

Chelmsford 5th XI vs. Mayfield 2nd XI

Saturday 16th May 2009



Granger

**Mayfield 174 a/o, Chelmsford 177-4
Chelmsford win by 6 Wickets**

"The love of dirt is among the earliest of passions, as it is the latest. Mud-pies gratify one of our first and best instincts. So long as we are dirty, we are pure..."

Charles Dudley Warner, 1870

As Chairman I'm always extremely pleased to be able to write a report for the Saturday 2nd XI as it means that I've been able to get everyone a game of cricket, but getting the 2's out is not always without it's own stress.

By close of play on Tuesday we had enough for a team and had registered at Conference, unfortunately by close of play Thursday we still had no-one to play. Thankfully there is always Friday and we ended up with two choices – Chelmsford in Essex, or Orpington in Kent. After a brief check with AA Routemaster Phil and I decided Chelmsford would be the closest, and in any case it is something of a tradition for the 2's to play in Essex these days!

The above mentioned AA Routemaster had suggested it would take an hour to get there (I was dubious, but what the hey) so we arranged to meet at the Club at 12.00. All went well and off we trooped, and 30 mins later we arrived at the splendid Chelmsford facilities ridiculously early at 12.45 for a 2.00 start. Still, plenty of time then to examine the wicket, get changed in the wrong changing room, then move to the right changing room, discover there was no water, chat, smoke, laugh about the 1's playing on Hazelwood when we were playing on this.....



.....and this is the 4th square.....and we found out after the game that the ground is a Council-run facility!!!!!!

As expected, when Chelmsford eventually arrived they were both younger and smaller than us. Some were so small that Karl was convinced it would be unfair. "Don't worry", I kept telling him, "youngsters in a club like this are more than a match for likes of you".

Wise words from the Chairman that will be proven later.....

Capt de jour Martin won the toss and elected to bat on what looked like a 200 plus wicket. Opening batsmen were Ray and Niron, opening bowlers were about 14 and 15. Ray took strike and the first over went like this:

dot. dot. dot. dot. dot. six.

The final ball sailed majestically into the duck pond at long off, cue much scratching of heads, pointless poking about with branches etc. Eventually the game recommenced with a spare ball whilst the groundsman (with rake and wellies) was located (but see later.....).

The opening bowler from the other end had a bit of mare, his first two over spell went for 18, mainly due to some tight policing of the no-ball laws by Barrister Guy. This proved to be a double edged sword as this brought a certain 11 year old Ben Clifford in to the attack. When his first spell ended 4 overs later he had not conceded a run and taken the wicket of Nimrod, for 2.

Ray meanwhile had been making hay in his normal manner until he fell (actually the first wicket of the day) for 20 caught out off Sheppard.

MTV had replaced Ray and was clearly enjoying batting on a flat track and progressed on to 16 with 3 fours along the way.

Martin came and went cheaply for 1, caught of the glove off the bowling of skipper Alex Bailey (not a kid!). When Martin fell we were 45 for 3 and our hopes were riding on the big hitting middle/late order to come.

Guy replaced Buges and immediately changed the tempo of the game, now those of you who regularly read reports featuring Guy will know that he likes to get off the mark with a 6. Not today however, he waited 'till his second scoring shot before 'smacking the max' (followed by 2 more and 5 fours in his innings). They put on a tidy 32 runs before Matt perished.

Steve Piekuta took over the 'Support Bowden' role and they put on another 27 before he fell for 3.

104 for 5 at this stage and our second big gun is deployed. During the earlier lost ball farce, Sarj had decided that it was no good waiting for wellies and had gone for a paddle to get the ball and the resulting mud bath had smoothed his skin so much he felt fighting fit and duly did a 'Bowden' - getting off the mark with a 6.

The score was now whizzing around and it was shame that just after reaching his 50 Guy went for another maximum, only to see the ball hold in the wind and drop into the fielders safe mitts. Guy 51, Mayfield 126 for 6.

Connor to the crease to face his nemesis - an eleven year old spin bowler who was spinning it big!

Somehow Phil conquered his fears and scored more than 4 runs (14). Unfortunately he also ran out Sarj for 29 (1 six, 5 fours) - watching those two run together is akin to watching two oil tankers jockeying for the same berth at the docks.

Sarj and Phil cross in
mid wicket



We were now into our tail and Chelmsford, scenting blood, brought back Little Ben. Wicket, wicket and Ben has his first hat-trick and still no-one had hit a run off him!

Haa, he hadn't yet come across Chris Piekuta - who had no worries smacking him for 2 whole runs! Unfortunately, Ben had the last word, taking Steve caught and bowled in the next (and last) over. Steve had clocked up a reasonable 13 by this stage and I was the not out batsmen for the 20 millionth time.

All told we faced 41.4 overs, of which 18 were maidens and scored 174 runs. Not a bad score, but I went into tea thinking that we were the ones who were now looking on the short side!

Tea - very polite, real plates and "pass the sandwiches"!

A quick glance at the various names above will reveal a lack of seam bowlers of renown and Martin elected for the solid, reliable Sarj from one end and Chris from the other. Sarj struggled first up, but then got his rhythm going. Chris from the other end induced the first wicket with some dodgy calling leaving Green stranded and run out for one.

And that was pretty much as good as it got for while as the older Clifford boy (J) went about his job supported by Coups (an Adult). Martin rotated and changed bowlers and fielders all over the place (not sure why - as the ball inevitably either went to Karl or MTV). Steve P replaced his brother after 4 pretty good overs, and bowled a mix of good and bad - but considering it was his first bowl of the year there was certainly some promise.

KY came on at Sarj's end but could not find any consistency, he did however pick up the 2nd wicket to fall, Mr Coups was caught by Guy for 49.

Phil replaced Steve for a short and quite expensive spell to bring Guy in for a belated bowl. Guy looked to back to somewhere near his best, and although his pace was down on the 2007 vintage he was able to pick up two late wickets for 20.

By now though it was nearly all over, Sarj was brought back for a second spell and conceded the winning runs. J Clifford bringing up his undefeated 100 into the bargain. Not a bad day at the park for the Clifford Boys!

Man of the Match: Only one contender really, 51 runs, a catch, and two wickets – Guy

Muddy Brown Moment: Sarjul in the pond.



Sarj having a paddle in
Chelmsford