

Mayfield Saturdays vs Matthews C.C.



10th July 2011

Mayfield 180 - 8d Matthews 125 - 8
Match drawn

Northern Monkey

So finally, after god knows how many seasons we have been writing reports, I ran out of excuses why I could not do it (previously used ones such as sorry Skip, would love to do the report but the cat pissed on my computer etc.)

Sitting here, armed with a copy of the score book which is unreadable and a list of prompts from Colin (most of which are how well he played), I have to decide which style I shall employ. Should I use the Starky style?.... I woke up, cracked one off, went for a dump, had some toast, brushed my teeth, moved house ...etc. Or should I use the Colin style?... moan, moan, whinge, whinge, moralise ... etc. Or should I use the Granger style - Bish, bash, bosh - job done!

I think I will just ramble on, so here goes.

Unusually for me I had to make my own way to the Old Chigwellians ground, but not a problem, I had the postcode & my trusty sat nav. Everything was going fine when I was directed straight to the ground and what a lovely ground! The only problem was it was Buckhurst Hill's lovely ground.

Some trustworthy directions from a local and one smashed sat nav later, I arrived at the correct ground to find that Old Chigwellians is just as impressive.

As Colin went out to toss, we were still missing our premier spin bowler - KY and our trusty opener - The Bash. When they arrived they had a welcome surprise in the form of Dave "Milty" Milton, who fancied watching some quality cricket and with the sun shining & beautiful surroundings the prospect looked good.

With what looked like a beautiful batting track and it being a hot day, everyone was in agreement with the Skipper that we needed to win the toss & bat and when Colin gave us the thumbs up when walking back from the crease

we all thought, bloody hell, Colin's won a toss for once! Well no, the oppo won the toss & for some reason decided to stick us in. With the practice Colin puts in, you'd think he'd be better at tossing.

The Skip decided to open with The Bash and when the oppo opened the bowling with a couple of Dobbler's everything looked set fair for a big innings. First to fall was the Bash (3). After starting as per plan with a few nudged singles, Pete attempted a uncharacteristic expansive pull resulting in him dragging onto his own stumps. Unlucky Pete, a good opportunity wasted.

This brought Lazza to the crease and he and Colin duly tucked in to the buffet bowling mixing well run singles with an ample sprinkling of boundaries. The next to fall was Lazza (33), clean bowled going for one of his trademark drives. One of the prompts given to me by Colin was to chastise GB for being bowled on the best batting surface we have played on this season. No need. Laz knows he missed out.

Sal stomped to the crease with intent and then immediately stomped back after offering an easy slip catch without troubling the scorer which brought Chattu to the crease.

Next out and much to his dismay was the Skip (43). Colin decided to go aerial and smack the ball back over the bowlers head only to watch the fielder at mid on run round and take a great catch.

There are 2 shots in Colin's innings which require comment. The first was a fabulous off drive which sped to the boundary though extra cover - an excellent example of pure timing and technique. The second was a pull to cow corner, which Colin knew was a boundary the second he connected so he decided to hold the pose & savour the moment & certainly not bother to run. The problem was it didn't go and so was embarrassed to have to set off running after much sledging from the boundary. I immediately thought how much Copus junior would have enjoyed that moment with shouts of "No Power" and "show us your guns".



Where's the power Skip?

Most people would be quite pleased with a total in the 40's but not Colin. He saw a potential ton and to be honest, so did the rest of us!!

At this point with about 20 overs gone, we had accumulated just over 100 so everything seemed good for a 200 + score.

At this moment in time, with Chattu & Sunny at the crease, just like in a seafaring Novel, the good ship Mayfield was suddenly becalmed. Later on it was revealed that Chattu was playing with a split bat which probably didn't help. Anyway, quite a few overs later with little more runs on the board Sunny was bowled for 10. With the words of "up the run rate" ringing in his ears, the next batsman, Charlie stepped on the gas with a few lusty blows including the now almost mandatory 6 and was eventually bowled trying to play his shots for a quickfire 17.



Steadied ship

Ren came & went for a brief but welcome 10 which brought Mandy to the crease.

The next batsman out was Chattu for a very watchful 28. In the prompts from the Skipper I'm now supposed to allude to Niron or Chris Tavare but personally I think this innings made sure we batted through all our overs and as such was a very valuable contribution. Well done Chat.

This brought myself in with just over 140 on the board and only 15 minutes left. The game plan was simple: get off strike quickly and let Mandy do some smacking. Well, do some smacking he did and do some running we did (at one point I honestly thought I was going to have a heart attack!) The plan went brilliantly until one run for 2 too many, my hamstring, knee & ankle all popped at the same time. So with a face even more crimson than usual I

hobbled off to let Karl & Mandy bring us home, which they did. Unfortunately Karl did not have an opportunity to unleash "Oblivion" upon the unsuspecting opposition. Ah well maybe next time mate!

Big mention here for Mandy's superb hitting which truly did get us out of the doldrums - a very brisk 33, including 5 4's.

