

MATCH REPORT

Thatcham Town vs. Gerrards Cross

Sat. 24th May 2008

**Gerrards Cross 277-6 – Thatcham Town 279-4
Thatcham Town won by 6 wickets**

Gerrards Cross were handed their first defeat of the season on Saturday by newly promoted Thatcham Town in a high scoring Home Counties Premier League match despite a second league century from Mark Wright.

Asked to bat first on a flat pitch, the Cross initially struggled against some accurate bowling. With the score at 92-3 off 34 overs and lunch fast approaching, a competitive total seemed unlikely. However, Wright and Steve Rimmer (41) decided the best form of defence was attack. They hit 58 runs off the next seven overs and the Cross reached lunch on 150-3.

The onslaught continued after lunch and the Cross now seemed destined for a huge total. After the dismissal of Rimmer, Wright and Malky Dhaliwal put on 49 for the fifth wicket in just seven overs. Wright was bowled, by former Pakistan test player Ali Naqvi, for 136 as the Cross posted an imposing total of 277-6. Wright's 136 came off just 120 balls and included 14 fours and 7 sixes.

Thatcham made a slow start to their reply, but MacDonald (51) soon began to dominate. The Cross picked up three wickets and the game was evenly poised at tea with the score on 113-3 off 29 overs.

The Cross' ability to bowl their overs quickly meant they needed quick wickets after tea to stop Thatcham running away with the game. However, some indifferent bowling combined with some, occasionally, sloppy fielding put Thatcham in total command.

Naqvi (51) threw his wicket away with 87 runs still needed and gave the Cross a glimmer of hope. However, Steve Wyatt (75*) and Duncan Johnson (35*) climbed into the Cross bowling and guided Thatcham to a comfortable 6 wicket win.

THATCHAM TOWN v GERRARDS CROSS - HCPCL Division 2 (West)

Venue: Browns Sports Field, Newbury
Dates: 24th May 2008
Toss won by: Thatcham Town
Umpires: M Southerton, M Knox

Gerrards Cross Innings

FOW

Shahid F	c Stone	b Harland	15	1st	26
Westaway S +	c Stone	b Johnson	23	2nd	48
Duncan A	c Johnson	b Bird	17	3rd	87
Wright M		b Naqvi	136	4th	200
Rimmer S		lbw b Bishop	41	5th	249
Dhaliwal M		run out	14	6th	262
Purewal S		not out	21	7th	
Packer H		not out	3	8th	
Knudsen R				9th	
Newell J *				10th	
Ingrey B					

Extras (2 byes, 5 leg byes): 7

Total (6 wickets): 277

Bowling Figures	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts
Harland	16	2	71	1
Naqvi	17	2	72	1
Edgcombe	4	0	24	0
Bird	10	0	33	1
Johnson	9	3	34	1
Bishop	4	0	36	1

Thatcham Town Innings

FOW

MacDonald G		lbw b Rimmer	51	1st	39
Ettridge J	c Rimmer	b Packer	18	2nd	83
Stone D +	c Westaway	b Newell	13	3rd	93
Naqvi A	c Shahid	b Newell	51	4th	191
Wyatt S		not out	75	5th	
Johnson D		not out	35	6th	
Harland A *				7th	
Patel R				8th	
Bishop N				9th	
Bird C				10th	
Edgcombe P					

Extras (22 byes, 4 leg byes, 1 wide, 4 no balls, 5 penalty runs) : 36

Total (4 wickets) : 279

Bowling Figures	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts
Ingrey	7.3	2	37	0	Wright	5	0	24
Shahid	4	0	13	0				
Rimmer	12	0	70	1				
Packer	5	1	25	1				
Newell	12	4	58	2				
Duncan	8	2	21	0				

THATCHAM TOWN WON BY 6 WICKETS