

You may have noticed the lack of match reports lately.

Here are a few snippets from what I can remember:

v Cumnor 2s, home LOST by 29 runs: Cumnor 249 all out, Ridge 220 all out.

We have no problem scoring a lot of runs, trouble is sometimes the oppo get more. We have developed the habit of allowing the opposition's leading batsman a couple of chances and this is costing us dearly. And so it was in this match too where the batsmen who made 59 and 49 were both let off the hook.

Their innings was notable for a catch by Geoff and a catch by Rory. Conceivably Rory could have caught Geoff's, it is unlikely that in this life Geoff could have caught Rory's. Or any of the rest of us for that matter.

After Rory leapt about 10 feet in the air to take a stunning catch he was given a stern lecture about showing off and promised not to do it again.

This was the match of Geoff's tea. One can imagine Sunday tea at his house, with a young lady in tow: "No eat the whole sandwich dear... of course you must eat your crusts... no they won't make your hair curl (I'll do that for you)...and of course you must eat the sandwiches from the ends of the loaf too... go on they're lovely... no afters for you if you don't..."

After a promising start we had a mid-order collapse and when all was lost Rory with 68 and Brooksie with 48 gave us a genuine chance of a shock win. They reckoned without the oppositions worst bowler with the suitable name of Jobbins who accounted for them both and also for Geoff before we subsided gently to defeat by 29 runs. We all knew they had made about 50 runs too many.

V Oxford 3s Away: LOST by 4 wickets. Ridge 224-9 dec; Oxford 225-4.

How did we lose this one? We welcomed our debutant Harikrishnan Balakrishnan "call me Hari" – we can only wonder at what Dakes' full name must be.

They say lightning does not strike twice but just as Lord Lucan rode by on Shergar we learned we had another debutant, named Jonah Sweeney. How kool is that?! From some Dickens novel perhaps? I have been looking for a gag along the lines of "With a name like Jonah he must come from Whales" but cannot find one.

Dickers and RolfeDog got off to a start again without going on (Rolfey tends to go on of course). After a brief wobble we batted well, Lloyd's 68 supported by Geoff, Brooksie and Dakes.

224-9 in a rain restricted match was good. We got them 20-2 then about 100-4 but Mubasher Hussan simply bashed us to all parts and that was that. Not very interesting really.

Of more interest however is the subject of missing youngsters and missing youngsters' kit.

It had been good to link up with Joe again in the week. "Joe I have been keeping your cricket socks hostage in my kit bag since the first game of the season". Joe wondered if I had come across his cap. Well I had picked one up somewhere and Joe might as well have it; as it happened he was able to identify it as his from markings on the strap.

Back to Square 1 for Joe and Joe's kit then. Well until returning home from the match at Oxford to find an email from Joe asking if anyone had picked up his hoodie. Luckily Geoff had it – a perfect fit I should think however it is due to be reunited with its owner. Perhaps Joe should simply turn up wearing the maximum amount of kit necessary, keep it on all day long, then return home with it.

After the Oxford match Taggart and I set off for home only to discover via a phone call from Brooksie that we had left Scorer Tom behind. Well it was not a simple as that; Brooksie and Geoff had worked out that they had room in their car for kit or for Tom but not for both. Taggart therefore did a handbrake turn on the A40, and having a very large car, we were able to fit the whole of Tom into it.

We returned to partake in Chesh' and Isabelle's leaving barbecue and find the club inundated with young intelligent people. How extraordinary!

Rather surprisingly having held his own leaving party Chesh has let us all down by being available the following week.

V East Oxford 1s Home Lost by 3 wickets: BRCC 211-9 dec (47.5 overs), EO 212-7 (41 overs)

Lost again – how did we do it? Another good - albeit stuttering performance with the bat and some good bowling... but we were not quite good enough.

East Oxford's opening bowlers indulged with a few bouncers, they being quicker than most bowlers in this league. "We are a very friendly side" they told me after advising me that I could not run a leg bye to no shot whereupon I advised - never one to miss a chance to be boring - that their knowledge of the laws was incorrect, that I could run one and that they could even run me out before the ball was called 'dead' and the run then rendered void.

Some irony here in two senses then, as you shall see. I shall choose my words as this is sub judice.

Rory and Phil (again) rescued us, this time from about 60-4 to about 170-4. The oppo were a little less chipper by this time but found their collective voices when an above-waist-height full toss was bowled by a quick bowler, was called 'no-ball' by square-leg umpire Dickers (to be explained) and was caught at cover. Not Out of course.

Cue immense frustration.

Unfortunately the team forgot they were friendly and proceeded to advertise both this and their lack of knowledge of the Laws, or the "Rules" as the Captain wrongly described them when asking Umpire Knapp if he knew them.

All that mattered was that the umpire knew them better than the players, however the captain offered the theory that you cannot be no-balled for bowling a full pitch delivery to a batsman standing outside his crease. This would of course mean that you could, if you wished, and I am not suggesting anyone would wish to, bowl at the head of any batsman batting outside his crease, without fear of reprisal.

Umpire Knapp was also advised he could not signal no-ball after the catch was completed. However as Umpire Dickers at square leg had already called it, Umpire Knapp was correct in waiting for the ball to be 'dead'. Generously, Umpire Knapp did not give the bowler a warning.

RolfeDog was seen to be marching out with a copy of Wisden but luckily was restrained by TombsDog who had earlier (correctly) described RolfeDog's batting as being like that of a dead badger.

Why was Dickers umpiring at square leg? Because East Oxford had not brought an umpire.

After some remonstrations the over continued and with the last ball Rory, whose concentration was broken, was bowled for 66.

And then mayhem.

You know what it looks like when premiership footballers surround the ref bleating loudly? Precisely. Except even premiership footballers get sent off for foul and abusive language but Umpire Knapp did not have his red cards with him. Brooksie went in to protect the umpire and narrowly avoided being assaulted.

Here's the biggest story of all. Taggart, yes Taggart, marched out to defuse the situation. Our Glaswegian. Ironic or what? Moreover this he managed to do.

Needless to say Brooksie's concentration was also ruined and was out soon after for 50 and instead of a likely 230 or 240 we ended up with 211-9.

Still should have been enough.

But wasn't, despite some fine bowling from Dakes who ended up with none-for while Taggart got four-for. Life's a bitch, Dakes!

Naturally the opposition were friendly again by the time they'd won.

We learned that the weather had spoiled the 2s first chance of victory but that we had a new star turn. Hari, had made 70 odd in about 10 overs at Shipton with six sixes. Sadly the game was abandoned and disappointingly details of the Ridge's run-scorers don't seem to have been submitted to the league's results page.

But

Some new players have turned out. We very much hope that Del will be able to show for the 1s again. Jonah again fielded like a Whale (this one's going to run and run) and held two catches (a club record I believe), while Hari is already pushing for International recognition; Ian Kerrigan has become a regular, and new youngsters such as Ben and Jack have also played. We have sent out a search party for George and for David Jones.

And for most of Joe's kit as usual.