

Sat 16th May 2009 v WB Dartmouth Home

The weather intervened in most Birmingham League matches with strong winds and storms sweeping the grounds throughout the day before finally a terrific thunderstorm ended the First XI match early with the game nicely poised. For the first time this season, Nathan Round won the toss and elected to field. Old Hill got off to a great start reducing West Bromwich Dartmouth to 19 for 3 wickets but steady batting by Randhawa 61 and Perera 25, halted their progress until Nathan Round intervened to take 3 for 27 in a 14 overs spell, with West Bromwich Dartmouth ending their 45 overs on 152 for 9 wickets. Because of the continued showers, the Old Hill target was reduced to 127 off 37 overs and they got away to a poor start quickly losing two wickets. However, Nathan Round came in and immediately started to stroke the ball around before the final storm ended the match early with Old Hill 38 for 2 off 12 overs. Nathan Round with two magnificent catches to add to his wickets and runs was awarded the Man of the Match Trophy. Old Hill 9 points, West Bromwich Dartmouth 6 points.

Sat 23rd May 2009 v Harborne Away

The First XI had a good win at Harborne in lovely sunny conditions following all the bad weather in the previous few days. Having lost the toss yet again, Old Hill were invited to bat first and found themselves struggling on 29 for 3 wickets but thanks to fine batting by Chris Bending (39) and Carl Whyte (48), they totalled 210 from 51.4 overs. Harborne's reply also got off to a rocky start and thanks to a wonderful bowling performance from Elliot Wilson with 6 for 28, the home side were bowled out for 157 in 47.1 overs with Old Hill winning by 53 runs to take a maximum 24 points; Harborne 5 points.

Sat 30th May 2009 v Attock Home

The First XI played hosts to Attock, who won the toss and chose to bat on a beautiful Spring afternoon and they got off to a cracking start in spite of losing some early wickets. Opening batsman M Rhen was in good form and scored 98 runs before being caught on the boundary by Dan Wood off Nick Dunford having been dropped twice, and the visitors innings closed on 227 for 9 wickets (55 overs), with Richard Jones taking 5 wickets for 59 runs. In reply, Old Hill got off to a steady start; although losing wickets at regular intervals. Dan Wood gave a solid performance before being caught in the deep having scored 93 runs. It was then left to Richard Jones, 54 not out, to guide Old Hill to a 3 wicket victory with one over to spare to claim the Man of the Match award. Attock 227 for 9 (55) 6 points, Old Hill 228 for 7 (54) 24 points.

Sat 13th June 2009 v Berkswell Home

Old Hill First XI had a thrilling victory against Berkswell at Haden Hill in their Birmingham League Division 1 game. Having yet again been asked to bat first on a lively pitch, the top order found the going very tough with wickets falling at regular intervals although Ravi Nagra 29 and Chris Bending 22 batted sensibly while wickets continued to crash around them. With the score on 102 for 8 wickets, No. 9 batsman, Nigel Davenport, entered the fray and put together a partnership of 66 runs with the help of Elliot Wilson (24) before finally being caught out for a well constructed 50 and help Old Hill to a total of 169 runs. In reply, Berkswell lost two early wickets in reaching 25 before ex Warwickshire player Dominic Ostler and K Zaman put together a partnership to take the score past 100 before some astute captaincy by Nathan

Round ably assisted by Richard Jones engineered a collapse by the visitors. In fact, Berkswell lost their last 6 wickets for 38 runs for Old Hill to run out winners by 3 runs in a very tense and exciting climax. Nathan Round 5 for 24 and Richard Jones 3 for 47 finishing the match off in Old Hill's favour. Old Hill 169 (43.1 overs) 24 points, Berkswell 166 (43.5 overs) 6 points.

