

July Newsletter

Having lost their first 3 games of the season, the 1st XI then won their next 2 and so with that resultant spring in their step, they welcomed FISSC to Tanworth Lane. With the sun shining and the pale blue sky interspersed with fluffy white cumulus clouds, the ground was looking at its very best.

FISSC batted first and were soon in trouble as Andy Turnbull and Kully tore in and between them dispatched 3 batsmen back to the pavilion with only 40 runs on the scoreboard. The visitors fought back but wickets continued to fall with Assam and John Robb having success as well as Rory Turnbull who claimed 3 late wickets. The last 2 batsmen put up fierce resistance and swung their bats at every delivery, connecting more often than not, but in the last over, with the score on 167, the final wicket fell.

The bowlers had given us a very feasible target to aim for and so it was Chris Barber and Andy Turnbull who strode out to open the chase. They made sure the FISSC team got some real fielding practice, by hitting the ball around the ground. Unfortunately Andy decided to give them some catching practice as well by edging a shortish ball straight into the hands of the fielder in the slips and so he trudged back to the pavilion, his contribution over. There then followed a succession of batsmen, including James Carey, Del Maitland, Dave Baines, Assam and Sam Jones, who all contributed and as, one by one they lost their wickets, Chris batted serenely on until being joined in the middle by Rory Turnbull. Rory took a couple of singles but his main priorities were not to lose his wicket and to get Chris on strike as much as possible. This he achieved and with a couple of overs left, Chris hit the winning runs. The only disappointment was that he finished on 98 not out and marginally lost out on the century he richly deserved.

Next up should have been a visit to the league leaders at Kineton, which would have been a good test. Unfortunately rain intervened and the match was abandoned without a ball being played.

In the next midweek match we entertained Bourneville at Rumbush Lane. We batted first and right from the start the scoreboard was kept busy as both James and Chris attacked every ball. It was just like taking Dairy Milk from a baby as they took Time Out to hit a Galaxy of strokes with no time for a Kit Kat, let alone a Picnic. They were aiming for the Milky Way or even Mars, like Minstrels on a Milk Tray, enjoying the Bounty of runs they were accumulating. Wispa it quietly, but there was a Twirl in their step as Twix and between them they shared the Topic of floating on Aero, each riding the Double Decker of success. To the Turkish Delight of the spectators, who gave a Ripple of applause with every run, the batsmen were on top whilst the bowlers would have given a Dime for a wicket, as they needed every Boost they could get. Without wanting to Fudge the issue, there was a Chomp rather than a spring in their step and certainly no Curly Wurly in their performance.

They were looking for some Black Magic and took some pride in their persistence when finally capturing the wicket of James, following a Lion of a

performance.

Chris was now joined by Rich but he seemed to lack appetite and when his wicket fell it led to Matt Lee to set out his confectionary stall. Seeing the ball like a huge Chocolate Orange he proceeded to hit some lovely Toffee Crisp shots and avoided any Fruit and Nut Case run outs. He scored a Mega Munch 45 to add to the Yorkie sized 63 from Chris. At the end of the 13 overs a sizeable 165 was showing on the scoreboard. Would the bowlers now deliver for us or would the bubbles in the Aero melt before they could be enjoyed?

Bournville took up the challenge and maintained a run rate at or around that required, although we did manage to keep it under control by taking regular wickets, thanks to Rory, Chris with 3, Adam, Matt and a run out. This proved too much for Bourneville and their innings concluded on a score of 150. No chocolate for them and another win for us.

The following Saturday saw Ashton under Hill visit Tanworth Lane for what on paper should have been a close game, with the two teams separated by a single point in the league table. Unfortunately rain again intervened and at one stage it looked as if the fixture would be abandoned. However, later in the day the sun won its battle with the cloud cover and a reduced overs match became possible. And what a performance we put up, dismissing the visitors for 128 within 30 overs and then knocking off the required runs. for no loss of wickets, courtesy of Chris Barber and Rich Hopkins. It was a very impressive 10 wicket victory which secured 20 points. Now we were 4th in the table and in danger of suffering from acrophobia.

Back to the midweek league and it was the turn of Old Edwardians to visit us at Rumbush Lane, Our record against them is poor and so when we batted first and amassed 140 runs there was good reason for optimism. However, this turned out to be false hope as the opposition lost only one wicket and cruised to another win against us. We tried our best, shook hands and then prepared for the next game.

