

Steep - v – Bedhampton Mariners (Sunday 21st June 2009)

With a growing injury list Steep were not best placed to compete with a team who they have not beaten since 2003. Stand in skipper Mike Dale had to call on another new opening partnership this week, but once again was not let down. Chris Best and George Aldridge applied themselves well against openers Clare Hirst and Harry Fenn. Once Aldridge was out to a good catch, Best had short but productive partnerships with Tim Passingham and Dale Collins before Jon Morris came to the crease. His 54 not out together with Best's 49 plus 24 from the skipper set a target for the Mariners of 221 to win.

Martyn Dodd, playing his first game of the season for Steep, and Mel Palmer opened the bowling and Dodd in particular deserved more than 1-33 off his 7 accurate overs. First change saw Dale Collins replace Palmer and he soon had Gardiner LBW for 39. Mike Dale then held a smart return catch to give Steep some hope. However, J Fenn continued to flay anything short and wide and finished on 79 not out. Jon Morris came on towards the end and took two quick wickets but it was not enough and Bedhampton reached their target with 4 overs to spare.

Steep 220-7

(Morris 54no, Best 49, M.Dale 24, Douglas 14)

Bedhampton Mariners 221-6

(J.Fenn 79no, A.Gardiner 39, Hoolihan 28, S.Gardiner 20, C.Hovey 20)