Sat 20th June 2009 v Dorridge Home

The First XI had a good win at home to Dorridge to close in to within 9 points of leaders, Stratford. Having won the toss, Old Hill chose to field and Dorridge made a reasonable start until the home side introduced Doud Islam, pressed into service because of injuries to Richard Jones and Elliot Wilson. Bowling a very good line and length, the visitors collapsed to 68 for 6 wickets before they recovered to bat out their overs and post a score of 217 for 9 wickets (Fiz Abdullah 69). In reply, Old Hill reached 48 for 2 wickets before a 98 run partnership between opener Cameron Fox (77) and Captain, Nathan Round (37), saw Old Hill closing in on their victory target but it was left to Chris Bending (34 not out) to steer them to victory with 4 wickets and 2 overs remaining. Old Hill 218 for 6 (20 points), Dorridge 217 for 9 (5 points). Doud Islam was named Man of the Match for a return of 15 for 4, 20 for 5.

Sat 27th June 2009 v Halesowen Away

For the fourth time in ten games so far this season, Old Hill First XI were thwarted by the weather as they were establishing a good position to push for victory at Halesowen. Choosing to bat first, Old Hill's early batsmen got off to a poor start with the exception of Ravi Nagra (64) and 5 wickets were down with only 100 runs on the board. However, determined batting by Richard Jones (45), Carl Whyte (26), Andy Hawkins (29) and an unbroken partnership for the ninth wicket by Nigel Davenport (49 N.O.) and Elliot Wilson (10 N.O.), Old Hill amassed a competitive total of 243 - 8 wickets off 55 overs. Halesowen began their reply with rain threatening and were soon in trouble with Jones and Wilson bowling very well. The home side were reeling at 62 for 4 wickets off 16 overs when, after lengthy delays for light rain showers, the match was finally abandoned with the sun breaking through the clouds. Old Hill 10 points, Halesowen 8 points.

Sat 4th July 2009 v Coventry NW Home

The First XI started their match at home to Coventry & N.W. "on fire" having been asked to bat first. Cameron Fox and Dan Wood had 60 runs on the board with only 6 overs bowled, before wickets began to fall on a regular basis. The exception was a good half century partnership between Captain Nathan Round and Worcestershire all rounder Richard Jones, before the County player was bowled going for another big hit, but the Captain continued to bat superbly to finish on 70 not out as Old Hill were bowled out for 219 runs off 49 overs. Old Hill's opening bowlers, Richard Jones and Elliot Wilson were also in good form reducing Coventry to 77 - 7 wickets before the obligatory rain shower arrived but this could not dampen their burning desire for victory and they knocked the visitors over for 82 runs with Jones 6 - 39 and Wilson 3 - 27 bowling unchanged; interspersed with a brilliant run out by Dan Wood as Old Hill earned a thoroughly deserved victory bowling out Coventry in less than 25 overs to win by 136 runs and move Old Hill up into second place just one point behind next week's opponents Smethwick as the match ended at 5.30 p.m. Richard Jones was named Man of the Match. Old Hill 24 points, Coventry & N.W. 4 points.

Sat 11th July 2009 v Smethwick Away

Old Hill (13 points) 110, Smethwick (6 points) 62 - 8. Abandoned as a draw.

Old Hill First XI yet again lost the toss in their top of the table clash away at Smethwick and were asked to bat on a very wet wicket after a delayed start which reduced the match to 33 overs per side and were soon in trouble at 16 - 3 wickets. They recovered to reach 103 - 5 wickets off 28 overs before losing their last 5 wickets for 7 runs to end on 110 all out, Nathan Round remaining unbeaten on 46 runs. Smethwick immediately found batting difficult at 21 - 3 wickets with Nathan Round's all round good form continuing with 3 - 27 in tandem with Elliot Wilson's spell of 9 - 3 - 8 - 3 they reduced Smethwick to 62 - 8 wickets off 25 overs before the rains returned and the match was abandoned as a draw. The 13 points gained by Old Hill took them up to joint top of the League alongside Stratford.

Sat 18th July 2009 v Shifnal Home

Old Hill (14 points) drew with Shifnal (7 points). Winning draw to Old Hill.

