

BR CC v STOKENCHURCH CC – Away

35 over Friendly Fixture – Sunday 28th April 2019

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Gilet Hit for Six by a Ginger Tom

First Known Appearance of a Leppard and a Ginger Tom on a Cricket Field Together

Jess spends Afternoon looking for her Car

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Stokenchurch XI 159 all out (34 overs)

BRCC XI 163-3 (29.2 overs)

Result: Won by 7 wickets

Stokenchurch were pegged back to 159 all out largely due to the bowling of two Gingers only one of whose balls was pinned for six against the sight screen. At least that's how it felt at the time said Gilet.

Hickey-Wickey, now better known as Tom Bowler, or Lucky Dip (geddit?) was not hit for any sixes and in taking 3-24 conceded less than double the runs conceded by Gilet who took 3-13 which is good, seeing Tom is considerably less than half Gilet's size.

Remarkably, we arrived with a scorebook and wicket-keeping kit, but we failed to bring a wicket-keeper in what was otherwise a highly successful debut for Teamsnap.

Captain Sloth had forgotten to put his clocks forward in March so was a little late but once he arrived in Jess' car and parked it on the shortest boundary, he appointed Chesh to keep wicket and opened up with Gilet and Matt Brightwell – a pair of bowling criminals if ever there was one – in order to test Chesh out.

Like Ben Foakes last year, our 'keeper took a catch off only his second ball at the highest level, to dismiss Gary Murton who has scored about three million runs in the Cherwell league. Someone called Leppard smashed Matt Hollywood for a four but he hadn't spotted (geddit?) Hugo prowling in the covers and Hugo soon moved swiftly through the long grass to catch the Leppard off Matt Brightwood. The young Leppard had proved fair game.

Birdy declined a slip catch off Gilet who decided he had better bowl the batsman out instead and then they were not-many-for-three.

Tom Hickey's first ever delivery at the highest level of the game was notable for the Camel Spin (performed mostly in Ice Skating) which he demonstrated as he landed on his belly.

He was bowling in "flats". This prompted quite a performance during the next few overs, not to mention confusion with 'Fats' who was also fielding at slip. Somehow Ben "Chesh" Foakes established that he and the pip-squeak Hickey share the same shoe size and some rigmarole was undertaken involving trying to tell Proud Dad Lovebite (spectator) where to find a spare set of shoes in the dressing room before sending JLB around the boundary with false instructions as to where a shoe-swap was to take place.

Finally when Dakes bowled Murton Junior some time later for a promising 20 JLB was called back from the furthest point on the ground. Hickey Junior and Chesh managed to tie laces from one another's shoes together so they fell in a heap. Or was I dreaming that?

In between times Carlton had got some away movement with the ball and Hugo had a few overs too, bowling mainly at Chris North who was compiling an aggressive 66.

Inevitably Dakes' first ball of the season was wide down the leg side but he did well not to match his league record of four consecutive wides.

He bowled lazily and deserved to be replaced by Ginger Tom who was now wearing crampons. Fats had a go at the other end but was soon replaced with the guile of Rizman (or The Guile of Rizman as it is sometimes known) who saw off L North with a super-slow parabolic delivery.

Hickey-Wickey finally got the wicket we'd been needing when Matt Hollywell snaffelled a catch off Chris North. H-W then bowled Plumridge for 18 and soon after, Latif for 23. Latif had plundered Marlow for 150 the previous day but had no answer to Ginger Tom's crampons.

The last batsman edged his first ball off Ginger Tom to Fats, but Fats decided Hickey-Wickey had taken enough wickets for an Upstart and grounded it so that Carlton, who had fielded like Viv Richards during the afternoon, could take the last wicket instead.

Ginger Tom led the team off, closely followed by Chesh who was keen to get his shoes back.

For our opening partnership we went mostly for height, sending out Hugo with RolfeDog to face accurate opening bowling from Springett and Leppard. Try as he might, RolfeDog couldn't knock the spots off Leppard, but Hugo tested the solidity of a brick wall 70 yards away with a gentle flick for six off Springett, before departing for 14.

Naturally Hugo outscored RolfeDog as did Fats who reeled off boundary after boundary making 51 in only 15 scoring shots of which just four runs were not boundaries. Stato Gilet could hardly contain his excitement.

Fats then retired himself and Captain Dakeseye who was umpiring asked RolfeDog what he thought about this 'retiring' concept and got a curt reply.

While Dakeseye considered this, Bright Mattwell arrived at the wicket, took aim and hit a full toss due North to the boundary where Chris North took the catch. Magnetic North in fact, so little did he have to move.

BirdDog joined RolfeDog and Dakes soon announced that RolfeDog would be facing his last over. No one wants to spend that much time with Birdy anyway so RolfeDog expired on his last ball for 36. This brought in Rizwan who smashed 19 not out in much less time than it took Birdy to make...well...19 not out and we were home by 7 wickets.

A good pre-league-season friendly played on an excellent wicket and with a fine tea. The likes of Ginger Tom, Hugo and Carlton were introduced to Birdy's dressing room wit and all agreed how funny he was.

Satisfyingly, Dakes' car (well Jess' car) was hit at least once and the Champagne Moment was Gilet's accidental collision with the ball when fielding at deep mid-on, despite his best attempts at evasive action.

It remained for Chesh to interview Tom Bowler about his three wickets and Ginger Tom pointed out he would have had four if Fats had not shelled a catch.

He's learning fast.

A man called Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie captained Hampshire in the sixties

