**Match Report:**

Round 4

Revesby Workers CC

1 Day match at Marco Reserve

**Lost by 22 runs**

It’s best to get these performances out of the way early. And to have them against one of the sides lower in the competition.

The feeling during the week was that given the recent performance of the top order as a collective, the middle and lower order need time in the middle too. To that end, if we were to win the toss, we would bat first.

Some things don’t change though, and another toss was lost. And would you believe our opposition opted to bat.

This time Atif would partner Ethan with the new ball, and Ethan’s superstition meant Atif would take the first over. And with a maiden first over, he removed one opener in his second with a catch to Carl at Point. Third over he removed their Captain’s middle stump. Sheer pace again. Not to be out-done, Ethan got in on the act with the first ball of his third over drawing a decision from our Official Umpire with an LBW shout. And then 3 balls later taking an excellent caught-and-bowled. All of a sudden Revesby were 4 for 15.

The middle order fought back as Ethan was replaced by Sajid at the southern end, and Carl took over from Atif from the northern – striking in his second over, cleaning up their number 6. As usual, Sajid’s four overs troubled the batsmen, but the Captain threw the ball to Aiden, trying to look for further wickets. And the move paid dividends in his second over with a confident shout from Riz behind the stumps for an LBW decision. James toiled at the northern end replacing Carl after 5 overs of typical inswing. And Neil chimed in with 3 overs for 24 with a catch at point by Aiden removing their left handed danger-man.

Carl’s second spells can go either way, and this time it was positive. Needing to up the over rate or bowl them out, Carl’s sixth and seventh overs produced a wicket each. Bowling the former, and a catch to Ethan riding the boundary at deep mid-wicket removing the latter. One more wicket in the last over or we are 3 overs short.

Neil tossed the ball to Atif and he duly obliged, with Asif taking a straight forward catch at mid-off – two balls after Nico dropped the same batsman off a tough sliding chance at mid-on. Revesby all out for 152. We let them off the hook a bit, but a very ‘gettable’ target.

Nico and Riz got off to a solid start putting on 27 from 7 overs, but the expected partnership ended next over with Nico edging behind. 1 for 31. Asif resumed his Number 3 role and joined Riz looking to push the score along. But Riz drove to cover and their man took a sharp chance down low. Neil went in at 4 and tried to consolidate with Asif to the break, but Asif allowed the ‘chat’ to get to him and skied one to short square-leg. This brought Jamshed to the crease, and he and Neil navigated their way to drinks.

After the break, it was decided to push the score along a bit more, and that immediately failed with Neil holing out to a straight-ish mid-on. From there, it didn’t get much better.

Atif joined Jamshed who was out 10 runs later to a caught-and-bowled, and only 7 runs were added before Atif joined the top order back in the sheds after being bowled by their quick man.

Wasim joined Carl, who, 6 runs later got caught. That brought Sajid to the middle, and the pair set about a rescue mission. Some big hitting, including a 6 over mid-wicket from Sajid, and some improvised lap and ramp shots from Wasim put together and entertaining and hope inspiring partnership of 22 until a mix-up between the wickets saw Sajid run-out. Ethan then proved to himself that he can actually bat a bit, adding a further 18 with Wasim, before he edged one behind.

Last man in Aiden at 11 joined Wasim but 6 runs later saw the end of our chase when an enterprising innings of 19 from Wasim came to an end. Aiden not out on 2, and we had fallen 22 runs short.

A disappointing result, but hopefully just a blip. We go again next week and hope to put things right.