

Byfleet Cricket Club Saturday 2nd XI Report - 2016 Season

The Saturday 2nd XI had a mixed 2016 season, once again finishing 6th in the league (for the 3rd successive year) with 6 wins and 9 losses.

We were unlucky in our first game, facing a Warlingham team that was bolstered by a number of 1st XI players as they had no game. We posted a healthy 220 for 3 but they managed to chase it down with an over to spare including an 85 run partnership for the 8th wicket. The rest of May went extremely well with us winning the remaining 3 games, all at home, comfortable wins against Shepperton and Wallington followed by a close victory against Woodmansterne.

So we were in a strong position at the end of May - second in the league having taken 67 points from the 4 limited over games, scoring 826 runs and taking 34 wickets.

Our next match in June was an Away draw against a strong Merrow team, we bowled them out for 205 but could only manage 138 for 8 in reply. Neal Jones tore a calf muscle in the game and did not play again during the season, his consistent contributions were sorely missed. The following week saw our worst batting performance of the year when Hampton Hill bowled us all out for 51. The remainder of June saw a cancelled match at Thames Ditton and a 3 wicket victory away at Wallington, Louis Collins hitting the winning runs and scoring a crucial 20 not out.

The results in July were mixed, we won two, lost two and drew one. The wins were primarily courtesy of strong bowling performances with us dismissing Merton for 83 in a rain affected Home game and Woodmansterne for 64 Away. Unfortunately, this was mirrored by weak batting performances in the two games that we lost; being bowled out for just 100 at Shepperton and 74 at home against Warlingham.

The failure of our batting was a recurring problem and in the 8 completed games in June and July we only managed a total of 878 runs.

The final month of the season was one to forget, as the Limited Overs format returned we lost all of the last five games. We failed to compete in any of the matches, losing by: 67 runs to Merrow, 8 wickets to Thames Ditton, 47 runs to Whiteley Village, 96 runs to Merton and 8 wickets to Hampton Hill.

Individually Matt Hockin consistently performed with the bat, in the 8 games he played for us he made 347 runs at an average of 49.6. George Mickley was given the early responsibility of the number 3 slot and responded well to the challenge, he made a number of patient 20+ scores totalling 227 runs for the season.

On the bowling front Waseem Ashraf (33 wickets at an average of 14.8) had a strong season including an incredible spell of 8-6-3-3 at Woodmansterne. Alfie Mickley showed maturity beyond his years as he learns the difficult art of leg-spin (104 overs, 23 wickets at an average of 22.3).

Off the field we were, as ever, superbly supported. Our thanks to the tea ladies who continue to provide a consistently excellent tea, Ken for his many hours behind the bar and Malcolm for his tireless efforts in maintaining the ground.

Overall it was an average season performance wise but again an enjoyable one where we played our cricket in the right spirit. The great progress made by the colts in the team – George, Alfie and Louis bodes well for next season (and beyond) and we need to make sure that we perform as a team around them to deliver results in 2017.

Greg Clough
2nd XI Captain