

Match Report

BRCC 2s vs Wolverton 2s 23rd August 2014

BRCC 142-9dec 49.2 overs

Wolverton 90-6 32 overs

Match drawn

Scots declaration hits headlines

Rolfedog and Tombsdog star despite not playing

The directions for Horley, the location of the 1s game (head for Glasgow and turn left just before you get there) had swayed one or two player's availability to home only. As if to re-inforce their difficulties with making the 11 o'clock meet, most of the thereby disproportionately strong side arrived at Meadow Styles with 5 minutes to spare, however at 1pm, we had 11 players ready to go. Taggart had declared his intent earlier in the week (and declared that that would be his only declaration, apart from the declaration that there would be no declaration) to reprise his role as 2s captain. This made him the 4th stand in skipper of the year. Thankfully many, if not all of the previous stand in skippers had offered the benefit of their wisdom and experience.

Bat first. Bowl first. Luke/Chesh/Dave/Ed/Dakes/Jake should open the batting. Dakes down the hill, Dakes up the hill, Dakes at both ends.....

Equally thankfully, the first decision was taken out of his hands by an awkwardly spinning 10p piece borrowed from the Guv'nor (Malc's face when asked by big miserable Scottish bloke whether he had any money was worth the day alone).

Having been inserted to bat, the first burden of authority was to decide on openers. On his debut for the club at Banbury, Paul Cheshire was asked by Stand In Skipper III (Rolfey) what he did (presumably this question was cricket related, but you never can tell with Rolfey) and responded that he was a batsman. Not spectacular or flamboyant, but generally an opening batsman. 'Great', declared Rolfey, who it should be said doesn't generally declare as often as Taggart (who it should be noted was not going to be declaring today. Oh no sir!), 'you can bat at 8'. Being the generally good sort that he is, Chesh accepted this cheerfully and was later reported as a decent player who knows his business and a valuable addition, so in the next match, Rolfey batted him at 9.

Ever considerate however, he then placed half a dozen calls in to SSIV along the lines of 'Chesh hasn't had much opportunity to bat, so you might want to push him up the order' This was presumably offered in the spirit of 'if he does well it was my idea, and if he's a complete donkey, it won't make any difference to the match I'm playing in'.

Taking into account the current availability situation and the need to reward recent Ridge residing recruits, Chesh was sent in to open with Luke. The usual instructions were sent out with them 'Heads down, all day if you need it, no declarations before 300'. Because having declared against this side last year with 250 plus on the board and almost lost, there was no way Taggart was declaring today. No way at all.

At the 5 over mark, with 30-0 on the board, Jake pointed out that we were on track for a 50 over declaration. He was smartly clipped round the ear by his skipper and told to go and make some tea. The 2 newbies continued to bat positively with Luke hitting a couple of very crisp back foot drives through extra cover and Chesh consistently worrying the latterly placed 3rd man before the latter finally played round one in the 14th over with the first wicket having put on 55.

It went a little bit wrong from there, with a hit wicket, Luke finally departing for a well made 27 and Dakes following up his recent hundred for the 2s with a 3. Jake and DOEG however came together and produced a steadying partnership of 47, thanks in part to some uncharacteristically untidy bowling from Glenn Dickinson. Jake, spanked him for a large six to square leg (which we can only thank the fates was bowled from the top end) and in much the same way as he did up at Wolverton in the first fixture, got out without scoring again. DOEG continued on to make an educated 38 (does he make any other kind) but there was little in the way of contribution after that.

And so we arrived at the 50th over. 141 on the board, 9 wickets down. The first ball was edged expertly for a single and on arrival at the other end, Taggart informed Malcolm (Wolverton's umpire) that he was very concerned about the light. In fairness, he couldn't have informed him before getting to the other end as he couldn't see him. One more ball went down uneventfully, and then a deluge of rain came down after it.

Tea was taken immediately, and then an hour or so of play was lost. The umpires talked to the captains and it was agreed that the game had become a 50/33 match, at which point Taggart asked what would happen about the 4 balls left in the 50th over. Much discussion ensued. Surely we were entitled to complete the over. We could after all score another 24 runs, and this would further reduce Wolverton's overs (allowing for the 10 minutes required for change of innings) making the game harder for them to win.

It was grudgingly agreed that this was the case, however pointed out that it may not be completely compatible with the spirit of cricket. And so in the spirit of cricket..... Taggart declared.

142 to get in 32 overs (their own umpire docked them an over for taking too long to come out and in the process reduced the maximum number of overs any of our bowlers could bowl by 1) had all the makings of an exciting match.

Those who know Efan Morris, or take any interest in rugby, will know that the Welsh Wizard is a very decent rugby player. He may yet be good enough to play at a seriously high level and with such things come requirements that are not placed on mere mortals. The first of these is that you have to go everywhere with an entourage. Efan has been practicing this now throughout the season and has graduated to 4, including mum, dad, sister Ffion and Ffion's friend (once again thanks are due to the gods of fate that Tombsy was at Horley the day we brought in 2 attractive 16 year old girls). Ffion had decided that scoring looked like fun and had done a fine job for a first timer throughout our

innings. The pace of the 2nd innings however was so intensely soporific that it induced a near coma state and dad sportingly took over.

Roger Garini, a long-time friend of the Ridge, had as Brendan Rogers would say, decided to park the bus in front of his wicket. His innings of 37 in 31 overs could be said to have saved Wolverton from defeat, but it also pretty much nullified any chance of victory. Taggart and Dakes shared 6 wickets equally, the former removing Roger in the penultimate over, but despite a tight 8 overs from Ed, a couple of tempter overs from the Guv'nor and some rapid but slightly wayward overs from Jake, we didn't make any further progress. Ed was awarded the nominal Biffin's award for getting 3 runs and no wickets, when 3 wickets and no runs would have won the match for us (they only had 10).

Nevertheless a second successive winning draw lifted spirits and it all goes to show that you can't write a match report without mentioning Rolfey and Tombsdog, whether they're playing or not.

Taggart

RolfeDog is currently stringing for William Rhys Mogg