

MATCH REPORT

Reading 2XI vs. Gerrards Cross 2XI

4th August 2007

**Gerrards Cross 202-7 (52 overs) – Reading 203-5 (45.3 overs)
Reading won by 5 wickets**

On the hottest day of the summer so far, Gerrards Cross went down to a five wicket defeat at Reading, ruing their inability to accelerate with the bat at crucial times.

After winning the toss, the Cross lost last week's hero Andrew Peace for 8, soon followed by Nigel Ward, yorked for 0. At 24-2 the visitors needed to rebuild and 43 runs were added before Ed Waugh was controversially dismissed lbw for 32. Sunny Grover and Richard Graham put on 50, with Grover in particular timing the ball well, before he fell for a well constructed 54. Graham (29) then shared in stands with Ranj Atkar (18) and Bryan Deane (17*) and although Cross passed 200 and maximum bonus points, their inability to accelerate in the last 10 overs left them some 30 short of a truly competitive total.

This lack of runs was compounded when two half chances were squandered in the first three balls of Reading's reply. Although Richard Thomas (1-42), with the help of sharp glove-work by Ward removed Ali for 21, by then Reading were up with the run rate and on their way.

Ward again helped Cross skipper Nigel Bruce (3-46) remove Kawahla and Davison with a pair of stumpings, and the visitors seemed in with a chance. However Reading is a big ground to defend, and sensible batting from Aeri and Singh saw the hosts to the brink of victory. Although Aeri fell with the winning post in sight, Reading got home by 5 wickets, with just over 2 overs to spare, leaving the Cross to rue a lack of ambition and confidence with the bat in the latter stages of the innings.

Innings of Gerrards Cross					Innings of Reading					
E Waugh		lbw b O Ali	32		Q Ali		st Ward b Thomas	21		
A Peace		b Edwards	8		A Davison		st Ward b Bruce	67		
N Ward		b Aeri	0		M Ali		c Waugh b Mohammed	22		
S Grover		c Aeri b Singh	54		W Kawahla		st Ward b Bruce	10		
R Graham		c Aeri b Thompson	29		V Aeri		c Waugh b Bruce	28		
R Atkar		lbw b Thompson	18		A Singh		not out	35		
B Deane		not out	17		S Brierly		not out	0		
L Grimble		b Edwards	9							
N Bruce		not out	2							
H Mohammed										
R Thomas										
Extras			38		Extras			20		
TOTAL – for 7 wickets, 52 overs			202		TOTAL – for 5 wickets, 45.3 overs			203		
Bowling					Bowling					
Name	O	M	R	W	Name	O	M	R	W	
Aeri	9	2	22	1	Bruce	15	4	46	3	
Edwards	9	1	27	2	Waugh	4	0	34	0	
Singh	12	2	35	1	Mohammed	7	0	48	1	
O Ali	6	0	38	1	Peace	7	1	22	0	
Nasim	8	1	33	0	Thomas	12.3	1	42	1	
Thompson	5	0	21	2						
M Ali	3	0	9	0						