

From the Boundary Rope

81st EDITION

" WE HAVE CHANGED THE MEANING OF PRESSURE INTO RESPONSIBILITY!" - DHONI INDIAN CAPTAIN AHEAD OF THE WORLD CUP.

Inspirational quote received from Supersport

"A CHAMPION IS AFRAID OF LOSING.EVERYONE ELSE IS AFRAID OF WINNING"

Inspirational quote received from Andre Groenewald (Big G)

To view the clubs stats please visit our club website: www.milnertoncricketclub.co.za

Day One - 1st XI vs Bishop Lavis CC played at MCC 'A'

MIDDLE ORDER COLLAPSES AGAIN!

After falling short last week to Wynberg we all knew this next game would be massive. Bishop Lavis are only two points behind us so I'm sure they backed themselves to beat us. A few changes were made to the team but I was glad to be back in the Millies strip and lead the boys on the field again. We chatted about changing our method from batting first to having a bowl providing we win the toss. Once again tails was called and tails it was.

So our normal two openers in Bedders and Robbie went out to the middle. Plan was to see off the shine and hit straight. Bedders snicked off in the second over and Robbie did the same in the 4th. We were 2 down with not many runs on the board. Justin and Cassie steadied the ship with a good partnership until Cassie fell. Justin then reached his 50 after being very patient and waiting for the bad balls. He was caught behind for 53. Crowley and Barnes took Millies to lunch at 105 for 4 off 43 overs.

After lunch we were looking to be more attacking, but the pitch didn't help our cause. We lost our last 6 wickets for 40 runs which is just not good enough. We had the runs on the board and 145 was worth 180 on the faster outfield.

Andy and Robbie took the new ball. They both bowled well and were patient and waited for the batters to throw away their wickets. Pietie took a good catch to get Robbie his first wicket. Andy was very unlucky not to get a LBW decision and then a dropped catch didn't help either. They were batting very slowly and we knew that they would have to start playing their shots soon. Pietie got the second wicket caught by Crowley at cover. Bedders doing his thing got rid of the opener. With Lavis 3 down we knew our challenge was going to get harder. These were their two best batters and they proved that to us.

Holman was given the ball to wrap up the innings for us. After some more good fielding and patient bowling we had them all out for 131 leaving us with a 14 run lead. Holman being the best bowler with four sticks (17 – 6 – 21 – 4). After a amazing catch from Crowley (still don't know how I got to it) we went off the field with all the momentum.

With 50 minutes to bat we entered the changing room. First thing I heard was Robbie and Bedders say let's go smash it. I just left the changing room biting my nails. I know that

when Bedders and Robbie are in that mood it was only a good thing and we were going to get some entertainment. Robbie started it off with 3 fours. From the sidelines Bedders looked to be in a trance. He walked up the wicket and creamed one through the covers off his first ball. Before we knew it we had a lead of 50. Robbie was hit on the pads and given LBW. Cassie entered with about 25 minutes to play. Lavis brought on the spinners and Bedders just saw Dollar signs. He hit him for 3 sixes in a row. And the following over just another six until he hit yet another to bring up a amazing 50. He was then caught on the boundary by one of 7 boundary fielders.

Tyler our night watchman was given out in the last over of the day caught behind which he clearly didn't hit. This wrapped up an action packed day. Saturday coming will be a big day for us and we know that Lavis will be fired up. Boys we just go out and bat and see where we end up and then it's time for the bowlers to do their job. Have patience and stick to the basics and we will come out on top.

REPORT COMPILED BY DAMIAN CROWLEY

(I must reiterate the skippers words, we know how big this one is for us to get the momentum of winning back! Damo you underplayed your magnificent catch of Saturday.....fielding at Mid wicket on the ring, the batter skied it, it looked to go in Damo's direction so he set off at pace and followed the ball to just short of conventional Mid off where Pietie was unsure of procedures and with a despairing dive caught the ball inches from the ground with one hand! The laugh of this is I am not sure where Damo left Kassie who was at Mid On.....! Great stuff, to go with another catch and a great run out..... Time to put the gloves away!)

