

CRICKET

# 'Owzat for that a new game

## NOVEL FORMAT PROVES BIG HIT FOR ALL

Matt Pearson

THERE are fewer deliveries, fewer fielders and a few unfamiliar rules, but eastern suburbs cricketers are flocking to Last Man Stands.

The novel format of the game, which features five-ball overs and only eight players per side, began in England in 2005 and has expanded rapidly since then.

Rob Stevenson played in one of the early matches in London. He was so impressed by the quickfire nature of the game that he moved to Sydney in 2009 to set up an Australian version.

"I believed that it was going to take off and luckily it did, it's just exploded," the 29 year old from Surry Hills said.

"It's a bit more casual but

### THE RULES

- 20 x five-ball overs, maximum four per bowler.
- Eight players per side, normal outfield size.
- Last man remains in solo but can only score twos or fours.
- A six struck off the last ball of the innings is worth 12.

still very organised, with uniforms, professional umpires and the scores going up online.

"The fact it's eight-a-side is a huge factor in getting teams; it means they can be made up of a bunch of mates rather than just club teams. Anyone can get a side together."

The East Sydney league games predominantly take place at Centennial Park on Sundays and Wednesday evenings and last about two

hours. The winners of the regional competitions progress to a Sydney final. If victorious, they earn a place in the national final, where the winners are sponsored to compete in the world championship final at Lord's. There is also a notable charitable element to the set-up, with Kenyan cricketers and South African townships benefiting.

"It attracts a lot of guys that haven't played since school," Stevenson said. "On the other hand, there's the world championship element, so it attracts a few of the really good teams."

"There is a variability in standard but we have quite a few leagues so teams go in to whatever grade suits them."

Details: [lastmanstands.com](http://lastmanstands.com)



The Colts (in green) look for runs against Sydney Scrapers at Centennial Park.

Picture: PHIL BLATCH

CRICKET

# Dolphins go down to St George despite scintillating start from Rowe

Max Abbott

EASTS Dolphins slumped to another defeat under a star-studded St George bowling assault at Waverley Oval on Sunday.

Under overcast skies, the Dolphins won the toss and elected to field in the one-



Nathan Rowe

four wickets in his first two spells to leave the Saints at

day encounter – and the move paid dividends.

Opening p a c e m a n N a t h a n R o w e

took four wickets in his first two spells to leave the Saints at

6-69 in the 29th over.

An 86-run partnership for the 7th wicket halted the momentum, but Rowe returned for two more scalps to finish with an impressive 6-42 from 9.3 overs.

St George were all out for 179 in the final over.

Although only chasing a

modest total, Easts still faced a difficult challenge with St George's pace attack, including international experience in the form of Trent Copeland and Josh Hazlewood.

The pace duo revelled in the seamer-friendly conditions, knocking over four

Easts batsmen in the first 10 overs, including Blues wicketkeeper Peter Nevill (10) and Middlesex opener Sam Robson (7).

Hazlewood tore through the order and finished with 5-18 from 8.4 overs.

Easts were bundled out for 113, which included a

55-run partnership for the last wicket from Daniel Rootes (37 not out) and Nathan Rowe (20).

On Saturday, day one of Easts' two-day match against Hawkesbury was washed out. This Saturday's 120 overs will make up for some of the lost time.



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