

Captains corner - The Bell v The Hawks

The date was 11th June 2009, the venue Chichester University Bishop Otter Campus, was this going to be the awaited time for the Hawks?

The weather was fine and sunny after the afternoon showers which if anything had livened up the already renowned quick wicket at the university which had the Hawks pacemen licking their lips in anticipation.

The two co-captains Haskett & Keynes were discussing tactics and it was agreed that Jon would take responsibility for the toss, Jon called correctly, beginners luck said Gareth with a wry smile. We chose to field the omens were good.

The Hawks took to the field and sprung an instant surprise by starting with pace from one end and spin from the other. This brought instant success for David Loten bowling the Bell opener second ball for a duck, Jon with his slow left spin started the second over and although his first delivery disappeared for a four, he found good turn with his next delivery and the second wicket was down caught by Gareth at short mid wicket. A superb throw by Josh soon accounted for the third; the team gathered together they knew it was game-on.

Josh was next into the attack and with his pace soon had the opposition batsmen hopping around, a catch was taken at point off his second delivery, whilst everyone celebrated the square leg umpire had called a no-ball for a slightly high delivery, harsh possibly, correct absolutely.

Josh gathered his thoughts and in his next over made no mistake and was soon on a hat-trick after bowling two beauties, no messing this time as the stumps were splayed across the turf.

More great fielding from the Hawks a further two run-outs a great delivery from Paul Walmsley had The Bell eight down. Their number nine and ten batsmen were scoring steadily but this was ended when David took a superb catch in the deep off Peter Daley, The Bell's last batsman duly arrived. A few more runs were scored but soon after another fine delivery from Peter brought their innings to a close. The Bell were 99 all out in the 19th over.

With the evening closing in and becoming colder our scorer Carol was taking no chances this week with a jumper, heavy cardigan and gloves being worn, see attached picture, global warming not at the Uni.

A quick team call, the Hawks knew they had a chance but was this going to end in tears? Well no, but we could still lose.

Openers Matt & Paul W strode to the crease, the run rate was kept in check but then calamity Matt was run-out for 13 and Paul was caught for 16. Unfortunately Peter batting at four after his 19 in his last game did not last long and was run-out for 2. This brought brothers Neil and Josh together, would there be fireworks? No, they both played sensibly but with bowling being very tight, Neil perished when trying to increase the scoring rate, caught & bowled for 18.

Gareth walked to the wicket, a few singles, a two and a well run three with his son Josh were soon acquired, but on calling for a single, suicidal said Josh, who was on his back foot, could not make his ground, Josh scored a well crafted 15.

Keith knew boundaries were needed and his first delivery was sent scorching through midwicket for a welcome 4 runs but after a further single was scored Keith has back in the hutch.

We were now in the last two overs and was this going to be the last chance saloon for the Hawks, Gareth was joined by Rob at the wicket both knowing it was now or never, run for everything, a two was scored, another dot ball, then the ball was pitched short Gareth clipped off his legs for a four, the scores were now level, a collective relieved sigh was heard from the boundary where the Hawks were gathered, the next ball a bye was scored the one run we needed, cheers were heard, hugs, handshakes all round.

The Hawks had won at last by 4 wickets.

Many thanks to all from The Bell C.C. who once again shared in a great game of cricket.