Day One – 2nd XI vs WPCC played away

MILNERTON IN COMMANDING POSITION AGAINST WPCC

After nothing less than a match fixing scandal against Tygerberg, it was imperative that we got off to a good start.

Milnerton were put into bat on what we all know is a batsmen's paradise.

unfortunately we lost Nyland early on but the rest of the batsmen never looked back & what followed was worth paying for.

Darren McKinley 76 , Bevon Van Der Poll 99 & Nicky Araandse 53 were in sublime form , stroking boundaries left right and centre with the run rate sitting at 4 an over through out the allotted 60 overs.

There seemed to be nothing in the pitch for the bowlers and i must say WPCC looked very lack lustier in the field.

Bevon was very unlucky to be run out on the last delivery of the allotted 60 as he went for a quick single to bring up a majestic 100.

Milnerton hitting 275 / 6 Dec

It wouldn't be surprising if one thought we were about to chase leather ourselves Think again.

We came out firing with a quick (fortunate) LBW that went the way of Morne.

Then it was the turn of Denvor who started to destroy their line up with some aggressive seam / swing / cutting bowling that saw WPCC in disarray.

With in no time WPCC were in huge trouble sitting on 60/8 , with the skip and Denvor wrapped things up in 24 overs WPCC were bowled out for a meagre 70.

Denvor Cloete 7 for 27 in 12 overs.

The skip called WPCC back in for round 2 with a max of 30 overs still left in the days play - WPCC still 205 runs behind.

Denvor pulled up after his early heroics and so it was decided to revert to spin with the Skip coming up with 2 wickets in his first over.

The WPCC batmen's applied them selves allot better in the second knock but were always behind the 8 ball , this type of pressure eventually paid off with a neat run out leaving them 70 odd for 3.

With half an hour to go and resources a little low it was decided to buy a wicket and the ball was thrown to none other than Craig Nyland - " Craig take an over " but he eventually bowled 7 on the trot and picked up a late evening scalp. (LBW - in swinging) Sorry boys but we have to find a new TFC !!

WPCC 93/4 at the close of play still 112 runs behind with 6 wickets in hand.

Well done boys on a great team effort. Let's kill this game off early on Saturday and bring home a big win ..!

REPORT COMPILED BY JASON MARITZ

(Brilliant stuff guys, this is what the Stag is about, but let's keep this brilliance consistent. Go and remove their skipper and the fat lady will be fine tuning her violin.....!!!!)

Day One – 3rd XI vs Claremont CC played away

THE RETURN OF THE BIG EASY

The last time we met Claremont on the field was a day that I am sure everybody in the Milnerton team would like to forget, We knew we were capable of beating that team but we threw so many of our wickets away, thus handing them a victory. They are by no means a walkover team, we just think we are a stronger team.

With this still hanging in the back of our minds, we travel to the other end of the world, only to find a junior school game still in progress. The two skippers have a chat and decide that we will play on as late as possible to get all the overs in. While the school boys were doing their thing, The Millies boys decided it was time to learn a new sport. The made friends with some of the lawn bowls players and proceeded to get a warm up in on the bowling greens. Not as easy as it looks, is it fella's?

With the school boys finally finished, the toss is taken and Marco makes it 3 wins in a row. We choose to bat on a very green pitch. More grass than the outfield.

Chris and Gareth stride out at 13h30 to face the first ball. They looked solid until Gareth was trapped in front to a ball that straightened on him. Millies 9/1 after 4. Emile out to the middle but didn't hang around long, being caught for 2 at mid off. Brett now walks out to meet Chris. They play for a few overs until Chris plays across the line to a ball that jags back. Clean bowling him. Millies in trouble at 17/3 after 9. More problems were on the cards as Gavin Smith was caught behind leaving Millies in some serious trouble at 18/4 after 10.

Enter Mr Leon Russouw (aka The big easy). Brett and Leon rotate the strike well, hitting the bad balls to the boundary and respecting the good balls. Brett loses his stick for 23 runs in the 17th over with the score on 59. Chris Gibson now joins Leon. Now let's not forget the partnership these two shared two weeks ago. They would not disappoint today.

