

Blog from the Boundary, 2nd XI v Flecknoe 12th June 10

After last week's egg-cellent performance (there will be no more of those puns in this blog – promise) the GP "2nds" went on an away trip to the very beautiful, picture-esk Flecknoe. A quaint little village, where everyone is very well spoken and polite (I never knew such a place existed in Northants). Not quite sure what they made of our rabble of chav's turning up on their door step, however I am sure I spotted them all slowly return to their cars and local houses to lock them up!!

Flecknoe doesn't sport the largest or flattest green, with one side of the outfield looking more like a fairway at St Andrews and a strip that has the biggest gradient I have yet to see. However it is located in the middle of some great scenery and has the most beautiful houses over looking it, with one having a lovely glass conservatory which is just over's the bowlers head and is just crying out to be hit. But enough of setting the scene, this was about playing cricket and Flecknoe were well up for it, where as Grange were rather subdued. Whether this was because we were without our top 4 bowlers and 1 or 2 of our stronger bats or just thoughts on the big England match later that night, I couldn't tell but the boys were very quiet.

Skip lost the toss (again) and Flecknoe chose to set the score. I understand they got 250+ last week, so likely keen to repeat that performance.

Chi and Simon opened the bowling for GP, with Chi striking the first blow and forcing a catch off their opening bat who was on 13. Next in was their skipper who made his intentions clear from the off, with a few quick boundaries. GP were unlucky not to take another quick one, after they edged one to the keeper however the umpire failed to see or hear it. Continuing to punish any bad ball and there was few, their skipper reached a quick 50 before being stumped after trying to meet Kanav's (who had replaced his son a few over's earlier) flighty ball.

Simon was then given a break and replaced by Tiger, who was quickly tamed by their No 4 who obviously took a liking to the buffet bowling he was being served. Kanav made way for Chi, who quickly struck again with getting an LBW off their No 2 bat just after drinks. Now I'm going by the book on this, but if the scores are right their No 2 bat was out for 8 after 20 overs, with the home team being on a total of 112. 8 off 20 overs surly has to be a record, perhaps not a good one, but a record none the less?? If the book is wrong then I send out my apologies to their bat – but as the home team did the scoring he can take it up with them!!

Somehow Tiger blagged a wicket, when their bat knocked one straight in the air to Alan, who took the dolly comfortably. Bit it was too little far too late, as he finished his 4 over spell conceding 44 runs – ouch.

Kanav replaced the Tiger and it was a father and son bowling partnership, with Chi bowling a no ball that got sent straight up and safely into the keeps hands. Unfortunately the bat didn't hear the no ball shout and was promptly stumped for being outside his crease.

Simon soon replaced Chi and got his 1 and only wicket of the day, following some fine tight bowling. Kanav scalped another, when yet another bat who couldn't resist the slow one took a big swing and missed it. Fortunately the ball had enough pace on it to dislodge the bails – but it was touch and go!!

The remaining wickets to fall all come from run outs, with the oddest being from a dolly that was sent to Tiger who attempted to take it one handed?? He clearly had been watching the Magners cider TV advert!. Obviously he spilt it, which puts him up there with drop of the season with the skipper, however he slightly recovered the situation with picking it back up and getting to the keeper quick enough for the run out.

With GP needing one more wicket to finish them off, Flecknoe did well to hold on in the last few overs with the last 2 chaps putting another 27+ runs on the board and seeing out the 40 overs and finishing on 221.

Hitting 200+ is not normally something we see of GP 2nds, but it has been done before and if there was ever a pitch to repeat it on, this was it..

Kanav and the Murray Mint opened the reply and were looking solid during the opening over's, knocking up 54 in the first 10. However a sudden rush of blood to Minty's head saw him sweeping across the line in the 11th, missing the straight one and finishing on 30.

Next in was the skip, who was relieved to get off the mark with a 4 and a big cheer from the boys. The skip perished on 26, after lofting one in the air and was replaced by his younger brother (we have still yet to see the brother bat together), who was unable to repeat his performance from the previous week and quickly found himself bowled for 3.

Alan was next in and hit a quick 10 before chipping one to mid off. With 4 wickets down and GP on 143, a foundation had been set and it was going to go down to the wire. Jag was next in and was looking to stick around and he and Kanav put on a nice little partnership of 44, before Kanav was finally dismissed for 73 after being bowled.

Replacing his Dad, Chi came out in the 34th and with 33 runs still needed set about the job at hand with Jag. A miss-field by the home team brought the controversy of the day, when an over threw allowed GP an extra cheeky run and the ball was thrown in at the bowlers end for the stumping. With Tiger who was umpiring taking position in line with the stumps to see the in coming ball and the bat then running behind him to scramble across the line, it was too close to call and the benefit of the doubt was given to the batsman - much to the upset of the home team. Jag and Chi continued on, before Jag found himself caught out in the 39th on a hard earned 25 and leaving GP on 218 and needing 4 from the last over. Jamie was next in and both he and Chi got the required runs with a few balls to spare, making it a cracking finish.

So with another win under their belts and the 2nds moving up to 3rd in the league, it's important the guys keep that momentum going!!

WB's player of the game-
WB's other play of the game-
Moment of the day -

Kanav's 73 not out and 3 wickets.
Minty's and Kanav's opening partnership.
Tiger being chastised by an elderly Dorris who it has to be said, looked older than Dot and Monty Burns combined!! Clearly the old girl had taken a tumble (probably from tripping over one of her many cats at home), as her face was badly bruised and swollen, yet she scolded him for not giving the run out. How exactly she could see from her position and without her glasses (which were broken in her unfortunate fall), I'm not quite sure but bless her support for her local team.

More next week!

WB