

Old Ruts 3rd XI v Chessington 3rd XI

18th May 2013

I got a call at 10am and got that dreaded feeling that every captain fears – a drop out on the morning of a game. To make matters worse the 4's had a journey away to Kent so the usual procedure of taking a player from the team below seemed uncharitable. After several unsuccessful phone calls by myself and Alix, the ginger fox managed to call Rob "arms and legs" Lever who managed to get an under 14 to step in to make up our 11.

For all the mayhem the 50p coin fell in our favour and I elected to bowl again playing to our strengths of a potent bowling attack. Before we knew it we had them 29 for 6! Bilal nagged away removing their opener and Nadeem steamed in from the top end removing their number 3 with a Yorker. But it was Salim who stole the show 10 overs for 17 runs and 4 wickets ripping out Chessington's middle order. However from 29-6 we perhaps relaxed a bit too much. Their number 8 Simon Burge looked shaky to start with and we dropped him twice. It was an invitation and he obliged targeting the leg side with some lusty blows. Bilal and Nadeem came back to grab another one each and Usman wrapped up their innings. Burge had lifted Chessington to 144 and whilst we had bowled them out under their 50 overs the overriding feeling was we should have got them for under 100.

That feeling however didn't affect our batsmen. Dinesh (44) continued his form hitting the ball to the boundary and Eshen Patel (34) back in the 3's showed he has bags of talent ensuring we got off to a solid start. At 80 without loss we looked firmly in control but complacency struck again. Dinesh, Eshen, Corbey, Myself and Padge all gave our wickets away somewhat carelessly. Salim took on the responsibility of guiding us to victory with 33 not out supported by Rob Lever who got out just before the pair could take us home.

Overall another win with a bonus point to match. Salim stood out with his man of the match performance with bat and ball. However players turning up 45 minutes late at the start of the day set a negative tone and hampered the opportunity for fielding practice. The effect of 2 dropped catches could be seen as linked allowing the opposition to post 50 runs more than they should have. And finally careless batting topped off a generally casual approach. Next week we go to Woking to play a side who won this Division last year and will be up for it. Our guys will need to be too if we are to maintain our winning streak. Get on top, stay on top.