

Steep CC Indoor League season review 2017/8

As you may remember, Steep actually has a league team that performs in the upper echelons of Division 4 of the South East Hants League run in Fareham on Sundays nights throughout the winter.

This year was our second in the league and in typical Steep fashion we managed to learn absolutely nothing from our previous experience. The season ran in parallel to last years in that we started like we had never played the game before, got to grips with the format after promotion was long gone and then just got on with the main aim which was to enjoy a bit of competitive practice in the dark months.

The first game was against an experienced Hambledon side who walloped us without having to get out of first gear. We got closer in game two but Portchester won by a single wicket thanks to the most blatant piece of match fixing by our esteemed club captain. With the opposition needing 20 to win off the last over, he proceeded to serve up an orgy of wides and half volleys that were smacked against the back wall to concede the victory. The opposition celebrated like they had won the world cup whilst we wondered what the bribe had been to bowl such a final over...

Match day three saw the Steep indoor machine stir into action. The mighty XIIth Men B were the unfortunate victims to a twin bowling attack of Jhon Cosgrove and Graham Hughes and collapsed to a meagre 60 all out which was knocked off with aplomb by Dean Knight.

Normal service was then resumed as Gosport spanked us by 50 runs before we returned the favour to our friends down the A3, Clanfield, mainly due the fact that Dave Greetham played and made us look like a half decent outfit.

We entered the Christmas break in mid-table mediocrity but returned fuelled up on mince pies and mulled wine to annihilate the formidable Knowle Village. This match was notable for the reinvention of Alex Bone as pace bowler as he proceeded to bowl a volley of vicious bouncers at the opposition teenage girl opener. A win is a win though and we carried on with a similar 4 wicket trouncing of Railway Triangle. A close defeat to runaway champions Sarisbury meant we needed to win the final game of the season to end up with a positive win/loss ratio. This was duly achieved thanks to indoor run machine Tom McCubbin and John Smith leaving Fareham to lick their wounds.

So a final tally of won 5 and lost 4 was enough to earn us 3rd place in the league mainly down to the other team's incompetence rather than our ability. We did, however, learn many things:

- 1) Jhon Cosgrove is the 19th best bowler in the league
- 2) Tom McCubbin is an indoor batting genius despite the fact he never backs up
- 3) John Smith can be bought for a doughnut and a pack of M+M's (probably)
- 4) Dale Collins and Jack Coles do not like indoor cricket
- 5) Alex Bone has raw pace to add to his considerable cricketing armoury
- 6) Tom Mercer does not know the names of half his team mates

- 7) If we actually bothered to take the game seriously we could be quite good at it
- 8) We were able to give 12 club members to opportunity to practice some of the skills of the game and to keep their hands in over the normally dormant winter period
- 9) Alex Bone lives 5 minutes off the motorway

That's it for another season. We would like to thank Tommy Mac for organising the whole affair and getting all the sides together. Also thanks to Tom Mercer for scoring after he realised that a batting average of 4 and a bowling average of 75 was not going to cut it in the league. Also the umpires and organisers of the league for giving us a chance to show our ineptitude to a wider audience

Roll on 2018/9 and another season of glorious failure!!!