

East Coker Cricket Club



Match Report

Sunday May 16th 2009
Home - All Saints

On a wet and windy Saturday 16th May, East Coker was unable to repeat last week's heroic efforts, being squeezed out of a close encounter by a more experienced All Saints side. Once again however, the Coker side put in a proud performance, fielding several stars of the future and continuing to wildly surpass their own expectations.

Put in to bat on a damp but steady surface, All Saints made a patient and effective start. Anchored throughout the innings by James Wallace's unhurried 54, the visitor's top-order were given the chance to play their shots against an inexperienced Coker attack. The home side missed the steadying medium pace of evergreen Geoff Clarke and with Chris Kilbee only managing 3 dreadful overs - including one delivery which the umpire had no option to no-ball as it bounced 2 yards from the bowler's feet - the search was on for bowlers who could restrict the visitor's progress. The Captain need not have panicked though as he himself picked up 1-29 from 8 and debutant Harry Young compiled a very tidy 1-20 from 9. The real pick of the bowling though came from twin stars Jack and Ben Morton who will surely be the heartbeat of this side in years to come. Both Mortons stood several feet below most of the opposition batsmen but physical stature mattered little as first Ben with 1-18 from 8 overs of medium/fast pace and then Jack with a fantastic 4 - 37 from 8 overs showed that ability is more important than age every time.

Given the pre-match concern over the bowling attack, Coker were relieved to restrict the opposition to 163 for 8 from their 45 overs.

Following another fantastic tea, Coker set about their run chase in courageous fashion. Martinez (12), Woolmington (9), Kilbee (27) and Morton Senior (17) all got good starts but in the face of a high quality attack, all capitulated at vital stages of the chase. Cometh the hour though.....cometh the Captain. Kearvell, eager for a good knock after two scratchy innings in the league, set himself the task of anchoring the innings and after a steady start began playing the big shots to every corner of the ground. Partnered first by an assured Harry Young and latterly by young Jack Morton (shamelessly run out by Kearvell in true Boycott fashion), Coker got themselves into a position needing 30 runs to win from 10 overs. Despite some impressive support from Toby Cole, Kearvell had no option but to chase the runs and eventually holed out at deep mid-wicket with the eventual end coming a couple of overs later.

The home side finished some 26 runs short but it's impossible to deny the progress made in the early part of the season. The fact that Coker are now expecting to win such games says a huge amount about the ability and desire of the team and the Captain can expect a lot of selection headaches in the season ahead. The final word should go to young Ben Kearvell who has done a brilliant job with the scoring so far this season and to the 4 lads who made such great debuts.

Coker, sitting comfortably at 4th in the league can look forward to far more success this season than they ever thought possible.

Chris Kilbee