

Blog from the Boundary, 1st XI v MK Air 17th May 08

Following last weeks disappointing result against Wroxton Stu took his merry band of bounders and scoundrels down the road for the 2nd away trip in successive weeks, this time to our local chums MK Air. A team that has achieved two consecutive promotions and started the league with two victories, one against Bodicote who only lost 2 games all last season.

Three changes from last week's team saw Derek, Jason Mc & Ish coming in for Waqar, Greeny and Kilsby.

King tosser Stuey won the first battle of the day (for the third time in a row) and decided to bat first. As the norm Boycott & Tavare* took guard looking for a brisk start. However a sticky opening saw them nurdle and nudge there way to there 2nd consecutive 50 stand but it took to the 17th over to do it, hardly warp drive but a solid base non the less. It has to be noted the bowling attack was accurate without being express pace, ably backed up by some enthusiastic fielding and energetic appealing!

Tavare was the first to perish, (for the second week running on 24) bowled from a good length delivery. In came "Dessie" for his first knock of the season, gingerly playing himself in with an extravagant drive over point for 4! Boyksy quickly realised it was time to rotate the strike and let Desmond off the leash, who did not disappoint, blasting his way to 50 in less than 6 over's, one monster landing in the road and nearly taking out a house window.

All good things must come to an end, Des bowled trying to muller another into orbit but a potential match winning knock non the less, a stand of 80 odd between the Boykster and Dessie (who added 61 of them, 48 of them in boundaries and sixes) more of the same please sir!

How things change, from being on 50 for one in the 17th over turned to 130 odd for two in the 24th. happy days. Artnell looking for a score to keep the skip happy wanted to push on and seemed to have been sprinkled with the same big hitting magic dust, punishing anything short, the snail that was Boycott started to open up his shoulders as well, one particular ball savaged to mid wicket, bouncing bomb style right into side of Ian Petersons nice shiny Beamer! More on Ian later! Anyhow Lee 'Yorky' Roberts managed to hit his maiden 50 of the season and it only took him until the 35th over! The pair continued at a good pace and took GP over 170 until Lee finally succumbed for a fine 56.

Now what happened next could be taken right out of the "he didn't just do that did he" book. Arise Sir Ian, or shall we call him Mr. Grumpy. Anyhow Mr G faced the first ball; Artnell 'Linford' Hammond called him through for a cheeky leg bye, quite rightly being sent back with a bear stare. Next ball Ian had his castle well and truly uprooted for a fat duck egg who then proceeded to throw his bat 10 yards towards the pavilion, stamped on it at least twice and then fly kicked it again. I ask you what kind of example to set to the young ens'. He trudged off, no one daring to breathe his way in case you were on the receiving end of a verbal tirade. A minute or so later he slouched his way into his now slightly dented motor, the players who had stopped laughing by this time were now concerned to see if had connected a hose to the exhaust pipe. I doubt whether this episode will be beaten all year, to be fair Ian realised he looked a right plonker and donated a crinkly green one to the fine pot, quite right to!

Bob 'Khant' promptly came and went without troubling the scorers, in stepped Jason Mc, our overseas pro to knock a brisk 11 with Linford not out on 46 at the other end, four run's short of a promised KFC bargain bucket from Bobby. GP finishing on a very competitive 215- 5 from our allotted 40 over's.

In reply MK Air started aggressively and saw off Ish early on. Ash continued his good form without any luck at the other end. Everitt coming on to try and stem the runs from the other managed to strangle a couple of wickets; one a sharp caught and bowled the other a dubious leg before. Ash joined the party and took 3 wickets in good time, one a skier to Bobski who pouched it without any fuss, dismissing last week's blog that he couldn't catch a cold. It must also be noted that Bob thought that wearing a cream coloured fleece style chavvy thing is acceptable on a cricket field, not sure myself? At 80 something for 5 GP were now well on top but knew that our opponents would fight all way. The 6th wicket took them over the ton, a moment of inspiration was called for and it came in the form of young Josh, the mild mannered youngster who wouldn't say boo to a Goose swooping in on a nudge to mid wicket, making good ground Joshie turned on a sixpence and fired down the middle stump at the bowlers end from 20 yards, leaving the bemused batsman two yards short. Good work fella. Our out fielding was generally sound except for the usual howler or two, our overseas pro looking

a little silly trying to catch a skier from Evo's bowling and Ash feebly trying to get to a caught and bowled, an ocean liner turned quicker than he did!

With 110 required from 13 over's Josh replaced his brother to bowl a fine 5 over spell, keeping the scoring to a minimum. However Stu now needed to replace Evo at the other end who had finished his 12 over spell. Who should he turn to, himself of course; on the back of a four wicket haul last week he was hoping to repeat the task. It started well enough with two cheeky wickets that seemed to take the wind out of the MK sails who now needed 60 odd in the last 7 overs. Guess who wrapped up the innings, yep the skipper bowling a full bunger just hitting the top of stumps, who celebrated the final wicket with a fist punching war dance, 4 wickets again, he is getting a habit of coming on at the death and netting a bag full of rabbits. 8 wickets in the last two games from our define leader. That was it, all out for 169, a good effort but just too many on the day. Grange Park winning the day by 51 runs.

Next fixture, top of the league clash v Finmere at fortress Collingtree, come on!

To finish I thought I would leave you with some words of wisdom which I think fits the result nicely.

To win without risk is to triumph without glory.- **Corneille**

Roll on next week, more soon, Dot

*For the youngsters out there Geoffrey Boycott & Chris Tavare were England opening bats in the 70's & 80's notoriously slow who ground out their runs and a slow rate, both great cricketers but Tavare made watching paint dry interesting and Boycott who was run out on purpose by Ian Botham when he was not scoring quickly enough.