Findon Cricket Club 2nd XI report 2014

A new league, a new challenge same captain and some of the same team just a year older and a year wiser(they said).

Team stats

Played 18 won 2 drew 0 abandoned/cancelled 1 lost lots!

A new challenge started with a home game to Three Bridges, Skippered by Mark Judges the toss was lost a theme that continued all year, and we were put in to bat, on a Findon track three bridges bowled us out for 133 with Judgey scoring 26, Nobby 34, Chappers 17 and Byerley 15 the only scores of note, in response Three Bridges made 134 – 6 but not before Judgey took 3-17 but not the best start 1st loss of the season.

2nd game away to East Grinstead again skippered by Judgey, who won the toss and elected to bat, at a lovely ground (so I’m told) and a good deck the two openers were back in the hutch fairly early, Legge 83 and Ben Jordan 107\* made it look easy and got FCC up to a great and competitive score of 249 – 5 apparently Ben’s 100 being one of the best seen at that ground, fluent, chanceless, all round brilliant shots (so Ben told me) or everyone else informed me he was a touch lucky and edged most of his runs! In response Boxy 5-82 and Spokes 2-59 made it very difficult for our hosts but East Grinstead just made it over the line, 251-9, again I was told the game could of gone either way and was one of the best of the year. 2nd Loss.

3rd Game home to Bexhill, Skipper was back to call the game off without a ball being bowled, wet wet and very wet!

4th Game away to Horsham, Skipper back and won the toss, decided to bat Ballamy 21 Smith 31 and Rob Whittington 28\* were the only ones to score more than 8 apart from extras, all out for 124 on a great deck, in response Horsham made 130-2 with some of the best batting I’ve seen and one of the funniest moments I’ve seen too, in comes Nobby to bowl, great straight drive by the youngster on to Nobbys shin before he had finished his delivery stride, Nobby went down like a sack of spuds and we all ran to his aid(fell about laughing) much to the amusement of the Horsham players and scorers.

5th Game Home to Preston Nomads, another game Skippered by Mark, who lost the toss and we were put into bat, less said about it the better, two scores of 10 and one of 14, all out for 77 I was told the opening bowler was one of the quickest and best faced by some of the senior players, Sam Mannings took 4-34 in response Preston Nomads were 80-4. The first of several heavy defeats.

6th Game away to Hastings & St Leonards Priory after a long journey the team which was weak due to injuries and unavailable players we lost the toss and were asked to bowl, this we believed to be a bad thing as the deck was good and the outfield lightning we thought we would be chasing leather all afternoon, it started that way but wickets were falling at a good rate and eventually we bowled Hastings out for 171 with the wickets going to Jack Pierce 4-42, Sam Dunkley 2-43 with his best bowling I have seen, Rob Whittington 3-34 and Alex Caughlin 1-20. A great display, in response Legge 25 and Nobby 12 helped with a good start in came Ballamy who with the help of Sam Dunkley 0 but one of the longest and best ducks I’ve seen helped Ballamy score a magnificent 111\* to win the game with 8 overs to spare, a great win with the team we put out.

7th Game Eastbourne at home, I lost the toss and we were fielding, Eastbourne were 107-2 but Boxy tore there batting apart with 6-34 helped with some great fielding and catching Eastbourne were bowled out for 161. A great start with Nobby 51 and Judgey 18 left us 123-3, Boxy 25 then fell all of sudden 126-5, however some sensible batting from Rob Whittington 10 and some great batting with lots of late cuts Higgy 26\* took us over the line to win back to back games. 30 Points back to back.

8th Game home to Brighton and Hove after losing the toss Brighton and Hove decided to bat, a slow start from Brighton and Hove but some good batting on a tricky pitch took them to 197-8 in their 53 overs although the bowling was very good to restrict them to this total, Boxy with 4-62 and Sam Dunkley 3-44, in reply Dan Bridson 35 and Sam Dunkley 30 helped FCC get near to the total but most of the batsmen on the day got a start only to fall to some poor shots, 159 all out.

9th Game Roffey away, I won the toss and decided to bowl, after Roffey posted 271-5 not the best idea, however Boxy 100, which included a great six over third man then a show only to be compared with a Pheasant puffing out his chest saying look at me, set us up to win the game but did not get enough support only Cave 15, Smith 30, Legge 22 assisted anything before we were bowled out for 195,

Halfway through the season and we were 2nd to bottom only 10 points from safety, could we turn it around?