Leon and Chris played extremely well and accelerated the scoring rate until Chris was eventually out for a very solid 43 runs. The two shared an 88 run partnership. Neither taking the back seat but both contributing equally.

Peter Hillman to join Leon but not for long as he was dismissed for 2. Millies on 155 for 6 after 36. Marco now walks in to play a skippers role. He fed Leon the strike as he should do and just watched Leon put the bad balls away. He not only put them over the ropes, out of the ground but also into someone's garden. Marco not only fed the strike but also put the bad balls away. Leon lost his wicket in the last over of the innings, but not before he knocked up another century. He was eventually out for 105 runs. A great knock as he came in when we were in some serious trouble. He steadied the ship with Brett and then Gibbo and accelerated his innings at just the right time.

Millies finish there allotted 45 overs on 232/8 . Marco not out on 24 and Bass not out on 1.

An extremely good score considering we were 18/4 after 10.

A short break is had as the time was already 16h40 when we came off. And Claremont are in to bat at 16h50.

Young Gavin Armstrong opening up again from one side, and due to Mr Zeeman being away for the weekend, Pete Hillman was given the ball. Gavin bowled well from his side and picked up his only stick in his second over, knocking back middle. Pete struggled to get his length right and unfortunately went for a few. He was taken off after bowling 5 overs. Sias came on from his side and also took some tap in his first but pulled it back nicely. Gavin off after 8 overs and Gibbo into the attack. By the 16th over, Claremont had done well to take their score to 80/1. Pressure now on Millies but Gibbo and Bass took the challenge on.

Sias removed the dangerous V/D Want for 27 and Gibbo dismissed the other danger man for 31 courtesy of two great catches by Marco and Brett. Marcos' catch was straight at him but it was hit flat and hard. Bretts catch went very high in the air but the chance was held.

There were some errors in our fielding performance but on the whole it was good. The pressure created by Bass and Gibbo strangled the runs and forced the batsmen to make something out of nothing. This caused two unnecessary run outs which in turn caused more pressure. Besides from the lawn bowls played by some on the Millies players before the game. Gibbo decided to play some soccer on the cricket field. While he was bowling , the striker hit the ball back at the non-striker and called immediately. The ball struck the non-striker and ended up lying on the pitch next to him. In the confusion as to where the ball was, he took off for the run. Gibbo then proceeded to kick the ball down the length of the pitch to Gavin Smith who whipped the bails off to send the extremely unhappy batsmen back to the shade for 5.

We bowled them out in our last over, ending the days play at 19h15.

It took us 2h20 minutes to bowl our 45 overs and it took them 3h05 minutes to bowl theirs. A bit slow but I suppose its mainly to do with Leon making them fetch so much.

Right boys, we are once again on top after day one. Lets not replicate previous second days and let them back in. Lets go out there and set a score and then field with enthusiasm, will to win and with urgency. I know you guys can do it. I heard this phrase before and it stuck in my mind “ **Past performance predicts future behaviour**” Lets disprove this!!!!.

Notables for the day.

Leon Russouw 105 runs (14 X 4's and 3 X 6's)

Chris Gibson 43 Runs (4 X 4's and 1 X 6's)

Marco Blazic 24 NOT OUT (2 X 4's); Sias Bezuidenhout 5/56.

REPORT COMPILED BY BRETT PAPAYANNI

(Great to see Big Easy with another ton, now where to from here Mr LR!!!! Guys return next week as a new day and new game and play hard and victory should be an option!!!)

3A – 4th XI vs Alma CC played at MCC 'B'

STAG WORKING HARD

Alma, traditionally, are known to be a club with hard hitting batsmen and having a lack of good bowlers, especially in the third division. Something strange must have happened over the last few years as what happened on Saturday was totally against the run of play.

Vlam won the toss and sent Almar in to bat on a decidedly sticky looking pitch. Vlam's decision was soon vindicated as Kean started his assault on the top order taking 3 quick wickets. Two of which came courtesy of some good catches – most notable being the one he took off his own bowling...they either stick or they don't. And boy, that ball was clocked!!

