

MATCH REPORT

Gerrards Cross 2XI vs. Fleet

1st September 2007

Fleet 165-9 (52 overs) – Gerrards Cross 130-10 (42.2 overs)
Fleet won by 35 runs

Gerrards Cross' third consecutive fixture against the title contenders in division 2b, ended in defeat on Saturday, with Fleet emerging as victors by 35 runs.

After winning the toss and careful consideration, visiting skipper Downes elected to bat and his team got off to a flyer, with 25 runs on the board after five overs. The excellent Mark Wildman then removed Parker, Ferguson fell to Andy Peace, and the dangerous Black fell for 23, to leave the visitors on 40-3. Hobdell became Peace's second victim and when Wildman removed Gurney, Fleet were in trouble at 79-6. Skipper Downes had watched the carnage from the other end and began to impose himself, adding 51 for the seventh wicket before he hit Waqas Arbi to Richard Graham at mid off. Talbot (37*) shepherded the tail well, allowing the visitors to close on 165-9, still seemingly some way below par on a good Dukes Wood track. Mark Wildman finished a marathon spell of 18 overs with figures of 3-40.

Although the victory target seemed achievable, when the Cross reply nosedived to 0-2 - 166 seemed a long way off. Then Sonny Grover and George Eykyn departed as well to leave Cross in crisis at 19-4 off 15 overs. For the second week running veteran Gary Hales proved to be the best of the Cross batsmen and although he lost Richard Graham with the total on 35, he soon forged an effective partnership with the injured Ed Waugh, that gave the hosts a scintilla of a chance. Hales was watchful in defence and aggressive in attack, taking Talbot for two straight sixes in consecutive deliveries. With the run rate increasing and only 70 required, Cross were back in the game, but Hales then fell for 43, gloving Chalkley down the legside to the keeper.

Waugh kept going, in partnership with Waqas Arbi (25), and the pair manipulated the ball around the ground with some innovative strokeplay. Waugh tried one shot too many at Chalkley and departed for 19, but Arbi continued to manufacture shots on his way to an excellent 25, his second significant contribution with the bat in three weeks. However, he could not find enough help from the tail, and when he was adjudged lbw to Chalkley, Cross were bowled out for 130, a disappointing 36 runs short of victory.

The Cross travel to High Wycombe next week for the final league game, knowing that only a win will guarantee their safety in Division 2b.

Innings of Fleet				Innings of Gerrards Cross					
R Black	c Eykyn b Wildman	23		A Peace	lbw b Hobdell	0			
A Parker	lbw b Wildman	11		C Cemlyn-Jones	lbw b Singleton	0			
D Ferguson	b Peace	2		G Eykyn	c Ferguson b Singleton	12			
T Downes	c Graham b Arbi	47		S Grover	lbw b Hobdell	7			
J Hobdell	lbw b Peace	8		G Hales	c Parker b Chalkley	43			
M Lee	c Waugh b Bruce	5		R Graham	c Black b Chalkley	8			
D Gurney	c Hales b Wildman	3		E Waugh	b Chalkley	19			
P Talbot	not out	37		W Arbi	lbw b Chalkley	25			
P Singleton	lbw b Thomas	0		N Bruce	c Chalkley b Singleton	3			
G Smith	c Eykyn b Arbi	5		M Wildman	c Black b Singleton	7			
G Chalkley	not out	10		R Thomas	not out	2			
Extras		14		Extras		4			
TOTAL – for 9 wickets, 52 overs			165	TOTAL – all out, 42.2 overs			130		
Bowling				Bowling					
Name	O	M	R	W	Name	O	M	R	W
Peace	12	1	35	2	Hobdell	11	6	14	2
Wildman	18	6	40	3	Singleton	16	8	27	4
Bruce	6	2	16	1	Chalkley	10.2	1	52	4
Arbi	8	0	28	2	Talbot	5	1	33	0
Thomas	8	0	37	1					