

Barnards Green Cricket Club 3rd XI 2005 Season Review.

The Saturday 3rd XI were always going to have their work cut out to stay in division 6 following promotion the previous season as they would now be playing against clubs that had just one team and some useful players who could be playing in a higher standard. The opening fixture at O.E's saw a rearguard action from Dick Brown 55no and the tail in particular young Tom Clack to force a draw although at one time a win was a possibility. The early season fixtures saw just a splattering of youth in the team, but the seniors found the going tough with defeats at Stourbridge Social and Droitwich where an enterprising 72 from Rob Tyler was the only real highlight. Further defeats at Brintons and Kidderminster were too much for skipper Andy Hoddy to bear and he resigned his captaincy.

The following game was at Hewell who racked up a massive 282, but the determined Rob Lewis 86, Andy Wheeler 52 and Dick Brown 56 saw the Green home with an over to spare. Old Hill were next and young James Scullion led the way with 4 for 34 and another Dick Brown half century saw the Green home by 7 wickets. Despite fielding an experienced team, O.E's did the double over us, but an excellent performance against the Vine saw a win by the narrowest of margins one run with Jamie Longmore 3 for 22 the pick of the bowlers. A visit to Stourbridge Social saw an excellent performance by the youngsters well supported by some of the seniors, having scored 266 with Tom Clack hitting a superb 26no at the end, the Green had Stourbridge 9 down with Chris Hill taking 5 for 48 in an excellent spell.

Brintons saw a reasonable performance but a loss by 48 runs, but the team put in their worst performance against West Malvern when chasing just 159 only youngsters Nick Rogers 32 and Tom Clack 23no showed the true application required on a dismal day for the club. Kidderminster Victoria proved too strong in a 8 wicket victory at Newland in the final game played, but disappointingly for the first time in memory, the Club had to concede a saturday game at the end of the season against Old Hill although fortunately, survival in division 6 was already assured by a few points.

Hopefully lessons will have been learnt for next season and with a regular captain and more encouragement for the youngsters, there is no reason why honours cannot be challenged for.

Robin.