**Alstonefield v Clifton**

**2nd August 2020**

**High scoring Gargoyles outgunned by Clifton**

The Gargoyles hosted Clifton continuing the run of home matches, and for the third Sunday in a row the weather behaved and made for a great afternoons entertainment. Steve King had prepared another great track, that played well and resulted in a high scoring match. Gargoyles welcomed debutant Ben Turrell, guest player Steve Turner and 2019 Lame Duck Award Winner Stuart Hitch for their first matches of the season.

Skipper Andy Bray set the tone, reaching 50 for the second week running - and a season so far of 36, 50 not out, and 53 not out - a pretty decent average! The good scoring rate continued with Nick Pearson (28), Brian Stack (45) and Tom Turrell (26) all contributing well, reaching 187 for 4 in before a late flurry of wickets left the final total at 202 for 8 - a very competitive score at nearly 6 an over, and continuing the Gargolyes upward batting trend.

The score would have been higher, but for the fine bowling of Steve Blake who Clifton held back until later in the innings, and recorded figures of 7 overs – 3 maidens - 1 for 16. It’s not often you see three slip fielders at Alstonefield. Clifton fielded 2 youngsters - Lucas Shirtcliffe and Lola Blake - who between them bowled a very respectable 14 overs – 3 wickets for 76 - bowling at a time Gargoyles batters were looking to score freely.

Although feeling confident about the total to defend, nervous glances were made at the youthful Clifton players as they strode out to bat - and this nervousness was well placed. Clifton had two powerful ball strikers who both raced to 50 and made it difficult to maintain line and length. Tom Turrell took a fine caught and bowled to remove their opener, and Brian Stack made inroads with 2 in 2 balls immediately after being hit for another impressive boundary for the Clifton captain to reach 50, which tightened the game up, but good steady batting by Lucas Shirtcliffe, with support from Lola Blake and our own Chairman guest batting for Clifton saw them close in on victory, and some more clean striking by last man Steve Blake took them past the winning line with overs to spare.

We are all looking forward to the return fixture at Clifton 16th August - and Clifton are equally looking forward to hosting us.