



Norman conquest for Shimmin

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By Gordon Law

WIMBLEDON skipper Mark Shimmin was thrilled after his troops conquered Normandy to get their season off to a flyer.

Shimmin guided his team to a comprehensive eight-wicket victory in Saturday's Premier Division home clash.

"It was a very good team performance with the bowlers doing well and the batters also doing their job," he said.

"The only down side was we'd like to have had more guys bat as some will be a bit rusty."

After putting visiting Normandy in to bat, they got them all out for just 143 after 52 overs.

The Dons didn't have the best of starts as opening batsman Jon Wilman was bowled out for one. However, Richard Purdey steadied the ship before going for 32.

New signing Steven Hobson hit 48 not out on his debut and Graham Grace scored 58, also not out, as Wimbledon posted 146 for 2 to clinch the win.

Wimbledon face a tougher test when they travel to Premier Division champions Sutton this Saturday.

"We'd like to have got a few games under our belts before we met the champions," said Shimmin. "They play good, positive cricket. But playing them will show how far we've progressed from last season."

A new-look Dulwich side containing six debutants took the field at Cobham Avorians only to go down by two wickets in a tense finish off the last ball of the game.

Dulwich were put in to bat and lost new opener Faisal Shahid for a golden duck off the last ball of the first over. Zoheb Sharif and Chris Thompson withstood a lively opening spell by Scott Jarvis and Steve Hopley, adding 109 for the second wicket.

They both passed 50 in their first championship innings for the club.

In an innings reduced to 63 overs due to rain delays, Dulwich finished on an upbeat 267-8.

Avorians were left with 51 overs in reply but their innings got off to a shaky start as Tom Savill struck with wickets in his second and third overs.

Mark Higgs and keeper Rob Arthur forged a third wicket partnership of 121 in 23 overs to put them up with the rate.

Paceman Savill returned to dismiss Arthur for 40 and Steve Naylor for eight but it took the return of Burton to dismiss Higgs for 95.

Avorians now needed 84 off 16.2 overs but 28 apiece from Crawford and Jarvis off just 22 balls saw them close to the target.

With 10 wanted off three overs, new boy Raza Ali Dar coolly bowled a maiden, while Sharif conceded two but had Jarvis caught.

Eight were needed off the last over. Sam Smart, also with 28 runs, ensured that his side reached the target off the last ball of the innings.

On Saturday, Dulwich host Reigate Priory in the league.

DIVISIONS ONE AND TWO

SPENCER crashed to a five-wicket defeat in their opening Division One game of the season at home to Banstead.

Put in to bat, Spencer were skittled for 127 in 43.2 overs and the visitors hit 130-5 from 36.1 overs for victory.

Skipper Neil Baker said: "We were unlucky to lose the toss, and with the pitch a bit wet, our batting wasn't very good.

"Although we bowled quite well, when you only have a small amount of runs, it only takes a couple of decent scores from the opposition for them to win it.

"It's not the best of starts to the season for us, so we've got to put things right at Pyrford this Saturday."

Mitcham went down to a dramatic eight-run home loss to Cheam in Division Two.

They won the toss and restricted Cheam to 165-7 from the allocated 55 overs. But they could only manage 157 all out in reply.

DIVISIONS THREE AND FIVE

EDWARD Alleyn & Honor Oak suffered an eight-wicket Division Three defeat at home to Old Wimbledonians.

They could only manage 98 all out after 34.2 overs in their innings. Ashraf posted up figures of 5-10.

And Old Wimbledonians took 20.5 overs to finish up on 99-2 to claim the win.

Streatham & Marlborough lost their home clash with FaSLPombe by 46 runs. After restricting FaSLPombe to 165-9 after 55 overs, they only managed 119 all out in reply.

In Division Five, Old Rutlishians romped to a 10-wicket triumph at Ripley.

They demolished Ripley all out for 98 runs and took 17.4 overs to get 100 with all their wickets in tact.

Sinjungrammarians went down to an 85-run reverse at Thames Ditton. Set a target of 192, they only managed 107 before they ran out of wickets.

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