

MATCH REPORT

BRCC vs Long Marston Sat 20th July

BRCC 75-10 31 overs

Long Marston 76-1 11 overs

After a creditable, if losing, performance the previous week against the league leaders, the return of several players and the fact that this lot were only second, suggested a reason for optimism, which only goes to show!

The wicket was flat and dry (and the wrong one) and so on winning the toss Bendog chose to bat. After the opening overs however we were prompted to question whether we had been magically transported to Perth or the Oval as their openers generated good pace and extracted steeping (by Ridge standards at least) bounce. Mids fended a couple off his nose, and Birdie played possibly the season's least elegant hook shot as he swatted one off his eyebrows one handed while doing his best to fall over. Brooksie had already nicked one to slip at this point and as much as I would like to describe the fall of the top order wickets, I had just put my contacts in and was forced to blink a couple of times.

Birdie settled a little, however with Russ newly at the wicket, they set off for what looked like a comfortable 2 to the third man area. Birdie was running to the danger end, so Russ stopped half way to admire the fielder's pick up. No-one had told the fielder however that there was 2 in it, so he engaged sat nav, put a first class stamp on the ball and hurled it over the bowler's end stumps to leave Russ 3 yards short of his ground.

A few batsmen got a bit of a start, but there were far too many good balls coming down and only Dan Maunder looked comfortable, finishing with the top score of 16 no, when Taggart tried to smash the leggie to Radnage and got a faint tickle to the keeper.

Tea was postponed until 4.20 (optimistic as that was almost an hour away) and we formulated our plans to demolish the second placed team's batting for less than 75. Just for a moment, there was a glimmer of light as Gorgeous induced a mistimed hook in over 1 to have Scott claim a skier. After 3 overs, we had them 9-1, but then Taggart opted to test the fencing on the legside boundary by having the batsman repeatedly smash the ball into it, and it was little better as the bowlers dutifully made way for each other with somewhat bruised figures.

It was all over before the scheduled tea interval, but on the upside there were smoked salmon sandwiches for tea and the umpire commented that the egg sandwiches were the best of the season! The post match discussion (post mortem seems somehow more appropriate) was of such an intensive nature that the skipper, comfortably supported by a Lordly cricket bag that is probably bigger than most players' beds, nodded off gently. His awakening however was less gentle as Birdie emptied a jug containing a couple of pints of water over him, which was by far the most amusing part of the afternoon.

It was scant consolation that despite amassing a grand total of 1 point, we remained in 9th position in the league.