

SNOW WAY TO PLAY!

Leigh CC v Slaithwaite CC Match Review by Rob Hardie

Sunday 6th April saw Slaithwaite's players get their first match practice since the end of last season and the first chance to see how the squad is fairing in the run-up to the new season. With less than two weeks till the first ball is bowled in the 2008 season, the match, against Leigh Cricket Club, would be a great indicator of how the coming season will take shape. However, following the recent spate of poor weather in the North of England, the game would eventually be called off due to appalling conditions.



The Leigh CC Club Crest

The match, at Beach Walk in Leigh against Liverpool and District League side Leigh CC, would take on extra significance because former Slaithwaite player Dave Dove would be captaining the opposition after switching clubs at the end of the 2007 season. It would be a tale of two skippers, then, as Slaithwaite captain Martin Welsh would eventually make it to the game after taking a bit of a detour near the Trafford Centre!

With the game starting late, the snow had the chance to make its return, and return it did. With Leigh winning the toss and electing to bat first it would be the turn of the bowlers to show what they can do. After an innings that would be reduced to 30 overs, the home side reached a total of 103 for 7 with former player Dove succumbing lbw to the bowling of Mark Mitchell for a duck. There was also a rotation of wicketkeepers as Ian Holt and Matthew Payne both took to the field to show their talents, although conditions made things difficult. Dave Berry was obviously prepared for the worst and stood guard at slip with a pair of woolly gloves he received as a Christmas present. Top marks for forward planning!

The best of the Slaithwaite attack was as follows:

Jason Longmore: 9 overs, 1 wicket for 7 runs.

Tom Simpson: 6 overs, 2 wickets for 30 runs.

Chris Payne: 6 overs, 1 maiden, 1 wicket for 19 runs.

Martin Welsh: 3 overs, 1 wicket for 8 runs.

An early tea was taken as a result of the weather taking a turn for the worse and the snow getting heavier. After tea the game was inevitably called off after only three balls. This led to a hasty retreat back to the bar to take in the FA Cup semi-final.

Hopefully next week's pre-season friendly with Blackley CC will provide the players with some better weather and a chance to prepare properly for the season opener with Thongsbridge on April 19th.