

This month I'd like to start by acknowledging the efforts of our only junior team this season, the under 11's. All new to the game this season they have been thrown in at the deep end and have played a number of competitive matches. As yet they have not tasted success, but they remain enthusiastic and motivated as they regularly compete against far more experienced opponents, in the knowledge that they are improving. A number of them are also much younger than 11. Most importantly they and their coach Andy Turnbull all look as if they are enjoying themselves. Well done to you all.

On the senior front, matches in early June were lost due to the wet weather and when play resumed on the 14th, the first XI gained a much needed win at home to Alcester and Ragley. The match report is as follows

"As dawn broke and Captain Barber looked east to the rising sun he wished he could savour the beauty of an English June morning but instead all he could see was the choppy waters surrounding his team as it floundered in the bottom half of the table. What could be done? Trawling his mind he wondered if more net practice would help. Was there still a place for all of the team or would some need to walk the plank? Defeat had been snatched from the jaws off victory in the previous match. Should he now bite like a shark or play a more soothing and encouraging tuna!!? No-one plans to fail but had he failed to plan? He was all at sea. Now, where was the port in the storm? Should he console himself with his friend Captain Morgan?!!!

Alcester and Ragley were the visitors and this was a game we both could and should win. But would we? The final plan was simple. Win the toss, bowl them out, change the batting order and score more runs. Simple?

The toss was won (phase one accomplished) and the opposition batted, steadily building their innings and after 18 overs they had reached 75 for 1 with Taz picking up the breakthrough wicket. Now was the time for a bowling change. Andy Turnbull was thrown the ball. Could he make an impact on the day before his 20th birthday? His opening overs were sound and economic, but without success. Then the fireworks started. He claimed his first wicket when the number 3 chipped one to Kieran Patel. The turning point of the match was to come in Andy's next over, firstly removing the opening batsman caught behind, by Captain Barber, with an edge that glided in to his safe gloves. Then with the very next ball the new man edged it behind, again to the grateful Captain. The hat-trick ball brought plenty of fielders around the bat, but it was safely left alone. However, his survival was only temporary as he was clean bowled off the last ball of the over. It was a superb delivery which pitched outside off and smashed into middle stump. A triple wicket maiden which left the visitors on 76-5 and in deep trouble.

Our strong position was treated with aggression by the number 4 batsman who

smashed 53 including a huge 6, which nearly left its mark on the umpires car! His hitting carried Alcester to 100-5 before Assam removed the number 7. Assam got his second soon after to complete his 10 overs with figures of 2-26. A fine spell. Andy T returned and bagged his 5th wicket when Kully took a regulation catch at point. His 6th resulted in the opposition skipper being comprehensively bowled. Shabs then finished the superb bowling effort, bowling their number 4 with his first ball. Alcester and Ragley 128 all out after 40.4 overs. Phase two of the plan was now accomplished) Andy T finished with a career best 6-17 on his last day as a teenager.

But one swallow does not make a summer and it would all be to no avail unless the team won. As we all know, there is no "I" in TEAM (but there is a "ME"), so it is now down to the revamped batting order.

Del and Kieran opened the batting and got us off to a great start with some superb stroke play

Kieran was bowled for 35 after a partnership of over 50 in decent time. The pressure was now off and that was clear to see by the way Alcester were fielding. Shabs was next in and kept the scoreboard ticking before being caught at mid off. Andy T was in next with 40 or so required for victory and still plenty of overs left. Del fell for 28 just after drinks after he edged a good ball to gully. Rich came in and after a flurry of four's mixed with sensible shot selections, TACH eased home with 7 wickets to spare. Both Andy T and Rich ended on 13 not out.

A much needed win for the 1's, who had only won one of their first 6 games, but fully deserved to win after outplaying Alcester and Ragley in all disciplines.

As the sun set, Captain Barber was able to relax in the comparatively tranquil waters of mid table security. It had been a good day for him and the crew. Simple really. Now, where was his friend Captain Morgan? "

The following week it was back down to earth when, despite bowling well, the batsmen could not quite deliver enough runs as we went down, away to Rowington. Then, at the end of the month our home fixture against bottom off the table Moreton in Marsh was lost to rain.

It has been similar mixed fortunes for the 2nd and 3rd teams and at the end off June at the mid point off the season the standings in the respective leagues were as follows

FIRST DIVISION	POINTS
Bidford on Avon	144
Kineton	120
Rowington	113
Norton Lindsey	104

Alcester & Ragley	98
Ashton under Hill	77
Tanworth & Camp Hill	76
FISSC	67
Chipping Campden	62
Moreton in Marsh	52

THIRD DIVISION	POINTS
Norton Lindsey II	138
Leek Wootton	132
Woodbourne	130
Earlswood II	113
Shipston on Stour II	103
Ashorne	96
Tanworth & Camp Hill II	76
Catherine de Barnes II	66
Long Itchington II	50
Bretforton II	30

SIXTH DIVISION	POINTS
Claverdon	137
Mickleton	109
Bearley	88
Ashton under Hill II	69
Badsey II	66
Stockton	61
Kineton II	52
Alvechurch III	32
Tanworth & Camp Hill III	16
Henley in Arden II	0

The Sunday team hosted a triangular Twenty/20 tournament and although comprehensively beaten in the first match they bounced back and won their second game, which also tends to reflect the fortunes of the midweek team, who seem incapable of maintaining their form. On the last Sunday in the month we left Marston Green with a good win in the bag, leaving the home team green with envy. Kieran Patel, James Carey and Richie Hopkins all excelled with the bat and young Seth Jordan took an impressive 4 wickets with the ball.

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