

## UHCC 1<sup>st</sup> Team Match report 24/04/2021

Written by Ian Wightman.

April 24th signalled the hugely anticipated return to cricket after the trials and tribulations of the past year or so. Smiles abounded as the club welcomed its first game for what has seemed an eternity.

There have been a few changes in the world over the past months.....Joe Biden took over at the White House from Donald J Trump, Kim Jong-un was re-elected General Secretary of North Korea (who saw that coming?), NASA successfully lands a vehicle on Mars, the ESL is born.....and dies within a few days and the world said goodbye to some well-known and loved names such as Jack Charlton, HRH Prince Phillip and Larry Flynt (!!!).

In local sport, Leeds became the undisputed No 1 team in Yorkshire (accept it fellas) and Huddersfield have seemingly clung onto their stay in the Championship thanks to all teams around them bottling it. Further good news for the Terriers.....stats show that the lockdown restrictions haven't really impacted on average gates at 'Leeds Road'.

Putting jokes to one side, we shouldn't forget that the world has lost innumerable lives as a result of COVID and continues to do so. We express all our sympathies to those who have lost family or friends.

Throughout that time though, the prospect of cricket has kept many of us going. The smell of the grass, the sound of leather on willow and the prospect of egg mayo sandwiches were never too far from our minds. So being back at the club brought smiles and laughter to us all. In apparent celebration of the new season, the crowds came in their dozens and it was great to see friends and family from both teams mingling and enjoying the day. Special mention to the four generations of the Fern family all present....must be a record? Welcome specifically to Edward (surely another UHCC player in the making) and of course Danni who we hope to see in the weeks and months to come.

The ground looked fantastic.....surrounded now by well kept bankings. The outfield was fast and the wicket...well the wicket was 'Hopton' as we all know so well - you go back at your own risk! Jokes aside, huge thanks to all those who were involved in preparing the ground and clubhouse for the new season.

And so to the game itself. UHCC were put into bat by a clearly confident Low Moor. That confidence took a dent in the first 6 balls as Callum despatched 5 of them to the boundary with aplomb. There were plenty of contributors to a score of 234-8 but special mentions go to Jack (43), Charlie (43) and Willow (56). Ominous to see that Matt B is already chalking up the red inkers in his quest for another batting honour!

With ball in hand, Hopton never looked troubled. From the top end, Matt bowled with his usual aggression and beat the batsmen on numerous occasions on his way to his 3-22 off 9.1 overs. Jack bowled a tremendous spell of 14 overs on the bounce coming up hill and richly deserved his 4-63. Moorhouse, Wightman (T) and Wilson all contributed with some handy overs and Tom ended up with one more wicket than runs (sorry pal, couldn't resist).

The game was over in Low Moor's 37th over when they were bowled out for 151 which meant a healthy 12 points for UHCC. Well done to all concerned.

One final mention should go to Josh Moorhouse for doing his level best to spark what was a well mannered game into disrepute and Craig Gardener for his diplomatic efforts to diffuse a potentially violent situation. Josh.....never shy of 'waving' goodbye to an opposition batsman, may want to re-consider his tactics having incensed a 6' 8" gargantuan of a man wielding a 3lb piece of wood. It should be said that he did all this from long off but nevertheless it had GG out of his seat and waving his flask for a while. As for Craig, seeing the potential for bloodshed and having complete disregard for his own safety, he stepped in to chaperone Mr Angry from the field. All was going well until another chirp from a Hopton player sent him into another frenzy. Credit to you Craig.....you didn't back down.

So all in all, well done to everybody concerned. Onwards and upwards from here lads....great start but a long way to go.