



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

Oxford & Bletchingdon Nondescripts 1st XI vs Leighton Buzzard Town 1st XI

Town arrived in Bletchingdon on a high following wins over Witney Mills and Brackley and were looking to cement their top 4 spot.

After morning rain the match was reduced to 91 overs. Skipper Light went to toss knowing that conditions favoured bowling. After calling wrong Town were inserted.

Town opened with Light and Richard Raine - the skipper went quickly for 8, caught at mid-on trying to whip a ball through square leg. Phil Whatmore joined Raine at the crease and both picked up the scoring rate capitalising on some wayward bowling. Raine departing for brisk 45 off 43 balls before being bowled and Whatmore for 43 off 51 caught at slip. At 131-4 the innings could have headed in any direction with Dan Scott and Gareth Bengier now looking to kick on. Scott rode his luck for his 39 but provided great support nonetheless for Bengier to strut to his first fifty of the season. Some lusty blows from Tim Bellamy and Lee Selfe down the order took Town to 235-6 off 46 overs, at which point Light deemed Town had enough runs - leaving Bletchingdon requiring 236 from 45 overs.



The new ball partnership of Tom Pope and Sam Roberts lasted only 3 overs when Roberts pulled up with a back injury, reducing Town to 10 men for the whole game.

The new, new ball pairing of Pope and Adam McNeil worked the Bletchingdon top order over, reducing them to 34-3, ably assisted by direct run out by Light. Bletchingdon were never up with the required run rate and the situation was exasperated from over 17 when left arm spin twins Selfe and Scott teamed up to strangle any scoring. Wickets fell at regular intervals and the home side found themselves on 96-6 off 32 overs - still requiring another 140 runs off 13 overs. Some big hitting from Arfan Ahmed followed which saw Nondies move to 135-6 off 38 overs.

With a draw in sight, Pope swapped ends and returned to the attack in place of Selfe. Scott nipped out Hafeez plumb in front in the 39th before Pope bowled Gregory in the 42nd. With now only three overs left, Bletchingdon patted back the 43rd, leaving town needing 2 wickets from 12 balls. Pope then trapped the exuberant Ahmed in front of all three and clean bowled Nondies number 11 first ball to secure a thrilling away day win and send Town fourth in Division 3, with just eight points separating the top 4 sides.

Town return to Bell Close for the visit of Oxford 2s next week seeking to make it four wins in four.

LBTCC 1s: 235/6 dec (46 overs)

Oxford & Bletchingdon Nondescripts 1s: 144 all out (43.2 overs)

MoM: Dan Scott

[Full Scorecard](#)