

## Quatt in early “Statement Win”

After a delayed start of two weeks to the MSG SCCL 2024 season, five of the six games in the top division were played, the exception being Sentinels trip to Madeley which was an early Saturday casualty.

The pre match “Game of the day” on paper appeared to be at the Burway where 2022 champions Ludlow hosted a Quatt side who included two debutants signed from Chelmarsh in Alex Starr and Scott Randall. The visitors were inserted and made a solid start with Tom Whitney (35) and Ollie Plank (50) laying early foundations. Chris Miller (33 ) subsequently took up the anchor role before a late onslaught from Dan Plank (37 off 30) saw Quatt reach 183-7 off 50, a competitive total for sure against a Ludlow attack led, as on many occasions over the last few years, by Joe Williams (4-43). An inspired decision by Quatt captain Jed Edwards to give Kuldeep Diwan the new ball saw him rip the heart out of the Ludlow top order and reduce the hosts to 9-3. There was no way back from that point, Diwan with 5-28 and Randall an impressive 3-14 on debut shot out Ludlow for 69 to give Quatt a full 24 point haul.

It was a tough return to the Premier Division for Frankton, although they will no doubt be pleased they made visitors Wem work hard for their 5 wicket victory. With captain Danny Cohen absent, brother Matt was in charge and was indebted to Jim Astley for an excellent new ball spell that reduced Frankton to 11-3. Skipper Tom Welti with 43 excelled for the hosts, scoring exactly half their runs but it was always going to be difficult to set a competitive score against the combined skills of Muhammed Irfan (3-35) and debutant James Wynne-Potts (4-11). The latter looks to be a real talent and although he failed with the bat, the very fact he was batting 3 surely means Wem have uncovered another gem here (shades of Ben Peel? ). Wems reply was in trouble at 32-4 with Scott Hale and Will Evans sharing a brace but the visitors always bat deep, and Chris Peel (28no) saw them home comfortably enough to return to Soulton Rd with 20pts.

Oswestry look to be relying on a mix of youth and experience in their 2024 campaign and it was the bowling of veteran Ian Davies that shone on their trip to St Georges. A superb spell of 4-15 along with 3-15 from Joe Monk meant that the Telford side could only muster 87 . Muhammed Zaheer with 25 the top scorer for the Church Rd outfit. In truth it was never going to be enough once Josh Darley cut loose at the top of the Oswestry order, an explosive quick fire 70 from 36 balls meant an early finish, the run chase completed inside 12 overs.

Result of the day was arguably at Heath Road where Sheltons new signings impressed in a comfortable 63 run victory. Saleh Ahmed with 77no starred with the bat steering Shelton to a score of 190 that always looked competitive. West Indies under 19 star Nathan Sealy offered good support with 46 against the wily spin attack of Shafique Ahmed (3-70), and Shabbir Khan (2-42), both bowling 15 consecutive overs in the middle of the innings. Sheltons new ball attack of Sam Griffiths and Simon Jones is an established premier division pairing , on this occasion it was Griffiths who shone with 2-8 off 8 overs. At 13-3 the hosts were in big trouble but Oliver Moore (21)and Elliot Bowen (38) steadied the ship until the introduction of left arm spinner Sealy (2-35)and Ross Griffiths (4-34) saw wickets fall steadily and they eventually bowled their opponents out for 127. A delighted captain Simon Jones spoke to me after the game and was happy with the impact of his new signings ..” we

*have been perennial poor starters so it's a great feeling to get maximum points against a quality side like Whitchurch. Our new boys performed excellently and we look forward to building on it next week against Ludlow, which is another big test for us"*

Shrewsbury 2nds performed impressively with the bat on their trip to Allscott, Dan Walker (47), Llyr Thomas (57) and Overseas Zane Beattie with 51 all contributing in a total of 214. Jason Summers, a wily campaigner back for another stint at Premier Division cricket was the pick of the home attack with 4-48. In reply, solid contributions from new signing from Bridgnorth Max Ferrington (31), Summers (32) and new overseas Kuldeep Devatwal (have they got another gem here? ,( 65)) meant that the home side were able to close out for a draw at 178-8, any thought of a successful run chase flushed out by Beattie (4-39). Both teams will be happy with their days work in their first outing of the season.

Onto week 2..

Jamie Dowley