

MATCH REPORT

Waitangi Day 2010

Having experienced the potential might of a very youthful Southbrook G team throughout January's T/20 comp, the Noa set about selecting a "strong" side for this most important clash. Whether or not this was a miscalculated process, the result signifies that either they were not as strong as we expected or we just played damn well and ruthlessly put them to the sword.

For those not wanting to read on, we won.

Under lightly overcast skies on a pitch that promised some assistance and a day that promised plenty of sunshine at some stage, Drake won the toss and allowed the opposition to bat second. With the ball likely to "do a bit" the skipper took up the challenge and faced up. He and Lang played cautiously taking the sting out of the attack and after a few overs, the temperatures soared, the idiotic chirpy banter faded and so did the spirits of the fielding side. Lang got a good ball to remove him for 13 and Fulton (T) 11 showed promise for a new dad until he skied a loose ball and was caught. Osborne may as well have stayed home and at 3 for 60 the Noa was precarious. Woods came in as pinch hitter and succeeded for only a short time reaching 13.

Ryan (H) warmed to the task and played some splendid strokes. A good partnership was undone when Drake ran himself out for the third time this season after compiling 74. (is there a message here??). Casey joined Osborne as a minor but nonetheless important contributor and as the overs slipped away (and the opposition wilted badly) the pedal was floored. Ryan ran himself out for a well constructed 32 and Olsen bludgeoned as usual to reach 20 not out with Martin doing likewise in a shorter time to reach 8 not out placing the Noa well at 203 for 7 after the allotted 40.

A useful score which needed to be defended well to secure victory. The game plan was established. Short spells in the heat, line and just short of a length on or outside off and we would prevail.

Well every bowler did what was asked (and more in the case of Oz who, after a few beers throughout the day, exercised his lip very fashionably). Olsen (2 for 12 off 4) and Heffernen (1 for 7 off 3) struck early and also beat the bat consistently. Ryan (3 for 15 off 4) and Oz (3 for 14 off 5) ripped the guts out of Southbrook and at 7 for 29 they were never in it. At a higher level of the game you could regard the Noas progress as "clinical". As often happens the tail wagged but only for a short time before Fulton (1 for 10 off 2) claimed the last at 78. Woods and Casey (AKA CARGO PANTS - according to the oppositions Duckworth Lewis scorebook terminology) rolled their arms over for no reward.

A very good team performance, particularly in the field, where excellent ground fielding and catching (Woods 1 splendid up, , 1 tough down and Ryan a dolly down were the main remarkable memories). One cannot help but feel encouraged with the intensity building towards what hopefully will be a finals birth in due course. We think we are SECOND now. Well done.