

Wisborough Green 2nd X1 record first win of the season in close fought contest

After overnight rain, the normal placid wicket on the green had been juiced up and looked anything but a batsman's paradise. SCS was pleased to win the toss and allow the Wizzy opening bowlers the first use of the strip. Tom Jenkins, with the wind behind him bowled with swing and venom, with Jonnie Farmer doing a fabulous impression of Newman Senior coming up the hill (OK Jonnie – you are a yard quicker!). After 16 overs of attacking bowling and field placing East Preston found themselves slightly bruised and at 43 for 3. Two great catches held by the Vickery brothers and a routine one held by McMath. No sign of the dropsies of last week as yet.

Jenkins made way for Tom Rollinson – an U16 making his senior debut who knocked the middle order out –taking 3 -30 to leave East Preston at 104 for 6. Sadly one or two catches were spilt during this time and Mr Dove was perhaps the lucky recipient of the generosity on more than one occasion. – He went on to score 46 before finally being bowled by Macca junior. DJ and Jonnie wrapped up the tail with East Preston setting a respectable target of 156. A much better fielding performance than last week by all accounts with some stunning catches being taken; but still the need to sharpen up some more in this department.

East Preston came out to bowl aggressively from the start – and with a little more rain in the early overs, the wicket was just as juiced up as at the start of the game. Kenny and Frankie faced a lively opening attack – Kenny was just looking to be taking control when he dragged a slower ball onto his stumps via his feet. Frankie and Jonnie then built a partnership of 47 – it was ugly at times but most needed as runs were difficult to come by. Confusion meant that Frankie was eventually run out and Dan Vickery came to the crease. He looked in great nick before being gloved by a ball that really spat just after Jonnie was out. Wizzy were 81 for 4 which soon became 98 for 5 as the headmaster couldn't get over a rising delivery and was spectacularly caught. The game was in the balance. SCS and Sid needed to try to build a partnership – Sid was at his dogged if not fluent best in the gloom and SCS needed time in the middle to try to remember what batting was about. A few fours later and all was looking good at 133 for 5 with more overs left to bat than runs required. A wide long - hop led to the sorry demise of SCS spooning a catch into the covers to make the score 133 for 6. Sid finally seemed to have found his touch with a cleanly struck 6 but was out a few balls later at 147. 147 for 7 became 147 for 8 and tension was clearly felt by both sides. Dan Macdonald on 0 and a couple of balls into his innings was joined by Tom “ thwacker” Jenkins. A few balls later – and a couple of blows over extra cover – from Toms trusty blade and the game was won.

A fantastic game of cricket made more enjoyable by the opposition attitude to the game – they played hard and aggressive cricket with lots of banter but none directed at us and no abuse. It was a privilege to play East Preston and we look forward to the re match.

Rob Knight summed it up eloquently after his stint in the middle – “it was a lot of fun and a pleasure to umpire when both teams play the way they did today”.