



CRICKET NORTH WEST – REPORT No.21 (22 March 2026)

CNW Men's 1st Grade – Grand Final

DAY 1

ULVERSTONE has batted all day to hold the advantage after day one of the Hursey Seafoods CNW Men's 1st Grade grand final against Sheffield at the Latrobe Recreation Ground.

After being sent in, the Black Caps appeared set for a huge day at the crease but had to settle for 6-282 at stumps as late wickets to the Mountaineers gave them some late joy on what was otherwise a tough day in the field.

With history on his side based on previous grand finals, including last year's stunning collapse, Sheffield captain Marc Simonds decided to make first use of the new pitch but Ulverstone was up for battle and decided to attack early.

Rhys French and Jordan Kelly took the score to 32 before French was caught and bowled by Logan Heazlewood for an entertaining 23.

The four-time defending premiers then seeming had the game at their mercy at 1-80 as the pitch flattened out, but Kelly departed for 41 with a half-century in sight.

A similar fate befell Jackson Blair when he was caught behind for 41 with the score on 128 as the Black Caps threatened to throw away a host of good starts.

Jack Pearce and Josh Walmsley finally got down to business in the afternoon and kept the scoreboard ticking over with a 126-run partnership for the fourth wicket that had seemingly taken the air out of the Mountaineers.

As an opening day score of over 350 seemed likely in the last session, the minor premiers finally made a breakthrough as Walmsley became the third Ulverstone batsman to depart in the 40s when he hit a catch straight to Simonds on 46.

Pearce soldiered on and looked assured of scoring his maiden first grade century before he fell to a spectacular one-handed diving catch from Simonds at mid-wicket on 96 with the score at 268.

Brayden DeVries and Matthew Varner attempted to get their team through to stumps, but Varner fell in the last over of the day when he was caught behind off the bowling of Simonds (3-74).

With another 43 overs of batting still remaining DeVries and Toby Hutton will resume day two on Saturday looking to get the score well past 300 for the Black Caps and put them firmly in the box seat to win a historic fifth-straight flag.





DAY 2

ULVERSTONE are in the box seat to claim a history-making fifth consecutive flag after getting the better of Sheffield on day two of the grand final at the Latrobe Recreation Ground.

Resuming on Saturday at 6-282, the Black Caps had an early hiccup when Brayden DeVries misjudged a delivery from Logan Heazlewood and was trapped LBW without adding to his overnight score of 12.

Sensing a chance to keep their opponents to around the 300-mark the Mountaineers attack pushed hard for another breakthrough but simply didn't have luck on their side as they beat the bat on several occasions or saw balls just fall out of reach of their fielders.

Toby Hutton and Jakob Smith made the most of their good fortune, adding 80 valuable runs for the eighth wicket before Hutton was bowled by Marc Simonds for a season-high score 53 just before lunch.

Smith (36) was the final man out early in the second session with the score on an imposing 388 as Simonds finished with 5-114, while Heazlewood impressed with his figures of 3-60.

Needing to get away to a good start in the remaining 57 overs, Sheffield's top order took an early hit when back-to-back Dale Baker Medal winner Matthew Varner bowled James Jennings for a duck in the fifth over.

Harry Collier and Sheldon Parker set about steadying the ship and got through to the 14th over before they hit double trouble.

The introduction of Rhys French brought about immediate dividends for the Black Caps with Parker bowled for 4 followed by Ethan Clark for a second-ball duck to leave the minor premiers reeling at 3-13.

Harry Collier and Alex King finally got the scoreboard moving after tea and took the score to 55 before Collier's 100-ball stay at the crease ended on 22 when Josh Walmsley came into the attack and found an edge that was sharply snapped by Jordan Kelly behind the stumps.

With their innings and season hanging by a thread, King was joined at the crease by Eli Connelly and the pair got things moving again with a 61-run stand that featured a mix of attacking stroke play and stubborn defence.

But just as Sheffield appeared to be on the right track, spinner Brandon King snared the breakthrough, catching the shoulder of Connelly bat to present Kelly the easiest of catches.

King and Simonds managed to negotiate the final nine overs of the day to take the Mountaineers to 5-137, still needing another 252 runs to pull off an unlikely victory.





DAY 3

Ulverstone has become the first club in NWTCA/CNW history to win five consecutive premierships after sealing a 197-run victory over Sheffield at the Latrobe Recreation Ground on Sunday.

The Black Caps passed their own record of four-straight flags, that they won between 2011-2015, and the great Yeoman teams of 1953-1956 and 1969-1972, with another comprehensive display with bat and ball that was wrapped up just before lunch on Sunday.

Resuming day three on 5-137, the Mountaineers desperately needed a large partnership between Alex King and Marc Simonds to drag themselves back into the contest. But that flickering flame was extinguished in the first over of the day when Rhys French (4-48) had King caught at gully for 60 off a lifting delivery.

After French struck again with a superb ball to skittle Simonds 20 runs later, it wasn't a matter of if, but when Ulverstone would wrap up proceedings.

The end came just before the lunch interval as drizzle started to fall when Liam Slatter skied a catch to Jakob Smith at long on off the bowling of Brandon King.

Jack Pearce was named the Dale Baker Medal winner for man of the match after his knock of 96 on Friday's opening day which helped set-up the Black Caps' healthy first innings score of 388.

Ulverstone captain coach Matt Varner said he wasn't disappointed when he woke up on Sunday morning to find overcast skies and wasn't worried about any potential rain.

