

The Mayfield Alliance vs North Middlesex Vs



7th May 2011

Karl (In the style of George Lucas)

Not so very long ago, on a cricket pitch not really that far away, the dark forces of North Middlesex Vs were gathering strength in numbers in the Hazelwood sector. Meanwhile, Captain Colin Batwalker was contemplating his last victory at the back gates whilst planning his strategy for the impending battle that lay ahead.

Using an old Jedi coin trick, Batwalker won the toss, opted for bat-sabers and together with Petewok took up first stance at the wicket.

The pitch belonged to the dark side with many familiar demons, of the shooting and popping variety, for our heroes to negotiate.

With focus and intent, they both diligently stood their ground on a very difficult and slow scoring track.

The North Middlesex (NM) opening attack was wayward at first but they soon found consistency in line and length, adding to the already difficult task of protecting one's wicket whilst moving the score on.

There was much non productive swishing of bat-sabers as the imperial bowling attack sprayed many balls outside of off stump.

Data records of the game, received by KY-D2, were mostly corrupted and so the accuracy of reporting cannot be guaranteed. Batwalker's image recording and communications device requires an upgrade. **(Now you see my problem every week! -Statto)**

Anyway, back to the story Batwalker and Petewok, with a mixture of good fortune and good sense, frustrated NM bowlers for twenty overs before Petewok was caught by the wicked keeper for 12. (Total Mayfield Alliance score of 60).

A few overs later Captain Batwalker, not using the force as advised by GB-Laz-Kenobi, was bowled for a well deserved 38. (Total Mayfield Alliance score of 73).

Meanwhile, GB-Laz-Kenobi had replaced Petewok and was flashing the oblivion-saber with might and skill, amassing 39 runs before being bowled middle stump (Total Mayfield Alliance score of 127).

Jar Jar Hussey had replaced Batwalker and also performed with instinct, reading the pitch of the ball very well under the circumstances. Least said about the pink saber the better. Jar Jar Hussey was subsequently caught for 23.

Darth Mandy had taken over from GB-Laz-Kenobi but unfortunately was very harshly fingered by Batwalker, LBW for no runs. Darth Mandy had taken a massive stride down the pitch but Batwalker must have been briefly affected by the dark side again.

A quick fate also befell Chazbacca, caught by a backward running third slip to a bouncer off his glove. No score.

Our left handed batsman, Count Chattu, was determined to exorcise the force and clocked up a delightful 13 not out.

Whispa-the-Hut arrived at the crease, relieving Chazbacca, and took no prisoners for 25 minutes before the Batwalker called an end to the innings for the Mayfield Alliance. A combination of orthodox and other shots saw him achieve a very quick 21 not out.

This took the Mayfield Alliance to 173 runs, including 27 extras, at tea. Ready and willing to bat if required, were Sunny Solo, KY-D2 and Princess Glenda.

A fine feed was provided by Jar Jar Hussey, including Batwalker's favourite, egg.

The Mayfield Alliance assembled in the battlefield awaiting the arrival of NM opening storm troopers. GB-Laz-Kenobi had the gloves and Chazbacca had the ball.

Off we went with a superb opening attack, knocking off NM storm troopers in quick succession. Princess Glenda was first with a break through, taking out the number 1 for just 2 runs, caught behind by GB-Laz-Kenobi. Chazbacca then promptly removed bat 3 for 11 runs, LBW.

Shortly after, the number 2 bat was dismissed, LBW for 16 by Princess Glenda. It was soon clear that Darth Mandy hadn't fallen in vain, Batwalker's plan had been realised with LBW decisions being given to our bowlers wholesale. Darth Mandy had indeed taken one for the team.

The carnage continued when Princess Glenda bagged another, the number 5 bat, for 6 runs – caught behind again by GB-Laz-Kenobi. Despite the blatant wood-nick, he didn't want to walk and waited around for the umpire's finger. Remember this NM bat, named "A. Ho" as he will feature again in our adventure.

Wispa-the-Hut had taken over from Chazbacca, but the force was overwhelmingly strong with Princess Glenda as he took another, which was to be his final for the game. Number 6 bat bowled for a duck to a shooter.

Whispa-the-Hut was deprived of an early wicket when Count-Chattu misread a slip catch, but was soon rewarded by sending the highest scoring bat, number 4, back to the deathstar for 46 runs. Another fine catch by our GB-Laz-Kenobi behind the stumps.

With Princess Glenda having acquired 4 wickets, Captain Batwalker sensed a disturbance in the force - a '5-fer' perhaps, and kept him on for a while longer but without further success.

With runs on the board to play with, Captain Batwalker instructed KY-D2 to deliver grenades. This was a good strategy in theory, and many went up in the air, but unfortunately none within reach of the Alliance fielders. In the end, KY-D2 did get a wicket, but not on his own. GB-Laz-Kenobi was involved yet again, with a lightening stumping off a true off spin, beating the batsman who had misread the ball.

This was to be the final wicket of the day and the Mayfield Alliance couldn't displace the remaining three wickets. KY-D2 was unlucky on many occasions but one in particular when the number 9 bat was trapped back up against his stumps, the ball clearly would have hit middle and off about $\frac{3}{4}$ the way up, but 'A.Ho', umpiring at the time, declined the appeal. 'A.Ho' indeed, KY-D2 seethed to himself.

Count Chattu was brought into the final attack and delivered two fine overs of leg spin with variations, but by this time NM knew that they couldn't get the runs and battened down the hatches.

Captain Batwalker even brought back Princess Glenda for a final over but that was really a desperate attempt to secure a jug for the team.

Despite a mighty performance, the Mayfield Alliance drew another battle, and are still struggling to get off the mark with a win. This droid for one, is confident that the Saturdays will be rewarded many times this season.

Honourable mentions for Princess Glenda's 4 for 36 from 11 (3 maidens); and Chazbacca's 22 for 1 from 8 (1 maiden), but the MOM goes to GB-Laz-Kenobi, for 3 catches, a stumping and 39 runs.
The End