On a day when the toss was going to be vital to the outcome of the game, Old Hill First XI, yet again, were unfortunate to "lose it" and were asked by visitors Shifnal to bat on a very difficult wicket with the ball flying in all directions and soon found themselves reeling at 57 - 5 wickets. But, standing firm amidst the carnage around him, Chris Bending put together a gritty innings of 54 runs and with the help of a determined Carl Whyte (28) they put together a partnership of 72 runs to steady the ship as the wicket began to dry out. Then, with the help of the lower order batsmen, Bending guided Old Hill to a very respectable total of 188 all out off their allotted overs. When Shifnal went out to bat, Old Hill bowlers got to work straight away reducing the visitors to 44 - 4 wickets at which point they "shut up shop" with Australian, Luke Wells, occupying the crease for the full 55 overs to finish on 53 not out. Elliot Wilson took 3 - 15 for Old Hill to add to his quick-fire 25 at the end of Old Hill's knock. Chris Bending was named Man of the Match for his sterling effort with the bat. Old Hill remain second in the table.

Sat July 25th 2009 v West Brom Dartmouth Away

Old Hill 112 (1 point) lost to West Bromwich Dartmouth 114 - 3 (20 points) by 7 wickets.

After a delayed start due to the previous day's bad weather, Old Hill First XI lost another very important toss for the fifth game running and were put in to bat on an extremely difficult wicket away at West Bromwich Dartmouth. The visitors got off to a poor start losing early wickets until a good fifth wicket partnership between Richard Jones (43) and Mo Shaoib (19) took the score into the 80's before Old Hill were bowled out in 43.3 overs for 112 runs leaving the home side a total of 50 overs in which to reach their target. However, West Bromwich Dartmouth lost a wicket straight away but recovered thanks to a partnership between Randhawa (32) and Ahmed (41), plus an injury to Old Hill Captain, Nathan Round, saw the hosts reach their target in 41.4 overs with 7 wickets in hand to win the game. Old Hill are now joint third in the Table.

Sat Aug 1st 2009 v Harborne Home

Old Hill (5 points) Harborne (5 points). Match abandoned.

After the continuous and persistent rains of the previous seven days and the heavy overnight bad weather, the First XI game against Harborne was abandoned without a ball being bowled in spite of the sterling efforts of the ground staff. This means that Old Hill have had six matches abandoned and four games affected by the weather out of a total of fifteen scheduled matches so far. Looking ahead to next weekend, the local forecasters can see no let-up in the bad weather with Friday and Saturday again looking particularly bad. However, we can only hope that they have got it completely wrong yet again!

Sat Aug 8th 2009 v Wellington Home

Old Hill 97 (3 points) lost to Wellington 100 - 8 (20 points) by 2 wickets.

The top of the Table clash for Old Hill First XI against Wellington at Haden Hill ended in disappointment for the home side. A poor batting display on a damp wicket coupled with the loss of the toss for the sixth time running led to their downfall. Put in to bat, the home side got off to a cracking start with 14 runs on the board after the completion of the first over, but from that point onwards, with the exception of Richard Jones (24), their cavalier attitude led to their own downfall and they were all out for a paltry 97 runs in less than 37 overs. With a maximum of 73 overs in which to get the required runs, Wellington made a steady start and reached 40 with just 2 wickets down when Old Hill received another telling blow as Richard Jones picked up a finger injury meaning he could take no further part in the game. First XI manager/coach, Jon Roe, having stepped into the role of scorer for the day, donned his whites to do the job of 12th man. It was not until the introduction of Nigel Davenport (2 - 26) and Captain Nathan Round (6 - 44) to the attack that wickets began to tumble on a regular basis with the visitors scraping home with just 2 wickets in hand off 40.1 overs to win the match.

Sat Aug 15th 2009 v Attock Away

Old Hill 106 - 6 (20 points) beat Attock 102 (2 points) by 4 wickets.

For the first time in 8 matches, Old Hill First XI Captain Nathan Round won the toss and chose to field first away at Attock on a far from easy wicket. The home side found batting difficult and soon lost a wicket to seamer Elliot Wilson but then managed to get up to 50 with only 3 wickets down. However, with the introduction of Nigel Davenport 4 - 32 and the Captain joining the attack, the home side were bowled out for 102 runs off 39.4 overs; Nathan Round returning figures of 9 - 3 - 7 - 4. In reply Old Hill were never comfortable at the crease apart from Dan Wood (25) and Ravi Nagra (23) but managed to reach their target in 38.1 overs with 6 wickets down to take 20 points for their win.

