

BRCC 2s vs Kimble 2

11th May 2019

Chesh in 6 shocker

Kimble prove susceptible to the straight one

Bears bowl 10 straight ones (9 bowled, 1 lbw)

BRCC 171-10 (36 overs)

Kimble 84-10 (24.5 overs)

BRCC won by 87 runs.

Having observed a poignant one minute's silence on his home square in remembrance of [James](#), the 2s started this year's campaign with a crushing victor over Kimble 2. As Shakey (warmly welcomed back into action) observed, had [Hairbair](#) been with us he would have been over the moon and no doubt leading the celebrations, probably by tearing off round the boundary waving his hands in the air.

On paper this looked like a very challenging fixture for the 2s. The Ridge had only narrowly beaten a similar Kimble team in the recent friendly and the 2s had lost convincingly, scoring only circa 50, in the away fixture to Kimble last season. However, we did come armed with a secret weapon in the form of Hamzah, albeit nursing an injury, playing down from the 1s. Hamzah had to leave around 5pm so the plan was simple - bowl first to allow Hamzah to take 5 wickets and then open the batting with Hamzah to allow him to score a quick fifty before [he](#) had to leave.

All good plans ... unfortunately, our temporary captain Chesh (in the absence of the injured Sniff) lost the toss and we were put into bat. The best option might then have been to push Hamzah down the order to allow him to punish Junaid-like the change bowlers. However, with our normal opener Jovan a late arrival (for reasons known only to him – he seemed to blush when questioned) Chesh opted to open with Hamzah and himself. At first it looked the right decision with Hamzah hitting a four and two off the opening few balls – before gifting the final ball of the over to the keeper. The words here we go again sprung to mind!

However, from an inauspicious beginning the Ridge battled back commendably to achieved a defendable total of 171 from 36 overs (all out). Chesh batted doggedly for

37, hitting a six in the process, before unfortunately running himself out when his fifty looked probable. Jovan made some good strikes to total 19. And your's truly managed a somewhat fortuitous 26 (perhaps justifying an elevation from my normal batting position of number 11 – just saying!!). It was great to see Shakey back at the crease, batting has if he had never been away and scoring an effortless and stylish unbeaten 18, before our number 11 Mark Neal was stumped first ball. The other highlight of the innings was a first senior run for Aaron, a fourteen year old junior making his senior debut.

The advantage of being bowled out in 36 overs is that the second innings started early (after an excellent tea provided by Chesh!) and so there was time for Hamzah to bowl before he had to leave. Hamzah duly met expectations delivering two wickets with a unique brand of off spin intermixed with potent arm balls. Carlton was the other opener and his heavy balls caused the batsmen many problems (and also the keeper – Chesh - when a few deliveries strayed down leg) – eventually Carlton bagged a well-deserved wicket. Enter Sufiyan who bowled excellently to take three wickets (to upstage his brother) and Shakey who would have taken a wicket had Carlton not dropped a very difficult chance (according to Shaky it was a dolly that his grandmother could have pouched!). Shaun wrapped up the victory with an impressive 4 wickets from his typically pacy and creative spell (excellent yorkers and slower balls).

Much credit is due to Chesh who proved again an excellent skipper and kept well throughout the innings – unfortunately he fractured a finger so will be out for a while. And again, congratulations to Aaron on his first senior appearance. Come on the bears!

(David Saint)