

Shark Tails 5th February 2009

As we enter the final month of regular season cricket, 4 sides are in the top four, with 3 of them guaranteed finals action in March, and other's destiny well and truly in their own hands. So is it just me or does the cricket season just fly by each year?? Anyway, with the Raggometer (device used to measure Englishman in a foreign land's comfort level) returning to normal after last week's warmish conditions shall we say, I thought I might dedicate this week's little dose to Mike and Maria Nelson. Rumour has it (ok so they told me), that they both keenly sit there at their computer each Wednesday and wait for this piece of magic to float on through. The computer at home apparently sits right next to the cheque book (and not the other way around as you might expect). I was hoping to hold this week's edition back another 24 hours, as I can picture Mike and Maria patiently sitting at their cheque book desk, waiting and polling for emails and then waiting again, perhaps even holding hands for the first couple of minutes with all of the excitement and anticipation (they are only human). Then as time goes on and they start to get a little dusty, the excitement begins to wane and eventually, is replaced by fear. "Did we miss it dear?? Did you blink at the same time as I did?? Mike, will you stop farting please, I can't see the screen through the haze." Anyway, I'll bet they didn't expect this as the result after dobbing themselves in and not even realizing it. This was to be sent out 24 hours later due the sick satisfaction I would have gained in the knowledge that they could well be still sitting there waiting for it. But alas, with Filthy and Sammy taking off for Noosa, my well thought out plan will not materialize this week, but hey at least you all know what goes on at the house of Nelson. It has also just occurred to me that I have obviously decided to incorporate Tid Bits into this intro, meaning I have to make up more crap later on. Sometimes personal satisfaction is not always the smartest move. So, finally to the cricketing action from the weekend then.



Our magnificent First XI where chasing Templeton's 206 and started the day at 0/20. Luke Raggett departed without addition to the overnight score. Moorey and DT put on 78 for the 2nd wicket, when Moorey fell for a very nice 41. Both Ev and Davie Johnson fell with the score at 113 and then Swanny at 141. Spitz and DT put on 41 for the 6th wicket before DT finally departed for a magnificent 87, a very fine knock mate. Sammy Gibson went cheaply and at 7/185, a few heart flutters were no doubt felt. We got over the line though and they called it a day when Spitz departed for a fantastic 73 from 80 balls and the score was 8/237 at days end. A great win against what always proves to be very tough opposition, awesome work boys. We find ourselves mid table on 4/4 and mathematically a very small chance (with an outright) to make finals but realistically not me thinks. The boys are certainly finishing the season very well with wins over Mooroolbark and now Templeton and in between a narrow and high scoring loss to South Warrandyte. The future's so bright, I gotta wear shades!!!

Shiner may well be heading back to South West Wyalong this week for another holiday after starting the day at 2/19, chasing Croydon North's mere 357. Not a lot to crow

about with the bat either to be honest, except after being 3/25 early, Luke Scott and Anthony Sharp then batted for more than 30 overs for a fine partnership of 83. Once Sharpy departed for a well made 37, the wheels pretty much fell off and we lost 7/50 to be all out for 158. Luke Scott was the only other shining light with a very good 49. Other than that, only Dids and Brandon made double figures. So Croydon North had another hit and at day's end, were 8/218. Obviously a better bowling and fielding performance with Dogga getting a trundle and nabbing 3/25 and Luke Johnson another 2 fa to make 6 for the match. Special mention to Lukey Scott who managed to drop the one guy 3 times throughout the match, who made the combined score of 203, ouch!!! Even though they look to be out of the mix for finals action, if Norwood (who are 4th) lose this week, and we beat the bottom side Ainslie Park, we will play Norwood in the last round for what could be a winner takes all (being action in March) scenario. So even though the lads will be relying on a couple of game's to go our way this week (including our own of course), there is potentially a chance they might still make it.

