

Highmoor Away 18/04/2010

With the Sun pouring through the clouds it appeared, as I turned up at Highmoor that we may actually be seeing a new leaf in the history of HCC. For a start, it was dry and as last seasons recruit Paul Unwin walked over towards me with a smile I really believed that this was the start of something new. However, thankfully in many ways, some things don't change. Donut walked over, "we've only got 9." Then the Wrights turned up. James clutching a fag and a hangover, Ian a can of Guinness. Then we realised that we would be starting the match with 8 and not our full 9 as James Ottaway was late.

Yet the game did begin, and with a borrowed player we set about the task of trying to knock over the top order. Geoff and Sean bowled some tight lines and our fielding was suprisingly crisp. James Ottaway arrived in time to give Geoff our first wicket as he clung onto a good one in the covers. Then James replaced Geoff and bowled Owen Lovelock, all of a sudden we were amazingly back in the huddle celebrating another wicket. With Tommy and Helen Evans making a welcome appearance on the sidelines we appeared to have everything going for us, but like Geoff's Arsenal, who were now losing at Wigan we fell away and allowed the dangerous Mayers to cart some big sixes over on the leg side. We would be chasing 149 after Tea on a 120 wicket.

With Phil and Sean both departing early on a wicket which was becoming trickier to bat on, things did not look good but James Ottaway joined our skipper and things started to progress nicely. The introduction of their spinner and a drinks break combined to get rid of James and with the middle order only flickering we never really looked likely. When Ian departed for a very good 30 odd the lights went out and despite a spirited knock at the end from Paul Unwin, the tail couldn't hold out and we lost with 2 overs to go.

After all that it was off to the Dog & Duck for a pint to digest what hadn't been the start to the season we really wanted. Yet there were some positives. The skipper looked in good nick, the bowling was mainly tight and even our fielding at times hadn't let us down. The main thing however was that after a winter of snow, ice and thermals, cricket was back with the sunshine.