We were now approaching the half way point of the season and on the last Saturday in June had the joy of visiting Elmley Castle. Beautiful as the day was and picturesque the setting, these were secondary to the team carrying on their improved form. Batting first, Chris and Rich proceeded to put on 117 before Rich was caught at point, but not before securing his 50. KP then entered the fray and soon was back in his familiar routine of scoring well. Chris was run out for a superb 81, which brought Fred to the middle. Given the very solid platform established by the early batsmen, the team were now keen to drive home their superiority, typified by a sparkling 25 off 9 balls from Andy Turnbull, right at the death, which included 2 x 6's and a very cheeky paddle shot which raced away to the boundary amid cheers of approval from his colleagues on the sidelines.

Speaking to him afterwards he confirmed that this was a shot he's been practicing and saw the opportunity here, in the absence of a fielder at fine leg. The bowler had seen his previous delivery dispatched for 6 and so Andy surmised that this next ball would be of a much fuller length, which is exactly

what happened and so he chose to put his practice into play. And it could not have been more expertly executed as he walked across his wicket to turn a ball aimed at the off stump into 4 runs on the leg side. Our innings concluded with a very healthy 264-5 on the scoreboard.

Tea was enjoyed and then the hospitality turned to hostility as Kully and Rory combined to open the attack. And with the scoreboard hardly moving, they proceeded to take the first 7 wickets between them as they exhibited a bowling master class, with each and every batsman being clean bowled. Assam then joined the party when his turn came to bowl and he sent the bails flying for wicket number 8. Keen to get in on the act, Andy took wicket number 9 when Assam took a good catch at slip. There was then some resistance from the last two batsmen, as well as some missed chances, until Rich took an edge into his safe hands from the bowling of Chris. Elmley Castle were all out for 124.

This was a very impressive and clinical performance from a comparatively young team and drinks were enjoyed afterwards. It was a great day. We were still 4th in the table but now only 7 points behind the team in 2nd. It was starting to get exciting!!

It was now 1st July and heat waves of two separate types were being enjoyed. First of all, there was record breaking temperatures as summer really kicked in and the summer clothes were out in force. (Have a listen to "Girls in their summer clothes" by Bruce Springsteen, which really sets the scene). Secondly, the 1st XI were in hot form and a midweek match away at Lapworth was eagerly anticipated.

The home team won the toss and chose to bat. What they didn't seem to appreciate was the onslaught they were about to face from a bowling attack that has had a great run of success in recent weeks. And this bowling attack gave each of the batsmen a very warm welcome as they spent a limited time at the crease before being dispatched back to the pavilion. All of the bowlers did well with Rory, Matt Lee, Chris Barber and Dan Williams all taking wickets, but the highlight was 4 wickets for Andy Turnbull, who finished with the very impressive statistics of 4 wickets for 9 runs from 3 overs. The home team finished on 136-9 and i didn't take us long to get the runs with Fred Howard enjoying an unbeaten 81. Another good win and confidence is high.

Saturday now couldn't come quick enough and as we were half way through the season, the fixtures from the previous Saturday were reversed and so Elmley Castle were welcomed to Tanworth Lane.

They batted first and right from the start were under pressure as wickets regularly tumbled. They suffered from a run out in the first over, Rory then took 3 wickets and Chris and Andy both picked up wickets before John Robb brought their innings to an end with the scoreboard showing a total of 80 runs.

Chris and KP opened our batting and gradually crept towards the required

total. Wickets did fall on the way but there was never any doubt that we would score the necessary runs and so it was that 9 runs were needed when Andy came to join Chris at the crease. And 3 balls later, with Andy on strike, the win was secured. A single from the last bowl of the over was followed by a sharp 4, which cut through the fielders on the on side. This was followed by a clip off his toes, to the leg side, which accelerated to the boundary faster than the chasing fielder.

Now we were third in the table and only one point behind the team in second!!

Of the other teams the 2nd XI could not replicate the success of the 1st XI and are finding life difficult at the moment but the 3rd team have been enjoying some successes and the good form of Ian Jordan continues as he scored another century.

The juniors continue on their upward curve and picked up two further victories in the Cotswold Hills League, adding to their previous success against Kenilworth. More details on their progress will follow in a future article.

As always, full details including fixture list can be obtained on our website www.tachcc.co.uk or on twitter: @tachcc

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