

MATCH REPORT

Traditional one day comp:

Played at the venerable Kaiapoi Rugby Club, home of the Yellow Peril.

Saturday January 30

This Saturday, the Swannanoa XI convened at Kaiapoi eager to get in some much-needed match practice on one of the warmest days of the summer. The Kaiapoi team had other ideas with their players expressing a wish to get to the Woodend Sevens as quickly as possible – after all, the Kaiapoi Rugby Club had a team entered and it would be good for them to support their mates over a few cold ones.

Skipper Mike Hamilton wished to make the most of these unpromising circumstances by winning the toss, electing to bat, and thereby giving the Swannanoa side the opportunity to get in 40 overs in the middle. Unfortunately, the coin fell against the visitors and the cheerful Kaiapoi captain elected to put Swannanoa into the field.

The match then followed a predictable course with the Kaiapoi batsman attempting a 20/20 approach, but even with Olsen, Heffernan, and Murdoch missing, they generally struggled with the Noa's bowling. After a couple of dropped chances early on, wickets fell regularly with the fielding side eventually pocketing seven catches (including three fine takes to Russell Drake, who proved a revelation at first slip).

Captain Hamilton also deserves a mention for a fine spell of 3-14 off five overs after he shouldered the responsibility of opening the bowling. Garth Robinson took his first wicket for Swannanoa (1-5 off two overs) and Aussy Elftheriou continued his trail of destruction through the grade with 2-5 off just two overs.

The bowling was well rotated by the skipper and Kaiapoi were dismissed after just 16.2 overs for 56 runs.

For the record:

H Ryan - 5 2-18

M Hamilton - 5 3-14

K Elftheriou - 2 2-5

G Robinson - 2 1-5

H Dugdale - 1.2 0-6

M Martin - 1 1-2

The Kaiapoi total was never going to trouble the Swannanoa batsman and the 'target' was duly reached in the 13th over (with the time yet to reach 3pm). Four wickets were lost along the way, with Tim Osborne falling early; Nathan Lang (14) and Jason Findlay (18) scoring rapidly until both were out caught; and Derek Scott dismissed caught and bowled off a cleanly-struck straight drive. Russell Drake was not out 8, with Hamish Dugdale not out without facing a ball.

A successful result but not the best workout for the Swannanoa side. Roll on next week!