



Grace's Cricket Club

Match Report

Grace's CC v UCS Old Boys CC

10th June 2008

GRACES SLIP TO FIRST DEFEAT OF THE SEASON

On a beautiful warm sunny afternoon Graces played host to UCS Old Boys for their first encounter. With Graces sitting on top of division 1 of the Middlesex Sunday League, both hopes and confidence were high. After all the rain of the preceding week, the wicket had large damp patches and a degree of wear from a previous match and on being asked to bat, Graces batsmen were to experience its vagaries against the some of the best bowling that they have faced this season. A measure of the accuracy was that the opening pair managed just three runs from the thirty-two balls received before both were dismissed. For UCS Ali returned figures of one for eight from his spell of eight overs with four maidens. Wickets continued to fall as all the batsmen struggled against an accurate attack and a slow pitch. Things began to improve with the advent of G Mappin (hero of the previous league match) and N Shofiq, who added forty-one for the sixth wicket, although the latter will want to forget the shot that brought about his demise. Thus Graces struggled to their lowest total of the season, being all out for one hundred and nineteen in thirty six overs.

In reply UCS were to benefit from the effects of the sun and a brisk drying breeze that was present all day and some generous bowling from Graces attack, although Shofiq, starting with a wicket maiden gave the home side hope and continued in his usual miserly fashion, ending with figures of one for twelve from his eight overs, there was little support from the other end. although at seventeen for two Graces hopes were still high but with Stewart, Gishen and Diamond in particular, looking comfortable UCS were able to reach their target for the loss of just four wickets. Inflicting upon Graces their first defeat of the season in league or friendly fixture. As a postscript, although excessive appealing may be disturbing and we can all be guilty of that, we should aim to play within



the spirit of the game and respect umpiring decisions, however perverse we may feel them to be.