

# MATCH REPORT

## High Wycombe 2XI vs. Gerrards Cross 2XI

8<sup>th</sup> September 2007

**Gerrards Cross 180-10 (51.4 overs) – High Wycombe 156-7 (48 overs)  
Match Drawn**

In a bitterly disappointing finish to the season, the Cross lost their place in Division 2b by just two points and thanks mainly to Bucks all rounder Paul Sawyer.

Needing to win at Wycombe to guarantee safety in Division 2b, Cross skipper Nigel Bruce won the toss and elected to bat. A late change of team was required with Gary Hales dropping out due to a family illness.

The Cross opening partnership of Ed Waugh and George Eykyn was tested by the Wycombe opening pair, which included Bucks opening bowler, Paul Sawyer, dropped by Wycombe to the second team to boost their chance of avoiding the relegation dogfight. Despite his elevated status, and beating the bat several times, Sawyer could only take 2-52 off his 20 overs. The opening pair of Ed Waugh (19) and George Eykyn (37) were parted at 36 and when Sunny Grover and Ranj Atkar swiftly followed, the Cross were reeling at 44-3. Eykyn and a positive Will Butterworth (43) rebuilt the innings but at 114-5, the visitors were still struggling to set a challenging total. Enter Phil Sweeney. Handicapped by injury, Sweeney established himself and then launched an attack, hitting Sawyer twice in the over into an adjoining park. With an entertaining 41\* and good support from the lower order, the Cross closed on 180 with eight batting bonus points in the bag.

With a dusty track, roughed up by footmarks, this total was likely to prove a challenge to the hosts, but they started well, until Patten nicked an Andy Peace outswinger to Eykyn behind the stumps. The second wicket did not fall until 82, when Richard Thomas claimed Stevens. But with 23 overs to go and eight wickets in hand, the game seemed a certainty for Wycombe. Cross never know when they're beaten though, and with Thomas (3-52) bowling his usual excellent line and Nigel Bruce (3-38) extracting increasing turn and bounce from the track, the game took another twist. Sharp stumpings by Eykyn and an excellent slip catch by Ed Waugh reduced Wycombe to 113-6. But with Sawyer still at the crease and only 68 required off 17 overs, the game seemed evenly poised. Disappointingly Wycombe decided to shut up shop to avoid successive relegations, and Sawyer was joined by the virtually strokeless Davies. Although the Cross managed to winkle out one more wicket, the game petered out, killed by the tension of the occasion and Wycombe's lack of ambition. As it transpired due to results elsewhere Wycombe were already safe, and had that been known then surely a player of Sawyer's class would have been sorely dissatisfied with his innings of 37\* from 21 overs.

When stumps were drawn with the Cross still 3 wickets from victory, the season was over, and by the narrowest of margins, their three year spell in Division 2b was over. Come April, they will be firing again, and looking for a swift return to the second flight of the Thames Valley League.

Innings of Gerrards Cross					Innings of High Wycombe				
E Waugh	c Bezoudenhaut b Sawyer			19	J Stevens	c Butterworth b Thomas			22
G Eykyn	c Watkins b Sylvester			37	K Patten	c Eykyn b Peace			17
R Atkar	b Downing			2	R Bezoudenhaut	st Eykyn b Bruce			31
S Grover	b Downing			1	D Watkins	b Thomas			15
W Butterworth	c Bridges b Sawyer			43	P Sawyer	not out			37
R Knudsen	c & b Downing			6	C Nandos	st Eykyn b Thomas			2
P Sweeney	not out			41	A Downing	st Eykyn b Bruce			4
W Arbi	lbw b Downing			0	W Davies	c Waugh b Bruce			12
A Peace	c Sylvester b Downing			3	G Bridges	not out			4
N Bruce	r			5	S Sylvester				
R Thomas	b Humphries			1	J Humphries				
Extras				22	Extras				12
<b>TOTAL – 51.4 overs</b>				<b>180</b>	<b>TOTAL – for 7 wickets, 48 overs</b>				<b>156</b>
<b>Bowling</b>					<b>Bowling</b>				
<i>Name</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>W</i>
Sawyer	20	4	52	2	Bruce	17	5	38	3
Humphries	9.4	2	40	1	Arbi	5	0	19	0
Downing	16	5	46	5	Peace	6	0	31	1
Sylvester	6	0	29	1	Thomas	17	3	52	3
					Sweeney	3	0	12	0