

Sunday 29th August 2010
Mayfield CC vs. Hadley Wood Green

After the rigours of last week in Northchurch it was back to a muddy Mayfield for a must-win game against Hadley Wood Green. On a day with rain forecast it was crucial to get through the overs quickly as we all know what Hadley are like!

The Outfield at Hazelwood was looking a little bumpy...



As usual Steve lost the toss and we were put in to bat. The team plan was to score quickly, get to 150 or so then declare and give us plenty of time to bowl, as we all know what Hadley are like!

Martin and Colin opened up against some innocuous looking bowling and the score ticked over merrily. The damp outfield meant that boundaries were hard to come by, especially as neither player was using a Warsop, and there was plenty of running to be done.

The score had proceeded to an easy 38 when Colin was stupidly out, bowled, for 21 in the 8th or 9th over. Next in was Lazza who hasn't been good form this season but against the dobbly rubbish being served up today had a good chance to remedy things. It was good to see that despite a worrying tendency to play back defensively the old Lazza drive was starting to come back.

Martin was next out for 28 courtesy of a very good catch of the Hadley version of Ni (although he spells his name Nee), which brought in our captain. Our captain was soon back again, bowled 3rd ball.

By now we were starting to get a bit itchy, during Martin and Lazza's time at the crease we had lost about 20 minutes to rain, and so were desperate to up the run rate as we all know what Hadley are like.

Starcky had been promoted up the order due to his recent good form and soon set about the Hadley bowlers. Dave favoured the aerial route more than the earlier batsmen and this led to more boundaries. He soon approached Lazza and then over took him in the race to 50. Unfortunately Dave was out shortly afterward for a speedy 55 and Ravi was sent in with instructions to see Lazza through to his 50, hit some quick runs and then we'd declare.

Job done – Lazza got his milestone and went on to get 51 undefeated and the innings was declared at 173 (34 overs) when Ravi was out for 11.

So, the next thing was a quick tea and out to field. We all know what Hadley are like so it was vital to get through the overs quickly, field well and hold our catches. Disappointing then that we have XI players and two umpires on the pitch and ready to play to see the Hadley openers still knocking up on the sidelines. Still, we all know what Hadley are like....

Eventually Hadley decided to play some cricket, or at least the batsmen came to the crease but clearly had no intention of making any effort to win the game.

Norm and Ravi opened up and it was quickly evident that extras were likely to be the top scorer with a combination of harsh umpiring and a lack of carry leading to quite a few freebies. Both opening bowlers were wicketless with Ravi conceding just 6 runs in his 5 over spell and Norm 17 (mainly wides) in his 6 overs.

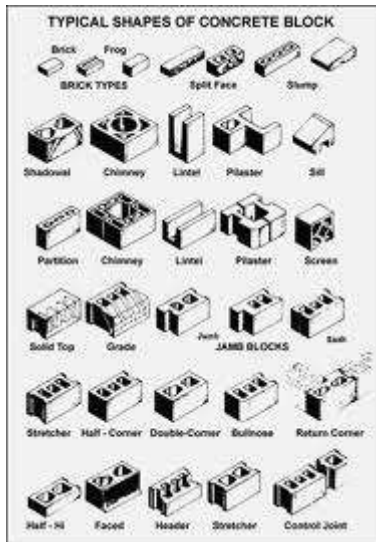
Next up was the Copus Boys, Glenno up the hill and Steve down it. Both bowled beautifully and it was Glenno that picked up the first wicket, that of Turner for 6 in the 17th over! Well you know what Hadley are like....

The Hadley number 3 had clearly missed the team talk as he actually scored some runs and the score was quickly pushed up to 45 when Glenno took the next wicket to fall, that of the other opener, Nee, in the 21st over. Glenn finished his spell of 7 overs with 2 for 16, Steve had taken himself off after 5 overs, for 5 runs.

Next into the attack were Dave and Chattu, we were hoping that a bit of spin might encourage to shots to be played. Well, hope away Mayfield, it ain't going to happen. Chattu did pick up a wicket with a seamer pinning the number 3 LBW for 9 but Starcky ended wicketless. Chattu 1 for 9 off 4 overs and Dave 0 for 6 off 4 overs.

Very, very boring and now it was the turn of Sarj to get some cheap overs in! Sarj 0 for 3 off 4 overs.

Block, block, block, leave, leave leave. We all know what Hadley are like.



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With the game running down Steve brought himself on and was too good for the Hadleyans, I can't remember a single stroke being played and with Steve attacking the stumps it was no surprise that he picked up 3 late wickets, all clean bowled.

By this time we'd also abandoned the outfield and were playing with 2 short on/off fielders, a leg gully, leg slip and about 5 slips and a gully – and they still couldn't score, but you know what Hadley are like...

Unfortunately despite bringing back Norm and Ravi we were unable to break through the defensive wall and after 45 overs it was all over. Hadley had achieved their objective of getting a draw, finishing with 78 for 6. That is a run rate of 1.78/over and as suspected extras got 22 of these, not quite top scoring - that honour went to Nee with 26.

I think it is worth reiterating the bowling summary.

R Sondh 0 for 8 in 7 overs
 N Tebbutt 0 for 18 in 7 overs
 G Copus 2 for 16 in 8 overs
 S Copus 3 for 7 in 11 overs
 D Starck 0 for 6 in 4 overs
 C Weerasingh 1 for 9 in 4 overs
 S Patel 0 for 3 in 4 overs

MOM – despite a good showing for Starcky the honours went to Lazza for a well earned 50. Welcome back Ginge!

GM – Starcky over-taking and beating Lazza to 50 was good to watch, plus Sarj for coming dressed as an Accountant in his new glasses but the winner was Nee for the look on his face when he turned round at the start of Steve's spell to see where the keeper and slips were standing – not sure if it was pure terror or pure surprise got it got me and Buges giggling!



Spot the Difference:
An Accountant **Sarj**

