MATCH REPORT

22 November 2009

Swannanoa Versus Rangiora

The Curse of the Bye

On a hot Saturday afternoon at Dudley Park, the Noa took on Rangiora following a NCCA enforced week off to rest the bodies. On a green top track, very short boundaries, and a hot north wester blowing, captain for the day Drake tossed, and elected to bowl first. Mike Hamilton and Mark Woods opened the attack, with Woodsie finding out quickly just how short the boundaries were.

Geoff Olsen came on and promptly got the first wicket with Rangiora at 46 for 1 after 9 overs. This turned quickly into 2 down, when Geoff pitched one up, and the batsman drove fiercely straight back at him, thinking about his hands, Geoff stuck out his foot and guided the missile on the stumps at the non-striker's end. The non-striker was still in the process of backing up and was run out.

Keith Eleftheriou (Aussie) came on to bowl into the wind and started sending down banana balls, and quickly picked up 3 wickets to have Rangiora 97 for 5 after 18 overs. The game changed with the arrival of No 6 De Veries, and No 8 Marcus who proceed to make use of the short boundaries with a string of fours and sixes to get the final total through to 248 for 7 off 40 overs. All the bowlers felt the heat of this batting, but Aussie ended up with the best figures of 3 for 21 off his 8 overs.

After the break the Noa set off in chase of this large total. Lance Ryan gently hit a ball straight to cover and was soon walking back. Nathan Lang followed shortly afterwards, after running new man Garth Robinson out, with a gentle catch to point. The Noa was quickly 24 for 3 after 5 overs.

Tim Osborne and Russell Drake set about restoring some order to the chase, with Tim peppering the boundary. At 73 Tim went for another 6 but was caught right on the mid wicket boundary for 36. Geoff Olsen came in and managed to run himself out to the excellent Rangiora fielding.

At 6 for 104 master blaster Woodsie made his way to the crease. This was a man on a mission, but surprisingly proceeded to bring out his best forward defensive shot to the first ball much to the amazement of his teammates. This was however the last time it was seen in his short innings. Sixteen scoring shots later (he also missed a few but not many) he managed to get himself bowled for 58. This included 6 sixes and 5 fours.

Russell had been playing a patient innings and holding things together was caught in the covers for 28, and the innings quickly folded after that to be all out for 191. It was good to see the support of the non-playing members and families at the ground.

This was a disappointing result, and as with the previous game the opposition managed to score freely in the second half of their innings. Hopefully this is just the curse of the bye, and normal order will be restored against Oxford next week at home.

Editors note. Oxford is undefeated to date this season it could well be a case of game on.