

Who's Paul Brooks?

Banbury 3rds 174a.o.

Bledlow Ridge 175-2

RidgeBears win by 8 wickets

With the confusing nature of the Banbury clubs merger proving too great for a few of the team (no surprises for guessing I was one), there was a sense of controlled chaos surrounding the pre-match festivities as a grey gloom descended over the old Banbury Twenty ground last Saturday afternoon. After many discussions about what to do when winning the toss, Brezza duly lost and we were put in to field.

Dakes had stopped at Frankie & Bennys, so we took to the field with 10. Keeps and Jamma opened before Dakes joined us (still with an ice cream) to take over with the new ball. "I knew that was going to happen" said Jamma. With Dakes finding his swing too much or not enough, Ben had to take a wicket and did so with an uppish cut shot snaffled low by a Rolfedog more accustomed to the wicket-keeper position.

The new found position has apparently "quited him down" - Brookes, 2012.

Even so, when a partnership came around I still had to say I was getting 'Bored of my own Voice'. I think I was probably the last one on the pitch this had occurred to.

Anyway at 50-1 wickets began to flow for Brez, Keeps and Dakes, including a ball labelled by Dakes as "Unplayable". Modest, eh? Still, would have been good enough to remove a West Indies top order player on recent showings.

Although we leaked a few runs early and late in the innings (inc 30 extras), we bowled and fielded generally well with no dropped catches, Brez taking another fivefer, and Birddog (S) and Rolfedog enjoying swapping places and taking 3 catches apiece. Everyone chipped in and kept it up, including Jawad who slipped and slid without spikes but made no mistake with a sharp effort at gully.

Set 174ao, Midds (coming off his huge ton of course) opened up with Brooksy and a solid start was halted when Midds was taken LBW for twenty something. While Conor was more stuttery than his usual flowing style, Phil was showing imperious timing to all parts and the score ticked along at around 3 an over. Two older guys who seemed to bowl forever were replaced by two younger guys who Brooksy took exception to and began hitting sixes and fours. A couple narrow escapes, but Brooksy (who counted every run, celebrating his 50 and Ton before we did) showed class and guts to guide us home with overs to spare. Frustration from Conor spoiled his red-inker (29) and Wajad watched Phil hit what was now a beach ball to him for the final runs. In celebrating a win, his 100, and what could have been mistaken for the birth of a new child, he ran past the stumps, the umps, and all the way back to the waiting Ridge Bears. Banbury clearly weren't as impressed, crediting the ton to a "Paul Brooks" on the result submission. He sounds like he might be good, so we'll get him registered for next week!

"Not much to say about that" Brezza said. Wow. Who knows, maybe I'll be next?

All said and done, an 8 wicket win with many important contributions. With all senior and junior teams on the up, lets hope we can take our performances into next week and keep playing well. Over and out,

RolfePup.