So at tea Mayfield were 180 - 8 declared.

A very pleasant tea was consumed by all except for Charlie as everyone kept telling him not to eat too much as we wanted him to be steaming in when he opened the bowling.

When we sauntered to the middle, our bellies full (apart from Charlie's) the consensus was we were about 30 to 50 runs short but with 180 in the hutch and with some good bowling & fielding we had a real chance of getting a result.

The Skip decided to open with Charlie up the Hill and Mandy down (to be honest there is hardly a slope at all at Chigwell).

What followed was 12 or so overs of quality seam bowling from our openers. Charlie was steaming in with good pace and bounce and some of the outswingers he produced were reminiscent of his old man. Mandy was tight (South African accent optional) & accurate with good pace also and it was he who struck the first blow inducing an edge off the opener, Marshall, which Lazza snaffled up with relish.

This brought in one of the Browns (the one that caught out Colin) and he and the remaining opener steadied the Marshall's ship with some patient scoring. As little was happening at this point, Colin & I (Slips) decided to amuse ourselves by bitching KY up (point) by continuously lobbing the ball at his ankles or trying to blind him with the sun. He never said anything and I can only assume he put the throws down to usual Mayfield crapness.



More ship steadyng.....

Charlie was eventually replaced by Ren and Mandy by KY and its around this point that their opener started to struggle with his running and eventually collapsed on the floor writhing in agony. He was suffering from a catastrophic attack of cramp. At this point the other batsman seemed slightly bemused when he overheard one of the Mayfield player's suggestion as to how the stricken batsman could be given an immediate "injection of salt".

Anyway, with the opening batsman removed and fresh meat in the middle, Mayfield found fresh impetus. Ren bowled well from the Pavilion end but not for the first time, it was KY who was the destructor. Firstly on seeing that the no.4 bat was clearly out of his depth, KY dismissed him with arrogant disdain - bowled. Marshalls then consolidated with the No 3 bat playing good shots & punishing anything short or wide. At this point in the match, the balance was in the Home team's favour as they required less than 100 off 20 overs and the no.3 bat was playing well. To counter this Colin made what looked like a fairly innocuous field change by simply pushing Charlie back 10 paces from mid wicket. KY duly sent down a rank full toss (or was it a long hop? - no matter, it was pants) to which the no. 5 batsman skied and which fell back to earth with Charlie underneath it. Forgone conclusion - caught.

The next wicket was the big one, despite the no.3 bat sometimes charging him, KY refused to bowl flat and tossed one up, the batsman went forward to meet it but was deceived by the flight and therefore could not get bat on ball, Lazza struck like a well oiled panther to whip the bails off - Stumped!! Great cricket!!

Mayfield now had the upper hand and KY smelt blood!!! Next to fall was the no. 6 batsman. KY delivered a harmless ball at least a foot outside the batsman's off stump so he decided to shoulder arms & let it harmlessly pass into the gloves of the wicket keeper. No chance! the ball pitched & turned square to jag in and flick off the bail. Superb bowling Karl!

Ren, who bowled well (6 overs for 25 runs) and who was unfortunate not to pick up a wicket, was replaced by Chattu for a brief cameo and was rewarded when he bowled the No. 7 batsman.

Next to fall was the skipper who thumped a KY delivery through mid wicket only to see Chazza race round and take another fine catch. This gave Karl another Five-for to go with his extraordinary feats last week. Just rewards for Mayfield's premier spin bowler. Well played mate! a Five-for on a slow batting wicket!

With overs running out, the Skipper decided to bring back the two opening bowlers and Charlie was rewarded with a well deserved wicket when the **85** year old batsman chipped one up to Sunny for an easy catch.

This then brought the opener who had gone off with cramp back to the wicket. when asked why they had not sent out one of the remaining batsmen, he replied that no one else was ready as they were all standing about in the changing room, naked!!?? Colin suggested perhaps they had found a biscuit?

Anyway, even despite some of Colin's famous umbrella fields, we could not bowl out the oppo so the match ended up as a draw.

Marshalls(*) 125 for 8 at end of play - Match Drawn

Both teams retired to the lovely clubhouse to reflect over a beer on a very good game of cricket played in exactly the right spirit. Next season hopefully we can get a home & away with Marshalls. ***(Actually Phil if you check the top of your report you'll see they were called Matthews - Ed)***

Then it was back to Mayfield for free nosh, beer & table tennis. As Colin put it - quality!

Man of the Match

Big mention to Mandy for his quickfire 33*, just when it was needed and for his excellent bowling which deserved better rewards (9 overs, 1 maiden, 1 wicket for 31runs).

Also Colin's 43 deserves a mention.

But the winner is Karl for a superb bowling stint which brought back figures of 9 overs, 2 maidens, 5 wickets for 30 runs.

Golden moment

Colin's off drive

KY's ball that turned square

Or choose your own



Mayfield's ship is sunk despite the efforts of KY