

Saturday 13th December
Swannanoa vs Rangiora

A day of controversy descended on the Noa last Saturday as Swannanoa took on the depleted, yet efficient men (and a boy...and a couple of girls...no..I mean girls...really!!) from Rangiora. Bowling first and led by the maniacal veteran Adolf Ryan, with the lithe and svelte figure of Popey crouched behind the wicket, the Swannanoa openers (Olsen and Murdoch) reminisced back to their single sex school days and were SPANKED!!!!!! by Bos. While Olsen could only claim a gammy wrist, Murdoch's excuses are numerous and can be found at [CLICK HERE](#). While Murdoch couldn't find a spot he liked, he did find about six that Bos really liked. It wasn't until Cherry took the ball that the breakthrough was made after Bos chanced his arm one to many times and was caught in the deep, ironically by Murdoch. With Bos' departure, the run rate inevitably slowed with Henderson (21) and the remaining batsmen toiling away to the 130ish mark. Highlights included Dugdale's close in fielding being exposed by a 10 year old prompting his exile to Siberia behind point, Eddie's 2 for 14 of 6 overs, Mike's 1 for 11 off 6 and Nathan's 1 for 5 off 3. Cherry's 8 overs on the trot gave up a miserly 19 runs and took the vital wicket of Bos, although a hard lesson was learned regarding hurling yourself like a man possessed onto the deck on the now rather solid Noa out field.

Then the first controversy of the day. With Rangiora being a couple of batsmen short, Captain Ryan decided to test the loyalty of the non-playing Fulton and Woods who jumped at the opportunity to finish off the batting for Rangiora. While Fulton was diplomatic in getting to a well compiled 1 not out, Woods took to his task with gusto. Years of frustration with dodgy LBW calls and runouts by his team mates, and that f\$%^&* gear bag were finally unleashed as he quickly scored 21, including 14 off Zinny's one and only over. Arrangements are currently being made for Woodsy to be able to pay his fine in instalments. With Woodsy's onslaught, Rangiora reached a defensible 158.

Sincock and Olsen opened the Swannanoa batting in solid fashion before Zinny (8) was given out LBW by bro-in-law Jock. A risky move for sure given Zinny was driving. The relatively chilling nor easterly was not as frosty as the look Zinny gave to Jock after one of the finest displays of umpiring seen on the Noa this year. Even square leg thought it was plumb! Zinny got his revenge by firing Murdoch (a solid 2) LBW with no hesitation after the crappiest shot in all crap shottery. While most got starts (Olsen 35, Eddie 23, Mike 24, Lang 29), wickets tumbled regularly to the point where Rangiora started to look interested and roped in some extra pediatric fielders to plug the gaps. Finally it was left to skipper Ryan and the ever youthful Pope to close on the total and complete the victory in a relatively close game given the lack of Rangiora (grown up) players. Snags and bebies post match ended the day.