

## Blog from the Boundary, 'A' XI v Dunchurch & Bilton A 17<sup>th</sup> May 08

Due to unprecedented demand (one person actually) I have been asked to 'pen' an alternative match report for the 'stiffs.' That's the last time I will refer to you in like that, honest.

Don't expect any hiding place here fellas. You may have seen the three I have put together for the 1<sup>st</sup> team superstars this season? If you have then you will know what I mean. Do well and then expect your halo to be polished (oh er) however if you have a nightmare expect a beating. No Johnners or Aggers (TMS) sitting on the fence rubbish. You get it hard and fair in 'The Dot blog, voice of reason'.

I hope you take it in the spirit it is intended and don't take me to court for slander. Win, lose or draw it will put a smile on your face.

Anyhow doing the A team will be a lot easier for me?

For our 2<sup>nd</sup> league match of our 08 campaign we welcomed Dunchurch & Bilton 'A' to fortress Collingtree. Last season didn't see the best of years for our visitors (or ourselves come to think of it) D&B were relegated from Division 4 and lost there first match. Could we lose our cherry for the season? You betya!

With captain's Rob pre match mumble still ringing in our ears. Something about the opposition being losers and how we want to keep them to stay that way, (nicely put skip). Not to mention he wanted to show the first team that the 'A' team are not a bunch of stiffs, a comment that seems to have hit a nerve with the skipper. Rob won the toss and put D&B into bat.

Opening the bowling was Tony Adams, making his first appearance after a wedding (his own!) and Ryan, the young quick who makes Steve Harmison look pedestrian.

After a fairly low key start due to tight bowling, the break though came in the 8<sup>th</sup> over. Greeny taking a smart catch behind from Ryan's bowling. The opening bat managed to make a single! Surely Rob would have been proud of that strike rate.

Jag replaced Ryan from the road end and immediately snaffled another, this time from a "super running backward over the shoulder catch" from the newby Jamie Webb.

The big debate of the innings came from the next fall of a wicket. Was it a 'run out' or did the ump have a complete mare.

Greeny says it was lightening fielding by Viren who whipped in the ball for Mr G to whip off the bails, the consensus from the rest was the keeper made a complete hash of it and trashed the stumps without the ball, either way the umpire looked on and in a bit of a haze and was convinced by the appeal. Oh dear.

Wickets then fell at a steady rate, Ryan bowling at pace knocked down another whilst Richie Murray taking a skier nicely in difficult conditions from the bowling off Jag, who finished up with a two wickets. Jamie W completed an impressive debut bowling display by taking three wickets late on, one from the opening bat who had made a credible 52. The innings was finally wrapped up on 115. Not bad from a team that only had two scores in double figures, one from the opener and another of 46 coming from my Mr X.tras, (for the ones that didn't get that one, extras!)

Rob went with youth in our reply, himself and Ben 'oh my shoulder' Young opening the batting. Obviously they had a well worked plan, which simply was to let Ben take the strike and score the runs while the skip watched on and blocked anything that came his way. All went well until the 4<sup>th</sup> over, when Ben on a very quick 22 (no Ben not 23, 22!- more on this later) let his guard down and was bowled.

Next in was Richie 'stonewall' Murray, who was trying his best to out due the skip in the art of blocking. Just when Rich G started to get his bearings with some good looking shots he was struck down with cramp, CRAMP! Oh dear, not good for the image Rich you hadn't been in very long and the injured soldier had to limp off the park.

Up next Richie Dawkins, by the way how many Richies, (or dicks) do we have in the club- answers on a postcard folks. A prodigy from our under 15's side. Now runs started to flow nicely until captain Rob lost his wicket trying to push on.

Rich D fell shortly afterwards trapped leg before for a promising 11. It was left to Jag and Ryan to see the team home, Jag keeping things in check whilst the young upstart hit a quick 23, one more than Ben who wanted the glory of being the team's top scorer.

So a comfortable 7 wicket win for the 'A' team against 9 man Dunchurch, oh didn't I mention this before did I 😊.

Next stop Thornborough, keep up the good work chaps. I have my eyes on you.

More soon Dot