

## **Christchurch Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Match Reports 2011**

### **28<sup>th</sup> May, Wimborne & Colehill 2<sup>nd</sup>. Away**

The Church continued winning ways with a solid defeat of Wimborne at the Leaze. Williams again won the toss and elected to bat. After losing Kitson in the second over, overseas players Blomfield and Williams laid the foundations for another big run assault on the opposition. The pair put on a partnership of 107 in 17 overs before Blomfield cruelly run himself out for his maiden 50 for the Christchurch 1st team. Robinson lasted just the one ball before departing back to the pavilion to be closer to the tea urn which brought SBJ Rayner to the crease with the skipper. The pair added another 20 before umpire Donaldson raised his finger to the skipper for a well made 45. The returning Buttons Malone has yet to be on a losing side since arriving back from Australia and it is with no surprise that he and Rayner tormented the opposition attack for the remaining 18 overs. Together they put on a 126 run partnership with some big hitting and classy running between the wickets. Malone bringing up his fifty with a well placed inside edge for four from the last ball of the innings leaving Rayner applauding at the other end drenched from the rain. Our fielding was again ok and our bowling in difficult conditions too held up nicely with Bowater, Custard, Robinson, Goodchild and Kelly all taking at least a wicket apiece. With an all out attacking field, we allowed Wimborne some cheap runs towards the end due to our persistence to push for the extra bonus point wicket which unfortunately did not arrive mainly due to the ability of their number 8 but overall another successful win claiming 18 points. We are now starting to look more like a consistent unit where winning is starting to become a habit again and are currently joint 3rd in the league with Bere Regis. Gareth

### **21<sup>st</sup> May, Poole Town 2<sup>nd</sup>. Home**

It was a fantastic win by the Church, where finally everything came together for the first time this season. After winning the toss and electing to bat, a solid opening stand laid the foundations. Every player chipped in with a good account of themselves and with the top order claiming a lowest score of 26 and with wickets in hand we were able to let loose in the last few overs. The master blaster Scott Kelly opened his shoulders as did Cowboy Liam Bowater

recording a quickfire 34 from 20 balls to notch up his top score for the club in his 4th game. Our fielding was also much better this week, with a higher intensity being displayed by a more confident looking team. Skipper Williams snaffled both Poole openers in the first couple of overs with sharp catches at short extra cover and these high standards continued throughout the Poole innings where some decent bowling by regulars Kitson, Robinson and Goodchild claimed regular Poole wickets. Not to be outdone Brett Custard claimed 3 wickets for 26 runs from the top end and chocolate arm Tiger Robinson took a decent catch for once. The game was ended with the skipper claiming his hat-trick catch with an over the shoulder number whilst diving backwards taht has only ever been seen in the Bob Woolmer Cricketing Bible at Ben Rayner's chateau! Next week Wimborne away. Let the fun commence!  
Gareth

#### **14<sup>th</sup> May, Beaminster. Away**

The longest away trip of the season produced the 1st win of the season against newly relegated Beaminster. Skipper Williams won the toss and elected to bat on a flat track paying dividends. Mikey Kitson batted superbly for 123 and Robinson, Rayner and Blomfield all found form during the innings. James Adams again batted well and was ably supported by the in form Scott Kelly ending 32 not out. Bowling wise Brett Custard performed tightly claiming 1-32 from 12 with his inswinging deliveries and The Fonz snaffling 2 wickets. Overall a much better performance with the bat showing more like the old Christchurch resilience, bowling also improved but our fielding at times was comical which needs to be improved if we are to keep pace with the league leaders. Next week we host Poole Town at Hurn Bridge looking for our second consecutive win. Gareth

#### **7<sup>th</sup> May, Cranborne. Home**

First home game of the season and the Church were looking to bounce back from last weeks defeat against newly promoted and current league leaders Cranborne CC. Weather forecasts predicted thundery downpours so it was a miracle that the game even went ahead. The covers did a superb job protecting the pitch and after Cranborne won the toss and chose to bowl on a

decent looking Hurn Bridge pitch openers Ben Rayner and Tony Robinson took to the field. Both were out cheaply for the second week running putting Church under pressure. Kitson batted well again but failed to go on to a bigger score but a Captains knock of 52 from Gareth Williams and 54 from Scott Kelly allowed Church a respectable 177 all out after 45 overs. Unfortunately the heavens opened during the tea interval and both Captains and Umpires decided that enough was enough with the game being abandoned as a no result. Next week the Church will be travelling away to Beaminster looking to pick up their first victory of the season. Gareth

### **30<sup>th</sup> April, Bere Regis. Away**

Start of the season expectations were high with the aim of gaining promotion to Division 1. Unfortunately we underperformed in all departments on the day and were soundly beaten by fierce rivals Bere Regis. Positives to take from the game though were Mikey Kitson's 5 wicket haul opening the bowling and the technical ability of young James Adams playing his first ever game of adult cricket with the bat. Generally our fielding was not good enough with a number of attempted catches being floored throughout the duration. Although some tight bowling from Tony Robinson and Liam Bowater (also making his Christchurch debut) pegged the home team back we were unable to limit them during the middle overs. Our batting was poor with only Kitson, new Captain Gareth Williams and young James Adams reaching double figures with the rest of the team skying balls far to often giving catching practice to the Bere Regis fielders. We will be looking to bounce back next week with our first home game against Cranborne CC. Gareth