**GARGOYLES HAIL NEW KING(S)**

**The result may have been a tame sounding draw, but the individual machinations of an intriguing dual at the bucolic Sutton on the Hill ground, were gripping.**

**At Mugginton the previous Sunday, Alstonefield CC had met a one man irresistible force. For this match, Sutton on the Hill fielded two young tyros, who between them scored 113 of their 178 total and bowled 26 of their 41 overs for only 46 runs. In response, the Gargoyles revealed their own one-man match winner – Ben King. With two wickets for 19 off 11 overs, three catches and 66 runs, he more than matched the Sutton duo. A draw was fair………**



Ben - King of the Hill at Sutton

Sutton batted first against a mean opening spell from Ben King and Tony Guest (8 overs 0 for 12) but it was King who struck first, removing Wenn to a sharp catch by McKay and then bowling Land. 19 for 2 after 14 overs and the Gargoyles were on top.

Captain Andy Bray would have been delighted with the commitment in the field, typified by the Gargoyles’ other King – Steve, who kept wicket for the first time in his life and used every part of his body to keep the byes down to 8. Hardy had looked a dangerous batsman when he was brilliantly run out by a direct hit from Harry Jones for 24. This brought Day to the middle and he was immediately looking to play big shots, somehow surviving edges and mishits, but causing chaos at the other end as first Alan Hayes and then Andy Farmer were running out his partners. 94 for 6 when Day was joined by Tolley. Six overs later and the score had rocketed to 152, before Day skied one to King, but Tolley continued to plunder and made his 62 off just 21 balls. Yes there was some carnage, but all the bowlers stuck at it, mopping up the tail and dismissing Sutton for a total of 178.

Steve - used every part of his body ...

Not feeling their exertions with the bat, it was Tolley and Day who opened the bowling for Suton, and they were straight on to a line and length likely to cause batsmen problems. Harry Jones was the first to go, surprised by a rare long hop. With Captain Andy Bray injured, there had been some hasty rearranging at the top of the Gargoyles’ order and Ben King joined Ian McKay in the middle. These two saw off the opening attack and put on 63, before McKay was caught driving for 24. King had been positive from the off and was now beginning to enjoy the slow bowlers. Initially with Will Siddons (11) and then with Simon Smith, who made 20 brisk runs, King had made 66, including 6 sixes, when he was caught on the boundary. There then followed the inevitable mini-collapse, when Sutton brought back Tolley and Day, with three batsmen mustering only one run between them. In real dramas, it would be the King who walks out to save the match, but in this case it was the injured Captain Bray. He warded off the danger and generously left Simon Smith to face the last ball with disastrous consequences as he was controversially given out lbw. A last gasp draw indeed! Meanwhile King of the Gargoyles had done his damnedest to win the match.

**SUTTON ON THE HILL CC 178 ALL OUT DREW WITH ALSTONEFIELD CC 145 FOR 9**