

2s lose opening game vs Kirkbrae 2s

Written by Spin King aka Skipper Anwar

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The season opener for the 2s saw them up against Kirkbrae 2s, on a cold windy, bright at times day up at 'Rigg.

Kirkbrae's skipper called heads and it fell tails, and skipper Anwar had no hesitation in inviting Kirkbrae to make first use of a green looking pitch, which was a bit soft and likely to play slow (which it did) but still definitely playable.

Skipper Anwar opened the bowling with Jack Jarvis and Hamad Ahmed, and it was Jack that struck first bowling a great ball that swung away but caught the edge of the openers edge as he tried to drive it and it was easily snaffled by Shazad at slip. Hamad got the second, Skipper Anwar taking a good catch at mid off as the opener tried to drive forcefully but uppishly to a good ball, and Kirkbrae were 2 down for 20 off 6 overs. Connor Clark and Neil Jarvis came on first change and Kirkbrae continued to struggle to get the ball away as both bowled tight. Connor finally made the next breakthrough, the batsman looking to glance one down leg side but he was tucked up by some good bowling from Connor and ended playing on, the score having moved on to 47 for 3 after 17. The skipper bought on the leg spin of Shrey at one end and himself at the other end and Shrey in particular bowled well and was unlucky with the ball fining the edge from mishits but dropping agonizingly in between fielders. Kirkbrae were started to assert themselves finding the boundary more often now. Skipper Anwar got the next wicket a good catch at mid-wicket by Neil Jarvis at the batsman mishit one, the score having moved on to 73 for 4 off 23 overs. Kirkbrae really took the game to the 2s now and the next partnership would ultimately be the match winning one. Hamad had come back on to replace the Skipper and he made the next breakthrough bowling their number six, but by this stage the score had moved on to 137 for 5 in the 35 over. But Kirkbrae kept going for it. Connor came on and got the next wicket with Anil Kurra with an early contender for juggle of the season taking a catch eventually right on the boundary, the score 147 for 6 off 37. And that was it for wickets though the skipper did drop a dolly coming out of the sun off Neil's bowling. Kirkbrae plundered a further 25 runs off the last 3 overs to finish on 172-6, with excellent bowling from Connor 2-23 from his 8, and Hamad 2-27 from his 8, Neil unlucky not to finish with any wickets but still bowled tight 22 off his 8 overs. A tough score in the end, particularly given the scores at the midway point, but some good batting from Kirkbrae combined with some unlucky bowling, and some sloppy fielding (and a quickening outfield) had given Kirkbrae a great score in the end. The 2s had a strong batting line up this week (the skipper was down at 8) so while a challenging target it was always within our ability to get.

Unfortunately our reply started disastrously losing two early wickets in the second over as first Neil holed out to deep midwicket having hit a great 4 in the same place the previous ball, and then Hamad was bowled around his stumps last ball of the over and the 2s were reeling at 7 for

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2 after 2. Shazad and Anil set about rebuilding the innings in the face of some tight bowling, but Shazad was out in the 8th over bowled by the first change bowler and the score had moved to 15 for 3 after 8 overs, Jack Jarvis came in at number 5 and with Anil at the other end the two did stabilize the ship – Jack and Anil both batting really well in difficult conditions. Anil was the next out to the spin of their captain but the score had moved on to 50 for 4 after 23 overs. Shrey came in and picked up where Anil had left off and with Jack suddenly there as some urgency in the running, and the number of quick singles started to inch up. Jack was eventually out with the score on 81 for 5 off after 30 overs. With 91 needed off the last ten overs there was still hope. Connor was in next but never really got going and he was out next LBW for 7 with the score on 99 for 6 off 33. Skipper Anwar was in next and having got a reprieve first ball he and Shrey set out putting some runs on the board. Shrey was batting really well and timing it excellently but boundaries were hard to come by as Kirkbrae pushed everyone deep. Skipper Anwar hit one lusty 6 deep over square leg, but he was out next clean bowled trying one too many big shot, the score having moved on to 126 for 7 in the 37th over. Mark Gray came in next and with Shrey saw off the last overs – the target being too much to chase in the end with some effective bowling by Kirkbrae, the 2s finishing on 143 for 7 off their 40 overs.

Not a great day at the office for the team, but some real positives for the way Shrey batted, top-scoring with 37 not out, Jack Jarvis scoring an excellent 27 (including 2 fours) and Anil with 19.

Up next Teuchters away at Leith Links – with the 2s hoping to build on some good individual performances this week.