10th Game away to Three Bridges, Judgey in charge lost the toss and put in to bat, 111 all out only Legge 18, Sam Mannings 36 and Sam Dunkley 22 scoring double figures in response class from the Three Bridges openers got them home in 19.5 overs with the loss of no wickets. No the best way to start the relegation battle but plenty more games. However last time we scored 100 for a while.

11th Game home to East Grinstead, FCC won the toss and elected to field on a wet and green track, scoring 270 for 2 Dec with some great batting, In response we were bowled out for 78 with only Nobby 10 and Smith 22 getting double figures no points poor performance.

12th Game Bexhill away led by Boxy, FCC won the toss and elected to Bat Boxy 25 and Beale 21, Spokes 14 and Pierce 17 the only players getting double figures and a poor 100 all out with a weakened team, In response Chappers 2-37 took 3 wickets Bexhill 101-3 another defeat.

13th Game home to Horsham, after Horsham won the toss FCC batted, Ben Hornby charging there opening bowler with 13 runs of success only to be bowled shortly after, Ben Jordan 12 holding on for a while and Smith 42 the only scores of note all out for 98. In reply Horsham’s class openers once again hit us all over the place and they got to 100 in 16.4 overs for the loss of no wickets. There is always next week.

14th Game Away to Preston Nomads, one of the nicest places apart from long furlong you could play cricket, Preston Nomads won the toss and elected to bat, 2 balls in we made a breakthrough but they still made 230-5 with Nobby and Judgey taking 2 wickets each, in response Judgey 38 Ben Jordan 14 and Nobby 10 got us to a total of 91 all out, another poor defeat with confidence and morale at an all-time low.

15th Game Home to Hastings, Hastings won the toss and learning from there mistake at home stuck us in, Boxy 39 and Liam Davies 13 were the only two to show resistance all out for 96, in reply Hastings 97 for 2 another defeat and another under hundred performance, we were mathematically still in with a chance of staying up but it would have been a miracle.

16th Game Away to Eastbourne, Chappers 19 the highest scorer with 8 extras next all out for 62 one to forget, it was getting harder Eastbourne 63 for 0 in 8.1 overs, back to long furlong before tea.

17th Game Away at Brighton and Hove, Another poor performance with 63 all out Chappers 19 Smith 13 and Rob Whittington 10 the only ones to score double figures, Brighton and Hove 66-0 another horrible defeat. We were officially down.

18th Game the last of a tough and long season, Home to Roffey, Winning the toss and batting I decided we need to go out with a bang, Chappers 41, Smith 19, Tin Man 14 and Spokes 17 helped us post a score of 111, before Nobby took 2-10 and Legge 1-26 helped take 3 wickets while they got to the target in 19 overs. League all over and we were going down.

That was that for the 2nd XI in the Sussex County Division 1 2nd XI, the best league we can play in as a 2ndXI, back down to the 2nd division. A really tough year for all concerned, if we would have had our best team week in week out I’m convinced we would have put up a much better fight and made a better account of ourselves, however we struggled to compete on so many occasions and also to get teams out. Never the less we won 2 games and some of the performances individually were something to build on. We had new names come in to the senior sides for the first time which again is something to build on.

A load of thank you’s must be said though, firstly to the other captains for “helping” with the selection of our teams, to Paul Judges for helping week in and week out to put sides out, to Mark my vice for his support and standing in when I was otherwise engaged, to Boxy and Legge who skippered when myself or Mark were unavailable, to Alan and Paul for umpiring the home games, to Elaine, Shelia, Debbie and Karen for the scoring, all the committee and Growler, the chairman, for your support. We all would not be able to play the game we love at this great club if it wasn’t for the support and work that the volunteers do so thank you.

I would also like to thank the players this year for sticking at it when it was so hard to get motivated and to the last minute players who came in to help the club at the last hour , you know who you are. I would also like to thank all the players who have played for me in the last 4 years, it’s been great leading the 2nd XI it was honour but it’s time for someone else to take the helm and take this great club forward. I have enjoyed every minute, apart from the moaning from some of the senior players over my decisions of selection and toss decisions!!

I would like to wish the new captain all the best and here’s to a great 2015 for everyone.

Happy new year and remember your club needs you.

Come On The Horses!