

**Cherwell League Rep XI v OCA Rep XI**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug at Witney Mills Cricket Club**

**Match Report**

The annual Cherwell League v OCA Rep XI match was held on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug at Witney Mills C.C. Thankfully the recent inclement weather held off and it was a sunny and pleasant afternoon. The ground at Witney Mills looked marvellous and a lovely wicket was prepared for the match. The good weather meant a large crowd assembled who all seemed to adhere to social distancing rules very responsibly.

The OCA XI won the toss and elected to have a bat first. After 10 overs this looked a somewhat bad decision as the OCA XI slumped to 20-4 due to extremely good opening spells of bowling from Great & Little Tew's Jack Belmont and Horspath's 15-year-old seamer Charles Turner. It was Turner who did all the damage though, as he took all the first 4 wickets to fall.

OCA skipper Kieran Foggett and Witney Swifts teammate George Seacole steadied the ship with a partnership of 71 before the very impressive looking Foggett fell to a fantastic piece of bowling from another Horspath youngster Josh Richardson who lured Kieran down the wicket with his leg spin and Stokenchurch keeper Joe Brown did the rest with a smart stumping.

Thankfully for the OCA, George Seacole kept doing what he's done so well for years and held the innings together with a very impressive 71 until he was bowled by the returning Jack Belmont. Seamers Olly Burney and Arfan Ahmed bowled superbly in conjunction with left arm spinner Arthur Muir to restrict the OCA to 171. This total was achieved thanks to some late hitting from Combe's Jules Chaundy and Stonesfield's Tom Gubbins. On face value, it may have looked a slightly under par score, but the wicket had slowed up a little and was starting to take some turn.

The Cherwell XI's reply started in blistering fashion which was of no real surprise to anyone who's watched Brackley's Adam Wirth and Eric Carpenter over the past two or three seasons. After 5 overs the pair took the score to over 50.

Then came the introduction of the very impressive Tom Gubbins who quite quickly removed the superb Wirth for 39 off just 31 balls. Joe Brown joined Carpenter at the crease and was looking like he would carry on his great form of this season until he also fell to Gubbins for 19.

The OCA started to gain huge confidence at this point and smelt blood. Minster Lovell's Olly Mersh fell to Gubbins for a duck and Witney Mill's Olly Burney was out to one of the best run outs you'll see from George Seacole. He released a rocket of throw from the boundary and ran Burney out, as he came back for what looked like a routine second with a direct hit to make the score 113 for 4. Witney Swifts all-rounder Charlie Fisher then entered the bowling attack to replace Gubbins and bowled with his usual great control in tandem with Wootton & Boars Hill's Billy Webb and the OCA XI saw an opportunity to get into the Cherwell Leagues lower order.

However, Eric Carpenter was still going strong and he was joined at the crease by the Cherwell League skipper Mike Dove. The pair proceeded to, calmly put on a partnership of 41 to take the game away from the OCA. The pair couldn't quite get the team over the finishing line though. Mike fell for 19 when he was caught at slip by Fisher and Eric was bowled by the superb George Seacole for a brilliant 65.

It was left to Jack Belmont and Arfan Ahmed to finish the job, Arfan did that in style by smashing a 6 out the ground to secure a 4-wicket win, with 4 overs to spare.

There were some superb performances from both sides, with the standouts from the Cherwell League XI being Charles Turners 4 for 30 and Eric Carpenter 65, whilst the two main performances from the OCA XI came from Tom Gubbins & George Seacole. Tom lead the OCA bowling attack with a very good 3 for 23. However, Dave Warner the Man of the Match adjudicator from the Cherwell League quite rightly selected George Seacole as Man of the Match for his 71, the quite stunning run out and taking 1 for 33.

It was a great game of cricket, which was played to a really high standard and in great spirits. A huge thanks to Witney Mills C.C for hosting the match and providing a great wicket on the day, to the umpires John Brown and Arthur Heap, to the scorer Mick Warren, to Hobbs Repro for producing the match day programme and to Serious Cricket for sponsoring the match and providing shirts for the Cherwell League Rep XI.

Scorecard - <https://www.totalcricket scorer.com/TCSLive/TCSScorecard.aspx?id=77131>

See you all next year for the rematch.