

U14 Div 1 “Battle of the greens” 8th September

SPX Green 7-146 def Forest Green 7-144

SPX green began the 2018-19 season with a trip to Forest High school against Forest Green for a one day 30 over match.

Forest won the toss and elected to bat, which some might have called brave on a cold wet drizzly morning.

After losing an early wicket, Forest kept the scoreboard ticking over with patient batting and decisive running to reach the half way mark of their innings at 2-62.

Even though the ball got progressively wetter, slipperier and softer, the SPX Green bowlers kept toiling away and after the break the wickets fell at regular intervals.

By the end of the 30th over, our opposition had reached a pretty impressive 7-144 on a generally slow damp outfield.

Wickets and catches were shared around by the group with Gus McConnell's 2 wickets being the best.

For the Forest team, sundries was their highest score at 42 and shows that our boys have a bit to work on in coming games.

With the innings break out of the way, slightly drier weather for players (and spectators), the chase was under way.

A patient and steady innings by opener Will Staber (14 rtno) got us off to a comfortable 2-69 at the halfway make.

Will's retirement saw the arrival of Manas Bansal. His timing of the ball right from the start gave us a sense of confidence that we might just do this.

Manas played a chanceless innings of 52 rtno, his intent to score runs was just what we needed and by the time he retired, the game was ours for the taking.

Some hard hitting by Gus McConnell (20 no) in the final few overs put aside any doubts, and saw SPX Green victorious in the 28th over.

In summary it was a good win for the boys. They have to tighten up their fielding and reduce the sundries to match it with the top sides.

But for a cold wet day suited to footy of any kind, this was a pretty impressive performance by the boys (and by the parent group who stuck it out).

5 hours of cricket in 12-13 degree temperatures (without a coffee machine in sight). Now that's commitment, bring on summer.