

Kruger gets derby revenge for Frankton.

By Jamie Dowley

On the first weekend of White Ball cricket in the SCCL this season, four matches were completed in the premier division on a rain affected day where teams were rewarded for waiting for the indifferent weather to pass through. One of the performances of the day came at Morda Rd where **Frankton** enjoyed quick revenge on an **Oswestry** team who had comfortably defeated them in the reverse Spring Bank Holiday fixture. In a 32 over game the home side would have been pleased enough to reach 194-4 with Josh Darley and Shak Marshall both making half centuries, while Alex Huxley and Josh Coleridge each made 33. The Frankton reply got off to the worst start possible with George Dickin being lost first ball, and with Chris Cathrall among the wickets taking four with the score only on 65, Ryan Kruger entered the fray. The South African was in sublime form making an unbeaten 98no off just 71 balls, an innings that saw his team to an excellent three wicket win with 20 balls to spare. It remains to be seen how crucial this win could be come the end of the season, but it is certainly a vital 20 points for Frankton.

Another overseas player to produce a superb match winning innings was Kuldeep Devatwal who struck a sublime 119no for **Allscott** at Albert Rd against **Sentinel**, in a win that gives them the double over a side who they will now be looking to finish above come the final reckoning. Batting first Sentinel also reached 194, with the consistent Tom Griffiths making 41 while Jacob Binnersley again in the runs with 32 as was Mal Serplett who scored likewise. Wickets were shared by all the Allscott bowlers with Jason Summers proving most effective with 3-38. Devatwal then showed his class with an 88 ball innings that included 20 boundaries, as they cruised to the win with 11 overs in hand. Sentinel tried 7 bowlers but none had the answer to the excellence of Devatwal.

Quatt maintained their 100% record with another solid win, this time against **St Georges** who once again played some decent cricket but who can't seem to catch too many breaks this season. The home sides batting depth was to the fore as Scott Furber top scored at number six with 39 while in form Alex Starr and Alex Biddle chipped in with 29 and 33 respectively as they totalled 183-9 off a reduced 40 overs. Mo Khattak is having an excellent season for the Dragons and took 4-32, but it was always a score the leaders would likely defend. Gareth Jones making a rare first team appearance in for the suspended Kuldeep struck with his first ball and took 2 more scalps, while Furber completed a fine all round match with 4-26, as despite an even 50 from Chris Birkett, St Georges succumbed to 140 all out. Quatt, a side seemingly invincible at present and proving this author completely wrong by saying they were off their peak pre season!

The final completed game this week was arguably the closest as **Whitchurch** emerged victorious at London Rd against a **Shrewsbury 2nds** who for 90% of the match seemed to have the upper hand. Batting first the visitors innings was a one paced affair, and although Muhammed Fahim made 25 as did Saad Wasim, a total of 131 looked a little light. That theory was put to the test by young quick bowler Alex Heath who was given the new ball and rewarded his captain Dan Bowen with two wickets in the first over, and a third shortly after to leave the hosts reeling at 17-3. Shrewsbury's middle order always looked likely to be their strength however and the trio of Luke Thornton, Zane Beattie and Rob Foster all got stuck in that by the time the innings had reached 100-4, a mere 32 was required. Foster was then

adjudged lbw and when Beattie was bowled by Adan Hussain for 26, the county towners quickly subsided for 120 all out . Hussain with 3-20 and Fahim 3-18 join Heath in taking the bowling spoils a result that completed a pretty miserable weekend for the Shrewsbury club with their first team losing by 9 wickets at Shifnal in the BDPCL.

The other games at Shelton and Madeley were abandoned and cancelled respectively.

So next week its Allscotts turn to try and take down Quatt while Oswestry could do with a result in another north Shropshire derby at Whitchurch.