

Bledlow Ridge 2nd XI vs Bletchley 2nd XI - Match Report

Won by 83 runs.

BRCC 163ao

Bletchley 80ao

Yes, now we know: Shakey's long absence from the team was not down to a dicky back or to commitments to Junior cricket. Secretly our star batsman, star bowler, star everything, has spent a year rehearsing to be a star turn. A whole 15 months practising "Love Me Tender" in Elvis' voice, in front of the bathroom mirror, at the breakfast table, on the train and on family holidays, resulted in a cruel 30 seconds in front of X Factor judges who axed him shensationally.

He has returned to Bledlow Ridge CC determined to make up for lost time. National TV's loss has been the RidgeBear's gain.

But he was not the only shtar in our third victory in four matches. M. Harris the star formerly know as S.Niff emerged from the long shadows and the long grass to hold our innings together after Doug Avoidance had given us another healthy start.

Healthy was not a word instantly associated with Doug as he recovered after being dismissed for (yet again) 48. As he regained oxygen it was revealed his team had used as many R words as possible to describe him of which I can only recall 'Reckless' and 'Rotund' which seems a mite unfair, Ridiculous indeed, but was quite humorous at the time. My suggestion of "risty" to describe his batting was instantly disqualified.

Dan Maunder made a valuable 28 with him before being bowled by the off-spinner and he made way for Dave Moander (no relation) who had even more to complain about after being bowled the same way soon after. Malik too was bowled by the same bowler and Ben Wood repeated this trend allowing Our X Factor Near-Hero to join S.Chniff, the artist formerly known as Martin Harris, and rebuild the innings which had transformed from 78-0 to 96-5.

But alas Elvis was caught off a full toss. This brought Dave Wood to the wicket and in a largely non-running capacity Dave contributed a valuable 19. Malc made a valuable 1 and el capitaine committed the worst piece of running and calling known to man and was dismissed for an invaluable 3. On seeing Taggart at the crease (the season's leading Not Out batsman), M.Schniff, the artist formerly known as S.Harris, gave up the will to live as it were, after contributing 37 of the mostvaluable runs imaginable and we were all out for 163.

The reason for being bowled out and bowled out early, was clear. Another in the long line of World's Best Teas this season; this time, a debut from Jude McIndoe (pronounced "Jood") which was still being eaten at 10 o'clock at night and offered to the poor in the village throughout the night. (Sometime after midnight Malc was seen to nip out from the shadows and take a small tidpit from a passing soupwagon).

The tea prompted a debate among the Bletchley players that Teas could be "marked" at the end of each match with promotion and relegation determined on this basis. Clearly psychological counselling would have to be offered for wives, mothers or girlfriends in the relegation zone. Bourton Vale might well have decided to leave the Cherwell League in anticipation of this system being implemented, their teas of half-a-ton of pasta not generally making them the most popular.

Poor Doug: a connection was made between Jude's teas the word Rotund which was most unReasonable; one is tempted to think however that in his case the sun shines on the Righteous.

Anyway, my Last Motivational Team Talk of the year resulted in, finally, at last, not before time, Taggart starting the opposition's innings with six deliveries in the right place. He slowly subsided after that and although his lifetime's ambition to take more wickets in one season than Malcolm "The Guv'nnor" Ashby ebbed slowly away, for my part I took pride in the knowledge that it has taken only 16 weeks to get the motivational message through.

Shakey had already taken one wicket and once Taggart was replaced by The Guv'nor not even the World's Most Persuasive Scotsman could talk his way back on to bowl again (a talent for which he holds a world record). The Grinning Guvnor' set about the oppo with LBWs and bowleds while his masterstroke was in persuading one batsman to crack my shins so that the deflection went to Dan Maunder who then ran out the unlucky batsman. All part of the Masterplan everybody.

The artist once known for just 30 seconds as Elvis, finished off the match with the seventh 'bowled' of the innings and figures for 4-32 and we were grateful to the bowlers for not inducing any catches: with seven bowleds, two LBWs and one run out they did the job mostly on their own. Six of our batsmen had been bowled: some kind of a record I guess, (although not one that Elvis ever recorded). The Guv'nor took 5-12 of 9 and got his wallet out afterwards.

And so our season ended with three wins out of the last four games. Another report will follow in due course with the season's statistics, but for now the statistic that 41 players represented the 2s tells a few stories. Perhaps firstly that we have a healthy number of people associated with the club, surely a good thing. It also shows that we need to persuade players to be available more often. For now thanks to everyone who has turned out and to those who responded to late calls. A large number have started playing for the club this year and the situation has become increasingly healthy. Let's hope some who have stopped playing might restart.

Anyway to whet your appetite for the averages Shakey is in for a shock when the batting statistics are revealed shortly. It could be a case of "Are you Lonesome Tonight?"

Author : John Rolfe - 05/09/2011