"We just thought it would be cloudy all day and that was going to suit our bowlers", Varner said.

"But we had a mission to stick together throughout the game whatever the situation and it worked. Rhys really set the tone for us with the way he bowled on Saturday afternoon and with the wicket of Alex this morning - I was really happy with his performance."







CNW Men's Second Grade – Grand Final

DAY 1

DEVONPORT holds the upper hand after a grinding opening day finished with a bang for the defending premiers against Sheffield at the Devonport Oval.

The Orions opted for a cautious approach for the majority of the innings but were well-placed to make a late charge when they reached 4-127 thanks to Tarkin Maxwell's 42, Kai Wilson's 29 and Brad Moore's 26.

But the Mountaineers refused to yield, and through the efforts of Josh Marshall (4-28) and Jacob Woodcock (3-24) grabbed the final six wickets for just 45 runs to bowl the home team out for 172.

With three overs left in the day to negotiate, Sheffield's reply started disastrously as the old firm of Sam Fogg and Chris Lindsay came to the fore once again for Devonport, dismissing both openers to leave them 2-0 heading into the second and final day.

DAY 2

Devonport has used a blend of experience and youth to claim back-to-back 2nd Grade premierships following a 99-run first innings win over Sheffield at the Devonport Oval.

After their young batsmen gave them a defensible score of 172 on day one, the Orions struck twice late on day two to have the Mountaineers resuming day two at 2-0.

Sunday brought no better luck for Sheffield as the evergreen Sam Fogg tore through the top order on his way to figures of 6-28 off 16 overs.

Josh Aikman (33) and Jacob Woodcock (12 not out) were the only pair to offer any real resistance, combining for a 33-run partnership for the sixth wicket, but it was to no avail as Sheffield were bowled out for 73 in the 44th over. The Mountaineers sent the Orions into bat for a second time, hoping for a miracle with the ball, but conceded defeat after 10 overs with the hosts 0-41.





CNW Men's 1st Grade Grand Final 2025/26									
20, 21 & 22 March 2026									
Latrobe Recreation Ground									
Toss: Sheffield - bowl									
Ulverstone									
			FoW	Runs	Balls	4s / 6s	Dismissal	Fielder	Bowler
1	Kelly	Jordan	2 / 80	41	68	2 / 1	Caught	S Robinson	M Simonds
2	French	Rhys	1 / 32	23	35	3 / 1	Caught	L Heazlewood	L Heazlewood
3	Blair	Jackson	3 / 128	41	85	3 / -	Caught	J Jennings (wk)	M Simonds
4	Pearce	Jack	5 / 268	96	181	12 / -	Caught	M Simonds	A Marshall
5	Walmsley	Josh	4 / 254	46	152	5 / 1	Caught	M Simonds	S Robinson
6	DeVries	Brayden	7 / 282	12	28	- / -	LBW		L Heazlewood
7	Varner	Matthew	7 / 282	6	39	- / -	Caught	J Jennings (wk)	M Simonds
8	Hutton	Toby	8 / 362	53	90	2 / 1	Bowled		M Simonds
9	Smith	Jakob	10 / 388	36	88	2 / 1	Caught	M Simonds	L Heazlewood
10	King	Brandon	9 / 384	13	26	1 / 1	Caught	A King	M Simonds
11	Marshall	Theo	-	0	2	- / -	Not Out		
				367					
				Extras	21				
				Wkts	0	388			
		WD	NB	LB	B	P			
Extras		0	5	7	9	0	21		
		Overs	Maiden	WD	NB	Runs	Wicket		
Marshall, A		33	11	0	0	80	1		
Heazlewood, L		23.3	5	0	4	60	3		
Robinson, S		23	5	0	1	81	1		
Simonds, M		39	6	0	0	114	5		
Clark, E		6	0	0	0	18	0		
Collier, H		7	1	0	0	19	0		
		131.3	28	0	5	372	10	16	388
Sheffield									
			FoW	Runs	Balls	4s/6s	Dismissal	Fielder	Bowler
1	Collier	Harry	4 / 55	22	100	2 / -	Caught	J Kelly (wk)	J Walmsley
2	Jennings	James	1 / 3	0	11	- / -	Bowled		M Varner
3	Parker	Sheldon	2 / 13	4	21	- / -	Bowled		R French
4	Clark	Ethan	3 / 13	0	2	- / -	Bowled		R French
5	King	Alex	6 / 141	60	120	6 / -	Caught	B DeVries	R French
6	Connelly	Eli	5 / 116	32	66	6 / -	Caught	J Kelly (wk)	B King
7	Simonds	Marc	7 / 161	22	57	2 / -	Bowled		R French
8	Robinson	Sam	8 / 161	9	21	2 / -	Bowled		M Varner
9	Slatter	Liam	10 / 191	12	41	2 / -	Caught	J Smith	B King
10	Marshall	Aiden	9 / 162	0	7	- / -	Caught	J Smith	M Varner
11	Heazlewood	Logan	--	14	36	1 / -	Not Out		
				175					
				Extras	16				
				Wkts	0	191			
		WD	NB	LB	B	P			
Extras		5	5	6	0	0	16		
		Overs	Maiden	WD	NB	Runs	Wicket		
M Varner		22	7	0	5	36	3		
T Marshall		15	6	0	0	36	0		
R French		13	1	5	0	48	4		
J Walmsley		5	2	0	0	8	1		
B King		16.4	4	0	0	39	2		
T Hutoon		8	1	0	0	18	0		
		79.4	21	5	5	185	10	6	191

