

MATCH REPORT FOR JANUARY 31 2009

This was another very hot Saturday with temperatures in the early 30's at the start of play. Oxford was the opposition for the day. Tim Fulton was 'volunteered' as captain, and much discussion was entered into on the merits of fielding or batting first. It was eventually decided that the opposition could field first in the heat if he managed to win the toss. Out Tim went to toss he lost it, but the opposition took pity on him and decided to field first.

Following last week's disastrous opening batting pair the order was rejigged this week, with Mike and Eddie opening the batting. After two balls had been bowled the Oxford captain decided to have a count of the number of fielders, he counted twelve. A recount was in order, and the numbers did not change so a policy of last on first off was implemented. The opening bowling was tight and difficult to get away. Eddie deciding enough was enough had a big swipe, which resulted in his stumps going over. This brought Captain Tim in. Deciding he had to get off the mark he called for a Ryan type run luckily for him Mike is a bit quicker than some others and he just made it. The runs were slowly ticking over, when Oxford decided to bowl their height challenged bowler at Tim. With at least a metre difference in height between the two, the Oxford bowler decided to bounce Tim. The ball managed to get up over Tim's head, but with a hook shot to equal a Black Cap (with the new hair cut Tim looks like a Black Cap) put the ball to the boundary. Tim departed playing a stylish textbook like forward defence shot, but forgot to put the bat and pads together, over went the stumps (missed a straight one). This brought in 'Run out' Haydon to the crease. Another slow partnership followed until Mike hit a full toss straight to the fielder. Haydon soon followed playing a similar stroke, but more importantly not running anyone out. The rest of the innings followed in the same style with small partnerships, and a difficulty in scoring runs. Woodsie, last man in, managed to get himself out on the final ball of the innings. This was not one of the better batting efforts, and the score of 158 was felt to be twenty or thirty runs short. The key batting contributors were:

Haydon	31
Mike	23
Al Hill	21
Tim	19
Andy	18

Following the tea break, Oxford after their bowling and fielding efforts were feeling confident on knocking over the required runs. The SCC team took to the field, mass confusion followed, the match ball came on to the field and then disappeared, then fielders and batsman were left scratching their head as to which end Captain Tim was going to open up from – the decision was finally cleared up by Ant grabbing the wrong ball and opening the bowling from the wrong end. Ant's opening three overs went well, and then Woodsie decided to stand up behind the stumps for the fourth. This seemed to be an invitation for Ant to try and hit Woodsie on the full, but he forgot about the batsman, who decided to put the balls to the boundary instead. Haydon then bowled the opening batsman, and a piece of fielding magic ensued when Mike chased a ball into the deep picked up and turned and delivered the ball over the stumps to Woodsie who managed to get the bails off, leaving the batsman short of his ground trying to get a tight second run. Then in the match turning event, Haydon bowled a wide shocker, which the Oxford danger man and leading run scorer, 'TO', slashed at, got a big edge, and Mike took a screamer of a catch in the slips. This left the score at 42 for 3, which soon became 58 for 8 as good bowling from Mike, Haydon and Phil supported by good catching (no catches dropped!!!) ended the Oxford effort. It was left to Oxford number 10 batsman to get the score into the late eighties, before Shane knocked the tail over. The key bowling efforts were

Haydon	4 for 14 off eight overs
Mike	2 for 11 off four overs
Shane	2 for 17 off five overs
Phil	2 for 19 off four overs

The game was followed by a barbecue at the refurbished clubhouse. A great job has been done by the painting gang last Sunday, and by Derek putting up the new door and floors, and to Andy's mate for putting down the outside paved areas. It is looking great for next week's festivities.