

Blog from the Boundary, 1st XI v Finmere 24th May 08

For the fourth game of the season we welcomed Finmere to fortress Collingtree. Who were relegated from Division 2 last year, however before today had started this campaign brightly and had a 100% record, topping division three, with GP following closely behind in second. You could say Man U v Chelsea?

John Terry (aka Stu) lost the toss for the first time and our opponents asked GP to set the target, oh dear oh dear, I wonder if other clubs will take notice and choose differently next time?

Three changes from last weeks fine win brought a debut to Rob Pinnington and a welcome back to Dan (Mushy) Porter & Alan Firmin, replacing "Dessie", Jason & Ish.

Perhaps the reference to Boyksy and Tavare in last weeks report hit a nerve with Lee and Stu who weren't about to let the opposition bowling take the upper hand. Big early blows from both gave the innings a rapid start. On 42 however the partnership was broken; a good one handed clutch at mid wicket saw the back of Stuey. Not going to mention how many he got but quite soon I am sure someone's bowling attack is going to kop it! By the way take a bow El Capitan, who is the first GP player to score 1,000 league runs. Good work.

In stepped Rob P for his home debut. I doubt whether the Finmere bowlers slept well after the mulling they took from the 'beast of Wootton'. From the first ball he seemed to be on a mission. He and Lee taking the score past 50 in the 7th over, 100 in the 14th over and 150 in the 17th! In this time the 'beast' had sailed past 50 and was looking for a big score. Drinks gave the Finmere skipper time to take stock of the situation, 182-1, only 20 over's to go! "Let's get these two out and keep the score down to 240 was his Churchill style rally" (one of my spies overheard him say).

Perhaps he had been a tad optimistic. Rob's maiden ton for the club had taken him a mere 12 over's to reach, I doubt whether the SNCL had seen a quicker one, well done young man. GP's score went past 200 in a blur and 250 up in 29th. These two had now set a new club partnership record, beating the previous best 191. By now these two were looking to smash anything that came their way, including Mr Peterson's motor, (for the second week in a row) this time a meaty blow seemed to home in like a tracer bullet on the unfortunate BMW (**B**all **M**agnet **W**agon), this time luckily not taking out the passengers window. I have to say Ian took it well (after he had gone to survey the damage that is).

Unfortunately Lee just missed out on his own ton, looking to flex his muscles and impress his maiden watching in admiration from the bunker he was bowled for a stylish 85. Ian P joined in the run fest, surely he would help Rob towards his own personal milestone of 200, don't be silly, with two balls left and two needed Ian stroked a shot to point, everyone thinking he would trot through for an easy single to leave Rob to face the final ball. Instead he decided to sprint the first and call his partner through for a second. (even though the rest of the team were shouting at him to settle for one) good work Ian! An unbeaten partnership of over 100 saw the score rocket to a massive 404-2 at the close. Ian unbeaten on 55 and Rob on a massive 198 not out (over 150 came in fours and sixes). How do you top that? Surely an individual and team total that has seldom been beaten since the SNCL's inception in 1920!

An acknowledgement should go out to all the "Grange Park ratters", especially young Jake Roberts who seemed to spend all our innings with his bat ferreting in the undergrowth trying to find the cherries that went to all parts of the ground, and golf course and allotments. My spies reckon at least 6 balls have been reported 'missing in action' during the day.

You can imagine the battle weary Finmere welcomed the break. Not sure how they would look to get close to this score, in the previous three knocks they had managed a top score of 134!

The brother's Grimm, sorry brothers Day opened the attack, good shots combined with the odd wayward delivery saw the opening pair pass 50. 'Buffett boy' Everitt replaced Josh after his five over spell and took a wicket in his first over, the batsmen played down the wrong line, missed a straight en' and lost his off peg.

Dan 'Mushy' Porter came on at the golf course end to weave his magic, after taking some early clog he tightened up and was unfortunate to finish his spell wicketless. Ask took a hard earned wicket with Joshi came back to clean bowl two in an over. Dan cleverly run out another so the scene was set for the rabbit catcher to mop up. But no Stuey tossed the ball the Bob 'Khant' who took a bit of a doing in his first over but settled down well for his second, showing no mercy Stu threw the ball onto Arnell to make an impact, and he certainly did that, taking a wicket in his second over. Linford proceeded to charge down the wicket and give a useful incredible Hulk impression, startling his victim who scurried off without delay!

Finmere finished on a creditable 214-7 a mere 191 runs short of what would have been the greatest run chases ever!

Next fixture home to Boddington. I would like to finish with "Dot's thought for the week"

If you aren't going all the way, why go at all?- Joe Namath

More soon, Dot

P.S. You may have thought my memory is failing and I missed the chance to share some other people's embarrassment. Here's a little quiz for your amusement.

Q- Guess who forgot to pack his club shirt and needed to scrounge one before batting?

Q- Who thinks it is OK to wear a garish orange cap (backwards)?

Q- Who keeps his own records in his own 'train spotter' type log book?

Q- Where does Stu go when he goes on his walkabout?

Q- Who upset the barmaid at the Grange by telling her she had big hands!?

Q- Who missed **10** calls from his misses whilst getting beered up?

Q- Guess who is not parking anywhere near any ground in future?

Q- Who writes this rubbish anyway?

Finally,

Q- Which kind young man will invite me to one of your legendary Saturday night benders?

Answers next week folks (to most of them anyway!).