Dribble's and the lads started out at 0/25 chasing Kilsyth's 181. Buchy and Justin Lawlor took the score along to 40 before Justin copped a beauty and wandered off for 20. Buchy and Raggsey took the score along to 78 with Buchy finishing on 26. Brady Sharp then combined with Raggsey and put on 72 with Brady also making 20. 3/160 at tea and Raggsey departed soon after tea for a fantastic 86 (with some luck early though). Once the win was achieved, the hammer went down. Danika also scored 20 plus as did Dale Gilson (meaning the top 7 all scored more than 20). Dribble's reached his 50 and then really put his foot on the gas (he hit more than 10 an over himself at least 3 times after this) and much to Buchy's disgust, he didn't join the Buchy club I mean the 90's club (but he is still in it) and finished on a sensational 102, well done mate. The old Tailster smashed 19 from 7 balls and at days end we were 9/354. A great score and confidence boosting win. We sit in 4th spot and can still get 2nd or even finish last. Nothing more to be said really, it is up to us. Thanks to the former "King" Gillie for his magnificently ordinary scoring efforts, both with the book and the board. The "Butcher of Bayswater" managed to completely hack that poor little score book to pieces, not to mention the scoreboard and anything else he touched or did prior to actual batting was of the poorest quality for a man of such stature. Anyone with CEO on his email address should have more expected from him. Anyway, it is ironical that I was only thinking last week how I miss hanging crap on Gillie. Mental note to self, he may not be captain, but that does not make him immune.

Not a lot to crow about for PK and the boys either by the sounds of it, with Eastfield chasing our 284 from the prior week. 7/414 at days end against their 2nds and that is a lot of pill chasing. About the only highlight was PK nabbing 3 fa and he was on a hat trick too I believe (not that he told me). Former Sth Ringwood stalwart Johnny Mitchell played his first game in a couple of seasons, so it was good to see him afterwards for a beer. The good news is the boys are clearly 3rd and cannot really drop any lower. A chance at the double chance though, playing 2nd placed Warrantyte this week. Best to throw this game out of the memory bank for mine, the boys have had a great season so far and time for some finals fine tuning and hopefully a double chance, good luck lads.

Ando and the Ants were nearly home last week in their top of the table clash against North Ringwood. Needing less than 40 runs to win with 9 wickets still in the shed, Ando did a Luke Raggett and departed quickly on Day 2. No real big partnerships here and eventually at 9/240, the boys called it a day. Luke McIlroy top scored the prior week with 46, Ando made 36 (again the prior week), Jack Dwyer 38, Dutchy 30, Gregor 28 and Hayden Brown also finished in the 20's. A fine win though and the boys are now back on top of the ladder although 2nd and 3rd are on the same wins. A last round encounter with Croydon Ranges (who are 2nd) may well decide top spot or even the double chance. No time to relax boys that is for sure, but one win should guarantee we finish top 2.

Our 6ths appeared to have a pretty early day, with East Ringwood needing another 40 odd runs overnight with 5 wickets in hand. We were passed and at 7/189 in reply to our 165, and with neither side any chance of making finals, they decided called it a day.

The 7ths started at 6/100 chasing Boronia's 140 and they too appeared to have agreed to an early finish. Haydos departed in the third over for 21, his batting on day one was what kept them in the game. The skipper was joined by young Kane Parsons and together went within 3 runs of victory. Kane got behind every ball and would have been there in the end if it wasn't for the straight drive by his captain that saw him run out via the bowler's fingertip. Although, for a moment they thought he might be given not out with his dad umpiring. In the end it was the two Mick's that got them over the line, with Mick Young finishing 13 not out and Mike Maughan not letting the side down as he thought he might last week, finishing with a fine 52, well done. Our boys sit in 2nd spot and are also guaranteed finals action. Where they finish is up to them though but they will nab the double chance if they beat 3rd placed Norwood this week.

