



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

Leighton Buzzard Town 1st XI v Horley 1st XI

With three consecutive wins under their belt and the prospect of Phil Whatmore becoming the first player to reach 10,000 Cherwell League runs a bumper crowd had gathered in expectation. With a dry, hard pitch facing both skippers and temperatures nearing 30C it was a toss not to be lost. The Horley skipper called wrong and Town skipper Tom Light duly elected to bat to the delight of the majority in attendance.

Light and the returning Jack Kempster opened the batting with both looking to take the early initiative. The score rattled along to 35 off 6 overs before Light was bowled round his legs by a full toss – out for 12. This paved the way for Whatmore – just 83 runs shy of a milestone. Over the next 90 minutes the Bell Close crowd was treated to some exuberant stroke play to all corners of the sun-kissed ground. Kempster – with his strong forward press - was taking particular liking to half volleys which he dispatched through offside with aplomb, whilst Whatmore – who rode his luck at times – decided that with no fielders in the air there was no better option. Kempster ended up going for 62 with the score nearing 180 and Town going at nearly 7 an over.



Phil '10000' Whatmore

Whatmore was joined by 19-year old Bertie Barrett who continued where Kempster had left off by unleashing some bullish blows through the leg side, going on to reach his highest ever 1st XI score of 45. However it was Whatmore who everyone was watching. On 79 Bell Close knew he was not going to tick along in singles. With a full ball presented to him, he pumped it back down the ground for 4 which was greeted by rapturous scenes reminiscent of Lara at St Johns in 2004. A further 43 were added before he was out for an eye-pleasing 126.

With plenty of runs and overs in the bank, the middle order of Richard Raine, Tim Bellamy, Dan Scott and Antony Francis pushed the score along to 311, before Light called time after 45 overs.



Light's unbridled joy

The reunited new ball pairing of Kempster and Tom Pope got to work – knowing that extracting anything from the pitch would require hard work. Pope however was getting the ball to banana early on, whilst Kempster's probing line and extra yard of pace was too much for the Horley top order. Pope got the through the Horley defences twice to castle the stumps, whilst Kempster's nagging movement kept Tim O'Leary behind the stumps interested throughout and a slip cordon of 5 salivating in expectation.

With the addition of spin once the ball softened from Francis, Lee Selfe and Scott, Horley were never in the race and after 2nd drinks at 36 overs were still 180 runs shy with 3 wickets left. Iqbal scored a fast paced 54 but Selfe (3/50) and Francis (4/39) kept good control and with sensible field placings were able to bowl Horley out for 205 after 43 overs.

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

LBTCC 1s: 311/6 dec (45 overs)

Horley 1s: 205 all out (43.4 overs)

MoM: Phil Whatmore



Barrett receiving the Dickie Allen shot

The Inaugural winner of the 'Dickie Allen Shot of the Day' shot: Bertie Barrett, for his whip through square leg for four.