

## **MATCH DAY 6 - Hawks v Emsworth**

Would last week's victory against The Bell in Chichester spur the Hawks on to new heights or were we to witness a hangover performance against Emsworth? Pad up, put the Champagne on ice and get ready for yet another roll a coaster ride - it's match day 6!

Captain Keynes won the toss for the second week running, sorry Gareth you appear to be out of a job, and The Hawks took to the field on an evening you could have easily mistaken for mid-October-overcast, a cold wind and a high probability of showers. No dropped catches this week lads, due to the sun in your eyes!

Back after a couple of weeks out, Steve Clark opened from the pavilion end in tandem with Josh, and the old partnership were on the money from ball one. In a four over opening spell yielding only 10 runs the bats men blocked, played and missed and were in all sorts of trouble. But the Emsworth openers saw off the threat, Clark and Haskett Jnr. consoling themselves with a low run rate and the knowledge that they would return later in the innings when the batters would surly have to take greater risks.

David Loten had a very tidy spell with 1 for 17 off his 3 overs and Gavin Fisher, despite now bowling in constant drizzle, chipped in with a wicket, bowled off bat, pad and almost everything else in between.

In the field The Hawks were as hawkish as ever, probably the most improved area of their game since last season. Rob Richards juggled with one in the covers, palming the ball up over his head to take the pace off and grabbing what then became a dolly catch at the second attempt and Captain Keynes conned the batsmen into taking a second with a masterly miss-field before firing a return throw over the stumps and easy run out.

Haskett senior had a lively spell mid innings keeping Emsworth on their toes, or on their back in one case! The lesson learnt? "Never bat without a box"!

By the time the opening bowlers returned for the last two overs rain was constant and the ball was sponge like, but Clark took two and Haskett one to finish with figures of 2 for 10 and 1 for 4 of a combined 6 overs! World class if you ask me.

Emsworth closed on 115 for 5.

So, it was less than a run a ball required as Paul Walmsley and Matt Cheshire paddled out to the crease to reply, with the distinct danger the Duckworth Lewis system could come into play! It was dark, wet and blustery, and when Paul went in the first over for 0 it was also depressing.

Matt ran out Rob for 7 and it was looking ominous for the Hawks, but he went on to make 25 (retired) and a lovely innings of 28 (retired), inc. 3 fours by Paul O'Donohue swung the game in favour of the home side.

Gareth chipped one back to the bowler in the 11th over and luckless Keith Davey was run out in the 12th, leaving Josh and Jon to knock off the final four overs at a run rate of 4 to tidy up.

"No need to rush Josh, it's only 4 an over" said Jon, Chidham and Hambrook's answer to the GLY (Greatest Living Yorkshire man-Geoff Boycott).

But with tight bowling, a slow out field, wet ball, dark skies...(what other excuses can I find?), the run rate slipped, and when Jon skied one off the penultimate ball for 14, it was 6 to win!

Out stood the number ten Steve Clark, 'Eye of the tiger' ringing in his ears, one ball, one six, a hero for ever. He took guard, two practice forward defensive shots, surely he's not going to block and play for his own average? The bowlers ready, the crowd is hushed. It's on its way. Clark dances down the pitch and launches a shot to leg. Two runs and nearly a run out at that! Emsworth win by 4 runs and the dream is over. For another week at least!

So it's off to the Old House, the Champagne is back on ice, and we drown our sorrows with a pint of Ringwood instead. Thanks to Emsworth and their captain Dave Webb for a great game, especially in bowling the spinners when the light closed in towards the end. As ever cheers to Carol, and her apprentice Pete, for scoring and John at the Old House for the food.

It's back to the new practice nets on Sunday, and we'll see you next week when The Hawks play host to Lavent. C'mon you Hawks.

### **Captain's corner**

They say you learn more in defeat than ever you could in victory, personally I could do without the additional wisdom!

Again we restricted a good Emsworth side to 115 over 20 overs, could be better though over the last three matches the wides column has been increasing. I think we should try to tackle this in our Sunday nets and not they are not "naughty boy nets".

Steve & Josh bowled well at the top and at the end coming back in miserable conditions. Good batting from Matt and Paul O'D shame we could not quite get them back in again, and nice partnership with controlled batting and quick running by Jon & Josh kept us in it until late on.

We just need to make sure if we are in this situation again, we push on and finish it.