Richard von Hoesslin, who provided a well-articulated story of everything to do with the district and the club. The ground on which we played (Pickering Oval) was donated to the club 122 years ago. The turf pitch on which we sat was the first in South

Africa. Richard provided a great narrative, and had everyone enthralled!

Even before the game started, the WAGs were off in the bus to enjoy a leisurely lunch and stroll around the town of Franschhoek – lots of cute galleries and buildings.

So to the game. As the opposition arrived and we noted the age of the players (including some in their 20s, most in their 30s, the oldest a 49yo) we realised we were in for a tough day at the office. Further, as a result of the current drought, the Pickering Oval outfield was very dry and dusty...with several large sandy patches, and there was a significant slope to the boundaries. All factors contributing to our early apprehension about this game.

Despite the drought, the pitch was excellent, and proved to be a perfect batting track. Possibly the best batsman's pitch so far on tour. However it was incredibly hot.....estimated to be 36c on the ground.

### **Sydney Classics Innings**

The local tradition is that the visiting team bats first (we found out why – more later in this report).

**Sydney Classics Cricket Team – South African Tour 2016**  
**Report on Match 5 – Franschhoek – Groot Drakenstein CC**  
**4 March 2016**

Peter Remfrey and George Hodgson started the Classics innings in a very measured way. The two opening bowlers (despite an opening over conceding 8 wides and 1 run off the bat) put considerable pressure on our openers. George was caught for 5 and the score was 1/22 in the 9<sup>th</sup> over. Ken Doughty came in at #3 to join Peter and both batsmen were still “tied up” by some excellent bowling. In the 12<sup>th</sup> over Peter was out LBW. Peter Harrison (9 runs) and David Waterhouse (11 runs) provided some quickening of the scoring. Ken was eventually bowled for 20 whilst attempting to score quick runs. It was now 5/78 in the 25<sup>th</sup> over...only 10 overs to go, half our wickets gone, and not many runs on the board.



Ron Ness (stumped for 9 runs) and Terry Kershaw (7 runs) were quickly out – 7/91 in the 27<sup>th</sup> over. To the rescue came the ever reliable John Jackson who firstly with Chas Viner (bowled for 5) then with Douglas Latto took our score up to 135! John ended up with 21 not out off 25 balls. Douglas with 14 not out off 16.

The local teams youth (ave age about 35), their knowledge of the conditions (e.g. no slip as the ball does not move or spin) and their very tight bowling and excellent catching made this a difficult innings for us. The fact that Sundries (22 runs) top scored for us says it all! It was not our best batting display. But could we defend this total on this ground?

### **Groot Drakenstein Innings**

The next tradition we encountered was the ritual of toasting the flag. Before entering the field of play for the host club innings, the visitors are asked to salute the club flag and partake of a glass of local brandy. Most of our team readily obligated, but we suspected a cunning move to have our bowlers “off balance” before we start!



**Sydney Classics Cricket Team – South African Tour 2016**  
**Report on Match 5 – Franschhoek – Groot Drakenstein CC**  
**4 March 2016**

Raj Anand started their innings with a maiden. Good start. However their opening pair of Simmons and Thwaites let loose, scoring 56 before both retiring in the 10<sup>th</sup> over. Both batsmen knew the pitch well – anything just short or too long was dispatched to the boundary. And they hit the ball hard.

Chas Viner and George Hodgson both took a wicket to dismiss new batsman cheaply, but the parade of their batsmen hitting freely and retiring continued unabated. What, or who could stop their onslaught. At the 20 over mark, they were 2/110.

Several dropped catches didn't help our cause. Bushy Pillay took a catch off Ken Doughty to secure our 3<sup>rd</sup> wicket – Ken ended with credible figures of 1/10 off 3 overs. Terry Kershaw was given his opportunity to make a name for himself as a bowler....ending up the innings with a tidy 3 overs.

So there we have it. They passed our score in the 25<sup>th</sup> over - with 7 wickets and 10 overs to spare. We were well beaten.

### **Post the match**

With the game over, beers were brought onto the pitch area, and this where the local legend Richard gave his fantastic spiel.

