

Blog from the Boundary, Wroxton 10th 08

Oh dear oh dear, our unbeaten run had to end sometime, shame our winning start to the season only lasted one game.

After our sound opening day win last week we took to the road with optimism to sunny Wroxton, a side that finished mid table last season and lost their opening game. After a last minute player change due to injury Stu still had a strong side, welcoming back Craig to bolster the bowling attack.

My spies tell me that the track looked a little lifeless and Stu had no hesitation in asking our hosts to set the target. A sound decision you might think?

Asking the dynamic duo from last week (Ash and Fat boy) to open the attack, we realised quickly the day was going to be a long one 'chasing leather'.

The opening pair were making the most of anything wayward, smacking anything off line or over pitched for 4, 50 coming up at a run a ball. The only glimmer of a breakthrough came from a tough chance behind from Mark's 'pie chucking'.

Realising plan B was in order rapid Stu replaced Ash with the club's speed demon and leading wicket taker Craig, Everitt sent out to pasture from the other end after another pummelling; Ash now looking for a change of fortune replaced him. The ton came up in the 17th over a score of 250 was on the cards. One we would have settled for in hindsight.

Hurrah! The breakthrough, Craig 'Waqar' Holmes express pace surprised the batsman who skied one too many to long on, I was told everyone was looking who was under it before guessing if it would be caught, fortunately Bob had been moved the over before. Stuey bagged it with no fuss. The other opener now suffering in the heat started to swing wildly at anything, Waqar promptly bowled him a full length taking his off stump. Could we capitalise on this, could we arse!

Josh Day was thrown the ball, after a great first season with 'the stiff's' last season we were looking for the extravert to make the breakthrough. Unfortunately the batsman was well set by this time and took no mercy. With bowling options running out Stu need to come up with plan C, bringing himself on and quickly started to do what his 'strike' bowlers couldn't, the round armed round the wicket chucker duly took two wickets in two balls and skilfully avoided buying for the beers with a rank hat-trick ball. 200 came and went in the 30th over; the fielding must be said was generally sound except for Greeny trying to trap an exocet missile which could have took his leg off, Evo (sorry) trying to catch a skier and looking like a girl scared of the nasty hard ball, luckily if was from his own bowling! And Lee took one on the cheek standing up to the beamers from Stu who firstly made sure everyone knew the batsman had nicked it so it was a chance! Surely they couldn't continue at this pace? Well they didn't, they accelerated! Blasting another 90 odd in 10 over's! Although losing another two wickets to super striker Butler the supply of balls was down to any old rag they could find as they continued to smash the attack to all parts of the ground, and the neighbouring fields and the cottage garden. The tail enders taking a particular liking to the 'buffet' (help yourself) bowling. Without completely breaking any confidence Evo may have left he must now be the proud owner of the worst bowling figures for any bowler in the club's history!

So chasing a monumental 284 for victory Morecombe and Wise went on the offensive from the start, reaching 50 on the 8th over, could an unlikely win be on the cards? nah, Looking well set Eric 'Butler' Morecombe mistiming a drive to long on, up stepped the Artster, who looking well set (for the first ball anyway) the second bowled him all ends up when he looked more like a golfer teeing off. A partnership formed between Ernie Wise (who top scored with 44) and Rob Kilsby but the stiff target was proving too tough a task, the accurate bowling from the 'leggy' Tarik (who was already the proud owner of a ton in the match) proved hard to get away.

A combination of a run out and wickets going at regular intervals meant any hope of a glorious win was over. Now the aim was to maximise any bonus points on offer. Craig milked the bowling but at 142-9 in stepped Josh to join his brother to see us over the 5 point line of 150. A proud mum and dad watched on seeing their offspring doing there bit for the cause and duly made it to 151 before the final wicket was taken. Well beaten but a game played in good spirit and great weather, now for the challenge of MK Air next week.

Come on boys they don't like it up em', Dot