

CRICKET UPDATE

RESULTS THUS FAR

SA4 – Captain Ajit Gandabhai – see reports below

Played 12 won 3 drew 4 lost 4

League SA4

- Versus Old Maristonians at Sacred Heart on the 7 February 2009.
- Weather-warm
- Wicket-green but slightly damp.
- Outfield- Well cut
- Toss-won
- Overs-40 each

As the wicket was damp I sent the opposition into bat and we restricted them to 157 runs at the end of our 40 overs. One batter –Mathew- scored +45 runs in the last 5 overs as our bowlers lost their heads and tried to bounce him out of the game. Otherwise we would have restricted them to below 100.

We started off badly losing a wicket without a run on the board and everytime a partnership looked threatening the 5 batsman lost their wickets after hitting a boundry the previous ball! In the end we were all out for 118 in the 29th over. The absence of Devang and Mukesh was sorely missed.

Ramesh top scored with 32 (3 6''s and 2 4''s)

Wickets-2 each to Umesh,Sanjay,Dharmesh and 1 each to Ramesh and Raju.

Catches-One each to Ajit and Sunil

League SA4

- Versus Roodepoort at Voortrekker Park on the 17 January 2009.
- Weather-overcast
- Wicket-greenish top, not cut but rolled
- Outfield- Thick
- Toss-lost
- Overs-25 each due to late start as a result of a thunder shower.

Sent in to bat on a damp wicket we scored only 79 runs.

But we bowled and fielded well and bowled them out for 61 in the 22 over.

Sanjay's figures were 5-4-1-3, Raju 2/21,Sunil 2/8 and Ramesh 2/6 .

Catches.....Ramesh and Lalu one each.

League SA4

The match was still in our hands.....

It was then agreed that due to poor light the 31st over will be the last.....we needed to score 5 runs without losing a wicket.

Believe it or not the bowler bowled wides with his 2,3,4,5,6 balls conceding 8 wides and we clinched the match on a better run rate...5.09.

Pravesh and Ajit remained not out.....and Wits conceded 35 wides during the match !

League SA4

- Versus Heidelberg at Heidelberg on the 1 Nov 2008.
- Weather-Warm.
- Wicket-greenish top
- Outfield- good
- Toss-Won
- Overs-40.

Got bowled out for 160 in 32 overs. Ramesh (42) and Lalu (67) were the main contributors.

Playing one man short and dropped catches enabled the opposition to pass the score with 4 wickets down.

- League SA4

- Versus Hilson Park at Hilson on the 8 Nov 2008.
- Weather-Overcast
- Wicket-green and damp Outfield- good
- Toss-Lost.
- Overs-30 as time was needed for the pitch to dry.

Lost 1st wicket first ball. Ajit and Ramesh (2 sixes nog al) consolidated by putting on 51 runs of 14 overs.

Devang (22), Sanjay (23) and Piyush (36) then let loose and we reached 160 for the loss of 8 wkts.

Umesh then produced magic and grabbed 5 wickets in his 5 overs with Piyush taking a breathtaking catch. They needed 65 runs in 12 overs to win on run rate.

But at 9.5 overs the heavens opened up and we had to settle for a draw- they were 45 for 5 at that stage.

League SA4

- Versus Randburg at Progress on the 15 Nov 2008.
- Weather-Overcast
- Wicket-damp top
- Outfield- good
- Toss-Lost

- Overs-37 to allow the wicket to dry

We entered the match as Randburg remained unbeaten after 5 matches.

A toss I needed to win....sent in to bat we lost 4 wickets in the first 4 overs with 7 runs on the board.

The ball flew over the wicket, at times came off slowly and at times kept low.

Application was lacking but Ajit and Devang steadied the innings and batted to keep the inninings together as runs were hard to come by.

Their excellent fielding added to our dire situation.

And as the wicket dried batting become slightly easier and we managed to score 103. Devang 32 and Umesh 22 were the top scorers.

We bowled tremendously they had scored only 37 runs after 10 overs. The umpire gave us a LBW decision and he was changed immediately and we never got another one in spite of repeated appeals. I had my hands full dealing with flaring tempers.

We also missed a few run out chances but 103 was not going to be enough and they passed the score after 27 overs losing 3 wickets in the process.

A tremendous match nevertheless.

A historic cricket match, in Azad Swaraj Sporting's 65th year of existence, took place on the 24th of January 2009 at the Progress Grounds. The two teams met in a Gauteng Saturday 4 league match and this was the first occasion, in either a cricket or a soccer match, that two teams for this club had met in a league fixture.