Owing to a lack of water to the facilities, the best the tired and sweaty Classics boys could do was go for a dip in the Club swimming pool. Despite the cold water and murky colour of the pool, the boys (all in their underpants) were refreshed and not at all embarrassed in front of the family also using the pool area!

The "fine session" was conducted by the home team. Misdemeanours from the game, real and imagined, for each player are brought to the attention of the assembled gathering, and the offender (which is every member of the team) has to consume a glass of beer!



Our silly hat/Boonie tee-shirt handover was completed by Neil Karpin. He identified his 3 candidates, but on strength of acclamation it was overwhelmingly won by Kennie – for a whole list of good reasons.

Dinner was provided in the club rooms. The main meal was bobotie - a South African meat, fruits and raisins dish. Dessert was pretty good too -

lots of custard and ice cream.

A long drive home in the dark. It was still a wonderful day. Beats working anyday.

**Sydney Classics Cricket Team – South African Tour 2016  
Report on Match 5 – Franschhoek – Groot Drakenstein CC  
4 March 2016**



**Sydney Classics Cricket Team – South African Tour 2016**  
**Report on Match 5 – Franschhoek – Groot Drakenstein CC**  
**4 March 2016**

Sydney Classics South Africa - 2016					Game No.		5		
Sydney Classics			vs	Groot Drakenstein					
Date	04-Mar-16	Weather	Fine and very warm						
Venue	Pickstone Oval, Franschhoek				Start Time	Noon			
Match Result	A win to Groot Drakenstein								
Umpires									
Toss won by	By agreement Sydney batted		Batted First	Sydney Classics					
Innings of	Sydney Classics				Innings of	Groot Drakenstein			
Batsman	Balls	How out	Bowler	Runs	Batsman	How out	Bowler	Runs	
Peter Renfrey	50	LBW	E Cloete	12	A Simmons	retired		25	
George Hodgson	15	Caught P Fourie	J Zaayman	5	P Thwaites	retired		28	
Ken Doughty	45	Bowled	B Taylor	20	S Brogden	Caught G Hodgson	Chas Viner	1	
Peter Harrison	15	Caught	M Stuwig	9	A Haasbroek	retired		26	
David Waterhouse	15	Bowled	P Blom	11	E Cloete	LBW	George Hodgson	0	
Ron Ness	17	Stumped	Taylor	9	M Stuwig	retired		22	
Terry Kershaw	6	Caught	Taylor	7	P Fourie	retired		18	
John Jackson	25	not out		21	P Blom	not out		9	
Chas Viner	9	Bowled	S Brogden	5	B Taylor	Caught Pillay	Ken Doughty	5	
Doug Lallo *	16	not out		14	J Zaayman	not out		3	
Bushy Pillay +		DNB							
		Extras		22		Extras			
		Total		135		Total		137	
		Overs		35		Overs		39.2	
Fall of wickets	1st: 22	2nd: 34	3rd: 48		Fall of wickets	1st: 56	2nd: 56	3rd: 131	
	4th: 73	5th: 78	6th: 87			4th:	5th:	6th:	
	7th: 91	8th: 108	9th:			7th:	8th:	9th:	
	10th:	* Captain	+ Wicket keeper			10th:	* Captain		
Sydney Bowling	O	M	W	R	Nb	Wd			
Raj Anand	4	1		20					
Ron Ness	3			19					
George Hodgson	4		1	28					
Chas Viner	6	2	1	13					
Peter Harrison	3			30					
Ken Doughty	3		1	10					
Terry Kershaw	2.5			17					
Sydney Fielding	c	ro	st						
Busy Bilay	1								
George Hodgson	1								
Opposition Bowling	O	M	W	R	Nb	Wd			
P Fourie	4	1	0	12		8			
A Haasbroek	5	2	0	14		2			
J Zaayman	4	0	1	12					
E Cloete	4	2	1	10		3			
M Stuwig	4		1	18		1			
P Blom	4	1	1	16	1	0			
B Taylor	6		3	25					
S Brogden	4		1	25	3	1			
Opposition Fielding	c	ro	st						