

Bledlow Ridge 2s v Bletchley 2s

Home – Saturday 16th June 2018

Ridge defeated despite strong performances by Young Guns

Chesh auditions for remake of DARKEST HOUR

“Shock” appearance of debrillator

BRCC- 211-7 (45 overs)
Bletchley – 212-5 (38.2) overs

Lost by 5 wickets

Despite posting our best total of the season by a considerable amount the 2s lost to league leaders Bletchley by 5 wickets on a barmy afternoon at The Ridge.

RotlfeDog was surprised that all the team arrived well in advance of the start of a home match, he not being used to this sort of thing in the firsts. Taggart and RolfeDog learned to their great pride that they were appointed to Chesh’s Senior Management Team for this match and shared responsibility for the running of Captain Chesh’s Barmy Army or Young Guns (YG).

Chesh won the toss – Lucky Tossler – elected to bat and gave a Churchillian speech about commitment, pride and the fact that if you were batting down the order it didn’t mean you weren’t valued. He could have saved time simply by saying “David, I know you can bat but you’re No 11 today all the same”.

At the moment that RolfeDog was dissolving into tears of emotion there was a knock on the door and his friend Graham Keens from Bledlow Village and Bucks O60s appeared at the door with a gift, announcing “I have a defibrillator here for you John”. RolfeDog fainted with embarrassment and was resuscitated with the help of the defibrillator and a bicycle pump.

Chesh and Jovan opened and Chesh hit his second ball for four which was some kind of a record. He and Jovan put on over 60 before Chesh was out for 14 to be replaced by Efan.

Meanwhile Jovan was slapping the ball through the covers off the back foot with the face of the bat and to fine leg off the front with the inside edge. He was bowled for 41 at which point RolfeDog, the No 5 enquired of the whereabouts of HairBear (YG).

The Bear had chosen to wait until he was the next in to bat, to make an extended visit to the Little Room from where he explained through the locked door that he would not be available to bat at No 4, if the rule about going out within two minutes of the previous wicket, was still in force as he still had much to do.

RolfeDog bored the spectators for a while but witnessed the shot of the day from Efan (YG) at the other end. Efan made 31 and RolfeDog 13 before HairBear who felt all the better for his commercial break, slapped 32 and while doing so, gave Kelvin some valuable sprint training during his first outing of the season. Farhan (YG) and Junaid (YG) maintained the pace and took us to 211 with 29 and 16 not out respectively.

The Bletchley innings commenced. Chesh had advised RolfeDog that Junaid likes to bowl with his cap back to front. It had not been anticipated that David Saint would bowl an entire spell wearing a cap, albeit it the right way around. The cap acts as a kind of rudder apparently and is particularly effective for bowlers running down the hill.

In essence we took a marvellous catch (Junaid) and a sharp catch (The Real Saint) but our failure to hang on to some other chances cost us the opportunity to put Bletchley's batsmen under enough pressure even though we took wickets at intervals.

Farhan was the pick of the bowlers bowling with a fluent action and good pace and accuracy.

Junaid took a wicket without wearing a cap either way around. Taggart who replaced Farhan was suffering from the effects of not bowling for six weeks and found it hard to find his length. Well he found *his* length but not Farhan's and as a consequence we had some ball-searching to do in the Stud Farm.

After one of these visits Taggart bowled a yorker which was successfully defended. "Try hitting *that* for six" said Taggart invitingly to batsman Rubel Miah but instead of replying "I needn't bother because I know there'll be another juicy delivery along soon" the batsman started following Taggart back to his mark and a brief verbal exchange followed at which point the umpire, an inscrutable individual called Martin (formerly known as Sniff), stepped in and threatened to smash both their faces in. Well that's what he was thinking, anyway.

Taggart did bowl Rubel out shortly afterwards and shook him gently by the throat as he walked off before mentioning to the rest of the team that that was his 200th wicket for the club, not that records mean anything to him and all that. RolfeDog said it was a happy coincidence that taking his 200th wicket followed shortly after conceding his 200th six.

As a proud member of the Senior Management Team (SMT) RolfeDog made one suggestion all afternoon which concerned the positioning in the field of Captain Chesh off the bowling of Mark Neal. Unaided by a defibrillator this suggestion was the Kiss of Death as the next

two balls went into the position just vacated by Captain "Churchill" Cheshire and RolfeDog resigned as a member of said SMT.

Chesh entered Wonderland and bowled three overs. The second was bowled with cap AND sunglasses which normally Trumps bowling with only a cap.

Chesh appears to smile at the batsman as he bowls but no one knows why. Indeed there was a lot of inscrutability about as The Umpire Formerly Known As Sniff met The Cheshire Cat – The Cat With The Inscrutable Smile.

Ken Hollis then took a liking to Chesh – who doesn't and how can a batsman resist that smile - and gave us some more ball -searching practice before they won the game off our 28th wide in the 39th over. Well actually it was the 28th wide of the innings not the 28th wide in one particular over although it might have felt like that at times.

The day's cricket concluded with another rousing speech from Captain Chesh. In it he recognised that if the freedom of the West depended on our team's blood and sweat, then democracy was assured for another 100 years, even if Mr Trump became Dictator of Europe in which case Brexit would have been a Good Thing.

At this, RolfeDog collapsed and was revived by a defibrillator which just happened to be lying around, fortunately moments before Captain Chesh prepared to administer the Kiss of Life.

David Dimbleby is currently on vacation in North Korea.