

### *Barnards Green 3<sup>rd</sup> XI – Season's Review.*

After many secret meetings, bribes and the handing over of plain brown envelopes, the season got off to a very frustrating start for the 3rds and the new skipper.

Week 1 **Old Hill** at home- rained off on Friday night ( at least we saved the tea money!)

Week 2 **Feckenham** away- whilst trying to do the organised thing, and find out which ground we're playing at, we get told " we've pulled out of the league months ago"- Week 3 is a free week !!

Finally May 22<sup>nd</sup>, we get to play a game in anger and the batsmen with exception of Mark "missed the boat" Perkins take out their frustrations on **Belbroughton** and rattle up 268-5.

Belbroughton fail to read the script and also get 268 but the deadly arm of Patrick Jelley takes a wicket of the last ball to earn us some extra points for the tie.

The Captain's top score of 132 lasts exactly a week when Nick Rogers bludgeons **Bewdley** for 138 as we chase down 227. Lee Dymont with the quote of the week when Nick complains of his toe hurting after being hit. " If you get out now, your toe will still hurt, so you bloody well stay out here and get on with it !"

**Kiddy Vic** at home and the first meeting with their eccentric Captain. Jamie bowls his way into form with 4 wkts and two experienced heads of Rich "I want to play for every XI" Brown and Graham "Perce" Spiers see us home in a low scoring close game.

June 12<sup>th</sup> saw us go to **Droitwich** and a lot of leather chasing was done in the sun. Rob Tyler and Jamie bowling well at the end kept the chase down to 250. Droitwich didn't account for our two finishers in Mark Perkins and Dave Price who saw us home, not for the last time, with 1 ball to spare.

The visit of **Enville** saw our youngsters come to the fore. Harry Pleass and Callum Campbell making useful contributions in helping get to a total of 189. James Scullion also making his debut then took 2-28 as we got 24 points and moved to the top of the league for the first time. The next week **Nomads** failing to fulfil the fixture extended our lead at the top of the league at the half way stage.

**Old Hill** away and even the old campaigners of Lamby and TA could not stave off defeat in the most unusual ground anyone has ever played on, (I've run out of adjectives and expletives to describe this place!) On the positive side, Emily bowled possibly the best I've seen her in taking 3-35 and the debuts of Tim Streather and Joe Endacott bodes well for the future.

The next two weeks being free saw us relinquish our lead at the top and again we looked eagerly to **Belbroughton**.

The youngsters stood up again with James Scullion and Callum White both bowling great spells in keeping Belbroughton down to 207. With Lee Dymont again providing a solid platform aided by Phil Harris, Mark Perkins and Dave Price then completed the job with 5 wkts in hand.

On a scorching day we entertained **Bewdley** and Andy Hoddy in partnership with Phil Harris bowled their best spells. Lee Dymont scored his 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive 50 and Andy Hoddy and Dave Price requiring 64 off the last 10 overs needed only 6 to see us home.

The visit to **Kidderminster** saw only the second defeat of the season. A young and depleted side kept Kiddy down to 190 with Adam Price and Callum White bowling particularly well, however the batting capitulated for the first time to 50 to send us home wounded but not down.

The visit of **Droitwich** turned out to be the title decider and we elected to field first on another scorcher. Bill Munn bowled a great spell to keep Droitwich pegged back, but Robbie Lewis was keen to give them back in wides. Adam Price showed him the line and was rewarded with 3 wkts.

Chasing 155, an opening stand of 85 soon knocked the wind out of the oppo and Rob “I need to do something right today” Lewis along with Mark “I fancy another not-out today” Perkins finished it off for an 8 wicket win.

Top of the table with only the two bottom teams to play and it was in our hands. With the Skipper deciding to spend the week in Spain, a slightly new look side went to **Enville**. Adam Price and Tom Clack opened the bowling and made a good account of themselves, then Stu Fletcher back from injury took 5-15 (the only 5 fer of the year) to wrap up Enville for 110. Derek Goodman also back from injury (though I think it was a hang-over) carried his bat for a fifty and a 5 wicket win.

So, just Nomads in the way now who mixed not turning up giving the oppo 24 points, with 10 wicket wins over Old Hill !

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 19:30 and the **Nomads'** skipper rings to say they can't get a side out.

That's it we've won the league !! With not actually playing the last game it feels a bit flat which is how I wish the lager was in my yard of ale on Saturday night (Thanks Mr Hoddy !) Batting honours go to Nick Rogers who thought sod the technique, I'm seeing it like a football and deserved his run in the 2nds, Lee Dymont who more often than not laid a solid start and both Mark Perkins and Dave Price who finished off many games.

On the bowling front whilst no-one managed to run through a side, Jamie bowled great spells once we got through his first couple of overs, Andy Hoddy and Phil Harris bowled well together and for the future James Scullion, (as proven in the 2nds for the last game), and Adam Price should hold us in good stead.

The fielding, in particular that of Callum White, Jamie's self-proclaimed safest hands in the league, (look in the book mate !) along with the slightly older ones in DP and Robin showed what can be achieved when we field as a unit.

My thanks to Robin and Bob who stepped in when I stepped out, Bob again and Sammy Freeman for giving us the best wickets in the league ( track 7 again please !) and Mrs P for by far the best teas in the county.

Nice One Lads !

*Cyril.*