

## Wanstead CC v Mayfield Saturdays



6th August 2011

### Mandy

A rather pleasant Saturday afternoon found the troops driving to the East End for the first of a double bill of fixtures away this weekend. Although it has to be said that our fixture card said Wealdstone CC (isn't that somewhere near Harrow - NW London?) we were playing in London Fields, Fairlop against Wanstead CC. Steve Gilliver was handed the reigns for the first time this season, our ever keen Sunny was given the gloves to keep wicket and we also welcomed back our friends Guy Bowden and the always delicious Chicken Chat. As we sat in the very nice changing room facilities of the power league, it was evident that we were short of bowlers, umpires and scorers as you will soon see.

Not sure who won the toss, but we elected to put them in to bat/field first and off the back of a recent maiden six-for, I was up to open the attack. First ball went to the boundary for 4 courtesy of Karl kicking the ball over the rope at the third man boundary. This was a sign of things to come (not Karl kicking balls over the boundary rope) but an onslaught of boundaries from a county player playing for the Oppo. Our new versatile player Ren was in charge of opening the bowling at the other end and he bowled very nicely, varying his pace and length keeping both openers on their toes nudging ones and two's and keeping the scoreboard ticking over.

It was Mandy to strike first, pitching one up, and their opening batsman (14 years old) prodding forward. Our skipper for the day took a regulation slip catch reminiscent of Matthew Hayden taking it very comfortably indeed. A few overs later, it was Ray's time to shine in the field. The county player driving hard straight to extra cover where the big man made a clean pick up and direct throw at the bowler's end stumps leaving them obliterated and the batsman who was backing up, short of the crease after being sent back. At that stage of the game, we were very much in it, although we had conceded approximately 30 runs too many. Apologies for the lack of score information. The scorebook was not completed fully. (See earlier note re: short of scorers!).

Sensing that we were gaining momentum, our friend Asad (County Player) decided to step things up and take charge of the strike. After 8 overs bowled in the match so far, Asad's bat was in the air saluting a very brutal 50 (T20 fashion). Unfortunately for me, it was my figures which took a pounding and after seeing one over go for 26 and looking like a long jumper who's lost his run up, Stevie G sympathetically replaced me with one of this season's star performers Dave Starck.

At the other end, Ren was still bowling very tidily and keeping it 'in the lanes', beating the outside edge on numerous occasions. After bowling 7 overs and no reward for 28 runs, he was to be replaced by another new recruit in the form of Ian.

So it was up to the slow bowling of Dave and Ian as we desperately searched for the way to stop haemorrhaging runs and keeping Asad off strike. The change of pace initially worked for a while, as both bowlers bowled in a very controlled manner only conceding the odd boundary here and there. Ian was first to prosper as he flighted one, and the batsman looped it towards mid on where a galloping skipper took a well judged running catch pouching it low shin high to take his second catch of the match. We had bowled 22 overs and took drinks. To our surprise and the skipper's relief, we saw Asad walking back, looking like he wasn't going to return being frustrated at the lack of opportunity to score. But we wasn't to be so lucky, lucky lucky - he took off his helmet and it was replaced with a baggy cap. A sign of more things to come! Asad quickly got moving again, hitting a few more boundaries and after reaching a very good 100 (must be said!) he left the field for his team mates to have a go at us.



***Wanstead's One Man Band Asad.....opened the batting and the bowling,  
...he probably made the tea as well!!***

Dave finished with figure of 0-28 off 7 and Ian finished 1-24 off 5. A very satisfactory return from our first change. On came our premier king of spin Karl, and he was joined by Chicken to hold up the other end. Both enjoyed a good spell of bowling and it was Chattu to strike first, bowling their batsman round his legs and sending his leg stump at a 45 degree angle. Karl again demonstrated why he is our leading wicket taker this season, bowling consistent line and length, varying pace and generally outwitting their batsmen. This was reflected in his figures of 3-35 off 8 overs, one was clean bowled, the 2nd was caught at extra cover by another good piece of fielding by Ray, and finally a successful LBW appeal to wrap up the

Wanstead innings.....oh hang on a sec, no it wasn't, our friend Asad was trundling back on to face the last 5 balls of the allotted 40 overs. He went on to score an extra 11 runs which in my mind could and would have swayed the game.....They finally finished on 230-9 off 40 overs. A big mention must go out to Sunny who according to the score book only conceded 3 byes and participated in a run out with Chicken Chat (I think).....an excellent performance from our Blondie!