With Rick being out on a shoot we had to rope in Aidan as our keeper and he did not disappoint when he hung onto a regulation chance behind the stumps.

The general was not about to be outdone by his sergeant, so he proceeded to take 3 sticks of his own. Two caught behind by Aidan and one absolutely STUNNING catch in gully by Carl. Another one of those that either stick...or not.

Alma was left shell shocked on 19/6 after 9 overs with their man striker Sandmann in the hut for 0.

To Almar's credit – their never say die attitude was something to behold. It was so gutsy that those who played the game and understand anything about cricket had to take note and appreciate it.

Try as we might the Alma batsmen defended for all their worth with the odd vicious swing sending a ball to the boundary. Persistence saw us take the last 4 wickets in 25 overs with only 56 runs being added to their total. The introduction of Sean Wessels as the off spinner seemed to do the trick as their desire to score some quick runs got the better of them and Almar was all out for 75 in 34 overs And Sean picking up 3 very cheap wickets in the process. Mention must be made of Slim and Brent – both bowling really well in the middle overs without reward and Pooven getting a stick for some persistent bowling – even in the face of deteriorating bowling figures when he needed to bowl to a plan for his skipper.

We knew a total close to 100 would have been tough to chase as the track was very conducive to seam bowling with lateral movement galore! We did not expect to run the total down easily, and on the back of terrific bowling from the four top pacemen in the Alma side our feeling was correct. Runs were tough to get and wickets kept on falling.

First to go was Gert B when he got out for little.

Aiden joined Sean and for a while they looked solid-ish, especially Aiden with a couple of crunching cuts straight to point and gully off Sandman's deliveries. He had to go for 6 though - caught.

Byron was then sent in so we could see what he is capable of, but threw his wicket away for 0 after 3 balls – going on the hook to a ball that got big on him. Sean followed soon after and that brought Vlam to crease.

For a long period of time Vlam and Jason prodded and poked at deliveries that just did not want to find the middle of the bat. In an effort to relieve the pressure built up from a slow scoring rate Vlam whacked two quick fours before being caught at point going for the uppercut. The moment of the innings (decidedly embarrassingly so) came when Vlam poked the bowler over his head for what was a definite 4. A casual stroll to the middle of the pitch, a glove punch with Jason and a congratulatory word later they turned to get

back to their respective creases...only for the fielder getting to long off and reminding everyone that the ball never crossed the rope. But only after directing the throw and it being too late to jog a quick one. A laughing fit ensued. And no-one laughed harder than Vlam...even though he tried really hard not to grow redder than he was already burnt!

Vlam's departure saw Carl come to crease, but he also did not last very long – out LBW.

In the end it was left to Slim and Brent (when Jason got bowled for 19 off 57 balls) to score the winning runs. Millies 78/7 in 34 overs.

This was a tough one and one we could easily have lost. Their bowling was by far some of the quickest and best we have seen this season and it was due to some extraordinary fielding and bowling that we managed to contain their batsmen to the extent that we did. In the end the cliché becomes an apt assessment of the game...catches win matches; drop them at your peril!

Performers:

J De Vries – 19 (57) – 1 x 6; G James – 3/12 in 8 overs

K Hayes 3/13 in 6 overs; S Wessels 3/6 in 4 overs

REPORT COMPILED BY GERT JAMES

3D - MCC 5th XI vs Cape Town CC played away

HALKETT AND COOK SINK FIGHTING FIFTHS

The trip out to Bergvliet to face Lindsay “Jigga” Halkett's CTCC side was always going to be an enjoyable one. Things went to plan with Skipper Mike winning the toss and choosing to bat first.

Vernon van der Berg and Jan Odendaal (sporting a much improved haircut) got proceeding started before Jan went out playing on to his stumps. George “Jacuzzi” Kamfer joined Uncle Vern at the crease. The pair batted sensibly and took drinks with their wickets still intact. Trying to up the tempo Vernon went for 30. Great knock which included a 64 run partnership with George. Wray was unlucky as he holed the short ball down the throat of point. George then lost his wicket adjudged LBW for a well played 33 and Skipper Mike was caught unawares that he was next in as he was diligently trying to complete the scorebook. Another LBW saw the skip back in the hut with his only query whether it was against the rules to be given out by an umpire wearing a pink cap. Wayne Beukes joined Lee Ross at the crease and got Lee running a couple of 2's before Lee was out for a decent knock of 19. The tail nearly wagged with Jacques “Vrystaat” Wessels hitting a great cover drive for 4 before Hansie got to him the next ball and he was clean bowled. Big G was out stumped off the last ball of the over and the Fifths posted a modest total of 122.