So there you have it, the 4ths, 5ths and 7ths are in for sure. The 3rds are there currently and can still make it with 1 win and 1 loss, but realistically 2 wins. The 2nds have some chance and the 1sts and very small chance. We will know for sure if they are still in the hunt after this coming game.

In the Kitchen

With Filthy and Sammy sunning themselves in Noosa this week (they kept that quiet), some special Sharktown guests will be in the kitchen this week, cooking up a bounty of taste budding booty, guaranteed to please all hungry Shark residents this week. Anyway, yet again, I have no idea what is on the menu and who is doing the damage, but rest assure that the damage will be done by someone (or more) and that yet again, the damage will be only \$5.00 (because you are all special).

Powerball

For the second time this season, the silver ball that did fall had number 24 painted on it. Not that I was watching. After all, I wasn't going to chance the possibility that Penis Williams or her brother were on prime tennis time TV again. Once on a Thursday night was once too many for mine. Anyway, back to balls of a different variety, with this little Powerball pill belonging to the collective owners, the McIlroy's. Yep, two entries now for the 3 owners of this number. Hopefully for their sake, it drops just one more time before the big draw in 4 weeks. Otherwise, they will have to draw straws as 3 owners into 2 balls (AKA Venus) just does not go.

Shark Vet's

Masters 1's won the toss and decided to bat first and with three debutants in the side, Dennis Heslin, Ross Arblaster and Dale Gilson (who lowered the average age of the side considerably), there was hope that the new blood would invigorate the side. We got off to a great start (by our standards) and at one stage we were 1/50 - uncharted territory for us this season. Brian Taylor (37) had his best knock of the season and will hopefully continue this into the last game. A couple of unfortunate run outs (Gilly 4, Raggsy 26) slowed the momentum of our innings, before Rob Wood (40*), who continued his fine form from the previous game, and Paul Cowman (34), who was playing his first game for some time, put on 61 in quick time and we ended up posting the competitive total of 223 of our 36 overs. Paul overcame obvious exhaustion to play this innings - at one stage he called for a drink, but his hands were shaking so much that most of the water missed it's intended target. The magnificent total was our best result for the season and there were hopes that we could pull off an upset.

Unfortunately for us, South Warrandyte got off to an even better start than we did, with their first four batsmen retiring. We finally took our first wicket at 154 through the guile and pace of Gilly. Despite this setback, South Warrandyte continued to score at the rate required, and this combined with some unfortunate fielding errors, let South Warrandyte score the winning runs in the second last over the game - a very disappointing result given the total we had posted. The pick of the bowlers were Dean Jacob (1/26 off 6) and Gilly (2/36 off 5). Next game is a must win game for us against North Ringwood to ensure that we stay above Lilydale and avoid relegation from the top division. Fortunately we'll have the services of both Scott Hine and Adrian Trigt for their first game of vets (and maybe Gilly again!) to help make sure we get over the line.

Masters 2's played Bayswater Park looking for their first win of the season. Bayswater Park batted first and after looking like scoring 250+ mid innings were restricted to 6/230 with Steve Anderton 3/29 from 6 overs and a superb one handed catch from Brad Phelps the highlights. In reply Ando backed up his bowling performance with a quick 40 in the first 8 overs and with support from his opening partner Allan Wilson with 41 we were away to the start we wanted. Mark Wilson with 29 and Greg Sharp with 40 kept up

the tempo and with 4 overs remaining we needed 25 with 4 wickets in hand. Unfortunately a couple of direct hit run outs turned the game Bayswater Parks way and we were bowled out on the last ball of the first over for 222.

Legends v SWH at Coleman Park.

Winning toss and elected to bat on a very dry, fast and small ground but the sun was out and I was hoping for some cloud cover and a breeze later in the afternoon when we were in the field. Warranwood's coach for our first two seasons Bob Neagle was playing for SWH and in a contest of wits (no pun intended) Bob managed to hit Mark Whitaker with a well bowled ball in the crotch area. Mark at the time was trying to hit a home run off Bob's bowling and the on and off field comments were plentiful. Despite the embarrassment (no pain at all he says) Mark went on to retire with 41 after hitting a six from his last ball. Keith Houghton also had a good innings retiring on 42. Rod Cordwell steadied the middle to lower order and guided us to a total of 243. Paul Brown (if my sons [Lloyd & Hayden] can play cricket then so can I) agreed to fill in and with his baseball batting style finished 10 not out and took a catch.

