

Blog from the Boundary, 1st XI v Finmere 26 July 08

After a couple of interesting weekends it was back to normality and Dot can talk about the match and not the off field entertainment. Away to Finmere who were 5th in the league and only 27 points behind GP.

GP welcomed back Craig Holmes (and his witty one liners) from a summer out grazing, Bob and Greeny also started in place of Josh, Dave F and Dan P. Winning the toss Finmere stuck us in to set a score.

An opening partnership from Lee and Stu of 55 in the first 10 overs looked as if we on for another tidy score. Looking well set Stu was caught on the boundary from a chap who looked as surprised as his team mates to have pounced.

Remember this was the fixture earlier in the season where Mr Pinnington made his debut and knocked plenty. You can imagine the look of trepidation on their faces, we all know that this game can kick you in the nuts when you least expect it. Lee drove a full ball; the bowler stuck out his foot and deflected it onto the stumps. Mr P run out (faced one ball) for an unlucky duck egg but a big fat egg none the less. To be fair the relieved Finny team did offer words of sympathy as he trudged off.

A few runs later and with Lee falling, GP were now in a spot of bother at 71 for 3. It was now down to Des and Ian P to turn things around. At 96 for 3 after 20 over's we seemed to be getting back on course until Des yorked himself.

Ian was caught from a full bunger. Now Dot has done a bit of studying the laws of the game. Law 42 (Fair and unfair play) does state.

(b) Bowling of high full pitched balls- (i) Any delivery, other than a slow paced one, which passes or would have passed on the full above waist height of the striker standing upright at the crease is to be deemed dangerous and unfair, whether or not it is likely to inflict physical injury on the striker.

Ian expected the square leg ump (Rob P) to duly make the call. Silence, Ian chuntered to the changing rooms and tried to help our hosts rearrange their newly erected pavilion. Art fell to the next ball, the hat trick was averted. With 15 over's left Bob and Mark started to rebuild, 4 over's and 16 runs later Bob missed a straight en' and was bowled whilst trying to heave to leg. The returning messiah came in at 9 and at 130 for 7 things looked dodge. 10 over's and 49 runs later (half of which must have come from leg byes) from Craig and Mark did make things look a little better. Both fell trying to swing quick runs. With Greeny stumped in the last over (leaving Ash stranded at the other end for one) GP finished on 181.

Finmere started brightly, Coe hitting anything full and wide but lost his opening partner (4) and his skipper (1). Ash paired up with the old timer. Ash softened em' up whilst Craig nurdled them skilfully out. Wickets fell steadily but with runs coming freely if they had kept their cool things could have got interesting. GP highlights included a flying fling from Lee for a fine caught behind and Ian P swooping Eagle like at square leg to aid a run out.

Ash took the valuable scalp of the opener which spelt the beginning of the end. A late rally from the late order could not stop the inevitable. All out for 106.

Ashy took his usual quota of 3 and Craig returned a man of the match 4 for 43.

A couple of funnies in the field included Bob making a vain attempt to get under skier, a mixture of Norman Wisdom, Benny from Crossroads and Mr Blobby (sorry Bob someone made me write it!) summed up the effort, Ash blaming the sun for not sighting another effort (when everyone looked up the current bun was hiding behind a bit fat cloud!) and who rattled Mark's cage, miserable old sod.

By the way thanks for a new 'spy in camp' for providing Dot with useful info.

Did I mention they only had 10 and one of them was only playing his 2nd ever senior game and is 13! Small detail but 20 points none the less. Role on next week, away to Boddington, although mid table a side capable of causing an upset.

Note for next year (hopefully not needed though!) £35 for teas! Nice as they were but come on chaps, play the game off the field as well as you do on it! The credit crunch is alive and kicking in sunny Finmere.

More soon, Dot