

U14 Lancashire Cup semi-final result

LRGS U14 129 for 7 v 122 for 9

LRGs got off to as poor start before they began their journey to Liverpool, when their two opening batsmen were forced to withdraw for medical reasons. Reserves were hastily drafted in but the side lacked its usual batting depth, especially against a Merchant Taylors side that had already reached the semi-finals of the national U14 competition.

On arrival they lost the toss and were asked to bat first. Parkinson (19) and Jack Lord (39) batted intelligently, in posting 45 for the first wicket, to make sure that LRGs would get a score on the board that their bowlers might have a chance to defend. Harry Mason (20) tried to shepherd the lower order but regular wickets meant that scoring was somewhat laboured and it was only due to a lusty 10 n.o. by Freddie Metcalf in the last over that LRGS were able to reach a modest 129 for 7. This looked at least 20 under par.

In reply the Merchants Captain Sinker (34) looked in total control as the home side reached 40 for 0 in nine overs. The LRGS bowling lacked its usual penetration: not helped by a number of fielding mistakes. Drinks were taken at 70 for 3 off 15 overs and the game was slipping away. Fortunately, some robust advice to the fielders from Mr Atkinson at the interval, coupled with the introduction of Harry Mason (6 overs 3 for 24) to bowl his leg spin, started to turn the tide and edge Lancaster back into the game. Ben Brown (6 overs 2 for 30) and Alfie Moffat (6 overs 1 for 25) took vital wickets and the run rate required began to go up. Charlie Parkinson (6 overs 1 for 16) bowled a maiden over and the home side started to feel the pressure. Freddie Metcalf (6 overs 2 for 22) had earlier struggled to find line and length but now bowled an outstanding 3 over spell to take two wickets for 8 runs and close the game out: helped by an excellent diving catch at gully from Brown.

Harry Mason man of the match.

Final played at Bootle CC against either Bolton or Manchester GS.