Sat Aug 22nd 2009 v Stratford Home

Old Hill 145 (3 points) lost to Stratford 148 - 5 (20 points) by 5 wickets.

Having been asked to bat first in their match at Haden Hill by Stratford, yet again, Old Hill First XI gave another poor batting display with the exception of Imran Mateen (21) and Captain Nathan Round (51) who did his best to hold the innings together. Having got past the 100 mark with only 4 wickets down, they collapsed to 145 all out in 48.3 overs giving the visitors a maximum of 61 overs in which to reach their target. Old Hill's bowlers needed to be on their mettle from the start and were quick to strike with the visitors reeling on 25 - 4 wickets but Stratford knuckled down to their task led by Captain David Lamb, 70 not out, who survived numerous close calls to reach a total of 148 - 5 wickets to win the game by 5 wickets with 40 overs completed to win the match.

Sat 29th Aug 2009 v Berkswell Away

Old Hill 239 - 9 (24 points) beat Berkswell 135 (5 points) by 104 runs.

Old Hill First XI achieved a very good win away at Berkswell. Having won the toss, Captain Nathan Round chose to bat and after a slow start and the loss of early wickets, they found themselves on 140 - 7 wickets with only Nathan (49) and Cameron Fox (37) making a significant contribution. Then in came Andy Hawkins (58 not out) and Elliot Wilson (29) to take the score to 239 - 9 wickets off their 55 overs. In reply, the home team lost wickets at regular intervals and were bowled out for 135 runs in 39.1 overs with Elliot Wilson taking 5 - 59 off 17 overs and Nigel Davenport 4 - 37 gaining Old Hill a maximum of 24 points as they won by 104 runs.

Mon Aug 31st 2009 v Dorridge Away

Old Hill 138 (3 points) lost to Dorridge 230 - 5 (24 points) by 92 runs.

The First XI's Bank Holiday Fixture away at Dorridge ended in defeat which means that their chances of promotion are now at an end. The home side won the toss and decided to bat first making 230 - 5 wickets from 55 overs with Elliot Wilson taking 3 - 68. In reply, Old Hill slumped to 138 all out in 38.5 overs, Carl Whyte (35) and Ravi Nagra (26) the only batsmen to get to grips with the home sides excellent bowling attack, to lose 92 runs.

Sat Sept 5th 2009 v Halesowen Home

Old Hill 146 - 9 (24 points) beat Halesowen 145 (5 points) by 1 wicket.

It was the youngsters day at Haden Hill as Old Hill First XI defeated Halesowen in a tense and close fought match by 1 wicket. The visitors chose to bat first and scored 145 all out off 55 overs with Hassan Quami top scoring with 32. For Old Hill, Nigel Davenport took 3 - 26 and Elliot Wilson 3 - 21. The home sides reply was interrupted by rain early on as Captain Nathan Round got the innings off to a steady start. However, the serious batsmen again failed to find any sort of form and it was left to young Jared Daniels, Ollie Moseley (17 not out) and "Man of the Match" Dan Jones (35) to see Old Hill home in 49.4 overs with 1 wicket standing to claim the maximum 24 points.

Sat Sept 27th 2009 v Coventry NW Away

Old Hill 217 - 9 (5 points) lost to Coventry & N.W. 220 - 5 (24 points) by 5 wickets.

Old Hill First XI ended the season very disappointingly with defeat away to lowly Coventry & N.W. Batting first, Old Hill got off to a good start and thanks to a century by Captain Nathan Round, they reached 192 - 2 wickets but then lost 6 wickets for just 25 runs to end on 217 - 9 wickets off their 55 overs. When Coventry replied, the visitors took 2 early wickets before a big partnership between Balac (97) and Khan (74) saw Coventry home with 5 wickets and 12 overs in hand to gain a welcome 24 points.