

3rd XI v Malden Wanderers: 10th May

Away to Malden Wanderers having narrowly missed out on promotion last year we knew Malden Wanderers would be a stiff proposition. The weather was pretty awful and frankly a few of us didn't think we'd get on the field let alone get a whole game in! However winning the toss and batting meant we gave ourselves the chance to bat 50 overs and bolster our total with the Duckworth Lewis calculations.

Unfortunately we didn't bat our 50 overs, disappointing but we amassed 178 thanks to Corbey (59) the main stay of our innings, Salim's aggression (32) and Tee's big hitting (27). At 40-4 we were reeling but Corbey played some gorgeous drives not the easiest stroke to play on 3rd XI stick wickets and Salim and Tee respectively ensured our run rate was good. We recovered to 149-5 but slipped to 178 all out. A fighting total but criminal to not bat our 50 overs.

With time lost the D/L calculation made their target score 164 off 42. It was a slippery slope literally for our bowlers as both Tee and Tim had to cut their run ups down due to the muddy ground. The fielding was excellent and 2 run outs by Tony and Errol, followed by 2 wickets for Tony and 1 for Tim meant we were firmly in control and had them 50-5. About 25 runs behind on D/L. Shockingly 2 overs later they were ahead on D/L. Unfortunately we dished up several full tosses at an inopportune moment, the bowlers struggling to grip the ball with the rain spitting but not hard enough to go off. Credit to Malden Wanderers who despatched each full toss for 6. Callum bowled well and so did Tony prior to rain. Had the rain relented on the second occasion during their innings it may have been a different story on the result.

Final Word

Defeated but the positives are Salim and Corbey have shown early form with the bat, we were much improved in the field and despite missing a couple of our regular bowlers we still put up a good fight and danced with probably one of the better teams in the division. With an improved forecast and improved availability of bowling resources, we should be aiming to be there or thereabouts come the end of the season. Thank you to all the lads who showed great spirit despite the weather. We'll brush this one off and come out aggressively next week!