

Match Day 5 Report - The Bell vs HAWKS

**"Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more...
I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips,
Straining upon the start. The game's afoot:
Follow your spirit, and upon this charge
Cry 'God for Hambrook, England, and Saint George!'"**

This was the rallying call from Captain Marvel and his troops didn't fail to deliver in this gruelling encounter between two sides hungry for victory. But it would be the hungrier HAWKS who won this battle, earning their first ever win!

The Bell started with the bat. They soon wished they hadn't. The HAWKS unleashed an onslaught of fine deliveries from the off. David Loten taking a casualty in the first over. It was clear the HAWKS were taking no prisoners. The Bell had no answer to the HAWKS' big gun attack and when Josh and Gareth Haskett joined in with the ball, the barrage continued. Josh taking a well deserved 2 body counts.

It looked at this stage as if it would be all over by Christmas. Err, I mean 7pm!
Over after over saw the bowlers take control and the batsman take cover. But out in the middle there was nowhere to hide. Good bowling spells of medium pace and spin continued from the HAWKS with Jonno Keynes taking a wicket from his deadly left arm spin. Paul 'Woolmer' Walmsley was then unleashed to thoroughly pepper the batsman into near submission. His onslaught earned him a Bell scalp that he'll be proud to tell his grandchildren about.

The HAWKS fielding was as sharp as it has ever been. Always alert and ready for action. Paul O'Donohue's bravery in the field should earn him a mention in dispatches. Despite his injuries he continued to show an iron will, grit and determination. And although Captain Marvel received a blow to his hand after a superb diving stop, he continued to lead his troops with courage and strength.

David Loten's fantastic catch out in the deep was given a 'no ball' decision but this seemed to spur on the HAWKS and their relentless pressure bowling was soon rewarded and Loten got his just desserts with a superb catch - which this time counted. Hoorah!

A final big push from The Bell towards the end of their innings was more in desperation than planning. Then a master stroke by Captain Marvel. The introduction of a HAWKS secret weapon... The bowling partnership of Neil Phillips and Peter Daley. After a few hurled puddings were thrown in the general direction of the batsman, it became clear this was a well worked plan to throw the batsman into a state of confusion! They thought the tide was turning. But not so. Peter Daley's cunningly disguised balls earned him 2 wickets leaving The Bell's innings in disarray after almost 19 overs and the HAWKS were left to chase a total of 99.

With first blood to the HAWKS it should have been easy pickings to race to victory.
But not so. The Bell's feathers were ruffled and seemed determined to fair well in the field. Paul 'Woolmer' Walmsley and Matt Chesshire made a nervous start for the HAWKS but fortunately managed to get a few runs on the board in the first few overs to settle things down.

The HAWKS' openers were showing signs of frustration and had to choose their moments to attack. Some fine running between the sticks saw the scoreboard slowly tick on. But their eagerness to increase the run rate saw Chesshire dismissed by run out scoring 13.

More good bowling followed. Big gun Neil Phillips wanted to go on the attack. He did just that in true 'Braveheart' style. 'Woolmer' Walmsley hit 16 before being caught and Phillips was eventually dismissed, by being caught for 18.

Two run outs followed. Peter Daley scored 2 before his departure and then Josh Haskett. But not before he notched up an impressive 15. He and Gareth Haskett were building a fine partnership in the middle before a breakdown in communication and the fall of his wicket.

Gareth Haskett's batting was solid and with Keith Davey joining him in the middle, the HAWKS managed to fight back and get themselves within a sniff of victory.
Then Davey fell for 5.

'Just keep it together and the day will be ours', came the cry from the Captain left standing in the middle, as he was joined by an eager Rob Richards. He couldn't wait to get stuck into the bowling and secure victory for the HAWKS.

Gareth Haskett kept his head with an unbeaten 14. The HAWKS rained victorious as Haskett and Richards ran down the final runs in what proved to be an exciting, close encounter.

Well done the HAWKS!