Early wickets would be key in trying to defend this total. Opening bowlers Rory Keane and Derek Osner responded by sending the dangerous openers back with only 26 on the board in the first 10 overs. This brought Messer's Hallkett and Cook to the crease. Genuine cricket shots were played and only two quarter chances given, until only 2 runs were required for victory, and they gave 3 catches that were all not taken. The pair amassed a 100 run partnership to see their side home by 2 wickets in 28 overs. As always this was one of the most enjoyable fixtures of the season regardless of the result.

REPORT COMPILED BY MIKE REYNDERS

3D – 6TH XI vs Atlantis CC played away

It is possible.....you can bowl a team out 3 times!!

We arrived at Atlantis on Sunday morning. Pitch was 'iffy' so we won the toss and elected to bat first. The pitch was terrible and all the batsman struggled on the pitch. It looked like 70 runs would be a defendable score. Millies struggled along and at the end of the 20th over we were 39/4. Not looking great! Rob Lucas really working hard to keep the scoring going. When Shiraz Khatid came to the wicket with Rob and supported Rob well who got through to his 50 in the 34th over, very hard fought. Millies ended up on 128/9 after our allotted 40 overs. Rob Lucas with one of the best innings I have ever seen ending with 78 (98) not out.

Millies very positive took to the field very confident that with tight bowling and fielding we could get through this line up easily. Atlantis did not make it easy with the worst umpiring I have ever seen!! After a bit a bickering team pulled together and fought hard to get a victory. Some great tight bowling from the boys saw Millies topple over a 'un-cricketing Atlantis' side for 80 runs all out, well technically all out 3 times.

A special mention for Rob Lucas with 78 runs and also muscling out a 5 wicket haul. Well done to the whole team!!

REPORT COMPILED BY CHRIS COETZEE

(Well done guys and special mention to Rob, good stuff! Cheating on a Sunday..... say no more!!!!!!)

3C – MCC Toshiba Tigers vs Blue Bells 'B'played away

THE MAGIC OF CRAX AND MERVE

Paul "Merve" Hughes won the toss end elected to bat...

An opening partnership of 45 between Shane "ADD" Muller and Merve. Shane was looking extremely good before trying to pull a "short" ball, or maybe because of his height?, missed the ball completely and was bowled for a well played 22. Merve was next to follow with a tidy 31.

Pinch hitter Gareth Roos scored a quick 14 before being caught for 14.

Brett "Crax" McCracken and Ed the Leb then put on a steady 83 run partnership before THE LEB was bowled on 50 for the 2nd game in a row. Hope this isn't becoming a habit!!!!

Regular wickets then fell around Crax- Jason Gordon-10, Tony the Tiger-21 and Bryn-10, Husky Harry 1*.

Tony the Tiger and Crax put on a 39 run partnership, Tony scoring a quick 21-1x6, 2x4's, before being bowled. Well batted Tony, I know think that our beloved chairman can take some batting lessons from you...

The legend I like to call Crax scored an unbeaten 73* to take the Tigers to 245/7.

I'd rather not comment much on our bowling...

Merve bowled an amazing 5-27 from his 8 Overs with the only backing from Crax with a Tigers best of 3-52 from 7.

The injured Charl "The Hoff" Crafford went for 1-25 from 7.

Blue bells scoring 236/9 from 40 overs.

Tigers win by 9 runs.....

REPORT COMPILED BY SHAUN HARRIS

(A close one guys, keep working hard the league is not won yet!!!!!!!)

Until next

week.....

From the Boundary Rope was edited by Coach Craig

Thanks for the respective input from the roaming reporters / skippers.