

Match Report

Ridgebears 1s v Bicester & North Oxford 1s (Home) 15/6/13

B & NO 60-1 (8 (overs))

Match Abandoned – Rain

The cognoscenti amongst you (explain that to Birdy please Geoff) might notice that this is a rather strange scoreline.

Their left-handed opener decided to have a blast at everything and the score was rattling along when a couple of drips of rain forced us off the pitch for the second time. Eventually the drips turned into a cascade and the only consolation before the Calling Off Ceremony was a very fine tea from that previously unknown TeaMaking Talent, Mr Russ Turner.

What a shame really because this game heralded the return of the Artist Formerly Known as Morf who, it appears, has been released from his regular Saturday flower-pressing class to play some cricket again for the Ridge. This meant that with the return also of SamDog, the Dog family increased by one despite the absence of BirdDog with a recurrence of his total bodily failure problem. One day we will get MorfDog, SamDog, BenDog, BirdDog, RolfeDog and TombsDog back together again even if it is in a doctor's waiting room. WelshDog would of course fly inn from Oz for such an event.

Well I digress – or in fact I don't really because there was not much cricket and it is so much more fun without it. Even Pam said she enjoyed the banter when she stopped off at the club after a long walk with a friend during which they had aimed for Radnage but arrived at Bledlow Ridge. BabeMagnets R Us or what?. She even laughed at one of my jokes, the first time this has happened in three years and so we later went home to celebrate wildly but I spoilt it by trying to crack another and apparently I had used the same gag once back in 1998.

It seems the Cherwell League has instructed umpires to take teams off at the first drop of rain and if this philosophy is extended through out all English cricket it does not bode well for the game over here unless the typical English summer is transformed into a Caribbean climate. Fortunately this instruction has not reached the professional game where teams nowadays stay out in one-day matches during rain if minimal... but in the same way that 'the authorities' – whoever they are - perceive that after 200+ years it is suddenly too dangerous to have the boundary at Lords extend to the pavilion (see last RolfeBlog), it seems that a few drops of rain now constitute danger to the average English sportsman. I remain unconvinced that any English cricketer has ever slipped over on a cricket pitch and sued an umpire.

There was no cricket to talk about so we talked about Geoff of course, we discussed whether Scott can be said to be on Garden Leave when working at Howden's (in-joke ha ha) and occasionally we talked about the sort of subject

that interests the average male quite a lot, but as you can imagine conversation would always drift back to things of major significance such as increased levels of carbon in the atmosphere, the complexity of the European Currency Snake and why women generally struggle with the offside law during the football season.

As always happens at the Ridge an abandoned match was followed by a period of bright sunshine and clear skies during which some of us decided to have a net and Morf, Scott and Conor took the opportunity of trying to kill an old man with series of short-pitched deliveries. The contest was declared a draw.

Russ Moran was still working on the square when we left with two matches due to be played the next day. Many thanks to Russ and also to Griff for scoring while the game lasted although it was quite easy today as all he had to do was to write in "4" each time Ben bowled to their left-hander.

We also did a bit of recruiting of senior players for three good Sunday games we have in July, two at home and one at Bledlow. Anyone reading this who has not been approached, please apply to Doug who incidentally was decidedly cheerful despite having nothing to do during the match. It was just a shame that when he got home earlier than usual, Jude didn't recognise him.

RolfeDog

No animals were hurt during the writing of this report which was not sent from a Blackberry.