

## **Collingbourne vs Swindon United Churches Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2009 top of the table Collingbourne CC travelled to Swindon for there 9<sup>th</sup> Wilts league division 3 match against 2<sup>nd</sup> placed Swindon United Churches. It was a hot day and Churches won the toss electing to bat first. Collingbourne almost struck with their very 1<sup>st</sup> ball as Churches Andy Foster (22) played on off fast bowler Darren Pritchard. However the ball travelled through the stumps and failed to removed the bails. Pritchard and last weeks hero Vaughan Browne started well but so did the Churches opening Batsmen taking 45 from the 1<sup>st</sup> 10 overs. As churches number 3 bat Thomas (46) got going it was clear they were out to hit a big score. But a change of bowling to medium pace did the trick and Collingbourne Captain Owen Sheppard (3 for 32) added another 3 wickets to his tally whilst veteran seamer John Aitken (1 for 13) picked up 1 at the other end. Spin bowler Micheal Hulme playing his last game for the club also bowled well supporting young Ollie Scott (1 for 30) as the Churches Captain Jones (30) and number 5 bat Mann (41) attempted to re-build the innings. With the re-introduction of openers Browne (3 for 44) and Pritchard (2 for 37) wickets started to fall again and Collingbourne finally had the last man out in the 44<sup>th</sup> over. But not before the Churches could post a competitive score of 195.

In reply Collingbournes start was one of tragedy as the top 3 batsmen got out before the score reached 15. Captain Sheppard and number 4 bat Mark Bateman attempted to re-build the innings and took Collingbourne to 50 from 19 overs before Sheppard was out for 13 caught off Gilchrist. (2 for 27) Bateman followed 7 overs later run out for 35 with the score on 85 from 26 overs. For arguably the first time this season it was down to the lower/middle order to rescue Collingbourne, and they didn't disappoint. James Grant and Darren Pritchard took the game to Churches at a 20 20 pace sharing a 54 run partnership with Grant hitting 44 from 58 balls and Pritchard 43 from 38. When Grant was finally dismissed by Foster (1 for 59) John Aitken took up the mantle and continued at the required pace and run rate. As the overs reduced so did the score but so did the wickets. After a couple of slow overs Collingbourne were left needing 9 for victory from the last over. Unfortunately they couldn't manage it as Aitken (21) finally fell to Spackman (2 for 11) leaving Collingbourne all out for 187. Martin was the main wicket taker for Churches with figures of 12 overs 3 wickets for 71 runs. Despite this defeat Collingbourne still remain top of the league but their lead has been reduced to 17 points.