

Barnards Green Saturday 2nd XI – A Personal View by the Overseas Correspondent

The themes of the 2nd XI League season are clear in the match reports archived on this website and published, often in fairly full form, by the Malvern Gazette. Regular readers know Dick Brown's captaincy....the run-out potential of any partnership involving Rob Lewis....the concentration on legside scoring by many of the younger players....the selective vision of square-leg umpires (G Glendinning w/k). We know C Hill bowled economically. We know S Fletcher gave everything uphill into the wind. We know all this. It is time to present a different angle.

There were unsung heroes and surprising events in 2004....

Sam Spencer Taller, quicker and cheekier than his middle-aged colleagues, Sam bowled unguided missiles throughout the season. His economy rate was dreadful and his legside wide was a keeper's despair. But he took wickets – sometimes with bad balls, often with seamers that found the inside or outside edge.

Nick Rogers Appalling technique. Never knowingly took a single when a swipe over cover or midwicket was available. Top, match-winning knock of 73 against Avoncroft.

Brian Hancock Superb catch at Harborne, diving full length at gully (bowler, S Spencer). This was the catch of the season until Jamie's recent one-handed effort. (And *that* was the catch until an astonishing will-he-no-he-won't-LOOK-OUT-MAREK! success at Newland last week). Brian announced his retirement and skippered the team to victory in his final game. His on-drive was a grooved, repeating delight...but not copied by *Sam Spencer*, who at No. 11 (with 1 over to survive) was bowled through his legs, playing no shot, in the return match against Harborne.

Ian Scullion Turned his ankle while warming up on 22 May, and never bowled a ball for the 2nds in 2004. Encouraged son James to bowl instead.

Jon Lewis Assumed his dad would run a quick second at Harborne. No, no, no.

Chris Hill In the same match, made a fine 20* which began 5,6,4,4. The 5 struck a fielder's helmet placed behind the keeper. The Hill home telephone number begins 5,6,4,4,...This could be a new game but unluckily the next digit is 8.

Dick Brown Vertical drive TM at Avoncroft.

Neil Hacking Youthful, agile in the field, casually powerful at the crease – and far too often dismissed after an opening couple of boundaries. Excellent 60 vs Dominies and Guild.

After leading the League at the halfway stage, the Green predictably faltered against an unfairly strong Coombs Wood side, lost to Harborne (see *S Spencer* above), and lost badly by 10 wickets to Lye. To their credit they rebounded to beat Oldswinford and Rushwick and finish in second place. Ah, Oldswinford on 21 August....

Andy Lamb (and Chris Hill after him). Opened the bowling and did not notice that the ball was of junior not senior size. Half an hour later, Jonno Boulton pointed out the mistake, throwing match and umpires into confusion.

Dick Brown – Translations for New Readers

MJ, I'm shagged.	Fatigue has gained upon me.
Have a blow, Rich.	You have bowled splendidly. Take a well-earned rest.
Have a blow, Rich.	That was dreadful. Go and field at fine leg.
We need someone to umpire.	We need someone to say "Not Out" regularly.
I've won the toss, lads.	I've won the toss, lads.
We're in the field.	We're in the field.
We're batting.	We're at Enville and I've had a brainstorm.

Rob Lewis – Translations for Batting Partners

Yes.	Wait.
No.	No.
Wait.	No.
Looking.	No.
Come one.	Yes. (<i>care required</i>)
Come two.	One <i>or</i> Several balls remain in the over.
Come three. (<i>very rare</i>)	Ask for confirmation. Do not leave crease after first run.
Can you?	No.

And finally...Teas Thank you ma'am!