

Stonor Away 24/04/2010

Hambleden again turned up for an April away day shorthanded. This time the venue was Stonor and the opposition at first glance was strong with Jez Mayo back in the fold to compliment Messrs Nicholson, Powell and Austin. Chap was back as Hambleden skipper and lost his first toss of the season, Hambleden to bat.

The away side started brightly but the loss of the new ball, hit for six into a bush, slowed them down as the home bowlers were better able to control the older replacement ball. None of the Hambleden batsmen were able to push on or to dominate the Stonor change bowlers of Denton and Nicholson. The latter went on to record impressive figures of 5-36. Hambleden's nine men managed 138 all out with McDonough top scoring on 31.

In bright conditions but getting colder Stonor's response started badly with Harris lbw to Bradford for a duck. Powell joined Austin and got them moving both batsmen particularly strong on anything short and wide. Mattingley conjured up a beauty to dismiss Powell but that only brought Mayo to the crease and a partnership of 66 with Austin. Mayo's wicket along with that of Ben Denton shortly after saw the game swing in favour of Hambleden. Looking all but dead and buried at 118-3 the away side benefitted from some suicidal cricket as Denton and Nicholson threw away their wickets. Sean Bradford had been involved in both those wickets as a fielder and now bowled Lockwood, Agar and crucially Austin (for a well made 53) as Hambleden scented victory.

Needing nine runs from two overs Arnold was to bowl at Connolly. The home batsman played the veteran perfectly and won the game for Stonor, snatching victory from Hambleden's grasp with six balls remaining. A terrific game ended with the light fading and Hambleden's not so merry men trooped off to the Crown to work out where they had let it slip.