

SILLY POINT!.....Reports on...

MCC vs United CC - Under 13s (Warning X-rated content)

29 January 2011

I am sure all the parents would agree that it has been a long wait since the last game, 60 days or so, but the time had finally come and here we are..... 2011 and the start of the Under 13 season, which will also be the last season our boys will play as a team together for Milnerton Cricket Club.

If Wednesday night's practice was anything to go by, the players are going to have to fight for the places this season. Besides the squad being 17 strong, with a few new faces, it seems that most of the players have upped their game during the off-season. Jason, a medium pacer last year, somehow grew 2 feet taller, donning a size 13 shoe, was hitting the wicket hard and fast in the nets. Silly Point will have to monitor closely and might have to insist on urine samples!

It was refreshing to see the vigour and enthusiasm that the players arrived with at Tableview Primary School, ready for their first game. Some sporting new bats and Jared a sparkling new white helmet.

Some of the early parents, except Big Kevin who was directing operations, (who is going to argue with him anyway) had to remove the irrigation system that was lying in the middle of the playing field, and used this for the boundary. Ryan at this point took a dummy phone call and conveniently ended the call when the boundary "ropes" were in place.

After losing the toss United CC chose to field, which suited MCC as Mark was going to bat first anyway. Having to content with some early swing with the new ball, Mark and Chaz dusted off some of the rustiness and jittery nerves. Chaz soon got the better of the opening bowlers and looked like he was going to be in for the long haul. Unfortunately short-lived, Chaz was caught for 11. Chaz however looking good.

13 for 1, and in strolls Grant in his now familiar No. 3 spot. While Mark still struggling with the new ball, Grant plays mind games with the bowler as he spots a spectator moving in front of the sight

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screen.....behind him?? As we have become accustomed to, and now a trade mark of Grant, he lets the first 6 balls thru to the keeper. Mark in the meantime has now found his bat, and a few welcome singles will follow. When it appears that Mark has shrugged off the nervous jitters, he is given out LBW to a thick edge for 7 runs. Don't despair Mark, remember what happened to Johan Botha??

With the score on 38 for 2 after 12 overs, and Kyle next in, the boys were well on their way to reach the 4 runs per, over as set by Coach Mike. Silly Point however would like to see 5 per over! No pressure!

It took 14 balls for Kyle to get off the mark, but after that a Grant and Kyle put on a 40 run partnership that entertained the crowd, including the opposition support. Grant quoting, "If it's in my zone, I'm going to hit it hard". And boy did he do that. Fours being dispatched to long on, long off and square leg. Not to mention a huge six over mid wicket, this almost brought the 4th umpire on with replacement balls. In the meantime, Kyle not standing back to Grant, dispatches an equally huge six over the long on boundary.

Trying to improve his strike rate of 80, Grant is caught in the covers for an entertaining 36 runs. Grant has started off the recession in Dan's wallet early this season! Kyle will follow shortly attempting to drive a short ball, caught at mid off for 27 runs. A good start to the season for Grant and Kyle, well done!

Four wickets down and Khanya and Jared need to build on the 82 runs on the scoreboard. Not even tonsillitis had kept Jared away today, that's commitment, as Jared steals a single to backward point and Brian can breathe again. Rustiness also to blame, Khanya and Jared are both removed for 1 run a piece.

Keagan, showing he is a worthy batsman, displaying some great cricketing shots(where have u been Keagan?) and putting some pressure on the top order batsmen. Ethan at the other end, looked as if he had just come out of the Jacques Kallis Academy, never mind Lighties!! Playing some confident shots, including a brilliant 4, with a straight shot pass the bowler. Keagan would be bowled for 11 attempting to smash the ball over long on. I see some runs coming this season Keagan!!

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Ethan would run out of batsmen on the other end, but not after Jono hitting a four, before being caught. Ollie would be caught out for 0, attempting to maximize the last over. Ethan will remain unbeaten on 13 off only 9 balls(144 strike rate). Well done Ethan.

The boys would reach 141/9 as asked for by Coach Mike.

No opposition team has ever reached this target against our boys, so quietly confident, we once again were.

“Quietly confident” would soon change to bullish over confident from the MCC supporters, when new comer, Dylan and stalwart Khanya took the new ball. Dylan, only giving away 1 run in his first over for his new team, placing the ball on the spot each time, sending a clear message of his intent. Khanya would strike in his second over, trapping the batsmen plum LBW. A visibly nervous no.3 batsman takes his place at the crease only for Khanya to bowl him with his first ball faced, and Khanya on a hat trick. But will have to wait until his next over.

With the score on 7 for 2 after 3 overs, Dylan continues to impress with the new ball, and is rewarded in his 3rd over by bowling the remaining opening batsman for 3 runs. 10 for 3 after 5, and we might be in for an early finish. The number four and fine batsmen had other ideas as they bravely fought on.

Khanya would claim his 3rd wicket, but no hat trick, in the ninth over, with a brilliantly taken caught and bowled ending his figures on 3 for 27 after 5 overs. The Captain and Coach deciding to bowl Dylan through, would be rewarded in the next over, wherein Dylan would record a Double wicket maiden. Dylan would complete his spell with matching winning impressive figures of 3 wickets for 6 runs after 7 overs. Welcome on board Dylan!

With 31 for 6 after 10 overs, our boys would normally finish off the tail, but not today. It will take 17 overs and 30 runs and only two wickets to fall. While United was scoring at snail pace and 1.76 runs/over, some of us caught 40 winks, while others were caught in an uncompromising position. (see pic)

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It was at this point that Coach Mike thought he had to do some damage control and attend to his paternal duties. Not impressed with Bruce's style, Coach Mike sent Bruce to see out the rest of the overs as Umpire.

Jono and Ollie will take the next 3 wickets in true spin twin style, with Jono impressing once again with figures of 2 for 13 after 7 overs. Ollie, always taking a wicket 1 for 12 after 4.

Bruce's performance on the field was no better than off the field, when he gave their no. 11 (a young girl I might add) run out, when she was clearly a metre pass the crease when Jared broke the stumps!

All round a good performance from the team and some notable individual performances. MCC won by 60 runs, flattering the opponents in the end. Or should I say flattening?

Although there were some good performances from the other bowlers Silly Point has to give the bowler of the day to.....

Bowler of the Day **Dylan**

Same for the batsmen, some good performances, but...

Batsman of the Day **Grant**

Enjoy the next weekend off, work hard at practice and bring on Khayelitsha on the 12th. But remember, I'm watching you!!

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