

Blackmore Vale Cup – 27 May 2010

East Dorset Final – Bournemouth v Parley

On a bright but coolish evening at Chapel Gate, Bournemouth won the toss and put Parley in to bat. They made a solid start, scoring 51 runs from the first 10 overs before losing their first wicket, Nick taking a catch off of Andrew's bowling to remove Dom Clutterbuck for 14. Further wickets then fell at regular intervals over the next few overs. Harry ran out Will Hendy for 5, Andrew bowled George Wilson for 4 and ran out Max Scobie for 0, Henry ran out Alex Burton also for 0, and finally Connor bowled Elliot Dawson for just 6. In the meantime, Oli Dowding retired n/o 27, putting Parley on 81-6 after 16 overs.

At this stage Bournemouth looked fairly comfortably in control and likely to wrap up the innings early. However, James Williams (27*) and Oli Pryce (10*) saw out the remaining overs to post a reasonable **Parley** total of **112-6**.

With our batting capability I always felt we could chase this down, and we made a good start, putting on 36 in the first 7 overs before we lost Harry for 11. Unfortunately, within a few balls we also lost Andrew (18), Luke (0) and Nick (4), taking us to just 50-4 with half the innings gone. At this stage we were looking in trouble and things got worse when Stanley was caught for 10. Paul and Joe steadied the ship, with Paul providing some of his best batting of the season before he was bowled for 22. Liam joined Joe to hit a sparkling 18, pulling us back into the game, taking Bournemouth to 110-7 with 7 balls remaining and just 3 runs required. Should be a formality.

I don't think!!! A dot from the final ball of the 19th over left us with still 3 from the last. First ball was a single and the second was a dot. Then calamity struck as first Connor and then Henry were both bowled for 0 in consecutive balls, leaving us with 2 still to get and our last man, Jack Underwood, at the crease.

2 balls left. The first flew by both Jack and the keeper and to an anguished cry of "**RUN**" from the Bournemouth crowd, the boys ran a single. Scores were level, but as Parley had lost fewer wickets they still had the match in their hand. We had to get another run from the last ball. Joe was facing and tried to get his bat on it but it just brushed his pad and again evaded the keeper. It didn't go far, but the boys took their chance and just managed to scramble a last leg bye. **Bournemouth** finish on **113-9**, and **win by 1 wicket**.

Well done boys. Joe finished with an unbeaten and valuable 7, and Jack with a vital 0 N/O. Doesn't do a lot for my heart though! Please don't make the next match this tense. Thanks also to the excellent crowd support.