

Match report 21st February 2009

Swannanoa v Fernside-Ashgrove at Swannanoa instead of Ashgrove.

Well this week was interesting. All week it looked like we were struggling to get a team. Some of the team are playing for valley on the P___ and didn't think they could double up (dedication boys). Finally we get it together, and then on Thursday night it begins to rain. Friday brings even more rain. Trev has taught the current management one thing, the noa boys do not ever, ever, ever give up easily.

Bloody technology. Friday night first text, cricket doesn't look likely, have we been called off yet? Saturday dawns and more rain and another text cricket off? No! For gods sake Geoff you are bloody near 50, you shouldn't know how to text! Before the floodgates open the bulk text goes out, weather clearing, cricket may be on, just wait. 8:30am Phone call to Devlin answer machine, how do we contact Fernside-Ashgrove?

9:00am change of tact, call a fella who knows a fella who knows how to get in contact with another fella. Gudday Swannanoa Cricket here, we want to play, you guys may not be able to have a home game but how about coming to the noa? We'll come back to you.

11:00am. Yep. We're keen. If we can play at yours that would be good. Another bulk text. Game on. Replies from Cherry, Hamilton and Murdoch and the old fella that somehow knows how to text, questioning our sanity. Come on you soft b*****ds! Cherry pulls out and there is a mild panic. Oh my God we only have 10. How many fellas in the team that live under a petticoat government?

12:30pm and it is absolutely bucketing down at the noa. Shit we only have 10, it is raining cats and dogs, and the opposition is as keen as mustard. What have we done? Gudday Popey, look it doesn't look like you will have Valley duties tomorrow and we are short, come on out and play. No. Bugger.

Zinny bravely accepted the mantle of captain this week, and despite the advice of 9 of his teammates he decided to bowl first and take the responsibility of wicketkeeper. Heffernan charged in with the first ball and delivered a short delivery to the opening batsman who swung hard and heaved the ball high towards the square leg fieldsman, an absolute sitter of a catch was spilled by debutante Langman. Interestingly this very fielder is the son-in-law of a Mr G Sandrey who has the distinction of only ever playing one game for Swannanoa. Nice to meet you Marcus.

The moment the ball touched the ground it gained 500grams in weight due to the soggy conditions of the field. The first 7 overs were relatively uneventful, apart from several dropped catches behind the stumps, (Derek, the second keeper, sky and then there is Zinny). Finally Olsen made the breakthrough with F-A sitting on 27 & he followed quickly with another wicket in the next over. F-A 2-33 after 10 overs.

Two new bowlers come into the attack in the form of Murdoch and Hamilton. The first ball of the 15th over is pulled away for 4 and then Murdoch strikes, taking the opening batsman for 21. The very next ball takes another scalp. F-A 4-46. The skip calls in the field and the hat-trick ball gracefully arcs past where 3 players would have easily taken it had they not been moved. In the next very next over off Hamiltons bowling Murdoch pulls off one of those once in a season catches that only leaves you wondering, what happened last night to make you so agile? The next few overs were quite boring until Murdoch and Hamilton claim a wicket apiece and the end of their spells. F-A 7-76.

Woods and Hill enter the fray and with Woods making an immediate impact with a wicket maiden. Both Bowlers chugged away for a further 8 overs until Woods claims another. F-A 101-9. Hamilton and Murdoch re-entered the battle and a rear-guard action saw F-A finally get thru to 123 all out.

Heffernan 5-0-34-0

Olsen 5-0-10-2

Murdoch 7.1-1-15-4

Hamilton 7-0-25-2

Woods 5-1-12-2

Hill 5-1-10-0

As it was theoretically a F-A home game they provide the afternoon tea. 1 dozen pink buns, a bag of Grainwaves and 1 packet of chocolate biccies. It is good to see the younger generation taking hospitality seriously.

Zinny took an educated punt and elected to let Murdoch and Hill open. Within 7 balls both were back at the pavilion. Enter Eddie T & Zinny. Both forged a useful partnership until Eddie played on leaving Swannanoa at 3-32. Woodend hero Jock fronted up and tried gyrating the odd ball away with his hips. He fell to a scorching in-swinging Yorker that just proved to be too good. 4-46. At this stage (and it took a bloody long time) we realised we actually had 11 players (and right from the start of the game). Not too sure where the holes in the field had come from. Heffernan arrived and took a no-nonsense approach and swung like hell at everything. Zinny fell to a bunny shot and Heffernan fell shortly after to leave Swannanoa reeling at 6-62. Unfortunately, the remaining batsmen failed to trouble the scorers and the once mighty Swannanoa crumbled to be all out for 70 odd runs.

Eddie Tirikatene 18

Extras 17

Sincock 13

Heffernan 12

Ps. Marcus just kidding, play next week and all will be forgiven.