



Review. Barnards Green IVs – 2010 Season.

Success can often bring with it a new set of problems and Dick's careful nurturing of a number of the club's youngsters during last season's campaign meant that inevitably they would deservedly move on into higher teams. Dick's task this year would again be a balancing act between youth and experience with the need for the team to perform well against strong opposition being weighed against giving The Green's colts as much cricket as possible.

Bowling.

The first test would come as Elliot and Georgia were given the responsibility of opening the bowling against a vastly experienced Brinton's side. Dick need not have worried as this pairing and Jack Mac proved to be up to the task and would continue to be the mainstay of the fourth's bowling attack for much of the season. Of course there were occasions when the more experienced bowlers in the side had to "mop up" or put the brakes on but overall the latest crop of home-grown talent did us proud and on occasions were unplayable.

Batting.

The make-up of any club's fourth team dictates that a large number of players will be used and a settled batting line-up would be a luxury. No less than 31 players got a knock for the fourths and all combinations were tried. Credit needs to go to the old boys for the guidance given to the youngsters, for dropping down the order on many occasions, for ignoring the sometimes woeful calling and running and for coming up to the mark when the team needed to salvage something from a game. Four "old boys" exceeded 250 runs whilst Elliot continued to show rapid improvement which would lead to his early promotion to a higher level.

Fielding.

The Green are rightfully proud of the level of their fielding. Jack Mac excelled. Zac was worthy of his place in the team for his fielding alone. Steve and Robin caught everything that came their way. Julian and Dave ran their ageing legs off. Perkie claimed 11 victims. Dick, Chris and Robbie formed an impenetrable ring behind the stumps and MJ ... well he was MJ !

So, in summary.

We finished fourth in the league.

Had we not been rained off against Brintons away whilst winning at a canter and Bromsgrove at home whilst looking favourites then we could have been higher.

We were poor against OEs and Bromsgrove away. We were too strong for Hanley and Martley, but overall everyone involved enjoyed their cricket and no-one let the side down. A number of players may be missing next year through deserved promotion to a higher level and so the juggling and balancing will start all over again next year.

Well done Dick for another successful season leading The Mighty Fourth's and a very big thank you to all the players, particularly those who were often drafted in at short notice without complaining to help the club out. Bring on next April.