

# 19/05/2024 Appleton

Venue: Away Format: Limited Overs

**Result: Won**

by 22 runs

<u>Batsmen</u>	<u>How Out</u>	<u>Sixes</u>	<u>Total</u>
1 O. Walter	Caught	0	34
2 M. Abi	Bowled	0	4
3 M. Naqvi	Retired Hurt	0	15
4 A. Beavan	Run Out	0	36
5 J. Duckitt	Not Out	2	69
6 J. Ponsford	Not Out	1	52
7 R. Stephenson		0	0
8 R. Kella		0	0
9 N.H.R. Wyatt		0	0
10 W. Wyatt		0	0
11 R. Blatchford		0	0
	<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>210</b>
	Byes		1
	Leg Byes		2
	Wides		14
	No Balls		2
	<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>229</b>

for 3 wickets

<u>Bowler</u>	<u>Overs</u>	<u>Mdns</u>	<u>Runs</u>	<u>Wkts</u>	<u>Av.</u>	<u>Econ.</u>	<u>S.R.</u>
1 J. Ponsford	8	1	28	1	28.00	3.50	48.00
2 N.H.R. Wyatt	8	0	29	0	0.00	3.63	0.00
3 R. Kella	5	0	28	0	0.00	5.60	0.00
4 W. Wyatt	4	0	42	0	0.00	10.50	0.00
5 R. Blatchford	8	0	33	2	16.50	4.13	24.00
6 R. Stephenson	5	0	31	2	15.50	6.20	15.00
7 J. Duckitt	2	0	12	0	0.00	6.00	0.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>203</b>				
	Byes		3				
	Leg Byes		1				
	<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>207</b>				

for 6 wickets

<u>Fielder</u>	<u>Catches</u>
M. Abi	1
R. Blatchford	1
R. Stephenson	1

<u>Fielder</u>	<u>Run Outs</u>
M. Abi	1

The Oxford Mail Twitter feed has been lively this week. Oxford United winning promotion was clearly a big story. Independent candidates winning City council seats another. And Isis winning at Appleton the next most significant. Are all of these events Pyrrhic victories? The U's will be in with some bigger boys, the Independents will eventually realise the City Council doesn't run traffic, and Isis will be without one of their main men for the foreseeable. Victories tinged with regret. Fallow time on their hands for all the main players.

In the first Friendly Cup game of the season Isis lost the toss and were asked to bat. It was scorchio. Appleton had turned up mob handed with a team full of talent and we had done likewise. The early overs were a nice challenge for our top order. A proper pitch and proper bowling led to a proper arm wrestle. M Abi lost a stump early on, O Walter and M Naqvi dug in. Then disaster struck. Mo went to ground whilst running a single and it was immediately clear he would have to retire. We wish Mo the best and hope to see him for the second half of the season. A Beavan came in with the score at 61 for 1 after 20 overs. Alex and Ollie were trying to build a competitive score. What's the magic number? 150 was mentioned, 160? 180 if the fifth bowler is not from the upper levels of the Cherwell League? We built. Walter was eventually out for 34, Bevan for 36. Solid foundations, good practice, sensible stuff. 136 after 30 of the 40 overs.

At this point I have to veer away from the high journalistic standards, precise style guidelines, and unbiased editorials from The Oxford Mail. My reference points have to come from a different source. BIFF Ponsford possessed. CRASH Duckitt does it again (and again, and again). SPLAT Isis have a hard hitting middle order. KERPOW read it and weep. BOOM The soft underbelly has been on an outward bounds course. THUNK Duckitt 69\*, Ponsford 52\*, Isis a mighty 239 off their 40 overs. BONK. Roy of the Rovers turned up in rural Oxfordshire.

The problem with a painting screaming crash, bang, wallop is that others also have paint brushes. One doesn't have a unique item. They can paint what they want. Artistic License. More bloody good cricketers. Ponsford and Wyatt (senior) opened the bowling, Kella had a

twirl, Wyatt (junior) was called into action. Although notionally controlling the run rate no wickets fell. They batted well, we bowled somewhere between well and well done. Eventually a wicket went, 68 for 1 in the seventeenth. Opener Lively (85) was batting really nicely and we knew the big men were on their way. And they knew their comic art. BIFF. OK I'll not do all that again. But you catch my drift. One big man was run out by a cracking Abi turn and throw. You don't expect a wicket keeper to do that. Another big man, more thunder and lightning. Balls everywhere, bowlers rotating, a little crazy, impossible to keep a lid on.

To have a lid you need a box. So that's what we got. All the bowlers had a go, Ponsford and Wyatt came back early to finish their overs but the game was slipping away. Finally a wicket fell in the 30th over, Ponsford's last. A good catch by Blatchford at gully. 90 off ten overs felt possible, maybe probable with the field spread around Oxfordshire. But the box held. Blatchford came back to finish his overs at one end and on reflection his 2 for 33 probably won the game. The skipper did something at the other end and eventually Appleton closed around 20 short.

It's a long report. It was a long day. A lot happened. Thanks to our hosts for their hospitality and a challenging test. We were able to tickle them under the armpit at perfect times, otherwise it could have got ugly. In an arm wrestle always go for the armpit tickle manoeuvre.

Rich Stephenson