**Match Report:**

Round 1

Saturday Sept 21, 2024

vs Revesby Workers CC

1 Day match at Smith Park

**Lost by 7 runs**

Rangers won the toss and elected to bowl first. Carl and Ethan took the new ball and Carl had it swinging straight away. Between them restricting their openers to 36 runs of the first 9 overs. Ethan beat the edge several times and was unlucky not to snare one. His final over took a little punishment and so was replaced by Atif at the far end. Carl finished his 5 overs with figures of 1 for 15 after newcomer Ankit marked his debut with an overhead catch at backward square-leg.

Michael struck in his first over replacing Ethan, Nico catching a lofted drive at cover; and we went to drinks with Revesby 2 for 64.

Atif struggled to find the pace he is capable of and went for 17 off 4 before Aiden came on to try to lift the over rate. Riz did the same at the other end and both spinners toiled without luck. Sharing only 4 overs between them our opposition took them for a combined 39. Overs from Sajid and Jamil brought the innings to a premature end 5 overs short of the allocated 30 - a result of the opposition starting slowly, and a lost ball in the school earlier in the innings.

Neil and Nico opened for Rangers and put on an impressive 45 for the first wicket. Some nice pull shots from Nico, and Neil’s standard cut shots - three in a row - found the boundary thanks to a fast outfield. After seeing off both opening bowlers Nico tried to take on the first change, and another full blooded pull found square-leg - departing for a well made 26. Riz came out to join Neil and immediately went after the same bowler. Neil tried to keep pace and chased a wide one lofting to cover on 17. Aiden came in a 4 and helped Riz to drinks with Rangers in good shape at 2 for 79.

Shortly after, Aiden edged one behind on 8 so an elevated Atif joined Riz tasked with lifting the run rate and finding the boundary. But he struggled with timing, departing for 8. Jamil seemed nervous early while Riz tried to push on. But he gloved one to a shortish point for a well made 34. This brought Ankit to the crease and he and Jamil tried to lift the run rate darting between the wickets for some quick ones and twos. But the risk brought Ankit undone - run out for 19. Carl came and went the same way; failing to trouble the scorers. Sajid was caught for 2 bringing Ross to join Jamil and the quick runs resumed. But 11 runs later we ran out of overs 8 runs short of our target.

Not a terrible performance by any means, but our fielding needs to improve, as does our over rate. Our new middle order will also need time to gel. But this will do our confidence some good going to the wire with one of the stronger teams of the division.