

## **Blog from the Boundary, GPA v Woodford Halse 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

It may be the start of the 2011 season, however "Old Dot" still manages to be able to keep an eye on both games and still write her little blogs..

So the first game of the season at the new ground saw the 2<sup>nd</sup> team welcoming Woodford Halse to Foxfields on what can only be described as a very pleasant day, if a little windy. Fortunately, the noise of the wind cancelled out the screaming of the alarm system that the skipper somehow managed to trigger and bodge, despite Evo running through the whole process more than once with him!

With the new skipper (Tiger, Tone, Wide Boy, Windy – insert appropriate name as you see fit) winning the toss and choosing to field, he lead out his team with a few new faces, Tim Blunt, David Formoy, Darren Gibbins and Ash Day?

The perfect start was achieved with Ash's first delivery being a peach of a ball, clipping blokeys pads and taking the bails off on its way thru. Ash was joined at the other end by Simon, who bagged his 1<sup>st</sup> of the day in the 6<sup>th</sup> when the bat clipped one to mid wicket, were Gibbo was waiting and took a smart little catch (if not a little Hollywood). A few more overs passed and with tight bowling at both ends, the run rate was being contained nicely. Ash took a breather (can only assume he isn't quite match fit yet?) and was replaced by the skipper in the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Simon then went on a shopping spree and bagged his 2<sup>nd</sup> of the day, after hitting the stumps in his 14<sup>th</sup> and followed up with a maiden wicket in the his next over which saw the bat sky one straight up only to see Jamie get beneath it and then amazing spill it!! However, Jamie's embarrassment was saved when the bat having seen he skied it attempted the run anyway and his chum watching the comedy realised the run out was on the cards and sent poor maty back, to find Jamie sighing with relief and quickly picking the ball up and wipping off the bails before he made it home. Not sure it should count as a stumping given he went for the run, however that's what's in the book and I daresay Simon won't argue the point!! Not finished there, Simon bagged his 4<sup>th</sup> in his next over the 18<sup>th</sup>, when Jamie managed to hang onto a nick for caught behind. However Jamie couldn't hold onto the next one to be nicked which came off one of Tiger's balls, which proved to be costly as the bat then went onto top score for the day.

By drinks in the 20<sup>th</sup>, GP was feeling positive having taken 5 wickets and keeping the score to 60 at the midway point. Ash returned after drinks and Simon finished his spell in the 24<sup>th</sup>, picking up a haul of 4 wickets for only 45 runs.

Jag took over from Simon, however it simply wasn't his day and he took himself off after 2 overs. David Formoy then stepped up to bowl his first league over and had a very nice 4 over spell, only going for 12 runs. Ash took 2 more in the last of his 2 overs with the first being another nick behind, which saw the bat show good spirit by walking without being given and then Ash bagged his last of the day with his last over, clean bowling the bat. Kanav then stepped up to replace Ash and took the final 2 rabbits in his 2<sup>nd</sup> over and with Woodford Halse being a man short, finished their innings on 164.

With Grange Park losing the second half of that innings, it was down to Ben and Kanav to open the reply. However, it seems GP has it's own "Captain Slow" in Kanav who made Ben look like Linford Christy between the sticks (not bad for a chap who is half bionic). By the 11<sup>th</sup> over Ben and James May reached 28, however it was Ben who perished in the 13<sup>th</sup> having been bowled for 13. With the excuse of needing to get away early, it was the skipper who walked out with a nose bleed in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Kanav was next to fall in the 17<sup>th</sup>, getting triggered for LBW on 10. Jamie came and went, also being triggered on an LBW appeal in the 18<sup>th</sup> and Tiger was bowled in the 19<sup>th</sup> leaving GP on 54 for 4. Up next was the youth movement, with young Jake and Tim Blunt who showed the oldies how's it done putting on a quick (well for this game it was quick) 28 in 6 overs. Tim was dislodged in the 31<sup>st</sup>, having been bowled for 12 and Darren made a quick visit before finding himself also bowled. David F then attempted a final stand with Jake, who eventually was undone when he was bowled with a GP top score of 31. David was dislodged on 12 and Jag, Simon and Ash all put in appearances but to no avail with Ash finishing on 4 N.O and GP only scoring 124 leaving them 40 runs short.

Given GP gave away 40 extras and dropped their top scorer who got 48 early on, it's easy to see where this game was lost. But full credit goes to Woodford Halse who was a man short and were the better team on the day.

Next week, the boys are away to Chipping Warden so let's hope they can bounce back..

Dots player of the game-

Has to go to the opposition's top bat, young Ben Ward who also bowled very well. Well played young man.

Dot's 'other' player of the game-

Jake Roberts showing the oldies how it should be done

Dot's spotted on the day-

Two members of the team were spotted doing "Basil Fawltly" funny walks down the Welly Rd, holding their thighs and screaming like girls something about cramp?

More next week! Dot

