

## **BRCC v Kimble CC – Home**

45 over Friendly Fixture – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019

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### **Junaid Celebrates New White Shoes with Winning Six**

### **Kimble Run Out of RunOuts**

### **Gilet Misses Match but Swallows a Laptop**

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Kimble XI    158 all out (Nearly 40 overs)  
BRCC XI      162-9 (Less than 45 overs)

**Result: Won by 1 wicket**

If this had been a Cherwell League Match it would have been all over after half an hour, at the moment when Gilet arrived (as a spectator: we were restricted to one Ginger per team for this match)) with our League-Issue laptop.

Under certain League rules, if you have a laptop and they don't, then you win. This could signal Gilet's most significant role this season.

By the time of Gilet's arrival, lots of things hadn't happened: we hadn't made Kimble change in the portakabin, Cooperman, who lives about three quarters of a mile away as the crow flies, had not beaten Dakes to the ground (or anyone else for that matter) and Birdy hadn't started singing.

Cooperman is one of a number of players to be attacked by "Surprised the Season's Started" Syndrome, a condition that cricketers have suffered from

down the ages and which continues to this day despite the existence of Emails, Texts, WhatsApps, TeamSnap (don't you love it) and AnyOtherKindofSnap.

Ben Hillarious wondered aloud when the League Season starts, and RolfeDog wondered silently how many Emails, Texts, WhatsApps, and TeamSnaps, not to mention the Fixture Card, Ben had had to overlook, in order to ask this question.

Anyway, Cooperman arrived by the time of the second ball which was also our first wicket, bowled by Dakes (who has forgotten how to bowl wides.)

This was the second match in a row where we had taken the first wicket with the second ball and when Gilet was apprised (*ask me Birdy*) of the fact he went into meltdown and had to be rebooted with a Hewlett Packard charger.

Then when Hamsah bowled someone with his first ball they were 0-2 off 7 balls. The only explanation was that both batsmen had been dazzled by Junaid's new white shoes.

Now we get to the Match Report Accuracy Problem. A post-match inspection of the scorebook revealed that as Scorer Taggart became familiar with the laptop scoring system - under Gilet's guidance, Gilet having battered up to 78% - he became less interested in the written format. The scorebook was partly completed and partly not...or perhaps he became a laptop and just froze, this being an insanely cold day for playing cricket.

I cannot therefore give you the names of all the Kimble players although there was definitely a Raza, and probably a Raja, certainly a Spinks and a Martin, but the others will have to remain unnamed for this report.

They started to counterattack against Hamsah by waving the bat hard at the ball and got up to 70-odd for three before Hickey-Wickey struck by having 'Raza caught by Hamsah'. which nearly rhymes. Not long after that, someone who had nearly 60 hit a big shot into the outfield in the direction of our smallest player who ran and caught it as though it was a piece of pizza; unfortunately 'Hickey-Catchey' does not rhyme, but he ate the pizza anyway.

On the anniversary of the day at Stoke Green when Dakes commented "Isn't it nice without Taggart?" he juggled the bowling: he took 1-6, himself, Hamsah 1-29, Ben Hillarious bowled well for 2-14 off 6 and Ginger Tom likewise with 1-15

off 5. This is where my memory fails me and as Gilet may have swallowed the laptop before going to Wycombe Wanderers (5.30pm kick off if you are reading this in 2085 AD) I cannot remember everything.

WWFC were playing Fleetwood FC and if the laptop had been a Mac there would have been a joke about Fleetwood Mac, but it wasn't so there isn't.

Eight people bowled: Dakes, Hamsah, Junaid, Fats (not to be confused with "flats" which Ginger Tom was not wearing, see last week's Stokey Report), Hillarious, Ginger Tom, Hollywell and of course Cooperman who got someone out caught by Junaid off a bouncer. They might all have got a wicket for all I can remember but Brooksie, RolfeDog and Birdy definitely did not, as none of them bowled. Fats made steam train noises as usual and was hit for an enormous six by a passing locomotive.

