**Match Report:**

Round 1

Summer Hill CC

1 Day match at Croydon Park

**Won by 5 wickets**

They say catches win matches. And I agree with that to a point. While I’ve always figured that scoring more runs than your opponent wins matches, I can’t go past this; The catches you take are far more important than the ones you don’t. And if you drop a catch and drop your head, you’ll never see the next one coming. Dropping 7 and taking 4 certainly made it harder for ourselves. But if we drop those 4 as well, we don’t win that match.

Ethan took the first over and bowled exceptionally well without luck – with 4 dropped catches he finished his spell of 6 overs with figures of 0/20. A debuting Atif opened from the other end with searing pace. A spell of 4 overs garnered 0/22. Sean replaced Atif at the far end and struck in his first over, hitting the top of middle to break a 47 run opening partnership. Sajid replaced Ethan at the near end and marked his first Rangers over with a maiden. Sean’s second over provided the second wicket with Atif taking a catch at cover.

Sajid took his first Rangers wicket in his third over with Ethan taking a catch at deep mid-wicket, having just been moved to that position.

Overs from Ali, Aiden and Ross, occupied the batsmen and maintained scoreboard pressure forcing the middle order to start to hit out towards the end of their innings; allowing Atif to take his first wickets as well. With Sean returning from the far end, Wasim took a catch in what would turn out to be his final over to give him figures of 3/29.

Next over Atif had their top scorer caught by Sean and a successful LBW shout the very next ball had Atif on a hat-trick. The incoming batsman negotiated that before their innings drew to a close. Atif finishing with 2/32 off his allotted 6 overs. Summer Hill had managed 144 from 29 overs.

Sean and an under-the-weather (and debuting) Riz opened the batting. From an opening 10 ball over Riz hammered 34 to get our innings off to a blistering start, and their bowler wasn’t trusted again. Sean followed suit and the pair put on an opening stand of 71 in 7 overs before Riz advanced to a turning delivery – their keeper with a sharp stumping. Yet another debutant in Asif joined Sean but didn’t last long falling victim to the same bowler. Sajid was in next and put on a small partnership before Sean holed-out gifting their spinner his third wicket. Sajid and Sanjeev both fell quickly to LBW decisions and all of a sudden we’d lost 5 for 25, including 3 for 0. With the score on 96, Captain Neil sent Atif in to join Wasim with the intention of grabbing the bull by the horns. And the move paid off with some big hitting. A 56 run partnership provided the win with Wasim not out on 3 and Atif capping off an impressive debut with 49 not out. We’d passed their total in 19 overs.

Dropped catches aside, a good and solid performance first up. We’ll be better for this outing, and our catching will improve. It must…