

Blog from the Boundary, 1st XI v Middleton Cheeney 30th May 09

All good things to an end, just ask Gordon Brown, any M.P. on the take, Susan (nutter) Boyle and the 1st XI.

We welcomed newly promoted MC to fortress Collingtree, a side themselves who has only lost once in their 4 previous outings. Lee returned to skip and with a late change of plan we welcomed two youngsters into the fold, Steve Day promoted from 12th man and Greg Mason (Lee's future father in law).

MC won the toss and batted first. Cross & Mayo (who knocked 260 between them last week) opened the batting with Craig and Joshi looking to take their scalps. We were made to pay for a three good catchable chances being gassed early on, all of these from Cross who made us pay big time.

With no early breakthrough Ash and Mark came on to try their luck, no dice, 100 came up in a mere 17 over's. Just before drinks Mayo had his chips (I am available for wedding speeches for a ridiculously small fee). Looking to get a wiggle on he played outside a straight one from Ev. Cross was still plundering plenty before a mid off swoosh found Craig's safe hands. 146-2 from 24 over's. From here things took a turn for the better, wickets came at steady rate. Craig found his bearings and with Ben and Mark taking smart catches at midwicket and deep mid off respectively we started to reign in the run rate. Ash was having an eventful time of things, taking one for the troops trying for a caught and bowled and then getting cleaned up from a monster drive, (memo to Ash- don't try and trap the ball, it's hard and will hurt).

Wickets came at regular intervals, run out x1, Josh x1 and Jason x1 left the innings closed at a challenging 229-9 but another mind numbing 37 extras. Pick of the bowling was Craig with 4.

Lee and Mark started the innings. Things started at a steady pace, 25 runs from the first 9 over's wasn't exactly express but someone must have flicked a switch, 81 came in the next 10 over's leaving GP well placed on 105 in the 18th over. Lee fell but not before making a classy 65, Mark tried his luck and was caught on the long off boundary for 39 and all of a sudden we were on 119-2. We kinda lost a way our way between the 19th and 29th overs. We only accumulated 24 runs which left us behind the 8 ball, we now needed 92 from the last 11 over's, still doable with Jase and WG at the crease. Jase knocked a sixer but went next ball attempting the same shot. Ben was left high and dry going for a single that WG said was never there, I will let you guys make up your mind though. (Don't forget the 2nd law of Dot's report. Dot is always right!)

WG and Craigy started to knock things round nicely with 50 needed from the last 6 overs. Difficult but still possible.

Sadly both went in the same over which seemed to knock the stuffing out of us once and for all. Joshi came in with some lusty blows and with Ash hobbling on game fully but we were now 20 odd runs behind the run rate. With Ash run out going for a cheeky 2nd in came our newest recruit Greg Mason. He certainly looked the part, all in white, club shirt and cap meant he didn't look out of place. A couple of things gave it away. "That's accent not from round here" came from one of their players, (no shit Sherlock) and the batting stance didn't come from the MCC coaching manual. For the ones not in the know Greg is from over the pond. (U.S. for the ones still scratching their heads) so cricket is hardly prime time. Standing as if to take a ball from a pitcher he smashed a home run for 4 glorious runs, I guess that stroke will be played out more than any in the coming months when he gets home. Good work young man. He couldn't repeat the feat but a glorious 5 runs none the less. Geoff the ref came in for the last two balls. Falling on his sword going for a 2nd run from the last ball of the game. One might ask if that's was a blatant attempt to get in the running for this seasons duck cup?

We finished on a gallant but unsuccessful 208 for 9, 21 runs short. MC deserved their win, batting with purpose, accurate fielding and bowling. We rued the missed catches and the fact that we gave them another stack full of byes. Looking at the scores we actually scored just about the same runs from the bat but they conceded fewer extras. Small margins which I am sure we will correct in future matches? Dot wouldn't be Dot without leaving things on a high. We gained 9 points from this defeat, only 11 less than MC. We are still top of the division so a win next week will bring the GP juggernaut back on track, Come on peeps, have you got any? (If you don't know what I mean please ask and I will let you know).

Dot's play of the game-

Dot's other play of the game-

Dot's did you know? -

Lee's knock of 65, he looked well on course for his 1st ton.

Greg's baseball style 4 at going to mid on.

MC commented on how they liked our track, perhaps Bodicote should take note.

More next week! D