

Bournemouth Dragons v Broadstone
Under 9 Hardball

Another sunny day at Chapel Gate and another close match.

But why can't we have a change of luck and turn the close matches into close victories instead of losses ??

The day started well with Joshua winning the toss and putting Broadstone into bat. Things got even better when Broadstone declared they only had 7 players so on walking out to umpire my confidence was high.

The Broadstone opening pair were good and batted with confidence, but we also bowled very well. Monty took a wicket and was closely followed by William taking a wicket and despite two boundaries I thought Bournemouth did very well keeping them to 215 from the first 4 overs.

The second pair coming in for Broadstone really accelerated the pace. They played very good cricket not losing any wickets, and played some great shots hitting a boundary every over. Our bowling was lax, giving too many wides and this was combined with some poor fielding. A lack of backing up, not chasing down balls and generally not focussing on the game meant that at the halfway stage Broadstone were up to 248 and looking good for a good score.

With the third pair coming in, Bournemouth regained their focus and three wickets certainly helped, but by 12 overs gone Broadstone were 255.

With the last pair coming in to bat, and knowing the Broadstone best batsman (Freddy) was coming out again it needed a big effort from the bowlers. Three wickets were taken in the last 4 overs and some improved fielding certainly helped to restrict Broadstone to 258.

Broadstone were pleased with their batting performance, and 258 was always going to be a competitive score. I felt that this was about 25 runs more than they deserved, and some poor bowling in patches and some poor fielding certainly made things easier for them. The fielding in particular is something we need to improve on if we are to be competitive in this League. It is not just a case of backing up in the field, but also paying attention at all times to the play, chasing hard to cut down on singles and above all else supporting each other as a team.

The bowling performances were:-

	Overs	Wickets	Runs
Josh	3	2	23
Charlie	3	1	10
Monty	2	1	12
William	3	1	18
Alex	2	1	20
Owen	1	0	14
Jared	2	2	9

Congratulations to Charlie and Jared on a great performance with the ball against some great Broadstone batting.

However despite areas of improvement I still felt we had enough batting to chase down 258 with some ease.

Dominic and Owen opened the batting and faced some great Broadstone bowling. A single from the first ball and some good calling was a good omen, but the second over saw 2 wickets fall and with no runs scored put Bournemouth onto the back foot. With only 3 runs scored from the next two overs it stood at 193 after the first pair, and some rebuilding to be done.

Charlie and Alex came in at second pair and started really well. Charlie cracked a great boundary and followed this up with a single, but with 7 runs coming from the remaining 3 overs and a wicket lost it meant that at the halfway stage we were 206 still needing 52 to win.

Monty and William came in at third pair and although losing 2 wickets did start to attack the bowling hitting 3 boundaries and moved the score onto 220 by the end of the 12th over. William seemed to relish the bowling cracking 2 great boundaries and had the field going back to the boundary.

Josh and Jared came in at the final pair with Bournemouth needing 38 for victory. Runs were coming but at a slow pace, but the 15th over saw two boundaries and 15 runs scored. That left 15 runs to win off the final over. A hard job but one I felt Josh and Jared were capable of. Broadstone brought their best bowler Gabriel back into the attack and that proved crucial. Only four runs came from the final over, but losing two wickets meant the game was beyond Bournemouth, and we finished on 236, 23 runs from victory.

The bowling was good from Broadstone but again basic errors cost us the game. There are areas to improve on and in getting these areas right we will win more games than lose.

We do not need to hit every ball to the boundary. If we looked to score a run a ball from singles and putting pressure on the fielders we will generate more runs and perform better.

If we hit the ball to the fielder then do not run. Put the field under pressure but do not take stupid runs. We lost two wickets with run outs that would have saved 12 runs.

We need to call properly and be committed in the running. Three times the right call was made, but the other batsman refused to run. And in general I counted 17 singles that we could have made but instead looked at the ball and did not put the fielder under pressure.

In total this would have gained us 29 runs and this would have won us the match.

Batting Performance

	Balls Faced	Runs
Dominic	11	3
Owen	13	2
Charlie	18	7
Alex	6	2
Monty	12	5
William	12	10
Joshua	10	3
Jared	16	9

Special mention must be made of Charlie who on his debut performed superbly well. He bowled with great accuracy and batted extremely well. His mother tells me his also keeps wicket, so he may show us those talents in future games. Also mention to William who batted and bowled with great skill and when it mattered and finally to Jared who pushed hard at the end in the hope of winning the game and bowled with great accuracy and tightness.

Overall the team did perform very well at parts against a strong Broadstone team and it is frustrating that a lot of the hard work and effort the boys put into the match does not result in a victory. We have the capability of becoming an excellent side, and it will happen sooner rather than later. As a team we need to cut out the errors that are costing us games and I am sure that against Christchurch we will perform well and hopefully kick start our season.

I wish the team well next weekend, and will look forward to a victory.