

Blog from the Boundary, 1st XI v Boddington 2nd August 08

After a morning downpour and checking out the wicket and outfield (which you could describe as lively and lush) Stu had no hesitation in asking our hosts to bat first.

A few changes in the side saw Jason, Luke, Dan and Josh come in for Lee, Artnell, Rob P and Greeny. Stu took the gloves with Ash and Craig doing the honours.

On a pitch that caused the batsman all sorts of trouble it was always hard to make quick, big runs. We did help them with a few early no balls from Ashy and both threw in the odd wide for good measure.

A steady start but with little happening, (19 runs coming from the first 9 over's) before we made our first strike. A well dodgy 2nd run saw the opening bat half a run short.

The next 4 over's saw a little spurt and at 38 for 2, perhaps the shoots of a decent score on the iffy strip? This was further compounded with what you could describe as the drop of the season, Ash fumbling a lobbed caught & bowled effort which left everyone looking at each other in a 'what a plum' stare.

Fortunately for us this was the highlight (or lowlight) of the innings. Four more wickets by drinks saw the score go to 56 for 6. Ash took his usual 3 and Craig chipped in with a couple (both in his 9th over).

Stu took a smart catch behind, standing up to Craig's military medium trundling. The other old timer's ('Mushy' Porter and Rogan) came on, it was only a matter of time before the end came, Josh taking one, Ash did manage to clutch on to his kid brothers effort and Mushy bowling accurately from the other end, bamboozling the rabbits, taking two cheapies. All out in the 27th over.

With only 71 to chase Dessie joined Stu to open, Des didn't trouble the scorers, fending off an ugly riser, heading for his noggin he only managed to glove it to the keeper.

Jase came in at 3. A combination of tight bowling with a juicy top kept the batsman on their toes. Skip had a big let off when bloky at square leg 'did an Ash' and fumbled an easy chance; they would regret this bit time.

It was all happening out there, Jase took one for the cause, walking into a riser that deflected off the side of his swede.

Runs were hard to come by, after 10 overs we were on around 25 odd for 1. The main thing is we did not lose wickets, another 26 from the next 9 over's from the pair meant we were only 22 runs shy, which they got in the next 2.4 over's. Jase slapping a maximum over long on before Stu joined in with 6,4,2,6 and the game was over. It also coincided with a well made 50. Was he counting or what? Jase finished on a hard made 22 not out.

On this track a target of 150 odd would have been a difficult chase.

Must be noted we had a good giggle during the day with our opposition, a good bunch of young (and not so young) players who played the game in the right spirit.

Bet Ian and Dessie thought they had got away with it? After Artnell took plenty of clog earlier in the season turning up late these two superstars waltzed in 5 mins before the off. How can you get lost in a one road village I ask myself?

What an example to set the younger players, tut tut.

Next week the big one against Preston Bissett.

More soon, Dot