

Blog from the Boundary, 2nd XI v Charlton 15th May 2010

After last week's wash out, the 2nds got to play their first home game at our new gaff and up against top of the table (Alphabetically) Charlton. Looking for revenge after being turned over last year. Never wanting to take the easy route, GP made it a little harder by losing some of their key players. With the likes of the skipper, Ishy, Ben, Richy M, Jag and Simon all out to name but a few, all eyes turned to stand in skipper Bob Khan. With some new faces in the team Kanav and Dave Wells (name rings a bell?) and a couple of juniors making up the numbers we were about ready (or were we).

Bob won the toss and choose to put the opposition into bat. Shame no one told him we were still 2 short at the time. So with a team of 9 and our opening bowler still at home, all responsibility fell to Dave and Bob to get the bowling off to a good start. This was always going to be difficult, the ground at Wootton is as "hard as your fathers" & lightning quick.

With the two Knights opening for Charlton, Dave was unlucky not to take an early scalp after the bat prodded at one causing a nick and a truly fantastic diving one handed catch to his left by Jamie Webb. Unfortunately, the Bat claimed he never touched it and their umpire who looked at the bat with a bit of panic, choose to believe him. How he failed to here the same sound as everyone else on the field or spot the diversion the ball took (remember Jamie was diving far to his left) was beyond me, but umpires decision is final and we have to respect that (not necessarily agree mind you). Now watching this, I found the strangest sense of deja-vu, as I am sure the same the exact same thing happened last season with the same fella and he then went onto knock up a good score. However, let us not dwell on the past and hope that history doesn't repeat itself – again!!

After that scare their batsmen began to enjoy themselves, as they were knocking it about all over the shop and poor Bob was having a hard time trying to set a field, with such limited resources. As the run rate increased and all the gaps were being exposed, tactics changed to try and reduce the batsman to simple singles as to protect the boundaries. Bob tried a change of tact and replaced himself with Tiger Tone. After much persistence, Dave's hard work finally paid off as their No2 bat knocked one straight to extra cover, where Julian was ready to take a smart catch. With 57 on the board and only 1 wicket down, GP were needing to take some quick wickets. Unfortunately that wasn't to be as the next wicket didn't fall until Charlton managed to rack up 120, again it was Dave who bagged his 2nd.

By now we were into the 15th over an following some touch line assistance by Mrs A and possibly a speeding ticket for her trouble, she had returned with GP's 10th man. Ib joined the field and soon made his presence known, by taking two catches off Tiger's bowling at mid-off.

4 wickets down and an impressive 164 on the board with their opening bat still in, wasn't long before Dave came to the end of his 12 over spell and was replaced by Julian for a quick 3 over spell. Fancy a change, Bob then swapped Julian for Kanav and a spell of spin bowling and Tiger for Ib. The changed paid off, with Kanav picking up 3 wickets in as many overs after and just missing out on a hatrick. Unfortunately, Kanev took a quick ball out in the field and split his finger in the process. That put an end to his bowling but allowed Julian back on. Ib picked up the next wicket, which was then followed by a run out and Charlton hung in and managed to bat out their 40 overs after 3 hours and 20 minutes of play and finishing on a score of 234. Credit has to be given to their opening bat who put on an impressive 116 not out (how much did not getting that early decision hurt us?).

So what did our boys have in reply? Kanav and Jamie kicked things off, with Jamie perishing early following an impressive throw from deep fine leg, which found the stumps and Jamie not making it home in time to walk off with an egg. Julian too quickly came and went and it was down to Kanev and Ib to try and get the score going. Both were doing well, until again a bad call saw Kanev being run out on 26. Ryan came and went, bringing home the 2nd egg of the day, which then saw Bob coming into bat. Ib got into the swing of things, nearly killing one of the chavs who were hanging out at Deep point with an impressive 6 but was soon caught and bowled and finished on 25. Young Adam was egg-actly like Ryan and the 2nd junior of the day stepped up, in Alex. Bob soon went after a very quick 30 and both Tiger and Dave put in an appearance only to be sent packing and GP finishing on 106 just in time for drinks.

WB's play of the game-
WB other play of the game-
WB's question of the day -

I never like giving these to the away team, but credit to G Knight's 116 not out.

Kanev's flightly balls and picking up 3 quick wickets.

For 2 years running now, Charlton have brought on a junior player early and asked to be respectful & slow down the bowling. All the time when the bat at the other end is teeing off!! Surly you should leave the kids to the end if you have adults left in your team, as it's a little unfair to bowling side????

Anyways, let's hope the boys can get back on track next week!!

Wide Boy