

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

Round two of the season see our chums from Bodicote visit the picturesque ground at Collingtree (more later!)

Lee continued to skip even with Stuey returning for a 'pre op' appearance. Depending who you ask but the famous saying from a Monty Python Film springs to mind "he's not the messiah; he's a very naughty boy!".

Taking a calculated punt we started with 10 with Ash tipping up after his footy match we won the toss and opted to bat. Lee and Stu opened but the latter missing out being bowled early on. Inevitably with Bomber at the crease the run rate (and new balls) increased, both took a liking to young Hasan bowling up the hill into the wind and Harris. The next 14 overs saw 97 runs with 15 boundaries and 4 sixes. Things were looking peachy but with Lee (39) and Bomber (63) going quickly before drinks we needed to regroup but things still looking good at 120 for 3.

Any thoughts of a score over 200 seemed to fade with the accurate 'slow left arm straight' from Barlow and the equally accurate Watts coming on. Ian didn't trouble the scorers caught at first slip (via a juggle from the young keeper) and with Ricky going for 11 (with one lovely straight 6 into the golf course.) and with no further addition Jase holed out for an unauthorodox but precious 44 (with 38 coming from boundaries and sixes).

With 11 over's left and 167 Bob and Joshi needed to regroup and push on. Sounds easy but with Bob holing out for 4 and Josh being run out for the same score we now had Ryan and Mark in at 9 and 10. They were now looking to hang around and look for any scraps. The Ash plan kinda back fired as he hadn't shown yet so in effect this was our last stand. Ryan missed a full straight en and we were bowled out for 182 with 3 over's remaining.

Over a fine tea Ash turned up but with no obvious rule Lee took the wise decision not to bowl him just in case things got a little tasty.

Young Josh and the not so young Ev opened the bowling looking for a quick breakthrough. The innings started fairly slowly with only 6 scoring shots in the first 8 overs. Josh took the first, a miscued pull only made it to the safe hands at mid off? Never in doubt!? Ev followed up the super catch with a wicket himself, Simmington looking to visit cow corner played across the line and was bowled. You sensed Pollard's wicket was going to be the key; he played some lovely drives and pulls in between the odd Chinese cut and at least 3 dropped catches.

Ryan replaced Josh from the top end, his first couple of over's were on the money, bowling Yates who didn't seem to fancy his pace but the next two saw the things turn on its head, 26 runs from his next two over's meant Lee had to make another change. Rop P took over from Ryan and Jase (making his bowling debut) took a wicket in his first over and just before drinks, Lynes top edging to Ev who took a smart low catch. Halfway Boddy were in strong position at 106 for 4, 50 of these coming in the last 6 overs. It seemed that the only way a win was possible was to bowl them out and I'm sure the temptation to turn to Ash was gnawing away but to their credit, Lee and Stu thought better of it.

With Pollard looking to crack on Rob literally cracked on. Pollard took a rising ball on the bridge of an unguarded nose and fell onto his stumps. Perhaps that was the only way we were going to see the back of him? Bomber took another 2 wickets in his next 2 over's leaving our visitors on 123 for 7. 60 needed from the remaining 15 overs. Hasan and Harris put on 27 in good time before Rob picked up his 4th wicket, bowling Hasan for a bright 17. Lee asked Mark to make more inroads who didn't disappoint with the final two wickets; credit must go the Boddy's umpire who triggered their last man LBW. It is refreshing to see the spirit of cricket shine through in such a tight game. GP winning by 26 runs.

Finally back to the my opening line, Dot's reads with sadness the thoughts of Bodicote www.bodicote.com and their views on GP's ground and setting. More disappointingly suggesting John Blower (league secretary 1946-84) would be 'turning in his grave'. One would like to think that John would have welcomed a team who didn't exist 4 years ago competing in his league and would have endorsed the fact that the league shouldn't discriminate from a team trying to compete with clubs with over 100 history. Everyone has to start somewhere. We would like to welcome Bodicote CC and their players next season when we open the new ground and facilities. Perhaps this has made our skippers team talk in the reverse fixture an easy one?

Dot's play of the game- Rob's match winning 60 odd and 4 wickets. Nuff said.

Dot's 'other' play of the game- Lee and Stu taking the high ground and not using Ash to bowl, good work fellas.

More next week! D (with rounded shoulders and a little headache)