

Blog from the Boundary, A Team v Brackley 2 Aug 08

This week saw Brackley visit, a side who has so far has a tough season but could quite easily snatch a win to hinder or promotional aspirations.

With a preference of wanting to bat first, (maybe after a match winning 70 odd the week before?). We lost the toss and were asked to bat first anyway, all good plans and all that...

Mr K and Mr Ben* opened, K may remember being the proud owner of a first over duck egg at their place, a boundary in the 2nd over meant no repeat

By the way is it me or has Mr Ben gone through a period of metamorphosis during the summer (or for those that dropped out of school 'change'). Early on in the year it was crash, bang, wallop, now he is nurdling around the skipper's exuberant shots.

Drinks were taken early due to the inclement weather, 79 for none after 15. Possibly the drinks were spiked, Ben fell in the 16th for 19 tough runs. Mr Ben shall now be known as Tavare (Chris Tavare, the snail that opened for England in the early 80's). Ricky D came in at 3, who is now becoming our youngest veteran in the 2nds! Unfortunately for the old youngster this will not be one to remember, out for 4.

Chris Varygas decided he wasn't going to hang about and hit one of the biggest 6's of the day, nearly clearing the tree at "cow corner". CV perished for a quick fire 19, which brought Jag to the wicket, 2 runs later he was on his was as well.

The mini collapse carried on when Richie M fell on 2, during this time Skip also succumbed for a very well made 73, three runs short of his own PB. Ryan and Simon Mc tried attempted the rebuild but Si missed out, caught for 3.

Webby joined Ryan and the two men put on a quick fire 40, before Ryan was caught out on 20 runs. Brokeback and Ishy (in for Jamie who also made a solid 20) made more valuable runs, Ish slapping back to back maximums finished on 20 not and Tone made 12.

GP finished on 231, possibly our highest score this season? A good lesson learned here, a solid start with no early wickets falling meant we could push hard at the end.

Ish and TT (Tigertone as he likes his wife to call him) opened the bowling. Surely a side that has only won one league game all year could go at 5.7 an over?

TT took the two wicket's (in the 8th and 14th over's) now for the embarrassing bit, I will keep the names out to save face but due to hot tickets to see some muppet at the Derngate, Ryan and Jamie, (didn't think you would get away with it do you!) gave Rob 2 minutes notice that they had to go early, nice one chaps. Note to all- if you can't see the game through Dot really thinks you should tell your skip, ideally when you have been picked earlier in the week!

So with GP down to 9 fielders and Brackley now on 61 after 15 over's the game was all of a sudden getting interesting.

Si replaced Ish in 20th over, Tone took his third in the in the 21st, trapping the batsman led before. This left Brackley needing another 130 with 19 over's to go.

Chris V replaced TT and Si grabbed a valuable brace in the 27th and 29th over's. Rich Murray (safe hands) snaffled one and the other bowled. 86 from the last 11, still very much gettable.

With still only 9 fielders (for 15 over's) the girls in the first team had already finished, and won. Fortunately for us Rogan and Ash turned up to see how we were going on. Rob asked their skipper to see whether he objected these two fielding, might add that Rob had done the honourable thing earlier in their innings, where Brackley replaced one of their players so he could have hardly say no, could he? Nice to see there is still an amount of fair play in the league.

Jag replaced CV and with Simon bagging his 3rd and 4th around the 35th it became a bit of a mopping up exercise. With one over left skip turned the unknown, Richie Murray has the honour of bowling the last over, and only took the last wicket!

Promotion is still within our sites, bye week next weekend before the biggy, home to Middleton Cheney... A 40 pointer if ever there was one!

* To avoid any lawsuit against this frail old pensioner who writes this garbage, I would like to correct a previous comment posted that stated Mr Ben lost the toss, when he was stand in skipper against Dunchurch & Bilton. He indeed won that toss. Dot would like to apologise to Mr Ben any distress this may have caused him and his family!"

More soon, Dot