

SURREY DOWNS LEAGUE - 2008

DIVISION 4

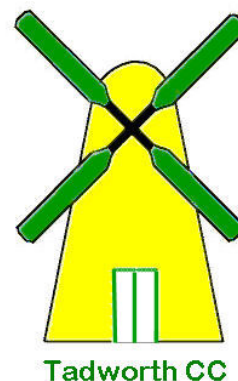
SOUTH NUTFIELD v TADWORTH

5th JULY 2008 - Week 10 of 18

TADWORTH 2nd Xi 127

SOUTH NUTFIELD 2nd Xi 116

Tadworth won by 11 runs.



'Cometh the hour cometh the man'
the hour 2.00pm Saturday 31st of May and the man Gary Mason.

This was his first game for the 2nds and not through coincidence, the start of the team's revival. Six games now without defeat although at tea on Saturday no one in their right mind would have believed it. The doom and gloom written all over the faces of the Tadworth players told the story, all out for 127 on a ground with short boundaries with the added bonus to batsmen of beneficial slopes between the wicket and most of them.

Hosts South Nutfield put Tadworth in and the target to set had to be in excess of 180 runs, but what a disaster, 5 wickets going down with only 28 runs on the board, opening bowler Terry Dias doing all the damage.

Only Ross Dodsworth reached double figures scoring 19, seemingly not a lot at the time but his runs would eventually prove to be decisive during the closing overs of the game.

Gary Mason was then joined in the middle by Jamie Goldstein and consolidation was the initial order of the day. The pair gradually settled started to see the ball, got used to the pace and then took the initiative. The scoreboard then started to tick over, Mason playing the shots and Goldstein happy to concentrate, stay there, and play second fiddle.

Their face saving partnership had taken the score to 104 when Mason mistimed a shot and was caught deep on the legside boundary, he had hit a priceless 44 and the 76 runs put on had set up the lower order giving them something to build on. The tail unfortunately did not wag and when Goldstein went having hit a valuable 20 the end was in sight and soon after at 127 Tadworth were all out. Terry Dias finishing with 5 for 12.

Mason and Chalkly opened the bowling for the visitors and it was not long before they made a breakthrough, at 18 the first wicket went down followed by another only one run later. South Nutfield must have now realised they had a game on their hands and when Mason, with the assistance of Will Loosemore behind the stumps, had two more back in the pavillion, at 42 for 4 the home side's confidence was visibly draining. Chalkly then dismissed the remaining opening bat Starbeck bowled leaving one outside the off stump, he had scored 24.

Waldron then took over from Chalkly(2 for 14) at the top end and he was also soon amongst the wickets, they fell steadily and at 80 for 9 South Nutfield looked a beaten side.

Father and son Tim and Luke Bellars were the last pair but try as they may Mason and Waldron could not split them. Runs came slowly but steadily the total moving on to 100 for 9, then to 110 for 9, frustration was creeping in so there had to be a bowling change and thankfully it worked, Griffiths trapping Luke Bellars leg before with only 11 runs to spare. Mason was again the key bowler returning figures of 5 for 53 supported by Ian Waldron with 2 for 27.

38 points but left very late.

JUSTIN TYME