

50 2nd XI v Cornwall away 13 May '25

We travelled to Cornwall with three debutants and a new captain. Mount Ambrose was the sunny setting for our season opener and after winning the toss Gloucestershire decided to bowl, as has been their approach over recent years. Ali Smith quickly reduced Cornwall to 20 to 2 clean bowling both victims. Ali bowled his nine overs straight through finishing with a third wicket in his final four figures of three for 26. Mike Gray along with Sam Gunaratne kept the run rate at a very manageable level, with Sam going on to pick up two wickets. Paul Fredericks, the closer, bowled the final nine overs from one end at just over five runs per over. He never got a wicket but did manage a badly bruised finger dropping a coat and bold.

One of the debutants Steve Williams produced the best figures of the day mopping up the tail to finish with four for 53 including two more clean bowled. The other wicket was a run out following a smart throw from Srini Kamath into Paul Fredericks. 216 all out always looked under par and so Gloucestershire enjoyed the tea provided by Cornwall.

Former captain Mark Febery open the batting with debutant Mike Donaldson. Mike looks like he was going to win the game single-handedly inside 20 overs before falling to a fine Nick behind. Srini then joined Mark at the crease and together they put on 59 runs before Mark fell for 25 runs trying to manipulate the ball into the offside. Stick to what you know, Feebs. Lee Pattison our third debutant then joined Srini and both set about punishing the Cornwall attack. They put on 107 runs together before Srini fell for a very stylish 77 with him being very severe on anything remotely short.

New captain David Millard then joined Lee at the wicket and unfortunately witnessed him falling for 43 and missing out on what would've been a very well-deserved debut half century. He also hit the only six of the game before he became the eighth batsman to be clean bowled out of the 14 wickets to fall in the day. Ali Smith then joined Dave at the wicket and struck the winning runs to give Gloucestershire a very convincing six wicket victory at Mount Ambrose cricket club and get Millard's reign as captain off to a winning start. 20 points and second in the league on run rate.