

Cricket Finals Match Report - Scarborough, Sunday, 10th September 2023

Match: Beverley Veterans vs Silver Tykes Competition: 20/20 GFT Plate Final 2023

On a cloudless and scorching Sunday morning in Scarborough, the stage was set for a thrilling showdown in the 20/20 GFT Plate Final 2023. The Silver Tykes won the toss and opted to field, allowing Beverley Veterans to dictate terms on the pristine North Marine Road wicket.

The Beverley openers, RJ Thompson (26*) and Ali Brumfield (15), initiated a composed beginning, reaching 39-0 before Andy Stoddart (2-22, 4 overs) orchestrated a crucial double breakthrough. Nick Briggs (1-18, 3 overs) showcased impressive bowling during the middle phase. However, Simon Lazenby (26*) and Tim Fordon (21*) later unleashed a flurry of runs, enabling Beverley Veterans to post a challenging total of 147-7 in their allotted 20 overs.

Marc Crosbie, among the Silver Tykes' bowlers, delivered a standout performance, conceding only 15 runs in his four overs, despite remaining wicket-less. Andy Conboy (1-14, 3 overs) consistently maintained a tight line. Behind the stumps, Paul Hebden displayed exceptional wicketkeeping skills, accounting for three dismissals and conceding no byes.

In response, the Tykes' openers, Mark Moorhouse (12) and Steve Korke (6), struggled to negotiate the late swing generated by Andy Wootton (1-18, 4 overs). Pete Parnaby (2-14, 4 overs) further tilted the balance in favour of Beverley Veterans. A memorable moment unfolded when Dave Fishwick executed a spectacular running catch on the boundary edge.

Nevertheless, Adil Mahmood (25*) and Andy Conboy (26*) engineered a remarkable recovery for the Tykes, successfully bringing the run rate under control through clean hitting. Mick Dancer (11*) and Andy Stoddart (16*) comfortably guided the Silver Tykes to victory with 3.2 overs to spare. Andy Conboy's outstanding all-round performance earned him the coveted title of Player of the Match.

The match showcased a thrilling display of cricket, unfolding on an impeccable playing surface under the brilliance of the weather. It was a day to be treasured, and heartfelt gratitude was extended to tournament organisers Helen Heald, Kendal James, and Zai Ali, as well as umpires Allan Brown and Peter Roe, along with Scarborough CC for their gracious hospitality.

Match: Hall Park Templars vs Bowling Old Lane Competition: 30/30 Grey Fox Trophy Final 2023

The exceptional weather in Scarborough on this memorable day added to the excitement of the 30/30 Grey Fox Trophy Final 2023, hosted by Scarborough Cricket Club. The top-notch facilities and ideal playing conditions were savoured by both teams, who were looking forward to a competitive game of cricket at this well-loved and iconic ground.

Hall Park Templars commenced the proceedings with a remarkable opening partnership by Gary Walton and Graeme Wolfenden, who both retired on reaching 30*. Harwood Williams, despite a hesitant start, played some elegant shots before he too retired on 33*. Kev Pickles' tenure at number 4 was short lived, contributing to Bowling Old Lane's resurgence.

Ted Lester, taking the number 5 spot, batted well for his 19 but faced difficulties in running between the wickets. The charismatic Denis Rock made his entrance at number 6 and quickly reached 31* with his powerful hitting. However, the succeeding batters, Mark Scaife at 7, Neil Waite at 8 and new keeper Kevin McGuinness at 9, were unable to pierce the well-positioned Bowling Old Lane fielders

and boundaries dried up while they were at the crease. Rob Hodson, at number 10, recognised the urgency to accelerate the run rate and executed a swashbuckling innings of 21 before falling to a smartly-held catch by Shahid Bashir. After Hodson's departure, skipper Waite and last man Kev Reed shepherded the Templars' innings total to a very imposing 238 – 5 off their 30 overs.

Needing a challenging 8 runs an over, Bowling Old Lane's reply got off to a good start, taking 10 runs from opener Kev Reed's first over. However, runs were harder to come by from Denis Rock at the other end and it was Rock who claimed the initial wicket, inducing opener Khalid Rehman to misjudge the swing, resulting in a confident catch by Gary Walton on the boundary's longest edge.

First change bowler, Harwood Williams, was despatched all around the North Marine Road outfield at the required rate from his 5 overs but second change bowler, Rob Hodson, stemmed the flow of runs at the Trafalgar Square end. Hodson played a pivotal role in steering Hall Park Templars toward a winning position by removing the Bowling Old Lane middle order in rapid succession, finishing his spell with impressive figures of 3-15, 4 overs.

The excitement mounted as Bowling Old Lane's lower order countered, with a flurry of runs from numbers 8 and 10 and the return to the crease of retired batters T. Khan (46) and K. Rehman. With 3 overs remaining, their valiant efforts were finally brought to a halt 32 runs short of victory when McGuinness whipped off Khan's bails to claim his 3rd stumping victim of the match off the bowling of Scaife (2-17, 3 overs) and also ran out the unlucky Bowling Old Lane no 8, leaving Rehman undefeated on 34*.

A hugely entertaining and competitive final that resulted in Hall Park Templars denying Bowling Old Lane their 4th successive win in the Grey Fox Trophy.

Final result Hall Park Templars 238-5 (30 overs); Bowling Old Lane 207-10 (27 overs).

Player of the Match: Harwood Williams (Hall Park Templars)