

Sunday June 28th - Match Report 8

Walberton v The Hawks (With a Vengeance)

After our loss against Lavant a couple of days earlier The Hawks welcomed the first of our Sunday fixtures, this would be a different format from our normal midweek 20/20 games with a start time of 2.30 and 20 overs from 6.30 coming into play.

The venue was Walberton's run fest of a ground, where earlier in the season both sides had amassed 299 runs between them. On arrival at the ground with fine drizzle in the air, Carol our scorer looked in dismay to the heavens because when we had set out sunshine was in abundance. A few wry comments were made about sunscreen but by the start all was fine.

After winning the toss in the previous match, Gareth strode confidently to the wicket with fellow captain Nick Jackson, called heads and was promptly invited to bowl, back to normal proceedings.

David Loten and Matt Chesshire, two out of our trio of pace bowlers opened proceedings and after an initial flurry of fours David had his first wicket, a swinging delivery which beat the Walberton opener all ends up. David finished his spell of 9 overs with another couple of wickets, the first caught in the covers by Peter Daley and the next bowled once again. At this point Walberton were 57 for 3 wickets.

Josh Haskett had replaced Matt to complete our trio of quick's and soon had the Walberton batsmen hopping around, his first delivery had them sniffing the leather. Another edge went through gully off a fielders knee and away for four and further deliveries were well kept out by the vigilant batsmen.

Gareth and Jon joined the attack with their medium pace and spin, Jon enjoyed tossing the ball up and gaining spin both ways to steady the scoring rate and take a very good 4 wickets, a "full Monty", a stumping, bowled, c&b and caught in the deep with another catch from Peter. Gareth did not enjoy it quite so much as on trying to take a blistering caught and bowled ended up with his hand under a tap trying to reduce the swelling, according to everyone else still should have caught it.

Matt and Josh were brought back to complete the remaining time left in the innings with Matt gaining his first wicket, when the Walberton batsmen chopped his delivery back onto his stumps. Walberton finished on a good score of 172 for 8 off 34 overs.

Time for Tea

On resumption at 5.15pm we knew we had an hour and a quarter then a further 20 overs from 6.30pm, could we do it. Our batsmen were confident and in form, but both of these are unreliable bed fellows, not Matt and Paul W as we understand, but form and confidence! Ahem, I think we should move on.

Anyway Matt and Paul W started well and made 38 before the fall of the first wicket in the seventh over, Paul making a nice 12 with 2x4's. Neil after his 10k race in the morning strode to the crease and unfortunately got a peach of delivery second ball up and was gone for a duck, not a fifty this time. It was possible we may have wobbled at 39 for 2, but both Matt and Peter had other ideas and batted beautifully. Both made their top scores so far this season with Matt scoring 75 with 13x4's and a 5, and Peter unbeaten on 71 not out with 14x4's. Once Matt had departed Rob entered the fray intent on finishing the job. Unfortunately Paul raised his finger on a possible dubious LBW and he was gone.

No matter though as a few balls later Keith completed the win in fine fettle with a scorching drive through midwicket for 4.

The Hawks had won again by 6 wickets, scoring 176 for 4 off 27 overs with 12.2 overs remaining.

Many thanks to all from Walberton C.C. for a wonderful tea and a great game of cricket.

A byword from the captain after the past celebrations, if anyone from our villages finds any member of The Hawks, please look after them, sober them up and tell them we have a game against Compton on Thursday.