**Gargoyles turn tables on Clifton for seasons first win**

"Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces you up, snow is exhilarating; there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather." John Ruskin.

The 11:45 am message to say "a okay" for this game was a relief as it is always a pleasure to play our friends from Clifton. A regular fixture which allows us to see their young players develop into fine cricketers.

Clifton chose to bat first and the two openers were in a hurry to get to the under 18s disco at the local village hall with 45 runs coming off the first 6 overs. Only some fine fielding from Tom Turrell and Lawrence Tinsley removed Olly McCurragh for 23. Alex Blake crashed his way to 35 not out and retirement. Joined by his sister Lola she added 25 to the total. Only Steve Walwyn (16) managed to get into double figures but the Clifton side still managed a healthy total of 204.

Highlights of Alstonefield in the field were catches from Rob Hanscombe, Mark Farmer, Nick Pearson, Liam Duffy and the most spectacular of all from Brian Stack in the gully.

Decent bowling from everyone but always one eye on the stormy clouds.

Tea was livened up by a run-away horse in the adjacent field. At one point it looked like it may jump the fence and trample the wicket but it was brought to a halt by a child on a quad bike.

In response it was the most comfortable chase you could wish for. Andy Bray and the classy Nick Pearson both scored 35 not out retirements. Cameo from Lawrence and time at the crease for Mark Farmer. Jordy and Lawrence ran very well between the wickets. Jordy hit a massive six into the field near the clubhouse and these lusty blows meant that with only 20 runs to get Liam and Rob were able to amble to victory.

By the time I drove to the Co-op it was lashing down so how fortunate were we to have a full days play. So with a 7 wicket victory we will be buoyant going into the Trent Valley game on Sunday.

Liam Duffy