

Merry Christmas Horspath!!!!

This week we played Burnie, who were just below us on the one day table and in a bit of good recent form.... The best thing about playing them this week was that we played them at home as Burnie is an absolute hole! If ever in Tasmania.... don't go to Burnie! Seriously.

We lost the toss and bowled on a newly prepared wicket which seamed around quite a bit early on, the opposition made it look like it was a mine field at times! Again our Pom Mark Ludlow took a while to get going, as the whole side did, and while not battering us around they produced a solid opening stand of 30. When Ludlow struck in his 5th over with a dubious caught behind we clicked into gear. Brad Scott-Power, who came off the back of a 5 for in the seconds, bowled a tight and unlucky spell and Aaron Campbell backed him up at the other end - however we could only claim 3 wickets by the second drinks break (34 overs) and Burnie had a score just under 100 and setting themselves up for a score of 200 plus.

15.1 overs later they were bowled out for 165 and how that happened is a bit of a mystery.... we didn't bowl exceptionally well or take any blinding catches to change the game they simply batted poorly, three or four of them caught on the boundary when not needing too was pretty poor batting. In the end everyone shared the wickets and no one had exceptional spells to add in this report! The worst aspect is we bowled 26 wides which is a curse for us and has cost us a game already and will do down the track if we don't fix it.

The wicket flattened out a lot in the second innings, so much so that we got ahead of ourselves a little bit and lost 3 early soft wickets to put us in a wobbly situation at 3 for 55 off 15. Opener Matthew Shipp was the rock at one end and combining with his cousin Sam Hay they saw the score to 110 before Hay was out in the 35th over for 29. It was a 29 worth at least 50 given the length of the outfield which has been disgracefully long all year. Patrick Mackrell came and went and when Aaron Campbell was out we needed 28 with 4 wickets in hand. Alex Gibbins and Shipp hit a group of fours to put the game in our hands and when Shipp got out for a very classy 75, Ludlow came in and smashed 2 fours off 3 balls for a solid victory.

That win still didn't get us into the semi-finals for the one day competition, as results in other matches didn't go our way, but we are comfortable at the top of the ladder in the NTCA pennant roster which is the major league that we play in. It is a position we didn't expect to be in at the start of the year and it really has helped set up the season now having only lost 1 game, something only 2 clubs have done so far.....

We have a break for a couple of weeks over Christmas and New Year and come back on the 8th of January for the start of the two day roster.

I hope everyone enjoys a safe and happy Christmas and New Year with Santa bringing some good gifts - I am personally hoping for a winning tatslotto ticket but hey, losers can't be choosers!

Till next year ☺