

Blog from the Boundary- Middleton Cheney V Grange Park "A" 14th June 08

Following last week's break my new favourites travelled to Middleton Cheney (our 3rd away jaunt in a row), who nailed us twice last season, (last year the home fixture saw GP missing out by one run) surely lightening doesn't strike twice?

Captain Kilsby won the toss and asked our hosts to set the pace.

The Ishy, Dave Wells partnership was restored to open up the attack. Keeping a tight reign both looked in good touch, Ish taking the first scalp in the 9th with a skier going to the Jamie Webb, the young keeper.

As they say 'one leads to two' Richie Murray's neat ground work brought a run out. Credit to both bowlers for keeping the runs to a premium. Creating a sense of panic which Murray Mint duly took advantage of.

DW took his first and second scalp in the 16th over, (apparently after taking some words of wisdom from TigerTone) to try and hit the wickets! Bloky batsman both missed and were plum leg before.

By this time GP were well on top, MC only managing 37 after 16 over's. However a change of umpire brought with it a change of fortune. More tight stuff from the bowlers and several good appeals later, (all turned down by the newbie ump who spat his dummy out when politely asked why he had not given one out) saw them rattle up 20 odd in a couple of over's, this now gave them renewed stomach for the fight.

Dan Porter and Ryan were brought on with Ryan taking his first wicket in his second over. Runs started to flow more freely by now but another wicket for Ryan kept things in check.

DP took a bit of clog and was replaced by Tony Adams, the windmill type bowler was looking to impress and didn't take long to get in the action with the opening batsman perishing for a fine 69 (oh err misses), Ryan took a smart catch.

8 over later and another three wickets from the slinger Ryan (from smart catches which the 1st team should take note of!) saw the home side bowled out for a useful 155.

Rob K and Murray Mint started the run chase. Steady progress ensued with captain slow slapping four boundaries in the early stages.

Richie fell first in the 6th over and Rob in the 7th, some rebuilding was in order. Alan Firmin and our over seas pro (Jase) formed a solid partnership of 52 but a run out saw the Aussie, sorry Kiwi stranded on 34. The partnership could have been more except for a couple of shots that seemed to cross the boundary not been signalled. (sour grapes? no not us!)

At the half way stage we were in a strong position at 81 for 3 (MC were on 67 for 4 at the same stage).

From there things went a bit pear shaped for a while, 5 wickets in quick succession saw the game sway towards our hosts.

Alan was caught for 22. Ryan, Tony, Jamie and Ish came and went in a haze, two of which (T & I) are now the proud parents of a duck egg each to sit on and hatch!

Two wickets left and 37 needed from 7 over's. Could GP pull it out of the fire? Bob who had watched the carnage from the other end quickly followed suit which meant the last pair needed to knock 35 for a famous win.

Dan and Dave Wells took on the task with gusto; it was now definitely squeaky bum time. The last over meant GP required 4 to tie, 5 to win. 3 runs from the first 5 deliveries meant one to tie, two to win from the last ball. Dan faced but there was to be no fairy tale ending, DP being bowled meant we had fell two runs short, the lightening had struck again and is now stinging our squeaky bum's!

A fantastic effort by everyone, especially Dave for his all round efforts and young Dan for nearly getting us over the line. Don't forget we still have a 4 and 2 record a nicely poised for a promotion push. Which will look even better if we can turn over Silverstone next week at fortress Collingtree.

More soon, Dot