RolfeDog and Birdy dropped about half a dozen catches between them as, inspired by Dakes' juggling, (see earlier) they both performed juggling acts before taking their slip catches.

We had tea. One of Roz's. Lots of it. Makes you wonder how Brooksie can leap about if he gets fed like that every day.

We batted, Hamsah had to leave early for his job at Tesco. Hamsah working at Tesco, is what enables Gilet to have the time off work (he works for Tesco) which allows him to watch Wycombe Wanderers.

Time-short, Hamsah started things off with a six over extra. RolfeDog was bowled by an offcutter from Raza who then had Fats adjudged next ball before BrightHolly joined Hamsah for a few fireworks. Hamsah realised his shift was starting soon so holed out for about 36.

Birdy came in and looked comfortable, or about as comfortable as someone with half his spinal cords missing and a shot knee, can.

The game paused for a half hour at this point while the Stump-to-Stump walkers arrived from Downley in memory of HairBear to a round of applause from the players.

The Walkers then posed for some photos behind the bowler's arm as BirdDog was facing. This did not get him out so The Ridge decided to try a few runouts.

In 1965 I saw Colin Bland run out Ken Barrington as Barrington trotted a gentle single while whistling "Music while you work". Fifty-four years later I witnessed an unnamed Kimble player run out Steve BirdDog as he ambled an easy single while whistling "That'll Be The Day" - or was it "Run Rabbit Run"?

Conveniently the fine leg fielder hit the stumps at the bowler's end with enough time to spare for Bird SteveDog to realise he should just keep on ambling to the pavilion.

He ambled off, Dakes slothed on, whacked a few then whacked one back to the bowler who deflected the ball on to the stumps as Bright HollyMatt tried unsuccessfully to make his ground and instead had to go off to the pavilion for a good cry. He made about 37.

Still 40-odd needed. Dakes gave a catch and we were 6-down with 30+ to get Brooksie swatted and hooked, got us close and was bowled. WhatsApp was now going beserk with score updates and what with WhatsApp and Teamsnap and all that stuff, RolfeDog was overheating in Gilet-fashion.

A few to get, some safe defensive shots from Junaid off Raza and then Hillarious decided it would be best to be bowled rather than get involved in another runout as his dad generally relishes the chance to give him run out.

Cooperman came in with about a dozen needed, to join Junaid, like The Spy Who Came in From the Cold, and provided us with Comedy RunOut Moment No 3. He hit his third ball in the air to Point who dropped the ball, virtually landed on it and grabbed it just after it hit the ground. Cooperman took this as a cue to run down the wicket to the far end as if possessed by the spirits of Groucho Marx, Max Wall and Steve Bird.

RolfeDog, now umpiring, sent him back, but it was too late, by about 10 yards and in true Music Hall tradition Cooperman went off with a big smile.

So in came Ginger Tom. He took "Centre", or might have been "Middle", but whichever it was, planted his bat in front of off stump and batted as though it was the easiest thing in the world.

The only thing threatening victory was a mismatch of scale. Ginger Tom needs three paces to every one of Junaid's who called GT back for a second run when

GT was barely half way through the first, but luckily a gust of wind got up and blew GT to the other end. Two more singles meant two to win and Junaid hit a full toss for six just as Gilet was imploding at Adams Park at the sight of Jacobson scoring direct from a corner, the first time this has happened in May. Gilet offered thanks to Gareth Ainsworth but most of all to Hamsah.

“Yesssss” screamed Hamsah on WhatsApp as he stacked another shelf at Tesco and added an extra row of tinned fruit in honour of Gilet. “When does the League season start, asked Hillarious?” ... “I thought that *was* a League match”, said Cooperman. “What’s a League Match?” asked Ginger Tom.

“It’s a game played between two men with laptops while a cricket match takes place” said Taggart. “League matches always start *after* the last Wycombe Wanderers’ match” WhatApped Gilet from Adams Park ... “Unless we’re in the playoff’s of course”.

RolfeDog smashed his phone to bits with a hammer.

*Dean Elgar ‘carried his bat’ twice last year in tests.*