

## Week 6 report

### ***Diwan 9 wicket haul extends Quatt lead***

It was top versus second at Park Street as all conquering **Quatt** visited **Madeley** looking to extend their winning run to six. Quatt elected to bat and despite the early loss of Tom Whitney, they were able to score runs all the way down the order. Chris Miller top scored with 53, and there were also contributions from Olly Plank (35), Alex Biddle (36) and Ryan Wheldon (22) as they batted the full 50 overs for 231-9. Nadeem Ahmed with 4-59 led the home attack while there was a brace apiece for Martin Boyle and Mithun Jayawickrema. It always looked a tough chase for Madeley but at 29-0 they were off to a steady start. Kuldeep Diwan then chose to switch ends and after Scott Furber had picked up the first wicket, Diwan went to town as he ripped through the home line up with a series of LBWs and bowled wickets, to finish with **an astonishing 9-29**. Madeley dismissed for 80 to give Quatt the maximum 24, and leave the rest of the league wondering who can catch them.

Perhaps **Whitchurch** who after a poor start have now peeled off 4 straight wins, the latest a 152 run success over neighbours **Frankton**. For the first time this year the Heath Rd outfit fired with the bat, Maz Hasnain scored 72, supported by a first half century in Shropshire for Saad Wasim who hit an unbeaten 55. With Shafique closing the innings at 221-5 with a swift 31 not out, Frankton knew they had a tough task and they got off to the worst possible start with **Dan Bowen striking 3 times in his first over**, to leave them 7-3. With Kash Hussain then getting in on the act too, taking 3 quick wickets, Bowen again like last week unselfishly withdrew himself from the attack to share the spoils. Leg spinner Shabir Khan finished the innings off with 2-15 to add to the captain's outstanding 5-11. A tough day for Frankton but they will hopefully not get too despondent in what has still been an ok start to the season for them.

**St Georges** are still rooted to the bottom and winless after defeat to **Wem**, who themselves are not proving convincing with the bat at the moment, but whose class with the ball still shone through. Batting first Harry Chandler (42), Steve Blenkinsop (26), and Chris Peel (35) got the visitors to the relative security of 141-3 with 15 overs remaining but then a big collapse initiated by the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> bowlers Mo Khattak(3-23) and Faisal Khan (4-24) caused Wem to be dismissed for 169 and leave the Dragons pondering a first win. Alas for them it was not to be as Tom Astley once again proved his quality with a devastating display of quick bowling taking a career best 7-17. Astley bowling pace at just back of a length is a player who is surely **long overdue that first call up for Shropshire**. Irfan then wrapped up the innings with 3-8 to give Wem full points.

**Shelton** welcomed Greg Smith for his **long awaited debut** and the ex Notts and Leics batsman wasted no time in making his presence felt as he guided his side to a 4 wicket victory at **Allscott Heath**. Batting first the hosts were indebted to Max

Ferrington who continued the form that has **earnt him a call up to Shropshire Academy side**, making a season best 64, but with Sam Griffiths, Simon Jones and Nathan Sealy all taking 3 wickets, from the relative security of 95-2, Allscott were dismissed for 145. Shelton aren't a side who die wondering and at 89-6 the game was in the balance. It required Smith at no 3 to use all his quality and experience to hold the innings together with an unbeaten 44, while a late flurry from George Manders who struck 37no, meant they were able to reach their target in just the 31<sup>st</sup> over.

An exciting match took place at Albert Rd, as **Sentinel** belatedly secured their first win of the season against **Shrewsbury 2nds**, who were able to field their strongest side of 2024. James Shaw was back in charge for the home side and his patient 48, allied to contributions from Ed Ashlin (33) and a quick 28 from Connor Cheshire ensured a competitive total of 194 for the visitors to chase. Bradley Thornton led the attack very well for Shrewsbury, his 6-43 the stand out performance of the day. In reply at 30-3 things were looking pretty straightforward for Sentinel, but when Rob Foster joined Zane Beattie their 111 partnership switched the momentum of the game. Nelson struck and Beattie departed for 65, but the **game really hinged on the run out of Foster** who departed for 50. From 141-3 to 166ao, the last wicket taken by veteran Shane Gwilt, and this will be a game Shrewsbury may look back on in September that was one that got away.

Finally to the Burway and that rare event took place. There was a drawn game of cricket. **Oswestry** batted first and Josh Darley, so often the main man for the visitors, struck a cool 97 but will no doubt be annoyed with himself to be stumped one shot shy of his ton. Other visiting players then chipped in without any meaningful contributions, and a total of 203 was certainly a competitive one. It was a total **Ludlow** never looked like getting near particularly when Jason Oakes was lbw for 20. Deon Patel top scored with 52, but it was left to Chris Edenborough and last man Louis Watkins to navigate the last 5 overs to gain a draw. Oswestry take 14 points and Ludlow 8.

The highlight of week 7 sees Quatt travel to Shelton, whilst there is a Telford derby between St Georges and Madeley. Could this be a week where the Dragons get their first win?

Jamie Dowley