

East Coker Cricket Club

Match Report

Saturday May 23rd 2009
Away - Westonzoyland



With spirits high in the Coker camp following the previous week's heroics against league leaders All Saints, it was time to plug in the Tom-Toms and set course for our first away match of the season. The trip to last-year's Division 5 side Westonzoyland was not only a chance to play in a different location, but also an opportunity to compare notes on the wicket, facilities and teas...

Losing the toss (around a couple of home team players warming up on the playing strip with a football) we were dumped in to bat. I have to admit; when I first saw the wicket I thought we would probably be sitting in Eli's before the little hand reached the four and when the fielder at mid-on took to the field wearing a helmet I began to wonder where the nearest hospital was.

But Coker are made of sterner stuff - Chas Watts champing at the bit with his pads on this side of Martock and not a single soul offering to be his number two, it was time for Captain Brave to lead his team with an unequivocal act of courage - and send in young Luke Ridger..

'Use the Force Luke' was the Captain's call - and use the force he did. With Obi-Wan Watts in majestic form at the other end, the two of them set about the home attack in some style putting on a record breaking 57 runs at the first fall. With Ridger sent back to base with a superb 17 and Mo Woolmington dismissed the very next ball, Paul Morton (Jabba the Hutt) played himself in expertly only to play himself out again (with a Jabba the Bat) in familiar Morton fashion...

Chas watched most of the batting order come and go until he holed out to long-on with the vary last ball of the innings completing an inspiring display of batting from the master himself with a remarkable 83 and Coker's biggest batting score so far. 175 for 9.

Tea came and went - and with spirits still high, Coker took to the field. We made the home side work really hard in the field and then proceeded to give them the rest of the afternoon off...

On a 'testing' strip you've got to make the ball do the work but it's never going to if you don't get it to pitch. Too many easy full tosses were dispatched to the boundary (which took a few guises - like a rope, some buildings, some stone steps, a large Oak tree and numerous small children on bicycles). Meat and drink to a very hard hitting home side.

With ten overs to spare and only 6 wickets lost, the host's romped home to victory and a somewhat disconsolate Coker headed for Eli's.

With a pint of Burrow Hill it was time to digest the positives - and there were many from this match:

With the ball - two new youngsters played their first senior games today and were the shining lights. Ollie Pilton and Tom Kearvell (aged 14 and 13 years) both bowled extremely maturely taking 2 wickets each for 24 and 22 runs respectively. Neil Pilton was the other pick of the bowlers with a 2 for 26 return in his impressive spell.

With the bat - It was a massive 'ask' of Luke Ridger to set the early course but he couldn't have responded any better and you'd go far to see a better innings than Charlie's on a brute of a batting strip.

The records - another 14 points gained and more 'Honours board' changes with top team score, highest individual score, highest partnership and maiden individual 50. Along with that we managed to bat out the whole 45 overs for the first time.

But without doubt, the biggest plus of the day was the reinforcement of the old adage "there's no place like home" and total appreciation of the work that Geoff does for us on the square.

Thanks also to Simon Rees for coming to umpire for 80 overs.

Home next week to Wembdon Wyverns and a chance to climb out of 7th place right back up the table...