

Bledlow Ridge 1s v Twyford 2s

Home: Saturday 21st July 2018

RidgeBears Lose Unbeaten Run as Batsmen
Fail to Fire for the First Time

Statto Hits Record-Breaking Boundary

Laws of Physics Re-Written by Magic
Bullet-Ball

BRCC: 149 all out (40.2 overs)

Twyford: 150-3 (35.2 overs)

Result: Lost by 7 wickets

People don't walk like they used to. In our village they even have a Walk to School Week where mums and dads drive that little bit further to reach a car park from where they walk their children to school.

Saeed always cuts it fine so maybe he walks to Bledlow Ridge. He could come from High Wycombe with Twyford captain Mohammed Shafaqat who also lives there, except that we know from the first match that he is not a walker. And in any case this would not help either of them arrive any earlier.

RolfeDog and Brooksie walked out to bat ahead of the Twyford team who were not ready by 12.30. The top of the wicket started breaking up from the third over and Brooksie was its first victim unable to get out of the way of one that snorted.

Lloyd followed when he was adjudged to have hit one to the 'keeper, then Hollywood tried to go big too early and skied one, which brought in Georgeous.

Georgeous played two delicate (gEorgeous) late cuts to the boundary and then, so he said, was bowled off stump by one that pitched on leg. 'Unplayable, Extraordinary, Unfair'.

In contrast, RolfeDog at the other end, Umpire Graham and the bowler, all agreed that George had simply played down the Piccadilly line to a ball pitched on the Metropolitan. RolfeDog imparted this news to him later and George went into therapy.

RolfeDog was joined by Captain SamDog on an unpredictable surface. When RolfeDog went for 32 of 75 from the first loose ball bowled by Shafaqat It seemed a lifetime had passed but there were still almost 30 overs left.

By this time Twyford were down to 10 men with young Harvey Kimble injured but The Ridgebears failed to capitalise on the gaps in the field. SamDog nicked one behind when well set on 23 and 'walked'. Brothers Hamsah and Junaid offered strong resistance but went for 19 and 14 respectively, Hamsah to a fine catch off a skier taken by Adnan Shahzad.

Saeed hung around while Ben Hillarious came and went And Then IT Happened.... Mike 'Statto' Gilet came in to bat... and... ran a two and then... wait for it, hit a **four**. He later announced that this was the first boundary by a Ridge No 11 through midwicket within a few months of becoming a father, against a town name which appears in eight counties. In July.

Roz was unsure how soon we would need tea. We said 'a couple of minutes' and Saeed duly obliged by trying to emulate Gilet, not by producing another child as that was not a sufficient challenge, but by hitting a boundary to mid-wicket. He would have succeeded but for Harris Malak taking the catch: the fourth aerial catch taken by Twyford during the innings.

149 all out in the 41st over. This was well short but on a dry wicket of very variable bounce it could have been enough, provided of course we did not gorge ourselves (or George ourselves) on Roz' tea bonanza.

It might have helped our cause if we had not shelled six chances of varying degrees of difficulty from opener Umar Zaman. Hamsah was one of the unlucky bowlers, Hillarious the other (several times).

Gilet came on and bowled Majid Aslam which brought in Harris Malak who looked like he would get out to almost every ball but didn't. Our failure to take our chances had cost us, but we finally nailed Umar Zaman with a catch at slip by RolfeDog off Saeed, which in traditional fashion he made more difficult than it was by falling over in the process. The rest of the team in traditional fashion had to pick up his fragile figure and dust it down.

Twyford were winning the race to 150 but a rush of wickets always seemed possible when Junaid, cool as you like extended two large hands to grab a blow from Haron Qayyam that appeared destined for the boundary. The first 1st team catch – said Statto – by Junaid, off the bowling of Gilet in the history of the whole wide world.

Junaid replaced Saeed at the bottom end and bowled accurately.

And Then IT Happened.

With about fifty needed, three wickets down, 'keeper-batsman Josh Goff was adjudged not to have nicked one to first slip - a seemingly regulation chest-high slip catch.

Josh Goff's school had never had a Walk to School Week and so he remained rooted to the spot awaiting we assumed, for a car to arrive. We asked the umpire if he would assist us but he decided that Goff had somehow defied the law of physics and hit the ball downwards even though the ball had pitched and was on its upwards trajectory.

At least he thought Goff had hit it; the player himself offered the opinion that he had not hit it at all meaning that the ball had presumably taken a late left turn from our own 'keeper's waiting hands into those of RolfeDog standing a few feet to one side of him. A sort of Magic Bullet (see JFK 1963).

And with that went the last chance of winning the game – a final turning point. RolfeDog resisted – only just – the temptation to tell Josh Goff to *** (G)Off ('Walk' Off obviously). As a pressure-release Goff started blasting the ball to all parts, while Harris survived a very faint sound, again off Junaid and otherwise squirted it to those parts of the leg side not previously explored. We lost by seven wickets, with a misfield which summed up a bad day.

The bowlers had done well but had been let down by the batsmen who did not build a large enough score to create pressure and by fielders who did not match the normal high standards of this season. Junaid on his debut performed well in all three departments.

Shortly after the game there was not a single Twyford player or supporter in view despite the early finish and the well-tended club bar. It was not that long however before a post came through from Scott on the club's WhatsApp Group page. A number of the Twyford team were celebrating in Chairborough Road, High Wycombe (an unlikely venue) including his mate Shafaqat

How did he get there? He might have chosen to walk. On the other hand, he probably hadn't.

Theresa May is on holiday in Brexit