Inclement weather throughout the week was a cause for concern as there was a possibility that rain would hamper the much anticipated fixture. However, the teams were greeted by slightly overcast skies, a lush outfield and a well prepared pitch in the afternoon. **Azad Swaraj 2, captained by Jayesh Bhana, won the toss and sent Azad Swaraj, captained by Ajit Gandabhai, in to bat.**

Azad Swaraj were soon in trouble as they lost 2 wickets with 12 runs on the board. Sanjay Patel and Mukesh Patel then began resurrecting the innings with a 34 run partnership before Sanjay was clean bowled. Dansookh Lalloo then joined Mukesh and the two began finding the boundaries with relative ease and looked menacing. A 62 run stand was then broken by Jateen Nana who claimed both the set batsmen in a space of two overs. The balance of the team were then dismissed with the addition of another 47 runs. Jateen Nana was the pick of the bowlers with match figures of 8-0-23-4.

Azad Swaraj 2 started cautiously but lost their first wicket with the score on 21. Left arm speedster Raju Patel getting the vital breakthrough. Rushil Naran then joined Bhavesh Bhika and the two put on a steady 25 runs before Bhavesh was dismissed. Jayesh Bhana then joined Rushil Naran and began asserting pressure on the fielding team. Quick singles and determined running between the wickets saw the partnership slowly build. The score reached 91 and with only 2 wickets down Azad Swaraj 2 seemed to be cruising. Dharmesh Patel then dismissed Jayesh Bhana for 28. The introduction of speedster Raju Patel, in the next over, turned the game on it's head. He removed Rushil for a well played 38 and then displayed some magnificent swing bowling to clean bowl 3 incoming batsmen in the space of 3 overs. The pendulum had begun to swing in favour of the fielding

team. However, some resolute batting by the lower order saw Azad Swaraj 2 edge to 120 for 7 at the 31 over mark. However, the allocated time limit, for bowling the required 36 overs, was up and the fielding team found themselves 5 overs short. **Azad Swaraj 2 claimed the 50 penalty runs and with that the much sought after win and 4 points.** Raju Patel finished with match figures of 8-1-21-5.

A memorable match indeed, with both teams fighting till the end and producing some outstanding cricket that will be much talked about in future years to come.



PRESIDENT : A.GANDABHAI 855-4126

TREASURER : T.BHOWAN 852-2619

P O BOX 1981
LENASIA
1820

Dear Sherina

Attached, please find the scorecard for the match which was not played to it's conclusion.



SA Four 29 Nov 08
ASS vs Marlboro.pdf

The following events occurred during the match.

Having dismissed Marlboro for 118 runs and in pursuit of the target, Azad Swaraj were 45 for the loss of 4 wickets after 12.2 overs. An appeal was then made by the Marlboro players for an apparent "bump ball" catch. After having conferred, the onfield umpires turned the appeal down. The Marlboro players expressed their unhappiness towards the umpires with the Marlboro captain ranting for me to change them. In the ensuing mayhem, a Marlboro player began pushing and shoving the batsman against who the appeal was made. Crude and abusive language was thrown at both the umpires and the batsmen.

I then proceeded onto the field where I told the Marlboro captain that the umpires would not be changed. I further told him that the player who had pushed and shoved the batter should be removed from the field of play to ensure that no further abuse would be encountered during the match. His reply was that it should be the GCB that should take appropriate action. I reminded him, that he as a captain should be responsible for the conduct of his players. He refused to remove his offending player. Also realising that in a dispute such as this, it is the duty of both the captains to resolve the matter on the field of play and complete the match, I tried in vain to get the Marlboro captain to send off the guilty player.

I thus had no option but to lead my batsmen and umpires off the field for theirs and the rest of the team's safety.

While I understand that, as per the GCB's "*Code of Behaviour*" the status quo applies and that the match should be played to a conclusion and thereafter the incident should be reported, I felt that none of the rules of the code of conduct were adhered to by the Marlboro captain and team as not only did they react in a disapproving manner towards the umpiring decision but also CAUSED GRIEVIUS BODILY HARM to my batsman on the field of play. Furthermore, the Marlboro captain refused to send off the guilty player and thus the remainder of the game was not destined to be played in the correct spirit of the game.

Azad Swaraj thus appeal to the GCB to award the match and points to us in light of the above blatant disregard, by the Marlboro captain and team, for any rules and regulations or code of conduct that should be adhered to by all teams.

I trust that the appropriate decision and action will be taken by the GCB in this matter.

Regards
Ajit Gandabhai
Captain SA4

Captains Report: Azad Swaraj Sporting SA4 (2) (Saturday second team)

The new season began as dismally as the previous season had ended. After more than a decade of playing Sunday cricket and with two weeks to go before the start of the new season, the Sunday SU1 team had to be closed. This was due to players leaving the club as well as non-availability of players for Sunday cricket. With a handful of Sunday players still willing to play cricket, we hurriedly registered a second Saturday team in the Gauteng league. With many first time cricketers and some past players rekindling their cricketing careers in the team, the season would prove to be a tough challenge.

The season began disastrously. In the first five games, we managed only one win and a draw due to rain. The clear lack of experience in the team showed as we were usually bundled out for low scores. The positives that arose were that we managed to capture at least 8 wickets in all the losses. The team still remained high spirited even though we did not get the best of starts to the season.

