

Mayfield Mid-week vs Southgate Adelaide CC



13th July 2011

Femi

Lottery Fever strikes Mayfield Captain!.

A cloudy cold day saw a ready mix of Sat, Sun and past regular Mayfield troops, venture just up the road to the leafy pastures of Southgate to participate in a welcome midweek fixture against the Adelaide Veterans.

With the bar opening early, the more hardy souls had gathered for pre-match refreshment and strategy plans on how to accommodate 10 batsmen and 4 recognised bowlers!

Captain Colin clearly had been caught up in the frenzy of the Euro lottery umpteenth roll-over and proceeded to announce that the batting line up would be decided by the pulling out of numbers in a hat!!

With the match being played on the county square and looking a peach for batting, slight of hand was proffered, when the skip duly picked the no.1 slot. The pivotal no.6 role went to yours truly!....surprisingly for the 2nd match in a row. (I might buy a racket...sorry!.. Bat now!!!!).



But was the batting 'really' a lottery?

The order established, (the far travelling old boys Gilly and Plunger in at 9 and 11 respectively, a lottery and a luxury indeed!). ***(In fact with Bentley and Sondh at 8 & 10, our bottom four boasted around 35,000 career runs!! - Statto)***

With the earlier toss, duly won, Colin had no hesitation batting first on what looked a belter of a track. A somewhat "relaxed" 20 mins after the scheduled time, saw the skip and Ray make their way to the centre for the start of the 40 over bash, accompanied by Ravi and I guesting in the field for the oppo (they had 8 to begin with...I did say it was relaxed!).

Colin started in imperious fashion, earlier mentions of tons and landmarks had clearly being cemented in his mindset and with trademark straight drives, pulls and fine legside strokes off the hips he was determined to score BIG!.

Ray, as has been his way this season, struggled with his timing and choice of shot, and managed just a scratchy 8.

He was eventually bowled by Khtab (previously known as S. Hrug, because attempts to fathom his name were met with the aforementioned motion!).

Next in was Shaf, not usually where the all-rounder finds himself and after an initial nervousness, settled down to play good strokes, picking the right ball to despatch to the rope and one glorious six, ten yards over the long on boundary!. Colin continued to pile up the runs and duly reached his fifty with another 4. He went on to make 66, a fine effort in an already productive season. He expressed disappointment that a century wasn't achieved knowing that a second ton was there to be had.

Starcky came in.. then departed! just a single to the Mayfield demon fielder, an opportunity missed.

The prospective groom was next up, on this surface a score was expected from Mr Redoubtable and a productive partnership with Shaf was anticipated, a score of 250 was probably par and with the overs running down, it was time to accelerate. Unfortunately, good fielding and accurate bowling kept the pair in check and with the dismissal of Shaf for a controlled (and jug avoiding) 44.

With 9 overs to go and a "you're not gonna 'ang around are you?" from the the Skip ringing in my ears, I walked in, in my borrowed gear (Thanks Ray, but not the box!! I'm just not worthy!!!!), ready to wield the willow and despatch the ball to neighbouring Enfield!...Then reality took over and after a snatched single, let GB do just that, with an over of four 4s and a couple! After my dismissal for 8 and a productive partnership of 31 (basically giving the the strike to Lawro) in a few overs, bought the score nearer 200.

Harry came in and helped steer the score to respectable, (but 30 or 40 runs short) 215. A fine 48 no (and definite jug avoidance) from Laurence with Harry 5 no. at end of the Mayfield effort.

Tea, was make 'em yourself hot sausages in fresh baguettes and varying peripherals.. very nice!

The lottery edict was still in force, the skip informed us that bowling today would be 4 overs each for everybody! what delights would that throw up? a lottery indeed!

Opening the bowling would be the known delights of The Turbanator and the less known magic fingers of Stevie G.

Ravi opened down the slight incline and soon discovered that the pitch and atmosphere had little to offer in seam and swing. The batsmen attacked anything loose and soon the scoreboard was in business. Gilly bowled slow seam with a nod to an occasional offbreak, but the lack of regular arm twirling was evident, and was soon seeing his efforts sent crashing to the ropes.

The 1st wicket was a throwback to the old sepia toned days of Mayfield, with the combination of Gilly and Plunge teaming up to produce the breakthrough. With the score rattling along, the opener Bilal (25) chanced his arm and was caught by old boy Mark "Plunger" Bailey, belying his "84"!! year zimmer frame status by somersaulting backwards Circus de Soleil style in his successful attempt.



