



Grace's Cricket Club

Match Report

Highgate Taverners CC v Grace's CC

18th April 2010 – Woodside Park, London

Highgate Taverners 149 for 10 wickets in 29.3 overs. Grace's 153 for 9 wickets in 27.3 overs. Grace's won by 1 wicket.

After a winter that seemed to go on forever new look Grace's (6 new players) at last took the field for the first game of the season against new opposition in blazing sunshine!

The wicket looked damp and green (not helped by football boot stud marks from the games going on when Grace's arrived) Not surprisingly after skipper Gordie won the toss he decided to field first hoping the sun would dry the surface out for our innings.

The home team's skipper was a victim of Icelandic ash - stuck in Switzerland! His team were soon in trouble when Manish took a sharp chance in the slips off Richard, followed by Ramesh taking his first wicket for the club, bowling out the dangerous looking opener (Thompson) with a wicked inswinging yorker. Highgate were then 25 - 2 with everything to do. Their number 3 and 4 (Thomas and Hill) steadied the ship and then started to accumulate runs steadily with some big hitting, looking to take the game away from Grace's.

Skipper Gordie had been rotating the bowlers, giving the new faces an opportunity with the ball before Mendis came on and bowled their number 3 for a battling 42 with a sharp delivery. The skip then opted to change the pace bringing himself on resulting in slowing the run rate before Gerard took a catch (his first for the club) behind the stumps to remove the big hitting Hill also for 42. (108 - 3)

After this only the Highgate number 8 (Blunden) with 12 runs showed any determination before the innings closed with a total of 149 after only 29.3 overs with Gordie mopping up the tail to finish with figures of 28 - 4. To complete his excellent day in the field the skip also took an great reflex catch at first slip.

The early finish resulted in Grace's batting for ten overs before tea. Manish opened the innings only to be bowled in the first over - Gerard came in at



number three and with a few lusty blows got the Grace's innings moving before being bowled for a quick fire 12. This took Grace's to 17 - 2, Jonners and Mendis took us through to tea with the score at 43 - 2.

Jonners departed shortly after the restart edging a wide one to the keeper for 8 , Gordie was soon run out for 5 with another debutant Ahbi following him back without adding to the score. Grace's were faltering at 67-5 and Ramesh came in and hit a rapid 9 before being stumped off Highgate's wily spinner. Henang was then brilliantly caught down the leg side by the keeper followed by Sri to bring Grace's to the brink of defeat at 83-8.

While wickets clattered at the other end Mendis was in sparkling form , elegantly stroking anything loose to the boundary until he was caught off his only bad stroke for an imperious 57 , 120 - 9!.

This meant that Richard and Nihar needed to score 30 runs to win it for Grace's - there were plenty of overs left so time was not an issue. Nihar in his first innings for Grace's showed a good eye punishing anything loose by hitting over the top. Richard accumulated confidently in support. Nihar was dropped in the outfield and there were also some close LBW shouts. The last pair held firm to steer Grace's to a most unlikely victory with Nihar hitting an unbeaten 35!

Highgate were magnanimous in defeat - hopefully we can get a repeat fixture next season.