

Game Report – SPX Green vs Harbord Spinners

Two wonderful days of sunshine saw two very entertaining days of cricket, culminating in a nail-biting finish for this round 2, 50 over game against the aptly named Harbord Spinners.

Captain Will Pavely won the toss and had no hesitation in electing to bat. Leading from the front, Will (25 runs) and opening partner Evan Ausling (31 runs) made a steady start off some accurate bowling. Joel Austin (20) continued on with the run accumulation. The makeshift clubhouse on the lower branches of a large paperbark tree saw batsman come and go at regular intervals during the middle overs.

During all of this, Manas Bansal (60 runs) was busy notching up another half century with a fantastic variety of shots to give us a very healthy total of 9-217.

Day 2 started with a quiet expectation that we should be able to defend this total. Harbord's openers had other thoughts and by the time they had their mid innings break (25th over), they were a very comfortable 0-94. With both batsmen forced to retire at this point and some tight bowling from Patrick Frost 1-8 off 6 overs, the pressure was starting to build.

Harrison Lindenmayer 2-18 off 4 overs, and Mitch McGrath 2-19 off 5 overs, started to turn the match in our favour during the middle overs. Throw into the mix some brilliant fielding, notably from Cooper Gillard and William Staber with 'classic catches' scooped up only millimeters above the grass. Even the large sea eagle nesting on the Nolan's reserve light tower took time out pursuing the local field mice to admire the intensity of the battle below.

Just as things were starting to look more comfortable, the remaining Harbord team were bundled out, which brought back both of the retired opening batsmen, and once again, the result was in the balance. A number of fours and a glorious six took their score to within reach of ours and the nerves were building on the field and around the scorers' patch. With their batsman under pressure too, some sharp fielding and a coolness under pressure produced a run out in the 49th over for our boys to claim a fantastic victory.

Through all of this, spare a thought for Harbord's opening batsman Roopmehar Dhillon stranded on 96 not out (off just 117 balls) in what was a fine display of batting.

A big thank you to the boys from both teams for two very entertaining days of cricket played in a competitive but friendly spirit.

