



Pharmacy Cricket

Invitation Match

The President's XI v The Invitation XI Bradman Oval Bowral April 2009

Sunny and delightful one day, rain showers the next, is a phrase that should be used to describe Bowral in April. So it was on Sunday 19th April. The weather was overcast and rain threatened having been bright and sunny the previous day. Not to be put off all the players arrived on time changed into their whites to be presented with their team caps by former Australian Test Captain and pharmacist Ian Craig.

Bradman Oval as always was in first class condition. Steve Thompson (Sydney) captain of the Invitation team on winning the toss decided to bowl. Opening batsmen for the Presidents team Michael Redpath (Newcastle) and Binh Luu (Sydney) had an opening stand of 63 when Luu was dismissed for 23 in the 17th over. Redpath was required to retire on 30 and resumed his innings later to remain 50 not out. Matt Dan (Newcastle) coming in at number 4 batted in grand style with one stroke for 6 just missing two rather expensive cars parked nearby, and remained 50 not out. Of the remaining batsmen Ivan Mauko (GSK), team captain David Sidgreaves (Sydney), Chris Georges (Sydney) with Paul Wickham (Country) 30 not out, all recorded double figures. The Presidents' team reached 8 for 218 after the allotted 40 overs. Bowling for the Invitation team Nick Holton (Sydney) with 3 for 19 and Tim Sallway (Alphapharm) 2 for 37, took the bowling honours. The fielding team was not helped with the occasional rain shower and at one stage the wicket having to be covered,

The Invitation team opened their innings and lost their first wicket in the 4th over and were 1 for 21. Opener and CSU student Justin Smith 42 not out with Tim Sidgreaves 30 held the side together and with Chris Hernandez (Newcastle) and Andy Dent (Sydney) not out 33 moved the score along. However it appeared the number of overs left would not allow a close finish let alone a win. However one should never underestimate just what an O'Reilly on Bradman Oval can achieve, with three 6's and two 4's Michael O'Reilly (Country) 38 not out with Captain Steve Thompson (Sydney) 23, almost reached the runs required for victory. The Invitation team all out for 209.

It was a delight to see many family groups at the match together with those whose organizations sponsor Pharmacy Cricket, some coming from as far as the Victorian border, Wagga Wagga, the ACT, Newcastle and Sydney.

At the BBQ following the match, former Test Captain and Hockey Olympian Brian Booth presented the match Trophy to David Sidgreaves captain of the Presidents' team offering congratulations to both teams for a splendid match. Paul Wickham with 30 not out, 2 for 17 and two exceptional catches off consecutive deliveries was awarded 'Man of the Match'.

To recognize that teams representing New South Wales, City (Sydney) and Pharmacy playing some eight games remaining undefeated during the season a 'Player of the Season' medal was awarded to David Sidgreaves. Pharmacy Cricket President Greg Hodgson in presenting the medal spoke of the way David captained his teams, often batting very low in the order, to give the younger fellows a better opportunity, some times although the captain, he did not bat and recognized that David had been part of Pharmacy Cricket since day one. David wearing his medal was joined by his wife Nikki and their five little ones for a family photo.

This match was a great way to finish this most successful season of 18 games (which included the National six states Carnival) played at a variety of excellent grounds involving a wide spectrum of the Pharmacy profession supported by various industry organizations and professional bodies.