

Hampshire Hogs v Grannies

11th May 2008

The Grannies seemed to have stolen the advantage on a beautiful day on Sunday at Warnford when their captain, James Lang, won the toss and elected to bat. It was a perfect day for cricket and Warnford was looking fabulous, with a true brown pitch sitting in stark contrast to the lush green outfield.

Spry (67) was quickly away and made the major contribution to the Grannies lunchtime total of 168 for 2 before being caught on the boundary by Rupert Cox off one of Ollie Kelly's 24 yard deliveries. With L. Kelly (no relation, 82), Spry put on 94 before the wickets threatened to tumble and skipper Lang made a brisk 52 before capitulating to a straight one from Rupert Cox.

Having slowed things down after lunch, the Hogs were quietly optimistic when the Grannies declared at 283 for 7. The Hogs knew that they had to get going although the outfield was a fraction quicker than earlier. Gunyon was unlucky to be run out backing up after a straight drive from Ollie Kelly, who went on to make 33. The stage was set for a pair of performances that were to bring the Hogs their first victory of the season in their fourth game.

Nick Smith (71) played with the style of a man that is rarely seen before August. Robert Sorby joined him, no doubt inspired by his large group of family supporters, and started to strike the ball with real timing around the ground. The Grannies were clearly flustered and called for their guest star (Chris Bazalgette, no less) but his influence was limited as the charge for the victory line continued. Tea was popularly acclaimed to have been one of the greats and Kate Grant and her army of helpers took the applause. Reinforced by the scones, strawberries and cream and coffee cake, the Hogs eased into the 6.5 runs needed per over from the last twenty; Rupert Cox thought briefly of stealing the limelight before a single to deep long-on gave Rob Sorby his 100 and the Hogs the game.

Grannies 283 for 7, Hampshire Hogs 284 for 3

Hogs won by 7 wickets