



Grace's Cricket Club

Match Report

Grace's CC v West Harrow CC

11th May 2008

GRACES OFF TO A FLYING START FOR THE NEW SEASON.

Graces new season is off to a perfect start, after two wins in their first two friendly fixtures, with encouraging contributions from most of the players, the newly promoted side approached their first match in Division one of the Middlesex Sunday League with a degree of confidence. On a glorious hot sunny day, away at West Harrow Graces were fortunate to win the toss and have first use of what proved to be an inconsistent strip, with some balls keeping low and others rearing alarmingly from a good length. However a sound opening partnership between new skipper Dean Stockinger and Wayne Camberwell was interrupted on 44 when the latter was forced to retire hurt. Shofiq joined his captain and things were progressing well, until perhaps it was the excitement of the drinks interval on such a hot afternoon that ruined Stockinger's concentration for him to be out the first ball after the break. After this most of the remaining batsmen contributed, getting into their twenties without being able to turn their score into a really big one. It was left to newcomer D. Manesh to impose himself on the bowling with a fine aggressive knock of 48 not out, just failing in the last over to reach a well deserved half century and enabling Graces to a healthy total of 214 for 8.

Refreshed after an excellent tea Graces soon had the home side in trouble, a smart catch by Shofiq at cover point off the bowling of Mappin had them at 8 for 1. A position from which they never really recovered. Wickets fell at regular intervals, with Mappin taking three and Bielby one. The bowling changes when they came brought no relief for West Harrow. Although wicketless, the left arm spin of Manesh created all sorts of problems for the batsmen with his spell conceding just thirteen runs but it was the leg spin of our own Aussie Shane Warne look-a-like (pity about the hair) who destroyed the Harrow lower order with 5 for 28 his best bowling performance for the club and but for a hard hitting knock by Bander which included four sixes, Graces winning margin of ninety-one runs would have been even greater.



Last season West Harrow finished third in the division, with this result, newly promoted Graces can look forward with confidence to the rest of the season and to those of you out there that follow the fortunes of the club, check out the website at www.gaycricket.org.uk and even better come along and support the club where you will be made most welcome.