

## **Blog from the Boundary, 1<sup>st</sup> XI v Greens Norton 26<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

Was I dreaming or has the World Cup been on? Let's forget it ever happened, our players have. Overpaid, stupid mercenaries who only care about nightclubs, the next pole dancer, bling and what else they can endorse. Now that's off my chest let's get on the main event.

Skip and vice skip were out of action so Ash took the armband and welcomed a couple of new faces to the first XI for this season, Jamie Webb, Harry Rowe, I reckon the first time the average age was under 27 (even with Ev and Craig)

With Ben only being available for the first half of the game we needed to be on our 'A' game against GN, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the league and only 14 points behind.

GP bowled first and with a strong attack looked to make early inroads. Ady and Matt started well enough, the 1<sup>st</sup> wicket came in the 4<sup>th</sup> over, The big A bowling bloky for 3. From here things went a bit pear shaped for a while, although wickets fell at 47, 60 and 104 they were going at a good lick and 250 looked on the cards.

Ady, Matt, Ash, Craig and Josh all turned their arms over but couldn't really stem the flow of runs. 200 came up in the 35<sup>th</sup> over, things then started to turn our way. The last 6 overs only went for 20 odd, GN throwing the long handle lost another 4 wickets. All to Ady who took 6 in the innings, probably lost in all furore of the mounting score. Most of the fielding was tip top (excellent catching Craig x2, Crazy Legs x2 and Jamie didn't a sterling job behind the stumps).

GN finished on 220 for 8, 172 of their runs came from 4's and 6's on an outfield as quick as Ian lighting up a fag after a bat, although a tough target one that could be reached given a strong start.

Ben had to fly so with only 10 batsmen we needed to make sure we all did our bit.

The young duo Craig and Mark opened up. A lively start took our reply to 27 in the opening 4 overs before Craig tickled one behind for 9. Miles in at 3 kept up the good tempo, scoring at around 5 an over. Although not as many boundaries were hit we kept the score ticking over making sure we didn't fall behind the run rate. Next out Miles looking to take the cover off the ball, bowled for 21 leaving GP on 92 for 2 after 17 over's. Crazy legs Firmin came in a positive mood and you could feel the advantage swinging in our favour. 103 at the half way but importantly with only 2 wickets lost.

Mark made his first 50 of the season before sweeping down the throat of bloky on the boundary (65) 6 or out. Out then!

143 for 3, 77 required from the last 12 over's. Cometh the hour cometh the men, Joshi came in at 5 and whilst the next few overs went for just a few he and Al didn't lose their heads. 71 needed from the last 10 and then things went all our way. 10, 10, 11, 9 came in the next 4 over's, lusty blows and some iffy fielding helped our cause, Josh did fall for 21 to bring in Young Harry Rowe in at 6, looking cool as a cucumber even at the tender age of 15! During this time Al got to his own 50 and eventually finished not out on 66 and with H finishing on 14 n.o. we knocked them off in glorious style on the 39<sup>th</sup> over.

Combining this result to the losses for Middleton Cheney and MK Air we are now 28 points clear at the top at the half way stage. Don't slip up kids.

**Dot's play of the game-** Ady taking 6 and the bowlers keeping the runs down at the death. You never know another 20 on their score and it could have been very different.

**Dot's 'other' play of the game-** Not many blinders to comment on without Peterson, Roberts and Pinnington to pick on I guess I need to point the finger at the geriatric hobbling around the outfield jumping over the ball, giving away at least 4 boundaries and Ash trying to hide him in the outfield. I guess he redeemed himself a bit with a few runs.

More next week! Dot