

Match Report:

Round 2

Summer Hill Seniors CC

2 Day match at Beaman Park #2

Won by 6 wickets

Another toss lost but we still did what the Skipper would have. Heat notwithstanding, we bowled first with two of our youngsters spearheading the attack. Yet again luck evaded Ethan early with a sharp chance put down in Gully. Meanwhile at the other end, a returning Carl had the ball swinging straight away and caught an inside edge off one of their openers with the last ball of his opening over. Neil snaring a tricky chance behind. Their batsmen steadied and put together a small partnership before Carl struck again in his fifth over. A leg-side edge this time with Neil making good ground. Ethan took matters into his own hands in his final over with a caught-and-bowled first delivery. 'Seniors now 3 for 37.

Sajid replaced Ethan and toiled early before his third over produced a questionable LBW decision from our official umpire. But you take these when they come because you just know somewhere in the long season – sooner or later, you're going to be on the wrong end of one too. Atif's pace yet again troubled both batsmen with a nine over spell that witnessed multiple play-and-misses, but neither batsmen were good enough to nick one to any of the 3 slips waiting.

Ross took some punishment in his two overs; but nothing compared to what was to come later. Aiden replaced dad and grabbed a wicket in his first over with James holding onto an edge that eluded Riz behind the stumps – giving Neil a break from the gloves. That was short-lived though, Riz sustaining a heavy collision running out a batsman with a throw from Atif from a deepish Point.

James chimed in with 5 tidy overs and had Atif taking a comfortable catch at a squarish Mid-Wicket. Sanjeev was miserly with his 3 overs costing only 4 runs. Aiden got rid of their number 3 just short of his half-century with Sanjeev plucking a skied square drive. Sajid's second spell ended when he coaxed another LBW decision from the Ump. Carl then returned to the attack for a second spell with Sanjeev catching an edge at second slip to close their innings on 157.

Protecting Riz for next week, Neil joined Nico at the crease to negotiate what could have been a tricky 15 minutes. But the pair handled it well and knocked 14 runs off next week's chase.

Summer Hill Seniors started day 2 with only 7 players and our returning openers looked to take advantage. Unfortunately, Nico mistimed a pull-shot and gifted their Mid-wicket fielder an easy catch. Riz joined Neil and the pair set about building a partnership. Patience and aggression mixed as they took advantage of the gaps in the field and the varied bowling attack. 1's, 2's, and 4's flowed as they brought up the team 100 in positive fashion. Shortly after though, Neil picked out the Backward-point fielder with a cut shot destined for the boundary - missing out on a 50 by only 2 runs.

Asif joined the fray and set about supporting a flying Riz, but, having scored only one run, he copped one of those dubious LBW decisions mentioned earlier. That's why you take them when you get them! Aon's maiden Rangers' innings saw him plunder a quick 15 while Riz continued past his maiden Rangers' 50. Aon's stumps were rattled bringing Sanjeev to the crease. Looking to give Riz as much strike as possible, we passed the required total while Riz set about a century. Given a little time by the skipper, Riz got there in smart fashion plundering 8 boundaries in few overs to become only the second Rangers CC centurion.

Seeking a bonus point or two, Neil declared on 197. Ethan and Atif took the new ball and took up the task. With little interest from the opposition, though, those wickets proved hard to come by. Ethan struck in his 5th over skittling one of their openers, but that was as much success as we found. An over each from Sajid and Jamshed brought the innings to 5.00pm and 'Stumps' was called.

Many positives from this one. Contributions from all the bowlers including 3 wickets for Carl and 2 for Aiden. Some tight bowling all round. We probably chased 20 or 30 runs more than we needed to. Tightening up the fielding will fix that!

A solid partnership between Neil and Riz. 48 from the Captain. 104 from Riz. Some good batting partnerships will hold us in good stead and allow us to put together some good innings during the season.

But the big negative is the loss of Ross for the foreseeable future. Chasing a ball to the boundary on Day 1, he fell while trying to roll the ball back from the rope, popping his right shoulder. A diagnosed AC Joint dislocation will keep him sidelined for the best part of 2 months. Ross will be missed, not just with bat or ball in hand, but his presence on the field. I'm sure I speak for everyone in wishing him a speedy recovery.