

## MATCH REPORT

OCT 24th 2009

### SWANNANOVA vs SOUTHBROOK GREEN

A Southbrook team bearing a striking resemblance to Fernside Ashgrove 08/09 Edition rolled up at the House of Noa on Saturday and was soundly despatched to somewhere round Mt Thomas Road - hopefully not into Lance's garden.

The tone of the day was set early on, with some of the familiar FACA's from days gone by distracted by the urge to crank up a miniature motorbike on the sidelines.

Sure the new Brook boys had class in the batting line-up, but we had imports - most prominently in the form of Oz, a chirpy one we picked up on the internet. We're still trawling through his CV but it appears he arrived via Cheviot, Australia, Auckland and then his in-laws on Two Chain Rd.

Anyway, we won't hold Cheviot heritage against him. He proved in two spells on Saturday that he can bowl some deceptive wee drifters. But so could the day's other opening bowler Phil Heffernan. Phil just gets better every outing - mixing an inclination to bounce the hell out of everyone down the other end with a growing appreciation of the art of swing. Clearly he has had wise counsel from Woods and Olsen. Phil's multi-wicket spell on Saturday also displayed real tactical appreciation right from the first ball. Southbrook's left-handed opener was intent on keeping his bat somewhere round off stump and the rest of his body at square leg.

Phil, rallied by that renowned fast bowler Rusty, never let up at the cack-hander or the procession of batsmen who followed. Sadly, his attempt at a hat-trick came to nought.

Talking of never letting up, though, credit must go the enthusiasm of the Swannanoa fielders, although many were quick to blame the Sun for technical errors in the completion of catches.

Still, only one fielder would have been able to blame wet grass in the outfield for such mistakes. At one point Oz - the Cheviot one - was seen to crouch in the manner of a Greek statue and, well.. (not wanting to start rumours but Jerry Collins did the same but only sneaked it out from the bottom of his rugby shorts not cricket trousers). Fortunately, the incident happened on the lightly populated eastern side of the field, but we expect a stinging fine to follow.

But back to Southbrook. All out for 86 - a tad more than they have might have but within Swannanoa's range, we felt. The experienced (but nimble) firm of Scott and Hockley went out to bat. It was tough going, with a run rate of something just above 1 for the first 10 overs. Southbrook hadn't managed to recruit the demon left-arm quickie from last year's FACA mob but still made Noa sweat for every run. Terry H was the first to go after seeing off a good part of the new ball for the fly-boys further down the order. Memory has it that Scotty was slightly disgruntled at one point after being LBW by Monsieur Hockley, but opinions on the decision varied. Scott himself, having taken stance at the northern end, believed he had chopped the ball on to his pad while standing outside beside the gate to the Swannanoa Pool, while Hockley & co batsman Osbourne argued that Scott had less chance of reprieve than a one-legged Chris Martin hit below the knee-roll. Cricket! It's a great game for opinions. For all this, Noa managed to inch its way to the target thanks to some equally astute batting from Rusty and the other Oz, Tim Osbourne who we loaned to Southland for a season. He tells us he was sick of waiting for the Ranfurly Shield to come to Invercargill so he'd give Canterbury another go - we're glad to have him back.

So, a solid win at the Noa and now it's on to Southbrook Park to play the other Southbrook team. At least we think it's the other Southbrook team. It could just as easily be left-overs from the Holmwood Colts.

Official match statistics ignored so far in this report are included below:

#### Scorecard

##### Bowling (37 overs)

Heffernan 8-2-3-7

Ozzie 8-0-3-13

Drake 5-0-2-17

Hamilton 8-0-2-12

Woods 4-0-0-15

Ryan 4-1-0-8

##### Batting (34 overs)

D Scott 11 LBW

T Hockley 3 Caught

L Ryan 10 Caught

T Osbourne 34 no

R Drake 19 no

Extras 13