

Blog from the Boundary, 1st XI v Warwick Uni A 13th June 09

After a week of various BS flying around from our chums at Crowns and then handling a tricky situation with our landlords it is nice to talk about cricket. But far more important than that was I able to keep my pension money in Northern Rock this week, for those who didn't read last week's superb match report I put my pension on the line offering all our players a beer if we managed to avoid giving away less than 20 extras. Leave you on tender hooks on that score.

Losing the toss we batted first on a track that looked in good nick, probably the best we will play on all season. Covered track and a well groomed outfield meant there were no excuses if we didn't 'do the business'.

Lee lofted a full bunker to mid wicket for 4 leaving GP on 7-1 after 4 over's. Rob joined Mark in the middle and up until drinks looked in no particular trouble. We had moved on to 102 (with Rob tanking most of them, going past 50 in good time), Rob must have gone to the KP school of reverse sweeping but for one small point. KP hits the ball; alas Craig triggered him leg before to 'Mushy' Singh. Craig will say it was plumb, Rob will say it hit his glove, either way a fine 64 one the less. Although Singh was a nice chap and spun it 'both ways' you could say he was chucking it in fine style.

From a comfortable 102-2 at drinks we lost two more wickets in quick time, Jase caught behind for a blob and Mark went for painfully slow but useful 28. WG was joined at the crease by Kev. With spinners at both ends Kev was unlucky to be given out leg before being at least two good strides down. We were now finding it tough hitting the ball off the square.

Richie Murray (2), Andy Litch (blob) and Josh (4) went it quick time leaving the innings on the brink at 137 for 8 with only 7 over's left. WG and Craig now tried to set a competitive score. 37 valuable runs later made sure we had something to defend. WG not out on 41 and Craig on 12. GP ending on 174-8 after the 40 overs.

After an unusual tea (Tesco sarnies and sausage rolls) Craig and Josh set about the opposition. Obviously the pressure of not conceding 20 or more extras got to Josh who must have bowled an 11 ball over in his 2nd. Rob P replaced Josh and with Craig his usual metronomic self (boring I hear you cry), oh no not our 'Master of Disaster', 'The King of Swing', 'The Prince of Pace' (he made me write that one) Things were looking a little edgy at 40 odd for none after 10 over's. The youthful Allison looked a good bat whilst his older companion didn't, flicking to gully or front foot plod were his only shots but effective none the less.

Old chummy finally lost his wicket to Craig, chipping to just behind point to Jase who took a smart low catch. From here things started to go a little pear shaped for Warwick. Lee took two smart catches Pinny strangling matey down the leg side and then a smart catch standing up to Craig, 61-3 went to 82-6 with a trio of wickets for Craig's (his second 5 fa' in consecutive weeks.) Two were fairly agricultural swipes, credit of our local umpire who didn't hesitate in sending them back leg before and one smart ankle clutch at mid on from Kev.

As our wont we made things a little more interesting. Wood showing he had some (wood stupid) but was left stranded at the non strikers end while all this carnage was going on. He found an ally in 'chunky' Sandhu although time and over's were running out. Credit to Joshi who came back and with his little dibly doblers which brought him rewards. Firstly to get rid of Sandy for 12 and then taking the final wicket, out spinning the chucker Singh who didn't have a clue how to hold a bat. In between these wickets Mark yorked the guy that could have won the game for Warwick. Good field placing and bowling meant we kept him off strike as much as possible. The eagle eyes of you will notice we only took 9 wickets. One of their geezers had to go early; apparently his tea was on the table. Warwick all out for 129 and losing by 47 runs.

It would be childish and immature of me to mention that the one of their umpires didn't really have a clue on the rules of the game, waiting for a nudge and a wink from the batsman to signal harsh wides or the fact they then started to umpire from the pavilion (when the ball hit our helmet whilst fielding) giving Warwick 5 extra runs. OK so it did but I am sure we would have owned up ☺. Oh and that they didn't really understand the idea or walking when they hit it and got caught. Their umpire obviously didn't hear any nick. But taking the higher ground I won't mention any of this. God help them if they had played Crown's. I guess there would already be a court injunction and gnashing of teeth.

Did we give away less than 20 extras? You better believe it. OK it wasn't 40 odd but still 26 so I can eat this week and put the extra bar on the electric fire.

Dot's play of the game-
Dot's other play of the game-
Dot's did you know? -
More next week! D

Josh showing he has 'some' by coming back on after a tricky early spell.
Chummy who umpired for Warwick, didn't have a bleeding clue. .
Lee is now the 2nd player to hit 1,000 league runs for the club. Well done Mr McQueen.