



Cherwell Cricket League – Division 3 – Win / Lose / Draw

Brackley 1st XI vs Leighton Buzzard Town 1st XI

With a dodgy forecast ahead and a green top facing both sides, everyone knew the toss was vital... Town skipper Tom Light confidently called... and won, inserting Brackley.

The new ball opening pair of Tom Pope and Jack Kempster were unleashed. Both ended up bowling one of the quickest spells they'd done all season. Pope removed both openers and Brackley's number 4 with some delicious away swing, which kept the cordon of four Town players interested throughout. At 20-3 it was advantage Town.

Light switched things up bringing on Adam McNeil and Lee Selfe. 17-year-old McNeil bowled exquisite line and length with a perpendicular seam resulting in his first and second wickets for the 1st team since his debut. Town continued to take wickets at regular intervals, and it wasn't long before the young-spin-twins of Dan Scott and Antony Francis sent Brackley from 104-6 to 109 all out.

During tea the heavens opened and the omens of getting a result looked bleak. After an almost 50-minute break, town needed 110 to win off 52 overs with the skipper issuing instructions to be positive and score quickly. Light and Kempster took the field, and whilst heeding his own advice to be positive, Light fell for a quick-fire 11 off 11. Enter Phil Whatmore – the leading run scorer in Division 3. Whatmore, batting out of his crease, faced the away-swinging Rowland, played an expansive cover drive, missed the ball, but was soon met with the Brackley wicketkeeper throwing down the stumps from 15 yards. Whatmore out, stumped first ball. Cue delirium amongst the Brackley players who sensed 109 was enough. Richard Raine, promoted to number four to score quick runs, entered the field to a hattrick and was duly reminded by the Brackley players our leading run scorer was no more. A brisk 7 off 9 followed, but at 25-3 Town were on the back foot.

Kempster and a rejuvenated Bertie Barrett steadied the ship and took Town to 83 before Barrett shouldered at a straight one from Lowe having scored a patient 20 off 49. Scott came and went quickly, and it was left to Francis to join Kempster at the crease to see Town home. Kempster finishing with 67 runs of 95 balls, hitting 7 fours and 1 six.

Town left Brackley with a well-earned 25 points and at the half-way point in the season sit 4th, 17 points behind league leaders Thame 2s.

Brackley 1s: 109 all out (43 overs)

LBTCC 1s: 110-5 (30.1 overs)

MoM: Jack Kempster

[Full Scorecard](#)

