

East Coker Cricket Club

Match Report

Sunday May 10th 2009
Home - Crewkerne



East Coker recorded their first league win of the season against local opposition from Crewkerne at the weekend. The match was always likely to be a closely fought contest between the league new boys and their close neighbours who had enjoyed only a limited amount of success over recent years. The fixture did not disappoint with the advantage changing hands several times before Coker eventually won by one wicket in an enthralling example of village cricket at its best.

Put in to bat on a nice, firm track at Long Furlong Lane, Crewkerne got off to the worst possible start by losing their opening bat first ball to an unplayable delivery from young pace bowler, Lewis Clarke. Despite the early setback, Crewkerne's early-middle order provided some useful resistance and looked set for a useful score, until being pegged back a by a cracking run-out from the deep by Luke Ridger; the unrelenting accuracy of Geoff Clarke's spell of 2 for 16 from 12 overs and an equally effective 4 for 35 from 9 overs from all-rounder Chris Kilbee. Despite scenting blood at 62 for 6, Coker's bowlers were unable to finish the job and allowed a Crewkerne rearguard to make use of the full over entitlement and finish on 161 for 9. Coker's extras top scoring with an unimpressive 37!

Despite the quality of the refreshments, the mood of the Coker players at tea was sombre as they realised the scale of the task ahead. The home team set about the challenge with real gusto however and despite losing wicketkeeper-batsman Charlie Watts in the first over of the afternoon session, Coker were determined to take something from the game.

Aitor Martinez (15) and James Patten (21) all made useful contributions with the bat while Chris Kilbee did his best to anchor the innings as his team-mates played the big shots at the other end. Having completed the hard work however, the Coker innings nearly imploded with 20 overs to go when Kilbee holed out on 44 leaving the tail to complete the task. The Captain need not have worried though as the tail - marshalled first by Patten and latterly by a very mature Luke Ridger (14n.o) - wagged sufficiently to get Coker to a tied position of 161.

With the score tied and the entire Crewkerne side crowded around the bat, the result could still have gone either way. An icy temperament is needed at such critical times and Coker is fortunate to have Geoff Clarke - the pick of the bowlers - at the crease. Clarke, not wishing to disappoint his nervous team-mates outside the pavilion, managed to find the boundary with the final shot of the day and the spoils were Coker's - not for the last time this season!

Report by Chris Kilbee - Media King and Superstar All-Rounder ECC