

Blog from the Boundary- Grange Park "A" V Silerstone "A" 21st June 08

This week saw the A team back on home soil (or at least artificial) at fort Collingtree. Today's game could be classed as a classic 'must win 40 pointa', 4th placed GP playing against 3rd placed Silverstone, with only one defeat all season.

Rob had the unenviable task of picking the side and with most players being available it was a tough job.

With the 1st xl being rained off and with two places being available come Sat'day morning he took the opportunity to blood 2 newbie's to the team, young Stu '24' Butler and Rob 'beasty from Wootton' Pinnington.

Also getting the nod for their first games of the season was Mark Couldrick and Simon McKay, hopefully bringing some experience to the middle order.

Rob K won the toss and asked the opposition to set a target. With Ishy being slung on the scrap heap and Dave Wells unavailable, Ryan and Simon Mc opened the attack. After an inauspicious first over from Ryan GP took their first wicket in the next when Simon had a good catch taken by young Jamie behind the stumps.

The next 9 over's saw no more loss of life until Rob P snaffled his first league wicket for the club, but not until he put the opening bat in hospital with a top edge that crashed off his swede, leaving a nasty cut that required a trip the A&E. His team mates were not that bothered as no one offered to take him, nice one.

It has to be said that during the whole innings it looked as if the first xl were fielding, a number of drops, notably a caught and bowled dolly from Stu meant that we were giving Silverstone every chance to build a big score.

Danny 'evening all' Gasson and Tony came on to make some headway after half way. From here wickets fell in good time, virtually one going every other over. Danny taking no fewer than 6 (three ducks) and Tony taking one after having a couple dropped. Even though my eyes are failing me in my old age I reckon two of G's scalps were slightly lucky, one catch from a waist high no ball and the blokey who had come back from the hospital getting a clear inside edge but given leg before. 'Just look in the book' though 6 wickets for 42 from 7 over's ain't too shoddy.

Rob brought on the rabbit catcher* to finish things off in the 34th over, 180 all out and a good total in iffy conditions.

The 12th man always has a good knock every week, Mr X Tra chalking up 39, 34 of them were wides, I bet he will be in the running for 2nd team averages this season!

GP set out to reply by starting with Stu and Danny G, three boundaries from the first 3 balls from Stu gave GP the start we were after. A quick fire 30 from '24' but he and Dan went in successive over's bringing Rich Dawkins and Mark Couldrick to the crease. A fine partnership blossomed, 62 runs later before Rick was out leg before for a season high 32.

Now you remember old Dot explaining how she would polish your halo when you excelled but don't forget she can show her mean streak when you make a Charlie of yourself, well here goes. Take a bow Rob Pinnington**, the guy who slapped a mere 198 not out for the 1st's a few ago took guard, GP players all took a breath to see the great man in action, guess what? Out first ball, bowled all ends up. I bet the walk back seemed to last forever! Be prepared to get plenty of clog in the coming weeks. Oh dear, Rob K tells me that don't worry too much if you can't make it next week!

Simon Mc made a steady 11 before falling. Ryan joined Rob P to collect a duck egg; at least it wasn't a golden one.

In at 8 came captain slow to join Mark C, still with 52 runs to go it could have gone either way. We needn't have worried, last week it went against us, but this week the old boys saw us through, Rob unbeaten on 26 and Mark C hitting his first 50 for the club. Good to see the skipper letting Mark have the strike to get him to 50; perhaps one unnamed first team superstar could take note?

GP taking a well deserved 20 points after a solid 4 wicket win. Next week we play Helmdon who are currently top of the table. Could this be classed as the classic '60 pointa'?

More soon,

Dot

* Rabbit catcher- look no further than Stuey 'Jack Bauer' Butler

** Did I mention that Rob P is the proud father of a golden duck egg?