

Round 13 - 12th February - Swannanoa 3RD 11 vs Kaiapoi Brown, Kaiapoi

The day was dry and windy. I couldn't tell you who won the toss, but we bowled first. Lang was asked to open up downwind with a new cherry, and told by captain Olsen to 'tickle them up'. Lang with fellow opener Eddie.T bowled well, and it became quite apparent that we wouldn't be chasing many. It was fair to say that the pitch was playing very tough - seaming profusely, bouncing erratically and turning square. Poppa Adonis took a screamer of a first slip catch off a rising ball from Lang to get rid of one opener - we may have found a real quality slipper as he followed it up later with another blinder off Olsen. The second round of bowlers bowled well, Matt McGuinness bowling some sharp lefties off about 30 paces, and Poppa Adonis with some exceptionally tight right hand orthodox. McGuinness, after bowling a couple of heat seekers, and fearing an incident was pulled by Olsen, replaced with himself. Olsen turned back the years, becoming near unplayable on the pitch, his figures showing this. Matt 'Shane Warne without the bleach and Liz Hurley' McNabb bamboozled them from the other end, taking 4 wickets - albeit with a couple of sneaky ones caught well by McGuinness at leg slip. Mike Martin replaced Olsen, and like the others was near unplayable. One of the best all round bowling performances by the 3rd for a while (maybe helped by a real bowlers wicket).

Kaiapoi 82 all out off 37.3 overs

N.Lang 5 O, 1 M, 1 W, 8R

Eddie.T 5 O, 0 M, 0 W, 16 R

Matt McGuinness 5 O, 0 M, 0 W, 17 R

Poppa Adonis 8 O, 2 M, 1 W, 9 R

G.Olsen 5 O, 2 M, 2 W, 6 R

M.McNabb 5.3 O, 0 M, 4 W, 17 R

M.Martin 4 O, 1 M, 0 W, 4 R

Swannanoa's time to bat, and the discussion at the turn was that it wasn't going to be easy - the feeling being that 100 would have been a real stretch. The usual Lang/Drake partnership was not available due to Drakey fixing chimneys or something, so a totally new combo of Pope and Findlay minor strode out. They looked in a hurry, and unfortunately it wasn't long before Pope was back in the pavilion. Lang's turn at bat and a lot of defensive play ensued from his end. Findley came and went for a breezy 24, then a mini collapse occurred with Swannanoa going from 43 for 1, to 55 for 4. At this stage the opposition were getting confident of staging a surprise win, an 18 run partnership between Lang and Olsen steadied things, and on the departure of Olsen, Woodie the new keeper came in to help clean up the rest of the required runs.

Swannanoa 83 for 5 off 22.1 overs

A.Pope 3 (6 bf) Caught
J.Findlay 24 (33) Caught
N.Lang 29 (56) NOT OUT
S.Jacobs 2 (6) Bowled
O.Adonis 3 (10) Caught
G.Olsen 7 (14) Bowled
Woodie 3 (8) NOT OUT

DNB: M.Martin, Eddie.T, M.McNabb, M.McGuinness

FOW: 1 for 9, 2 for 43, 3 for 46, 4 for 55, 5 for 73

A good game played in good spirits (except when one of the bowlers accused Popey of not watching the play when he was umpiring). Great fun for the bowlers, and a real challenge for the batters. It does confirm though you can't beat a good artificial pitch like at the Noa.