

Blog from the Boundary- Brackley V Grange Park "A" 31st May 08

After a few wrong turns and a bit of sight seeing our beloved skip finally got his merry men to the ground. We think the idea of Brackley playing at Helmdon's ground threw him a little.

Losing the toss our hosts asked GP to set the pace on an outfield in need of a short back and sides, unfortunately the mower had packed up. Taking this into account a forecast from Rob of 120 would be a competitive total. Uncannily on the mark as it turned out.

Rob and Benjamin opened to batting for the third game in a row looking to see off their opening bowlers for the run fest to start, a great plan except for one small thing, Rob perished in the first over for a duck egg!

Mr Murray mint joined Benji for a lesson in how to block, for 17 over's they ground out 34 runs (half of which were extras) before Mr M fell leg before for 7! Tony took guard for his first knock of the year. Halfway through the innings we had amassed a grand total of 39 runs. A renewed sense of urgency ensued, firm blows from Mr A saw three quick boundaries and now the innings could get going. The next 10 over's saw 45 runs racked up before Tony perished for 23 (his highest for the club)

Meanwhile Ben the grinder was still at the crease chipping away, it must be said not without a stroke of luck, earlier in his innings he saw the ball spin back onto his stumps but the bails didn't budge, jammy so and so!

Ryan came in at five a quickly developed a good partnership with B of 48 runs before taking one swoosh too many and being stumped for 26. Looking for big runs in the last over Danny looked to smash one over the boundary but was well held, unlucky but the proud owner of another duck egg in the innings.

Back to the subject of the knock from Ben, a stirring effort to bat all the way through the innings, but really 53 runs in 40 over's! Playing for your averages already young man?!

130-5 at the end of the innings was a good effort considering we had someone blocking up one end.

With a smallish target to defend Ish and Dave Wells opened the attack with the difficult challenge of trying to take early wickets without giving away cheap runs.

Take a bow Rob Kilsby for calling back there opening batsman who was wrongly given out, a fine piece of sportsmanship which you and the team should be proud of. It doesn't happen that often and when it does it should be commended. Especially when the consensus was he was out at least twice beforehand!

The odd style of umpiring continued when a signal for a wide was given, even though the batsman hit it! The same thing happened in the corresponding fixture last season; you would have thought he would have learnt by now?

GP ground out the wickets at regular intervals, leaving Brackley needing 20 odd from the last 3 over's. Ryan and TigerTone were asked to finish off, picking up wickets in the run chase to leave our hosts stranded on 118. 13 runs short of the target.

All the bowlers deserve credit, keeping the score down was no mean task, Dave Wells (12 over's 2 for 11) and Tone (6 over's, 2 for 12) being the pick. Dave, ask your wife nicely if you can come out to play more often, she will understand?

Handily placed in fourth and only 7 points behind top spot, do I feel a promotion push in the air?

As your number one fan it's nice to pen these reports with a happy ending, especially as Brackley turned us over twice last year. You're my new favourites, those first team poseurs aren't that much fun anymore!

More soon

Dot x