

Blog from the Boundary, Chipping Warden v Grange Park 2nd XI 7th May 2011

With the early news that the 1st XI lost their game at the death, it was down to Tiger and his stiff to pick up the first win for Grange Park of the 2011 season. In what I can ensure you was as equally close to call game and that could go either way, you will need to read on to see if our lads were victorious or not.

With the boys arriving at the ground at around 13:30 and not a single member of the home side in site and a line dance disco taking place in the main hall, there was a worry the boys had a) the wrong place or b) the game had been binned and no one told them! However Ben seemed to recall this team having previous for arriving late and given this was the ground two seasons ago, he “pinged” one hitting a young child straight on the head. No one was doubting his memory and rightly so, as with less than 15 minutes to go the home team begin to wander in.

Having lost his first ever toss (it was a good record while it lasted), the skipper left his team batting on a damp wicket. Following a quick speech to stir the boys up, he sent out his two trusty veterans in “James May” - Kanav and “Bionic” - Ben to get us under way.

Kanav started off like it was the IPL with a lofted drive and smash through point, off perfectly good balls in the first over and half, before then missing a straight one and being rumbled for 9 in the 4th over. In at 3 was the “Milky Bar Kid” who will simply now be known as “MBK”. For the next 28 overs it was the Bionic and MBK show, reaching a top partnership of 109. During which MBK it’s fair to say, rode his luck a little after the home team dropped him on a couple of occasions. However, his positive batting shone through and he reached his 50 first, after whipping a number of balls through the midwicket. Not to be outdone, Bionic wasn’t far behind especially when he hit a glorious six straight back over the bowlers head with a big planted front foot “ka-pow fetch that”!! Having reached the 30th over for 114, the skipper gave the call to let the charge begin and expectations of 60 runs in the last 10 overs, set a projected score of above 170. However Ben missed one in the 32nd and finished on a very respectable 57, with MKB quickly following him by getting himself run out for 56 (* read Dot’s thoughts for further analysis). Jamie, Simon and Ryan were all next in and quickly back out again, putting on a total of 5 runs between them!! Dave Formoy and Ish were the next pair, struggling to pick up runs from what was some tidy tight stuff from the home team. Dave was next to fall, reaching 9 before he chipped one back to the bowler to be caught. Gibbins was out next for what was the last over, yet never got to face as Ish held the strike reaching a quick 17 N.O and helping our boys reach 159 at the end of the innings. They possibly should have got a few more than that, however it was a good shout and something they could try to protect?

Tea was quickly scoffed (and nicely laid on by the home team) and it was then for “Chipping” to begin the chase. Another “yawn-yawn” speech from the skipper, waffling on about the importance of keeping it tight and he went about setting his field. Luckily, Ben was there to re-set the field correctly for the left hander!! (and they were away).

Simon and the skip opened the bowling, however the whole innings can simply be summed up as follows:

“Basically we bowled a lot of good balls that got us nothing and some crap that thanks to obliging batsman and top catching/ self protection, got us some wickets”!

The skipper was the first to get excited with the wicket that never was, given out by umpire, only to be over ruled by square leg or “batsmen’s end umpire” if you wish to be pedantic (Old Dot knows people that have done the course and that stuff is important). Did it hit into the ground before Jamie took it? Well the skipper was adamant it didn’t – yet he was bowling so was never likely to think otherwise. “Bionic” who was at point, thought so. Either way, it’s a mute point as the umpire allowed himself to be over ruled and the game continued regardless.

"Golden arm" McKay took wickets with a couple of shockers – with one poor ball that blokey smashed straight at long off like a tracer and moving quicker than a Seal hit at Bin Ladens gaff! Poor Andy barly had time to plant his feet before he allowed it to hit him in the chest and he snagged it in his arm! It seemed the Batsman was none too pleased with the heroic catch, as he was heard saying "I hope he's broken an f***ing rib". Then there was the leg side full toss that was swept over square leg for “Bionic” in his best “Steve Austin” (no – not the wrestler) impression, ran back for and somehow found the ball plopping into his hands! Si took four in the end, just like last week (and that was with some crap too, yet got nothing with the good ones, which in fairness were the majority) - but I guess it doesn't matter how you get them!!

Not to be outdone, the Skipper took two in a row with possibly his worst balls! The first taken by Dave F - where the batsman ran towards a wide one and smashed it over cover, flat, and straight to him, despite the fact that we probably shouldn't have had him behind another fielder! The 2nd one, Ryan took one running to his left from a leg side full toss/ half volley. With the Skipper getting a sweat on at the thought of a hat-trick, and then Ben getting a sweat on, at the thought of listening to the Skipper if he were to get a hat-trick. It was all for nothing as it was not to be.

Jamie dropped one off the skip for the second week running, but as the skipper asked me not to mention it - I won't. However, Jamie did keep very well and was extremely tidy this week.

At 15, Simon and Tiger made way for Ryan and Dave F and by the midway point the home team had reached 77 for 4. Ryan bowled some good ones that bounced and picked up a couple of important wickets!! However, he did give away 4 over throws when the batsman had already passed the stumps, but again the skipper has asked that I not mention it – so I won't.

Dave F bowled some tidy stuff including the wicket which just trimmed the leg bail off the stumps (was it the wind?). He too was guilty of a rush of blood to the head, when less than a few feet from the stumps he hurtled one at them, with no one backing up! (The skipper never said I couldn't mention that one)

There was also an incident where the umpire tried to call one short at one point, where their batsman had only run one?

In general there was some pretty good fielding all round and nearly all catches were taken, with only Darren and Simon missing out on C+B's. Ish hobbled around well, even if he was "running" as if he was constipated and poor Darren gets the "thank you for coming award?", but bless him, he did throw himself about a bit, despite not having any “Hollywood” catches this week.

Credit to “Chipping” who probably thought at one point the game was out of the reach, yet dug in and kept chipping away (no pun intended) making it a very close call. So, how did it finish? Well I have tried to build it up, so here goes.

With Simon having his 12 and Dave coming to the end of his tidy spell. The last 4 overs were down to Ryan and Tiger to finish off and despite a wobble and few wides from Ryan, his good balls were untouchable and it came down to the wire with 8 needed in the last over to win for the home team. Tiger saw out the last over and with the last ball needing 4 for a drawer, the home team could only get it away for a single before conceding defeat.

I’m guessing it was a squeaky bum finish for the skipper, yet it was nice to see our boys pick up theirs and the clubs first win of the season (and I look forward to watching a few more)!!

Next task is to win a home game, a feat not yet managed by either of the clubs teams!!

Dots player of the game-

Got to be MBK.. First club 50, top knock young man.

Dot’s thoughts of the day-

Is MBK being careful enough to score one less than his boss “Bionic” Ben? Both games so far, he has managed to be one run behind him! Whether he thinks this is good for his career, I don't know.

Dot’s spotted on the day-

It’s not often you see a “Hulk” of a man, laying on the strip, talking to it, singing to it and stroking it. But it’s what I saw on more than one occasion over the week –“Honest Gov”..

More next week! Dot



P.S

If the 1st XI want some catching practice, I believe the stiffs are available to assist...