

**CRICKET**

# Twenty20 success for Valleys

THE power hitting of Amit Chaudhary came to the fore as Moonee Valley exacted revenge over Taylors Lakes to win the North West Cricket Association Twenty20 grand final.

Chaudhary set Lionheart Reserve alight last Tuesday evening with an extravagant 53 off 26 balls to give the Valleys the impetus to avenge the loss to the same outfit on the same stage 12 months earlier.

The Valleys, one of the most progressive clubs off the field in the north-west, translated that in the middle with a premiership in the shortest form of the game.

Chaudhary built the foundation for the Valleys' impressive score of 7-159 off 20 overs — a target too big for the Lakers, who could manage only 7-131.

After winning the toss, Valleys captain Mark Gauci implored his men to make the most of the wide expanses and run the Lakers off their feet with plenty of twos.

Matt Thomas (37 off 36 balls) and Sean O'Kane (27 off 25) had a steadying influence over the middle order, but it was Chaudhary who provided the highlights with a stunning half century.

Valleys president Charlie Walker said Chaudhary was not even using his own piece of willow.

"Amit had borrowed skipper Mark Gauci's Fisher bat and hit the ball so hard that it didn't just leave white cherries on the blade, but chunks of white paint broke off the ball and embedded in the willow's surface."

The Valleys defended the total to perfection. First XI star all-rounder Arosha Perera claimed 3-20.

Walker was equally impressed with Gauci. "He set his outriders about a third of the way in from the fence, restricting most of the Taylors Lakes shots to singles and leaving his boys in the perfect position to take the catches when the batsmen tried to hit out."

■ At long last, the Moonee Valley Black team has registered its first win after more than 2½ years in the women's one-day north-west section.

The Valleys' first victim was Fitzroy-based Edinburgh and they did it in emphatic style by 89 runs.

"While players from our inaugural women's team in 2007-08 are this year spread across our Black and White teams, the nucleus of the group that were the pioneers in getting women's cricket off the ground at Moonee Valley stayed in the Blacks," Walker said.

## **HARNESS RACING**

### Feelgood win

AMERICAN import Mr Feelgood

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