**Match Report:**

Round 5

Dobroyd Point CC

1 Day match at Flockhart Park

**Won by 5 wickets**

First versus Third. And on paper, our strongest opponent yet. A toss finally won, we invited Dobroyd to bat. Carl had the ball swinging straight away causing all sorts of issues for their openers. Ethan at the other end teased the edge several times. Carl caught the inside edge of their Captain chasing a wide one which struck his off stump. Ethan toiled away and struck in his 5th over removing their other opener with a cameo from Michael proving fruitful early – catching at Mid-off. Carl continued without luck and bowled his spell out straight. Ethan finished his initial 5 with miserly figures of 1 for 17, before Atif took over at the far end.

Carl ‘hit the books’ after his spell and Sajid took up the challenge. He bowls exceptionally well with little luck and a spell of 5 overs cost only 18 runs. With their main run-getter at the crease, the Skipper turned to the Michael; and he struck straight away with Wasim taking a very good catch at Gully. Dropped catches notwithstanding, we were on top; and he struck again in his third over as Atif took a good catch at Mid-off. Ali chipped in with a caught-and-bowled before Michael finished off the top scorer with Ethan showing Riz how it’s done at Mid-wicket. Michael finished his spell of 5 with fantastic figures of 3 for 17. Into the tail, the strike bowlers returned and shared the remaining 7 overs, and, swapping ends each over, cleared up Dobroyd’s tail in short order. Atif’s pace proved too much as he took two caught-and-bowled of his own, and Ali sprinted from Mid-on to ensure Riz didn’t drop another. Those two left Atif on a hat-trick for his next match. Meanwhile Ethan improved his figures ‘castling’ their number 9 to finish with 2 for 21. Atif – 3 for 30. Dobroyd Point all out for 112.

Those small targets again, can bring even the best batting line-ups undone, and missing 2 of our top 3 meant this might prove tricky. Neil and Riz got us off to a decent start seeing off their opening bowlers in a 50 run opening stand. Neil misjudged a straight one that swung out late – contributing 12. Wasim followed and looked nervous as he and Riz set about the chase; until he popped one up for the bowler to get in on the C&B act. Atif came and went too quickly without troubling the scorers and it started to look shaky. But with Riz looking solid, it only needed someone at the other end farming him the strike. Sajid did just that and a partnership of 28 followed before he too departed feeling unfortunate to be adjudged LBW by the umpire/captain.

This brought Carl to the crease after spending the remainder of our bowling innings ‘studying’ for his upcoming HSC exams. 11 runs later he was sitting down again after nicking one behind. Ethan then strode to the middle looking for some confidence. And there aren’t many better ways to build some than hitting the winning runs with Riz. 17 runs later we passed the target with Ethan unbeaten on 5, and Riz on 77 not out.

It was a little concerning early on, but with batting under our belts, we’ll feel more confident batting further than just the top 4. A solid win against better opposition, and we move onwards towards the middle of the season. This win keeps us on top of the competition but we need to continue and consolidate our position now.