

Blog from the Boundary, 1st XI v Finmere 2nd May 09

Our first away game saw the 1sts travel to Boddington. Mixed weather over the last few days meant it tricky for our hosts to prepare the wicket. This was confirmed by Rob P sending a text before the game saying "F*** me, green would be an understatement" that kinda summed things up nicely.

Seeing the strip Lee's master plan was to win the toss and field first. Lee lucky streak didn't last and our hosts had the same idea, GP bat first.

With a shuffled batting line up Mark partnered Lee to set the place. 17 off the first 5 over's wasn't exactly express but with the wicket misbehaving it could have been worse. Mark perished for 9 bringing Rob to the wicket. Lee continued to nurdle while Rob was looking for the biggies. The undergrowth that was the outfield meant 4's were few a far between.

Their partnership went to 50 before Pinny was caught, pulling one to many but a vital quick fire 33 none the less. Jase missed out being caught behind off his glove, to his credit he walked when the ump would not have given him out (unsighted). Ricky and Lee made a valuable 20 before Lee skied one for a well made 45. Drinks saw the innings in the balance at 95 for 4.

Our elder statesman joined the youngster to add some experience in the middle. Craig didn't disappoint with a steady 17, a mini collapse saw Ricky, Viren, Andy Litch and Josh all falling cheaply so for the 2nd week running we were in real danger of not batting our overs. Young Jake and Geoff the ref were the last pair, one lusty blow from Geoff surprised himself but he couldn't repeat the agricultural shot and holed out at mid on. GP all out for a small but competitive 137 in the 35th over.

Needing to make quick inroads Lee tossed the ball to Josh and Craig to see if they could oblige.

The first scalp fell to the 4th ball of the innings. Josh using the pitch to his advantage nipping the top of leg stump. Craig kept the other end tight as ever while J went wicket crazy in his 3rd over taking another 3 wickets, 2 grubbers in succession put him on an hat trick which he magnificently missed out on by bowling pure filth down the leg side for byes. His next gave him his 3rd wicket, trapping bloky leg before. Our hosts were now reeling at 9 for 4 after 5 over's.

Their 5th wicket saw a mini revival taking our hosts up to 35, feeling left out Mr Holmes finally got in on the act by taking the important wicket of N Smith for 15. With more wickets in the offing Craig caught the wicket bug. "I love the smell of wickets in the morning" (name that film?) saw Craigy boy taking another couple, one plum leg before and J taking a running catch at mid on (admittingly after grassing a simple one the over before)

The weather was looking to be drawing in so we chucked down 4 or 5 over's quick time to ensure the game wasn't going to be abandoned as a draw.

Boddington were only about 20 runs behind the run rate but we had the advantage of only needing another 3 wickets. Ah no because one of their chappies had to go so only 2 were needed.

Craig took his 4th leaving Boddington on the edge at 48 for 8. In stepped the 3rd Jones' in the side, the gentle giant was looking to form a partnership with young T. Post. There first bonus point came with a roar of approval from Jones. Now gaining confidence Jones smashed 2 big 6's off Craig's last over.

Lee tossed the ball to his young offspring to try and break the mounting partnership, sadly not this time. The final pair put on a squeaky bum partnership of 33 before man of the match Josh finished things off by running out young Post. Leaving Boddington all out on 81, GP winning by 56 runs. 4 wickets each from Bonnie & Cyld (Josh & Craig) Although we gained 20 valuable points the winner was no doubt the iffy wicket with its unpredictable bounce. I look forward to reading Bodicote's post match report when they visit.

Dot's play of the game- Craig's calling Viren through for a quick single. Nothing wrong with that but the ball was edged straight to 1st slip. He must have noticed the 65 year old fielding & chanced his arm.

Dot's did you know...- Ash thinks S Club 7 are great. Good grief.

More next week! D