Defending our score was going to be tough so accurate bowling and stopping the boundaries were important. Opener Chris Hartrup (SWH) (RDCA Veterans committee member) was bowled by Gregor Mason (RDCA Veterans Secretary) in an out of committee room contest. With their two opening batsmen dismissed relatively early our chances of winning improved and continued to do so. Mike Nelson was best of our bowlers with 3/9 off 5 overs and showed his athleticism by being able to hold a one handed catch whilst leaning/running backwards. There was no backward or sideways roll on the ground to finish just a sigh of relief from the bowler (Gregor) and Mike that he managed to reach the ball from that angle without hurting his back. Rob Aitken, one of our athletic players (60) showed us how to dive to stop balls, get behind the ball whilst batting and then with his slow ball had their last batsman caught at square leg by our resident youngster Mark Heuston. Speaking of Mark, it must be mentioned that whilst trying to field the ball on the boundary in a very rough area of the ground, he managed to miss the ball and tried to use his feet, turned around and ran into the boundary fence. From a distance it looked as if he head butted the fence, funny to watch from all angles, despite the fact that the ball made the boundary but he was not injured and that in Vets is great result. We held all the catches we were given and generally bowled and fielded better resulting in SWH being all out for 177. Our Legends continue into the finals race undefeated with our last home and away game (Sunday 15 Feb) at Quambee against North Ringwood who are also undefeated.

Rubik's Cube Night

This years theme night is again organized by Ev and Moorey in the same vein as last years magnificent "Tight and Bright" night that you will no doubt all remember (ok so perhaps not all of you). Yep, the boys are back in action with this years theme being, "Rubiks Cube" night. Always a danger with Ev and Moorey steering the ship, but sure to be a ripper again based on last year.

Saturday 14th February from 6.30pm.

Begin the night in the 6 colors of the Rubik's cube, and end the night in one color. So get to the op shop now and grab that cheap clobber!

Blue, Red, Green, Yellow, White and Orange!

Drink specials, competitions and plenty of fun to be had!

Blokes \$5.00 entry and the chicks for free, so bring your Valentine to what is destined to be a grand old night in Sharktown.

2009/2010 Entertainment Books

The bargain hunter's weapon of choice is back for another year. Yep, the old favourite with loads and loads of coupons and discounts. Only \$65.00 and oh, the club gets a piece to boot. Catch up with Sammy Densley on 0425 812 895 or email her at Samantha.densley@stramit.com.au to order yours now.

Shark Tid Bits

I'll bet you are all thinking that this will have be the shortest Tid Bits in history. After all, this old Tailmeister has surely crapped on enough and managed to sledge a fair portion of the Shark community in the process (so what's so unusual about that??). A big Shark welcome to the club Mike and Maria Nelson, and welcome back to the former "King" Gillie. It seems Dale has been very happy to fly under the Tailmeister's radar this season, especially not being skipper this time around. Even to the point that he is quiet and unassuming on the pitch and I could be forgiven for forgetting about this Shark Tailing legend of the banter stick from season's gone by. "Oh no" I can hear him sigh but alas, I do actually have nothing more on the subject today other than to say, short term memory loss may have spared him thus far, but "GILLIE" is still written in bold on the Tailmeister's banter stick. Just above "Shiner" who also has had a lean trot this season. Anyway, the season is getting towards the pointy end but there is still time my fellow Tailsters so stay tuned!!!

**Til next week.....a pretty damn long one this time
huh??? And no photo's to help fill it up
either.....GO SHARKS !!!!!**