

## Collingbourne V Beckington Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2009

After 2 rained off games in a row Collingbourne were looking to both play a game and win it. Due to the bad weather Collingbourne had been caught by there main rivals Swindon Utd Churches and only 6 points stood between the 2 teams at the top of Division 3 of the Wiltshire League. Unfortunately Collingbournes opponents Beckington were going to be no push over as they lay 4<sup>th</sup> in the table and were looking to make amends for losing to Collingbourne earlier in the season.

Yet again the weather had a say in the game and 3 hours before the start a heavy shower changed the pitch from a batting wicket to a bowlers friend. Because of this when Collingbourne Captain Owen Sheppard won the toss he elected to field first. The young opening pair of Charlie Knight and Ollie Scott bowled well as Knight (2 for 37 from 9) picked up 2 early wickets leaving Beckington on 29 for 2 from 8 overs. In reply Beckington Captain M.Wilson and left hander M.Rustell shared a 73 run partnership to steady the innings and take Beckington to 106 from 26 overs despite some tight and aggressive pace bowling from Ian Kiy. (6 overs 0 wkts for 11 runs) Yet again though it was a change of pace that got the breakthrough as Captain Sheppard with his medium pace bowling struck in his 4<sup>th</sup> over removing Rustell for 41 caught behind. Wicket keeper James Paterson was called into action yet again only 2 overs later as Sheppard removed number 5 bat M.Ashton followed by Captain Wilson LBW for a cautious yet necessary 35. The re-introduction of Ollie Scott wrapped up the innings as he proceeded to bowl at pace claiming 4 wickets in 4 overs before Left armer Tom Grant (1 for 29 from 6.1 overs) bowled the last man with the score on 149. Captain Sheppard ended the innings with figures of 3 for 32 from 7 overs whilst Scott was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 4 wickets for 31 runs from 10 overs.

In reply Collingbourne started cautiously in the knowledge that the pitch was still favouring the bowlers and that they had the time to reach the total needed. Beckington knew that to win they would have to get Collingbourne all out. Using their best bowlers they claimed the wickets of opener Graham Chandler and number 3 Charlie Knight within the first 12 overs with the score on 48. Tom Grant and number 4 bat Mark Bateman did everything they could to both see of the aggressive bowling attack and make runs at the same time. Grant reached his 50 before the pair put up their 50 partnership. Unfortunately this land mark spelt the end for Grant as he fell for 54 from 77 balls with the score on 97 from 29 overs. With the bowlers tiring and Beckington running out of overs Collingbourne Captain Sheppard attacked the bowling hitting 33 from 38 balls. Supported by a very sensible 77 ball innings from Mark Bateman for 32 runs. The pair reached the 150 mark by the 38<sup>th</sup> over for the loss of 3 wickets. The main Beckington bowlers of P.Swift,(1 for 53 from 12) M.Peters (1 for 36 from 10) and A.Keevil (1 for 33 from 12) did everything they could but they just didn't have enough runs to play with. This win keeps Collingbourne at the top of the table with 5 games to go.