The next five games had the same trend as the first five. One win and two draws due to rain. After positive starts by the top order, the rest of the batsmen were still unable to capitalise. The batting would continue to struggle with major collapses occurring in almost every game. The bowling though remained accurate and the fielding was above average. However, as a unit we still lacked the fight and commitment that we were accustomed to while playing Sunday cricket.

The final five matches which included two wins and a draw due to rain closed off a rather disappointing season. A 12th place finish out of 16 teams clearly spoke volumes of the performances that we showed throughout the season. As a captain it was difficult to motivate the players, many of whom, I felt, were merely there for a social gathering rather than to play competitive cricket. Furthermore, the skills displayed were not sufficient enough to seriously challenge even the most average teams in the league.

The sad reality is that, for the coming season, we will be losing a few more of the regular players that previously played Sunday Cricket. I have personally advised them to seek more competitive playing fields as they still have the capabilities to play at the highest level. The current league as well as team structure does not give these individuals the platform to display their full talents.

As for the coming season, we will again strive to field a competitive team each weekend. With the calibre of the players that we have at our disposal and the lessons learnt from last season, we can hopefully improve our league position. However, a considerable effort needs to be put in by all the players if we are willing to make a future success of the team in the Saturday league.

Jayesh Bhana
Captain: SA4 (2)

AZAD SWARAJ SPORTING-SEASON 2007/8 SOCCER COACH'S REPORT

Team: Azad Swaraj

League Affiliated: DEEP SOUTH F A-PREMIER

Age Group: 21 – 27yrs

League Position: 9/12

Coach: Brinton Solomons

2nd Round Games: Won 5 - Draw 3 - Lost 3

Intro:

Having joined the team during the end of the 1st round, there was a lot of work to be done as the team was 3rd from the bottom, confidence and discipline was low.

The players I had to work with were not technically and tactically good.

I had to be firm during the first four weeks to win players respect, and convince them that I'm a qualified and good coach.

Current Squad:

1. ✓ Jateen Bhana
2. ✓ Menil Ravjee
3. Faez Bhana
4. ✓ Dharmesh Bhervia
5. ✓ Mitesh Nathoo
6. ✓ Ajay Bhowan
7. ✓ Rodger Dhawakieram
8. ✓ Trevor Naidoo
9. ✓ Anesh Bhika
10. ✓ Anoop Mistry
11. ✓ Amit Nathoo
12. ✓ Zaheer Malek
13. ✓ Craig Thring
14. Rodwin Lapan
15. ✓ Anesh Ranchod
16. ✓ Peshen Reddy
17. ✓ Sailesh Ravjee

During the teams mid – season knockout we won our first knockout game, claiming the sculps of the then log leaders Florentina 3 – 2 in a thrilling match.

We lost in the quarter finals 2 – 0 to the eventual league winners Barcelona.

I told the players that we would advance to the next stage.

Then training picked up where we went on an unbeaten run, beating Revival 2 – 1 , Ajax 1 – 0 , Lekker Ouens 2 – 0 , Carlisle 6 – 1 , we then also drew with the league champs Barcelona 1 – 1 , Friends 2 – 2 and 4th placed we drew 1 – 1 with Destroyers.

Discipline problems surfaced as players did not train regularly and became over confident. We lost to F.T Stars via controversial refereeing against Lenz Spurs, we were very unlucky against Florentia, we only had 9 men due to injuries and lost 6 – 0. But this was a foundation laid for upcoming seasons as we will be strengthening the team and with many players returning back from injury we definitely bringing silverware home 2008 – 2009 season.

Positions needing strengthening:

1 Right Back, Left Back, Defensive midfield, Right & Left Back, Left Half, 2 New Goalkeepers

Current Plans:

Pre – season to be implemented. Advanced training sessions to be introduced. The players I want to sign for the new season have already confirmed availability. 3 sessions per week to be introduced includes technical physical session, tactical and mental sessions.

Our team must play more of an attacking game so a more competitive mentality and attitude will be encouraged. Our defense needs strengthening.

Improved Players:

Jateen, Anesh, Mitesh, Peshen, Zaheer and Anoop

All the players have improved but the above mentioned team players have caught the eye throughout second half of season.

Formation:

We used the 3 – 2 – 3 – 2 formations for the 07 – 08 seasons.

Overall technically the players have improved leaps and bounds as they can pass the ball more accurately and fluently.

How we compete during matches have also been a great notice, meaning we can score goals in open play and not from set pieces. We also play orientated defense meaning, we press our opponents when they in possession of the ball.

NB: With most players not coming to training regularly we had a big problem in consolidating our position on the log.

Each week different players had different excuses not to be in training. I am going to be very firm on adherence during the new season, NO GYM NO PLAY rule to be implemented.

We have to work hard as we have not grown as fast as I would have liked. But with Anoop and Sailesh returning plus our new signings we feel very positive of lifting some silverware and putting Swaraj where they belong..Number 1.

Yours in sport
Brinton Solomons
20 JUNE 2008

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