

18TH FEBRUARY AUCC PREMS V BIRKENHEAD CITY MATCH REPORT

The prems moved into second place on the minor championship ladder with a crucial one wicket victory over Birkenhead City.

On day one Chris Dineen and Ian West combined to take six of the first seven wickets to leave the home side struggling on 101/7, before a 92 run eighth wicket stand between Allan Plant (59) and Tazz Satti (34) brought Birkenhead back into the game.

Leg spinner Vedant Zaveri was the man to break the partnership, dismissing both in quick succession before Richard Sillars claimed the final wicket as the visitors finished on 215.

Uni had 21 overs to bat at the end of day one and rather than simply looking to just survive the session opener Tim Dineen went on the counterattack striking three fours and a six before he was dismissed for 25.

Fellow opener Vishi Jeet also fell before the close of play, but by this time Uni had reached 74/2 with skipper Marc Ellison and Vamshi Puppala looking well set.

Before the start of day two the prems felt confident needing just another 142 runs with eight wickets in hand, but the day started in the worst possible way when Puppala was dismissed first ball.

Simon Wood and Vedant Zaveri followed soon after, and when Ellison and Chris Dineen fell after drinks Uni were still well short of the target.

Richard Sillars decided to take matters in to his own hands striking the visiting attack to all parts of the War Memorial ground, but Uni`s morning was summed up when, on the last ball before lunch, he struck a beautifully timed cut shot straight into the hands of gully.

Sillars dismissal for 35 meant Uni headed to the lunch break with the score on 167/8.

Veteran Simon Andrews and premier debutant Sam Flett came together after the interval and the pair began the task of chipping away at the target. The home side allowed the more experienced Andrews a single each ball before bringing the field up for Flett, a tactic the pair would exploit as the young keeper went over the top on numerous occasions.

With the pair looking solid Andrews was trapped lbw with a further 27 still needed for victory.

Number 11 Ian West came to the crease and played the anchor role for Flett who continued to defy his debutant status playing an array of aggressive strokes. The visitors suddenly began to panic and one bad over from Darrin Crook, in which West struck two boundaries, saw Uni draw within six at the drinks break.

Two overs later the target was just three, a two tied the scores, and on the next ball Flett fittingly struck the winning single to spark scenes of jubilation outside the visiting dressing room.






While West was unbeaten on nine, the hero of the day was unquestionably Flett, who was promoted to the side from the B1s before the game and suddenly became responsible for keeping Uni`s promotion hopes alive.

A shell shocked Birkenhead began their second innings and lost both openers early as Warren Barnes got both to edge to Flett who claimed his first two catches behind the stumps in premier cricket.

Auckland `A` representative Barnes went on to claim his first premier five wicket haul in with a hostile spell of pace bowling as the day closed with the visitors on 242/6.

The result sees the prems now back in second position on the ladder with three games left to play. However with only the top side gaining promotion it is likely the prems will need to win all their remaining games if they are to overhaul Grafton`s 14 point advantage at the top of the table.

Tom Hellaby Trophy | Minor Championship

Rank	Team	P	W2	W1	D	L1	L2	WKTS LOST	RUNS FOR	WKTS TAKEN	RUNS AGST	Points	Points Ratio	Bonus Points
1	 Grafton United	6	0	5	0	1	0	63	1669	85	1685	67.94	11.323	37.94
2	 Auckland University	6	0	3	1	2	0	43	1658	65	1795	53.83	8.972	32.83
3	 HRV Birkenhead City	6	1	1	0	4	0	65	1682	76	1607	52.82	8.803	35.82
4	 Ellerslie	6	0	2	2	1	1	76	1497	65	1719	49.22	8.203	31.22
5	Waitakere City	6	0	2	0	4	0	80	1930	63	1803	47.05	7.842	35.05
6	 Eden Roskill	6	0	2	1	3	0	74	1816	47	1643	44.91	7.485	29.91

Remaining fixtures:

25th Feb/3rd Mar – AUCC v Waitakere City at Colin Maiden Park

10th/17th Mar – Grafton United v AUCC at Victoria Park

24th/31st Mar – AUCC v Ellerslie at Colin Maiden Park