

Parker Building Supplies East Sussex League Match Reports

Brian Pollard from the Sussex Express gives the League excellent coverage in the newspaper every week but he can only continue to provide high standards if those persons writing match reports could follow a few simple guidelines to save Brian time during the week.

Brian is no longer in the position of being able to rewrite or complete badly written or half-completed cricket copy. If all match report writers could read Brian's comments below and act upon them, he would be very grateful.

"I tell you one thing that would really make my life easier...if you could circulate to the clubs - you'll see in the paper that I prefix every report with the score, but I write it in a very specific way: I always put the team batting first, first and the team batting second, second! And I use an asterisk to denote the team batting at home. I feel this gets the basic details over to the reader in best possible way, without confusing them. You'd be amazed the number of reports that come in with their team's score first - even if they were playing away or batting second - or both! It's like their team is more important just because it's their team. Annoying. But if correspondents could start actively writing the score in that style just before the match report starts (eg. Maresfield II 335-8 Chiddingly III 56*) that would really help as I have to copy and paste each match report into a word file, and when I come to sub each of them, I have to go onto the relevant Play-Cricket website for EACH match report to get the score and home team - and that has become EXTREMELY time-consuming, as I'm sure you can imagine. So much so that I've recently considered replacing match reports with scorecards taken off the play-cricket websites. I don't think people would like to lose the match reports though, but I do need a bit of help to make subbing them that much speedier.

Please feel free to forward this if you do have an email mailing list to all the clubs if you think it would help. If you could ask them also to make sure that ALL players' first names are included the FIRST time they're mentioned (just surnames thereafter) and that

is with the opposition just as much as their own players - and if they could take the view that opposition high scores and big wicket hauls are just as significant as their own teams (notwithstanding that I understand the report is quite rightly going to be written from the perspective of the team that the person belongs to) - ie. don't ignore the other team's centurion, it's rude! Basically, if I feel I don't need to go on play-cricket to get the facts that the report has left out, the writer has done a good job.

I hope that all makes sense and is fairly reasonable! Basically, if the correspondents can make my life subbing cricket reports easier, then I can spend more time on things like the honours board - so every player who scores 40 runs or takes three wickets on the Saturday will know their name will be in the paper on the following Friday. As things stand, that won't happen."

Do try to help Brian in every possible way. Your co-operation is much appreciated.

Derek Barnard

Chairman