

Gentlemen of Bedales C.C. Vs The Admiral Drake C.C - 13th June 2010

(our usual match reporter is AWOL so don't expect the same level of flowery language and creative literary ramblings.)

The day started with the remnants of the self appointed 'committee' - the others either sunning themselves in Italy on yet another holiday and another threatened with divorce if he played cricket on his son's birthday - making its way to Tesco's, to buy a tea fit for young, hungry athletes because the school kitchen couldn't provide one. The governors, making yet more unreasonable demands on Dave and the catering staff - don't they realise how much good the GoB's bring to both the reputation and success of the school?

The Admiral Drake C.C. arrived in their usual array of mini-buses, camper vans and motorbikes - "Good God", said Wethers, as he saw two members of a ZZ Top tribute band strolling across the sacred turf, "bloody Harley Davidson has turned up".

The Chancellor did what he does best and won the toss with not so much his 'trusty coin' as has been described in previous reports before but with his dodgy double headed Aussie dollar and decided we would bat first, a decision more to do with ensuring the tea urn was fired up than any great tactical plan.

In the enforced absence of Botty, the inevitable question of, "who wants to open?" was met with the usual shuffling of feet and mutterings of "can I bat four?" left the skip with no option to press Wethers and Hillsy to fall on their swords for the good of the team and open.

Against an opening bowling pair full of vim and vigour, LBW appeals and dropped slip catches the inevitable happened - 7 runs from the first 7 overs.

Hillsy was finally LBW for a 1 (actually it was so plumb I almost walked).

Wethers was run out going for, what in the long distant past, was a sure fire run - as time goes by, easy threes do become somewhat difficult singles.

The magnificent middle order of Wisey (57), Al Mc (64) and Mike S (17) along with a quick-fire Brand Jr (27) cameo formed the bedrock of a generally fine batting performance.

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 - was given out LBW after batting supremely even though his front leg was at least 5 yards down the wicket at the time. Many would have raged at the umpire for such a decision but he simply tucked his arm under his arm and strode purposely back to the pavilion.

Al became more and more confident as his innings progressed and questions about how big he was seeing the ball ranged from football to beachball as he hit boundaries to all sides of the ground.

Young Jack contributed, as did Raj, The Chancellor and AJ. Even Mike L's golden duck did nothing to halt the onslaught.

A total of 201 which means we scored 194 from the final 23 overs = 8.7 runs per over!

Tea was served but as Dave had actually managed to prepare tea for us we ended up with two of them. Don't you just love communication in the digital age?

We resumed after tea with The Chancellor producing a brand new cherry for us to bowl with, a decision that was considered rash by some in the light of these somewhat austere times

After Jack took two wickets - he might be a handful when we take on the 1st X1 next week - and at 22 for 3 off the first 11 overs the result was never in doubt.

The king of spin, Wethers, again making his mark with a wicket before, not wanting his average ruined, sauntered off into the outfield for a chat.

The Chancellor stumped one of the opposition's good batmen superbly, off Al's bowling.

Wisey took a fantastic, low diving caught and bowled - 'twas described as "like picking a flower".

With Brand Jr clock watching as he needed to dash off to a family do and one of the Admiral Drake batsmen retiring because he was due to report to the police as a term of his ASBO (true), the innings was finally wrapped up 43 runs short of the target.

So an excellent result and a hugely enjoyable day, albeit a somewhat quieter affair than usual due to the absence of our two main sledgers, sees the GoBs back on the winning trail.