

Bedales Parents Vs. Bedales Staff - 5th June 2011

This was the first Parents Vs Teachers match since the sad passing of Adrian Rolt, our dear friend and member of the Gentlemen of Bedales C.C.

That never to be forgotten incident against Hammer Bottoms C.C. is, I feel, a very apt metaphor for Adrian - he was run out far too early in his innings.

A true Gentleman, he is sorely missed.

A grey day with the threat of heavy rain greeted the throng of nervous and excited participants as they assembled on the Bedales memorial field. Everyone was unusually punctual. Even Wethers had sauntered down from the wine bar well before the appointed start time of 2pm for the battle that is The Parents Vs The Staff.

In the absence of the parents' inspirational leader, the matter of captain for the day was met with the usual shuffling of feet and mutterings of "can't he do it?" and finger pointing at anybody but themselves. Fortunately, Jeremy Sturges boldly accepted the honour and strode purposely to the wicket with his opposite number, Botty, promptly won the toss and decided to bat.

Mike S and Clappy opened the innings for the parents but were soon stopped in their tracks by an unplayable delivery from Mark C. which removed Mike S's off stump. The controversial decision by Jay Green to represent the parents had created a degree of tension between himself and his colleagues but even more so with his protégé Stevie G who, following a boyish assault on the umpire was dealt with harshly when an over confident appeal for plumb LBW was turned down with derision. It was clear that these umpires would not be intimidated by such despicable tactics. However, two balls later, he got his revenge clean bowling JG who trudged despondently back to the pavilion.

Clappy and Jeremy started to score freely, until the skipper was magnificently caught in the deep by Al (will this man ever drop one?) McGonville.

Clappy retired, not out on 25+.

Tom Baigrie was run out by a direct hit going for, what in the past, was a sure fire second run - as time goes by, easy threes do become somewhat difficult twos and Al P. was bowled by Al Mc.

With the coming together of Jude L. and Wethers we witnessed magnificent stoke play and aggressive shot making.

At this point in the match, a certain Guy Britton was called upon to bowl (for the short-of-a-player teachers).

Guy bamboozled Wethers, who was struggling to come to terms with having to bat against his old chum, flicked the ball off the edge of his bat which looped high into the air, destined for WK Al Wright's gloves. The simple catch was equally

bamboozled by the arrival of Gordy who collided with Wrighty like a super tanker colliding with a dingy. The ball fell harmlessly to the ground.

Jude, who had earlier survived yet another despicable run out appeal, fell to the one that Felix puts on the stumps and Wethers retired having secured his 25+.

Wisey, after some elegant wristy leg shots during his innings – more akin to Sean Kerly in the all conquering British hockey team in the 1988 Olympics - finally succumbed for 10, as did Sledger Petrie for 2 and Brand Jnr for 12.

Clappy (34) returned as did Wethers (35 not out) but the parents were all out for 137.

As is usual in these reports, one must wax lyrical about Dave's tea and this is no exception. Piles of sarnies, the obligatory sausage rolls and not just a huge chocolate cake but also a cream filled strawberry gateaux. A delicious spread which was consumed in record time.

The Staff opened with Al Mc and Mike (get this man playing for the GoBs) Truss and a confident partnership ensued.

Having ensured their impartiality throughout the proceedings, Al Mc was finally given out LBW off the bowling of JG by umpire Chancellor, who felt there was no benefit of doubt despite Al's long stride, which took his front leg at least four yards down the track.

Stevie G was deceived by a Wethers wrong 'un but Trussy went on to make his 25+ shortly followed by both Mark C and Wrighty who between them piled on the runs with a combination of fine strokes and quick running between the stumps.

The drizzly rain made it difficult for the parents to feel positive about their perilous position until Clappy returned to the attack and quickly removed Guy B and big Max C.

Felix fashioned a most extraordinary four before being smartly caught and bowled by Mike S.

The sky drew darker but appeals for bad light from the parents fell on deaf ears when it was pointed out that the sudden loss of visibility was due to the arrival at the crease of Gordy. He soon became Clappy's third victim.

Mike L took guard wearing his now trademark lemon jumper and edged magnificently past the diving wicket keeper Toby to score his first runs of the season.

At the other end, Botty surveyed the well thought out field placings but managed a quick single. The next ball he faced from Mike S was his last. A dull thud was heard as the ball cannoned into his back pad, every parent to a man appealed and despite his shuffle away from leg stump, umpire Chancellor's finger was raised.

"Despicable" muttered Botty.

But the elation was soon muted as Trussy returned to the crease and nonchalantly scored the remaining few runs needed and top scoring with 36 not out. Lemon Lambert again carried his bat but this time with runs next to his name.

So yet again, the Staff were victorious, the parents humbled and the two umpires just grateful that Gordy didn't put that cricket bat where he had threatened to.