Previous Mayfield generation, where pads were big, moustaches were fashionable and an arm around the shoulder was just an innocent gesture.

This brought in an old friend of Mayfield, Tariq Mahmoud, this chap has recently taken a liking to any bowling Mayfield has dared attack him with and has made two consecutive hundreds against us and was eager to achieve a hatrick! The four over rule saw Harry and me come to the party, just as Tariq was playing himself in.

Harry bowled controlled length and line, just what was needed on a good flat pitch, with the odd bad ball being despatched hungrily to the boundary by the greedy Tariq.

I was the opposite! with the odd good ball being blocked! with a good batsmen relying on excellent hand,eye coordination and knowing what his strengths are and utilising them to the fore, the acceleration was evident and only a rethink in what to bowl (offspin) allowed any respite from the onslaught. I was rewarded by a plumb LBW, the opener Erwin (40) playing late to a quicker straight one.

Next up to the plate was Shaf and Starky, would this S.a.S pairing be as clinical as their fellow abbreviated legends? Simply put, no!. Suffice it to say, if the SAS of black clothing garb were as ruthless as their Mayfield counterparts...the hostages would still be holed up in the Iranian embassy!!! Tariq latched onto anything remotely looking loose and retrieving exercises was executed by all. With complacency being a factor, Dave induced the big hitter into a poor stroke and was gobbled up behind by GB by the way of shins, pads, gloves, box, A10, North Circ and finally groin, were it lodged, for the finger to be raised!

A powerful innings by Tariq (74) who must have kicked himself for not getting another ton.

Called forward was the rare (very rare) pairing of Plunge and Buges . Mark is rightly regarded as one of Mayfield's all time great bowlers.. 550 plus wickets and 4 times the bowling champ, (How's that Statto!) ***Although I'm pleased that you've looking at the records page on the website, anyone can do that! What about: Plunger's catch now gives him 196 Mayfield catches, including one as W/K. Interestingly it is one more than the number of wides he has bowled and 8 more than the Bugler on 188 which also includes one as W/K!Had enough yet!!***

So could he conjure anything from his vast experience to stem the seemingly inevitable tide of a Vets win? He gallantly hauled his "95" year bones and sent down 3 overs on par with everybody else, a valiant effort indeed! Buges, the champion career run accumulator, Ahem! is fair to say not known as a bowler! but his vast knowledge of the game would surely bring something to the plate! The first problem was " which arm do I bowl with?" a quick check of wrist size! and the left arm was judged to do. What proceeded was a "lottery" of whether the ball would reach the batsmen and / or how high can I bowl without infringing airspace! With the batsmen taking the opportunity to rush off for a cup of tea before the ball reached him or asking if the ball coming down with ice on it was legit, Martin couldn't stop the batsmen very nearly reaching the target, with his 2 overs conceding only 14 (economical in the context of the game) The Captain must have mused whether he should have brought him in earlier! With that 2 second thought banished, the skip, had what turned out to be the final over and the Vets reached their target rather earlier than they expected and we hoped. 218 for 3

An overall enjoyable game played in good spirit by both sides, the only thing being miserable was the weather, cold, cold, cold dark, damp, cloudy (a black beast hovered over the ground for the duration, threatening, like the sword of Damacles to unleash its torrent of misery) and did I mention it was cold!

Stats:

Batting: Ray 8. Colin 66. Shaf 44. Starcky 1. Lawro 48 no. Femi 8. Harry 5 no.

Bowling (ouch!) Ravi 0-21 Gilly 1-33 Harry 0-19 Femi 1-33 (2 overs for 29! 2 overs for 1-4) Shaf 0-34 Starcky 1-29 Mark 3-0-32 Martin 2-0-14 Colin 0.2-0-5

Back to the bar for the usual post match jollities and the awarding of MOM etc. Southgate continued their hospitality, by providing vast quantities of Lasagne during this time, which was devoured with eager abandon by both teams, some went back for 2nds, 3rds and 5ths, and oven dish licking was also witnessed! (no mention of names, but photo evidence is available!) A welcome treat, to help soak up the beer and warm the cockles!

MOM: Colin: an excellent 66 and in the process reaching the heady highs of 5th in all time runs scored for the club. ***(Hmmm.... Colin won't thank you for this very remiss attempt at Statto-ing.... he is actually now 4th in the all time standings! - Statto)***

Golden Moment ?????? but I'm sure that will be added to report by our esteemed editor. ***(probably when I left to get warm after 10 overs with Southgate on 70 odd for 1! - Ed)***

A big thanks to Richard and Luke for the scoring and scoreboard housekeeping!