



SPORTS PAGE

By Robert Moore

N2CC v Hatch End CC

On 11 May N2 Cricket Club played their second match of the season against Hatch End CC at New Southgate on a green and uneven pitch.

Hatch End won the toss and put N2 into bat, Darren McKay opening the innings with Simon Dyer. Both batsmen struggled to cope with the uneven bounce and the scoring was slow with the first boundary coming in the 15th over. Dyer was out to a beauty from Ramesh, bringing Graeme Canter the N2 skipper to the crease. He struggled to reach 9 and was dismissed with the score on 40-2.

N2 suffered a slight collapse with the wickets of McKay, Marks and David Dyer falling in the space of a few overs. Peter Leeves, a Kiwi playing only his second game for the club hit the ball to all corners of the ground and was eventually bowled for an entertaining 32. It didn't look as if the score would reach 100, but due to a spirited 12 not out from number 11 Bhatt, N2 ended on 118.

Dyer S	6	bowled
McKay D	18	ct
Canter G	9	ct
Marks G	7	ct
Dyer D	4	b
Leeves P	32	b
Farmer R	2	ct
Kutner T	3	run out
Newbery D	1	b
Down I 11	ct	
Bhatt S 12	not out	

Bhatt	11 overs	27 runs	4 wickets
Down	10	11	2
Newbery	6	9	3
Farmer	4	11	0
Marks	2	7	1
Dyer S	1	4	0

Hatch End looked confident of reaching this total, especially as Williams battered 10 runs from Bhatt's first over. He was then undone in Bhatt's second and Canter took a smart catch. The wickets steadily tumbled as Ian Down and David Newbery, N2CC's stalwart bowlers did most of the damage taking 2 and 3 wickets respectively.

Wicketkeeper Kutner also got in on the act with a fantastic stumping to dismiss Kampana. With ten overs remaining and one wicket needed it was a tense finish, the Hatch End tail-enders doing their best to achieve a draw. But Gary Marks took the final wicket when Ramesh skied one to Simon Dyer in the deep who pouched the catch to send his teammates into joyous celebrations. Hatch End were all out for 80, and so N2CC ran out winners by 38 runs.

N2CC v The Archway Gracies CC

N2CC were back at their spiritual home of Lyttleton Playing Fields, East Finchley for their third match of the season against their bitter rivals The Archway Gracies on 18 May.

They were asked to bat first and lost an early wicket as Pretorius hit a straight one to Ball in the covers. McKay, the other opener, continued his fine early season form and struck up a good partnership with his skipper Canter, batting at number 3. They added 44 before McKay hit a full toss to Nozmul at mid wicket. He made 26. Russell came in and struggled to get to grips with the green wicket. A mix up then saw Canter run out for 25. The score was 83. Russell departed for 12 before Marks had to retire after being hit on the ankle. The remaining N2 batsmen fought their way to a final score of 128 for 8, with Mosheim and Leeves reaching double figures.

An early breakthrough was needed if N2CC were to beat the Gracies for the second time in three years. It never came despite some wonderful seam bowling from Bhatt and

Down. The latter eventually had Morris caught by Russell at mid off for 24, but by then the writing was on the wall for the home side. They battled hard without reward and Nozmul hit

the winning runs with 5 overs to spare. It was however a very brave performance by the East Finchley outfit and the team spirit on the day was clear for all to see.

N2CC	128 for 8 (41 overs)
Archway	129 for 1 (37 overs)

McKay D	26	ct
Pretorius	3	ct
Canter G	25	ro
Russell D	12	ct
Marks G	1	retired hurt
Mosheim F	10	lbw
Leeves P	11	ct
Bhatt S	2	ct
Kutner T	7	not out
Down I	2	lbw
Newbery D	5	not out

Bhatt	11 overs	25 runs	0 wickets
Down	12	22	1
Newbery	6	27	0
Leeves	4	32	0
Pretorius	4	15	0

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