

BLEDLow RIDGE 1s v BLEDLow VILLAGE 2s – Home

Saturday 8st August 2020

Ridge Win Battle of the Bledlows – But The Lord of Bledlow is Nowhere to be Seen

That Bully Shorty in Act of Cruelty

Captain Perry in Major Showing Off Scandal

BRCC: 234-9 (40 overs)

Bledlow CC: 119ao (28.3overs)

Result: Won by 115 runs

Bledlow opened up with 12-year-old debutant Ed Smart. “Look Shaun, their bowler is the same age as you” called RAJ excitedly, forgetting for a moment that Shaun has defied his immature looks to reach his final year of Uni earlier than RAJ.

Hamsah could only manage a Strike Rate of 90 before he was out-smarted by Smart for 9.

A good crowd was gathering, it being a local derby and not for the first time Captain Perry (TRC- more later) had decided to put Lydia and Tristan through the mill by insisting they come and watch him bat. Not only that, mum and dad were roped in too.

Well you can't stay in long with all those people on the side so TRC sacrificed himself for 16 bringing Hugo to the wicket so that he and RolfeDog could resume their running-and-calling exhibition that had been so cruelly curtailed the week before when they decided to shake hands mid-wicket.

Remarkably it all went rather well and singles were stolen with a nudge here and a wink there and in the middle of it all Huge effortlessly lifted Andy Replik back over his head. Well not literally as wrestling is not Hugo's thing; the ball hit the sightscreen with a resounding thwack as if a hammer was striking an anvil.

RolfeDog had reached 29 when memories of David Maunder's long round trip to Abingdon and back near-on ten years ago, were revived when he received a straight back-of-a-length delivery which hit him on the ankle dead in front. Out of deference

to The Oxford English Graduate (otherwise known as The English Oxford Graduate) he returned to the boundary saying he would **never EVER** play cricket again.

When Huge, with a very positive 23, followed Wellsy (6) both with the score on 90-5 some rebuilding was required. Dakes went through an unusual procedure called "playing yourself in" before letting himself loose on the Bledlow bowlers with RAJ at the other end. RAJ was eventually stumped off a wideish delivery for 31. On reaching the boundary he declared how stupid he had been and we all agreed, not wishing to offend. Midsy, much to the amusement of spectator Birdy who was particularly offensive on the day, was then LBW for 1.

Nothing very funny was happening so we were all craving being nine down with Shorty and Gillett at the crease. Everyone wanted Dakes to get out but Shaun went first for 7 in a useful partnership of 38, a ratio of runs to partnership of which RolfeDog might be proud.

At last, with two or three overs to go and in his third or fourth match (who's counting?) Shorty finally made it to the wicket.

We waited expectantly.

Shortly hit, called and ran (veni, vidi, vici). Dakes, who ran a quick single once (at Baggers, September 2019) had to spring to life and Shorty narrowly avoided the distinction of running out his captain on his first ball batting for the club. Dakes celebrated with a few more blows and with two balls remaining, Gilet on the patio, said to RolfeDog, whose head was spinning from laptop-scoring-training from The Master, "Just one more ball and I can take my pads off".

Just as Gilet was prematurely ripping the Velcro (not to be confused with former Wycombe Wanderers sponsors Verco) on his pad-straps, Dakes obliged by being run out for a hard-hitting, sloth-running 75. Gilet cursed, walked all the way out to face one ball with his mum and dad watching, missed it and walked all the way back. The final score was 239-9 off 40 overs, Shorty a magnificent 3 not out, Gilet 0 not out.

Marvellous.

The combination of C-19 (no dressing rooms) and a local derby, meant that there was a good crowd watching outdoors on a warm day and ominously Steve Williams of Bledlow Cricket Club and occasionally of this parish, had teamed up with Birdy to engage in a stream of general heckling. The very same Steve Williams who earlier in the afternoon, had put a new rubber grip on to RAJ's bat handle inducing a minor giggling-fit from RAJ of the sort that he would never have considered before meeting Birdy.

Hamsah and RAJ took early wickets and when Gilet celebrated bowling Alex Ross for 33 (with a beaut) with a little hop and skip, Bledlow were 69-4. When he also bowled Vincent Connelly (no relation to Cyril Connelly of Monty Python's one-time hit "Eric

the Half a Bee”) he was able to reveal he had taken three wickets in total this season for 92 runs at an average of 30.67.

As RolfeDog had asked for the figure to three decimal places Gilet’s answer was inaccurate so we had to reboot him before he could bowl again.

It was while RAJ (2-23) was still bowling that Alex decided to indulge in some Uncalled-For Showing-Off to his family. He decided to stand up to RAJ (always a good idea especially when he’s getting bumptious) and first ball made a leg-sided take with his outstretched left hand just to show that he could. He then indulged in various outrageous feats of showmanship and Captain DakesEye threatened to replace him with Wellsy who is much less inclined to play to an audience.

To make matters worse, it was discovered during the day that if you become an Army Major you have to buy your own badge and sew it on. And if you want the blazer and tie you have to go to C&A. This information was WhatsApped to Lord Keeping of Bledlow, sadly absent from this local derby, who immediately applied to become an Army Major on-line, which he paid for with airmiles.

