

Mayfield Saturdays vs Arkley C.C.



30th April 2011

Pete

Note:

Firstly, for those of you who were disappointed not to find out in the report how Pete 'PB' Scamp had fared in last week's rain-affected affair against Fives - he made a surprisingly cautious but top-scoring innings of 26 not-out, braving both dodgy pitch and lightning flashes. And he hit three 4s. For further details, contact Pete.

Report:

Due to some technical problems on the scoring front (of which, later) this report has been delayed, so bear with me and my hazy memory. (N.B. I am guessing who took which catch.)

Firstly, Colin lost the toss, probably distracted by guilt at having left out the details of my innings from the previous week's report. However he found himself put in to bat anyway.

After the Hazelwood pitch had played surprisingly well on its first outing (if you get my meaning), come the second week and it was back to its entertaining self. Colin and Pete opened up and found the going tough against a decent pair of bowlers who were managing to fizz a few past their ears, with others not getting up at all, along with a good number of wayward deliveries that ultimately resulted in 17 byes and 5 wides. Colin had struck a 4 and a 6 before he played one big drive too many and was bowled for 16. Lazza came in at 35-1, and left having dominated a 2 run partnership. Mike H fared little better in making 3, before the returning-but-soon-to-be-gone Steve Copus strode to the crease twirling his bat like some matchstick. After a few misconnects, he began to feel at home and things had progressed well until Pete fatally played back and was bowled for 18, leaving us 75-4. Mayfield debutant David Tyme, in his first game of cricket for four years, didn't enjoy his first experience of Mayfield's home ground, and would continue to give it suspicious glances the rest of the afternoon as wicketkeeper. He went for a duck, but Michael Mandaray provided Steve with good support, reaching a useful 13 in a 31 run partnership with Copus Jnr. Alas, his dismissal sparked a fatal collapse as Chatu going for 1, Steve falling for a fighting 46 and Karl, having spent hours knocking in his new bat chose not to risk

getting any marks on it by letting the ball go straight through and hit the stumps first ball. Charlie couldn't boost the total as he was last out for 1, leaving us 126 all out.

At this stage it should be pointed out that the scorecard was a source of contention as Arkley had come complete with a scorer, a laptop and a clever bit of software. What they didn't come with was a spare battery. Mid-innings and the scorer was seen with a blank sheet of paper, looking rather stressed. It turned out that his machine had crashed on him. Certainly there was surprise that we had only mustered 126, and there was a feeling that some runs had got lost in the ether when the machine had gone to sleep. It was a surprise that Steve hadn't made the farewell fifty that he and others had calculated him to have done. Still, we couldn't complain too much as we hadn't been doing any scoring of our own to compare, so we had tea ruminating on a slender total to defend.

Glenn was immediately doing what he does best, keeping it tight, and got us straight into the game with two wickets, leaving Arkley 11-2. Charlie was bowling far better than the first couple of games of 2011, but still having no luck. Glenn came off with figures of 8-1-14-2, and Charlie 0-20. With runs at a premium, we couldn't take any chances, so Colin turned to Steve to try to rip out a wicket, and Karl to squeeze the pressure up further. The plan worked. Unhappy at a couple of LBW shouts being turned down, Steve tore in and had the opposition skipper caught by Mike Hussey for 8. He followed up by beating the remaining opener, bowling him for 19 to leave Arkley at 49-4. An awkward delivery eluded Dave behind the stumps and gave that rarest of things – a five run penalty for hitting the spare helmet behind him. The fifth wicket also went to Steve, with Mayfield feeling themselves on top with the score 64-5. Unfortunately, we then had no luck and Arkley rebuilt to bring up their 100 without further loss, Steve uncharacteristically spilling a catch at mid-off along the way, losing the ball in the gloom. Karl had been plugging away, if not at his best, and Arkley's opening bowler/number six bat was a welcome wicket, slicing over Pete's head at gully, but with enough height to allow him to chase and complete the catch, having made 22. Another 16 runs had taken the score to 116-6 and Mayfield were looking done for until Karl struck with Chatu taking the catch. At the other end, Steve wouldn't let things lie, scenting fresh blood. He beat the number nine for pace, and next ball was a beauty that flew off the edge to our new 'keeper who just managed to hold on. Three wickets had fallen for 0 runs, and the last 3 overs promised much. However, sad to say, Arkley eked out 5 more runs, but shut up shop while we couldn't find a way through, leaving us to shake on a hard-fought draw.

A competitive and well-balanced match – only slightly marred by thoughts of the scorebook mess-up – was a reasonable send off for Steve, although it was a shame not to be able to report a fifty – and enjoy a Copus jug. On the other hand, he had finished with 5 wickets for 17 from a marathon 14 overs. Remarkable figures. Karl

finished with 2-46 from his 14, and the two had brought us tantalisingly close to the finish line.

MoM: Steve probably. For batting. For bowling. For buying some drinks.

Golden Moment: Karl, having seen us concede an unlucky five run penalty when a Steve delivery squeezed past David behind the stumps, proceeded to use it as target practice. A save two runs had been completed when Karl walking in, calmly underarmed in Colin's general direction and the ball dribbled on to the helmet. Technically, another five run penalty, although in the spirit of the game, the ball may have been argued to be dead. In a tight contest, however, with some heated exchanges still in the air, the penalty was awarded by Arkley's umpires.