

Match Report - 20 Mar 10, played at the 'Noa

While having no bearing on the outcome of the team's respective seasons, today's game held an opportunity to get some play time before next week's final - and despite the win, it would be fair to say that not a lot was gained out of the experience and players were left somewhat disappointed in their own personal, and team's efforts.

In the immortal words of the Captain, 'we didn't win the toss, they called incorrectly' and Swannanoa were put into bat which suited as a chance to score some runs in ideal conditions and bat ourselves into (or out of) form was relished against a team carrying a few ex-Ohoka Seniors.

With the in-form Rusty and Nathan opening, runs came quickly as 70 runs were notched up however both batsmen gave their wickets away in the face of (fair to say) unstartling bowling. But as the batting line up looked as strong on paper as it had all season, it was really only Tim Osborne who showed any mettle enough to take the opportunities given him and held up one end as his partners continued to get starts but prove that shot selection is as important against weak bowling as it is strong. When Tim finally succumbed to a well compiled 61 off 60 balls, 6 for 170 with less than 10 overs to go wouldn't have been considered ideal.

But cometh the man (men) cometh the hour and Jason and Derek put on a little cameo at the end to lift the score to 205/8 despite Findlay's 'blown' calf and the ignominy of receiving a ball to the back of the head in the same process. Hey, humour comes in all forms.

After a settling over a cuppa and cakes (who the hell bought the Christmas Crackers!?!?) Rusty called in the team ala Michael Vaughan and knew that the total was defensible based on the fact that fielding has been good all season, and despite a weaker bowling line up.

And it could so easily have unravelled from there as the fielding standards held in such high esteem all season failed us, but with some very good bowling, and some pretty piss-poor bowling, we did put them under pressure.

Journeyman Ryan and Dugdale opened, and chipped away taking the openers, and when Tim Parrot took the stumps out of the ground with his opening delivery (a 'loosener' in his own terms) it seemed that the game was done and dusted and would give us the gusto needed for next week. but things have a way of biting you on the arse if you slacken...and it so morphed in the shape of one Aussie...

The ideal overhead conditions that had existed throughout much of the game to this point quickly cleared to provide a stifling and windless afternoon, and the normally prodigious swinger of the cherry he is known for, Aussie struggled through 8 tortuous overs which had the keeper pulling his hair out. But as is want of him, he still chipped in with 2 wickets (and the LBW was soooo plumb!), before Rusty and Nathan took control and cleaned up the tail relatively quickly.

Overall, a win is a win, however it would be fair to say we would have preferred a more all round and polished performance in coming to next week's final against top of the table Rangiora, but in saying that, it could be seen as getting the crap blown out now instead of next week may be the tonic for a win...

Time will tell.

#### BATTING

|        |           |
|--------|-----------|
| Rusty  | 33 off 50 |
| Nathan | 32 off 40 |
| Luke   | 11 off 16 |
| T Oz   | 61 off 60 |
| Hamish | 14 off 13 |
| Zinny  | 5 off 25  |
| Derek  | 21 off 17 |
| Jase   | 11 off 3  |

#### BOWLING

|        |           |
|--------|-----------|
| Haydo  | 7-2-21-1  |
| Duggie | 5-1-17-1  |
| Parro  | 6-0-24-1  |
| Aussie | 8-2-36-2  |
| Luko   | 3-0-17-0  |
| Rusty  | 5-2-15-2  |
| NATO   | 4-0-14-2  |
| Zinny  | .05-0-0-0 |