Once Shaun had caught Mark King off Gilet with a totally unnecessary but cute little dive, Bledlow’s resistance faltered, especially in the face of further computations from “25 or 6-2-4-Gilet”. Following Gilet’s earlier dainty hop and Shaun’s cute dive RAJ then tried to take out Gilet’s mother Linda on the boundary with an unedifying sprawl which looked more like a two-footed challenge than a boundary-save, and for which he should have been booked for simulation.

On the football-violence theme, there were numerous sanitisation and sanity breaks and during one of these RolfeDog exacted retribution on that Child Bird and that Scoundrel Williams who had put all the empty cans and paper waste in Buckinghamshire into RolfeDog’s cricket bag. RolfeDog retaliated with the water bottle and then the sun cream and generally hit the target although there was a bit of collateral damage ... called Penny.

Shaun Pint-Size came on to bowl and aimed a one-bouncer at MIdds at first slip. Luckily for MIdds who looked completely terrified, Major Perry has been moonlighting in Swan Lake and this time took this fast and wide short ball while performing an *Étendre*, just to prove he can catch with either hand. He was later fined and given drill.

No one can have tried to hit a ball harder than Bledlow’s Shane Shirley without actually making contact with the ball so it came as a big relief all round when Pint-Size (2-23) bowled him.

The Big Question then became: ‘Is Shorty going to get on to bowl?’. He was already facing disciplinary action for leaving the field of play to greet two ladies, one of whom was Hollie and the other – we assume – Ivy.

We willed the opposition to be all out first, except of course for 12-year-old Ed Smart. Wellsy took a good catch off Hams to dismiss Jim Spooner who bats with his hands the wrong way around which is batting's equivalent of a Spoonerism I suppose.

Because Smart was resisting so well, Dakes at last called upon his demon bowler with the words:

"Shorty, come and have a bowl" to which Shaun replied: "I'm already bowling at the other end". "No not you Pint-Size" said Capt Dakeseye who had invented a word earlier in the innings when he had accused RolfeDog of insulence; this presumably means a combination of being cheeky and inward-looking.

At one end Hamsah (2-21) was lobbing the ball up gently to Ed. At the other, Shorty was doing his damndest to get him out, arms whirling faster and faster until he muttered at the end of one over "I am on a hiding-to-nothing here" and went off into the long grass to calm down.

Finally, finally, though exasperated, in an act of unimaginable cruelty, 35-year-old Peter Short bowled 12-year-old Ed Smart and set off round the field, arms spread in an Imran Tahir-like celebration. Smart incidentally faced 29 deliveries, the second most of his team.

So it was that The Ridge defeated The Village by 115 runs in an enjoyable and well-umpired match.

We celebrated long into the warm evening. Gilet had taken 3-30 and spent an hour or two working out his bowling average for the day. Birdy was by now on his best behaviour after the severity of the punishment meted out to him earlier in the afternoon. It was mentioned that that Barista Cooperman has not been seen since he spilled the beans. Oli White joined us and the clearing up operation later was helped by his unusual breed of dog known as a Portuguese Can-Clearing Terrier.

Birthday Boy Shorty produced 10 wonderful chocolate squares each of which had one letter on top spelling P-E-T-E-R-S-H-O-R-T. Extraordinarily there were five pieces left at the end: T,S,P,R & O. "You've left me "PORTS" said RolfeDog. "Nooo, you know me, it spells "SPORT" countered Shorty. The two of them settled on: "STROP" in honour of his bowling spell at Ed.

Unluckily for RolfeDog, Pam ate two of them the next day without permission.

After the clear-up, Steve Williams was escorted from the premises, rubbish bag in hand and RAJ became very excited about the planned visit to that Den of Iniquity, The Golden Cross. ShakEy carried Carrie (see what I did there?) to her next engagement and returned to carry Sharon home. After experiencing this mode of transport home while on holiday in Gran Canaria, Sharon now settles for nothing less.

The next day, Taggart who also spent the evening at The Golden Cross, was complaining of a hangover and could just remember being taken home by ShakEy. Where ShakEy has got this sense of responsibility from is anyone's guess and Saunderton to West Wycombe is a long way to walk with someone on your shoulders, however ShakEy later said he has become quite used to carrying old Taggart in the 2nd X1.

Taggart said he wished he could open the bowling at The Ridge like a 12-year-old.

Footnote: The following Tuesday the club hosted Bucks O60s vs Herts O60s in front of an appreciable crowd who turned up on a hot day, for a bit of hero-worship in recognition of local talent. Bucks won an exciting and unexpected victory and two things are just about worth mentioning.

Firstly on being encouraged by RolfeDog early in the afternoon to "stay around as you might learn something", RAJ retorted with the withering response "Yes maybe, but not from you" thus ending in just half a season any semblance of respect for those older and considerably better-looking than him.

Secondly that cricketing tart Short, who in the space of two or three weeks will have played cricket in Herts, Bucks, Hants and Cambridgeshire (actually the Bucks thing is questionable) was heard explaining to Birdy that he commentates on county cricket and he thought Birdy would be good at it too as it involves talking endless nonsense about cricket.

Well who would have thought?

No hyphens were harmed in the writing of this report