*Sunny is proving to be a safe pair of hands,  
but I always thought he was a Sunday Girl*

TEA - nothing to write home about - a few dry sarnies, half cups of tea with some cake and fruit

So for the batting reply: Ren, keen as ever and determined to contribute something big to the game, volunteered and opened with Ray. It proved to be a master stroke as they slaughtered the first two overs scoring 21 off the first twelve deliveries. Ray in particular was looking very good scoring three 4's and a very clean strike for 6 off their premier player. But Asad (bowling left arm over) had a trick up his sleeve and instead of bowling balls which went across and away from our right hander (like they had been doing), got one to come back in taking Ray's leg stump in the process. Poor Ray didn't even look back to see the damage and departed for 19. Guy was next up and saw off the remaining dangerous balls of that over.

The bowler at the other end wasn't doing anything special as we looked to pinch extra runs off him to compensate. Ren again was looking settled, and dispatched a couple of deliveries to the boundary. But he was soon to be the next victim gone for 10, falling to the same ball which dismissed Ray. Clearly Asad was in his stride and was now charging in spearing the ball towards off stump and impacting the bat very hard on middle stump. Our skipper came in and joined Guy and a nice little partnership began to blossom. Each player picking and choosing their strokes wisely, defending when necessary and rotating the strike when they could. But again, lightning struck for the 3rd time and Guy was to fall victim to Asad. Same ball, same everything - gone for 3.

Next up was Starcky's turn to face the wrath of Asad but he was up to the task and defended him nicely. Together they saw off their county player off and he was replaced by their 13 year old spin bowler (Afra). Our skipper looking in good nick with the bat was just getting in, moving through the teens swiftly consisting of a couple of 2's and a couple of 4's, then was adjudged to be LBW from one of our umpires, (don't know who it was!). A promising innings came to an end at 21 and we were 91-4. You could say that we were still in charge at this point with the batting we had to come, but it would require a patient innings from one of the senior batsman. Starky who hasn't had a good time with the bat of late was getting stuck in and after a solid 21, his innings came to an end when he gloved one to the keeper and walked. Well done Dave for walking. I was at the non-strikers end and I thought it hit his arm.

This brought our MS Dhoni equivalent (Sunny) to the crease and together we hoped to build a solid innings and get us to at least 160-170. But that wasn't to happen as I gave my wicket away, fishing outside off stump and feathering a well taken catch to their keeper. We were now 97-6 and hope of reaching 200 was very distant to say the least. MS...ahem...I mean Sunny was next to leave after controversially being given LBW by Starcky(Sunny told me to say that!) and it was up to the club's only two lefties (Chicken and Phil) to save us some dignity and get us to a respectable score.

Cheese and bread they sure did do what we asked of them.....Chattu after a week off nursing a shoulder injury was bossing their bowlers (and Phil for that matter!). Despite one of their bowlers doing a cross between a Johnny Wilkinson and a morris dancer impression before each delivery, Chicken splattered him to the leg side boundary 5 times in that over, one of which included a pull shot for 6 and into the tennis court! Phil, desperate not to be out done by Chicken, wielded his Newbury bat and built an innings any batsman would be proud of. His shots had the the timing of a Swiss watch and his strut was saucy enough for a Milan catwalk - Mr Connor take a bow! Our lethal left hand duo were in and dominating everything Wanstead had to offer. From 110-7 we were 184-7.



***Somehow, when you see the two side by side,  
the words Phil & Connor don't leap to mind***

With 48 balls remaining and 46 runs to get, the boys had put us in a very strong position to go on and snatch victory. Their skipper identifying that this game should have been wrapped up turned to his County player to stop the stem of runs which he successfully did. This then put some pressure on us to score off the 'weaker' of the bowlers and unfortunately, our catwalk model succumbed to a slower ball and was through his pull shot before the ball dislodged the bails. A very good knock of 24 consisting of 4 boundaries. With 1 wicket remaining and Karl at the crease, it was going to be a tight affair especially with Chicken scoring off every ball. But his gallant innings came to an end after trying to heave one over the bowlers head and resulting in his back gate being crashed into.....however it was a super knock from Chicken and he ended up only 2 short of his maiden 50. Well played Chick! This left Karl and Ian last at the crease and it was our bowler of the day (Karl) who was run out trying to get to the strikers end and claim the strike.

Unluckily, we were all out for 195 off 35 overs and a digit will have to go into the L column for the Saturdays, however there were some confidence boosting performances for some, and hopefully this will be reflected in the results for the last part of the season!

Golden moment - Ray's clean pick up and direct throw at the stumps to run out their number 3 batsman - Jonty Rhodes eat your heart out!

MOM - Although jug avoiding, it was great to see Chicken spread his wings and notch up his highest score so far this season