

BRCC v Challow & Childrey (A)

Saturday 11th May 2019

Bledlow Ridge Lose as the Batsmen Score Twos

Dakes and Gilet In “Both Have Wonderful Figures” Shock

Man Bitten by Cat Ensures Happy Ending

BRCC 105 all out (41.2 overs)

C&C CC 106-9 (27.1 overs)

Lost by 1 wicket

So that's win-lose cricket. In the first League Match of 2019, we were losing for most of the game, winning for most of the important part, and lost just at the end. All by about 5.15pm.

Remarkably all our players arrived in time including BenDog who was helicoptered in from outer space, one of the territories he now rules as King of JP Morgan.

Gilet wondered aloud why he had recently been mentioned 11 times in a Match Report for a game in which he had not played, and more pertinently, why people kept calling him Statto.

Dakes declared that he would bowl if he won the toss, so we batted first, but not before a very respectful minute's silence which was observed at Challow and across the League in memory of Hairbear and a young man from Didcot CC.

Challow's bowling and fielding was rather better than we had experienced so far this season and their opening bowlers were most unreasonable in not bowling anything down the legside.

Going was slow even by RolfeDog's standards, so much so that once the opening bowlers had been replaced, Hugo at the other end succumbed to boredom and was bowled.

This brought in Lord Keeping who mistakenly thought he had netted all winter and played a few extravagant shots without making contact, before beginning to get in the groove just as RolfeDog (Global Head of Insecurities) was out for 12 in 20 overs which represented an increase in scoring rate.

From here on in, the team began to author its own destruction. BenDog hit a six and a four and edged to gully for 33 (top score) and soon afterwards Dakes was caught at deep mid-off for 17 (second top score) trying to play over the top. Asked why he tried it he replied that he did not really know why he did it, it just happened. If only I had thought of using that excuse during my 37 years of marriage.

This brought Brooksie and Birdy to the wicket together both of whom are about 70 years old and have been married to each other for over 37 years without an argument. Thinking it was 37 years ago, Birdy called his partner for a quick single but sadly it was not quick enough and a beautiful relationship ended as Brooksie continued on his way to the pavilion in much the same way as Birdy had done against Kimble the previous week.

During their brief partnership – by which I mean their innings together, not 37 years of batting bliss,- a few of us others had time to walk around the ground and discuss our current job roles.

BenDog announced that he had just been promoted to the position of JPM's Global Head of Global Mineral, Animal and Vegetable Horse-Trading & Superhero with Special Responsibility for Marzipan. He also has the role of Head of Outdoor Markets for the UK and Africa Including the Sahara and for Investment in Oasis Futures.

Fats, whose batting had featured briefly between RolfeDog's and BenDog's innings, was able to announce that he had just been appointed Global Head of Racquets Fitness and Leisure with Special Responsibility for Thame and the Vale of Aylesbury. Regrettably however he is not yet the most important person in his household.

Unimpressed by any of this horseplay, Hugo announced his appointment as Farrier-in-Chief to Keeping Stables, something that he thought up on the hoof, or possibly on the spur of the moment (do keep up).

Unfortunately Hugo only deals in hooves (or hoofs) not knees, because Birdy's knee misfired at this point and he called for a runner, like this: "I need a runner". RolfeDog thought that he could complete a perfect running trio of Brooksie, Birdy and RolfeDog but Hugo dared to think he was faster and got to the dressing room first.

Just as we settled down to the potential comedy of Birdy trying to run Hugo out (ie run himself out by proxy) Junaid did it for him. That's five BRCC runouts in two matches.

Five of our last six batsmen made 2 each (and six in all); we were all out for 106 in only 41.2 overs and were left wondering if our huge totals last year really happened.

Dakes and Cooperman (Head of Global Open Mic Events) found the Challow openers, particularly James Smith in aggressive mood. There was a good deal of ball chasing and Ben Hillarious dropped his lipstick once or twice.

“Dakes needs to come off” said Brooksie (Head of Fortune Telling) with the score at 45-0. A few minutes later the score was 54-6 and Dakes had five. At this stage we were winning.

The game was cat and mouse, and when Marc Gregory hit the ball into the enormous hands of Hugo it was cat, mouse and horse, of course. Gilet (Assistant Stores Manager, Tesco Princes Risborough) was creating pressure with a mean spell and achieved a first by inducing a gravity-defying airborne catch by the Global Head of Racquets Fitness and Leisure, who is usually well grounded as well as well rounded.

With eight wickets down, Wiilliam Humphries then appeared to have won the game with a quick 23, when Hillarious bowled him with his second ball bringing in skipper Martin Turnbull with five to win. Beaten by Ben’s first two balls, he smote the next just over Dakes’ head for a single, lining himself up to face Gilet at the start of the following over: their No11 batsman facing the bowling of our No11 batsman.

Turnbull chanced his arm and hit the ball to the boundary. His celebration suggested that he has not often hit the winning runs. Gilet ended with the exceptional figures of 2-16 off 9.1 and Dakes, 6-45 off 10. It is not often that these two are said to have “wonderful figures”.

Gilet-Statto was able to calculate Dakes’ Economy Rate without difficulty by dividing 45 by 10, but by the time the rest of us left for a beer at Dakes’ local he was still working on the decimals points of his own Economy Rate.

At the pub we learnt that Dakes has ordered a new car from his employers, Williams Racing on the basis he wouldn’t ever want to be caught speeding.

Hugo agreed to play this Thursday’s T20 against Chinnor Vets as he might be able to make useful contacts in the event that any horses under his care develop dodgy knees or need medical attention; there may be a problem here, over the interpretation of ‘Vets’. Then, the subject of Geoff Tombs came up, as it always does, and it was later learnt that he had missed cricket this week on account of being bitten by his cat. So the day was not all bad.

Theresa May is not available for comment.