

Bledlow Ridge CC v Thame II (Home)

7th May 2016

BRCC 117ao – 47.4 ov

Thame II 121-3 – 29.3 ov

Lost by 7 wickets

Matt arrived with Great Expectations. Didn't we all? It spent the afternoon on the ground by Scott's feet and remained there long into the evening after Matt had gone... to look for his bat presumably. The one he didn't know he had until his dad reminded him after his innings.

Well in the "Tale of Two Cities" (Bledlow Ridge v Thame) he top scored with 36 using RolfeDog's bat in an otherwise undistinguished team batting performance of 117 all out.

Doug doug in with him for a while for 22, an innings characterized by a balletic sweep shot in which he ended lying on the ground with a score of 8.2 for style, before holing out and going into an extended period of introspection.

Earlier, RolfeDog, Brooksie, Mohsin and Saad had not troubled the scorers much. Scott however looked as though he would until BirdDog, in a fit of jealousy, ran him out. We collapsed and failed to use the last few overs.

After Roz' usual five star tea we got off to a good start when Captain McTaggart bowled an opener then took himself off to preserve his average and replaced himself with Mohsin's off-spin.

Dakes was wheeling from the top end, all arms, legs and new-found beard in an attempt to fool the batsmen. He did succeed in fooling the close fielders however and he will have to get used to this for another year and hit the stumps instead.

Mohsin is a good find and bowled with increasing confidence bowling more slowly toward the end and taking the third wicket, ending with figures of 10.3 – 2- 30-1.

It transpired that all this time, ShakEy spectating on the boundary would have done everything differently as he advised us afterwards, especially McTaggart who made the mistake of knocking over his large red. ShakEy would have had none of the bowlers bowling, or all of them, I can't remember which, but whichever it was he would most certainly have bowled Doug.

Clearly there is some sort of red-wine-bribe arrangement going on here as ShakEy is convinced that Doug, Doug and only Doug could have saved the day and would have taken the seven wickets we did not get after Sean with his first ball had broken the long second wicket partnership.

So we have started with a defeat (“Hard Times” – C Dickens, 1854) due more to our batting than bowling or fielding and thanks to ShakEy’s dissertation we know what to do next time.

I returned Matt’s copy of “Great Expectations” to an address in Stubbs Lane where he lives in a “Bleak House” (C Dickens, 1952).