

Cricket Report 2014

After the storms of biblical proportions on Saturday, Sunday saw a splendid day of T20 cricket in the sunshine with the LWC 1st XI, the Sternians and two different teams from South Africa making up an exciting tournament. Waterkloof School from the Pretoria area provided a very strong challenge for everyone else but we also hosted an U-18 and an U-15 team from our old friends the Blue Leopards, a select group of youngsters from around the Paarl district of the Cape (Bishops School, etc).

In the Sternians team there was a selection of some of our favourite and most able recent players, including at least 4 former captains in Alex Hammond, John Hodgson, Andrew House and Mike Salmon; they were complemented by Tim Salmon, Johnny Dow, Will Gee, Will O'Meara, 'Bertie' Hopkin, George Breddy, George Emery and Christo Arundel. We hope this bunch keep returning as they make the day such fun (at least for yours truly – I have seen all these players develop over the years)

Last year saw a tie between the College and the Old Boys thus necessitating a "Super Over". This year was pretty much as close, as the 1st XI boys fell just the one run short of the 133 posted by the Sternians. They had done well to reach this total in the face of another top-class bowling effort from the current crop. When the College were 60 for 1 in reply, all was pointing to a famous victory for the boys; however, after a middle order collapse and with plenty to get from the last 3 overs, all now pointed to a comfortable win for the more experienced eleven; then Dan Scott's six over long off (tipped over the bar by Bertie!) meant that 12 were needed off the last over....and the school fell just that one run short. A brilliant game!

This victory was unfortunate for the Sternians as they now had to face Waterkloof (as good as if not better than a county side!) in the 'final'. While Andrew House was at the crease there was a really good game brewing; the Sternians reached 46 for 0 in the 6th over but then disaster struck as Breddy ran House out! Waterkloof now hit their straps, especially their spinners, and the total of 100 from the 20 overs was unlikely to make the run-chase very challenging. Waterkloof disposed of these (despite 2 excellent catches from Salmon senior) with only 2 wickets down, the same margin as their earlier win against the Blue Leopards.

In the other 'play off' LWC 1st finished their season much as they has started it in Sri Lanka by defeating an U-15 team quite comfortably.

A big thanks to Dave 'Bev' Beven for arranging the whole day, to Gill Kelly for overseeing all the Sternian arrangements (again!), to Chris Jones and his team for lunch, tea, barbecue, etc. (again!), to Ali Cotton and his men for providing brilliant wickets (again!), to Alex Hammond (and partly Mike Salmon) for mustering the Old Boys together. Thanks also to Ed Coetzer for umpiring all day; thanks also to Ed and indeed to Nick Byron for accommodating the visitors from South Africa in Sutton and School at the end of a busy and tiring term.

Clive Hicks