

Bedales Staff Vs Parents 18/05/2014 Match Report

The close season had been long and unsettling what with the disaster in Oz, the Little Master Tendulka retiring and the never ending rain, rain, rain..

Although the England lady cricketers acquitted themselves admirably, they too were pipped. Even our rugby boys had been unable to lift the dark mood.

Then Spring arrived,,,, the sun shone,,,, and we all felt the impending warmth of sporting camaraderie!

So we assembled, the teams of the Bedales Staff and the Parents, like two strings of three year old thoroughbreds returning after their first season in training, again to go head to head in the biggest Group 1 contest on the card.

The unanswered questions were about to be answered - have they trained on, will they handle the going, does their breeding indicate champions in the making?

Will they even go into the starting stalls?

The two skips, Botty for the Staff and Mike S. for the parents shook hands and tossed up. They also decided on the rules of engagement.

Traditionally, this particular match is unique in having the 'retire at 25' and 'first ball, free hit' rules but the skips decided to scrap the former and keep the latter. A few mumbles of concern at this change quickly subsided as the Parents padded up to bat and the Staff took to the field, full of vim and vigour.

The 'everyone to bowl the first 11 over including the wicket keeper rule' ensued with Al Mc (a surprising but legitimate move from Staff to Parents) and Hillsy opening the batting. After taking full advantage with a first ball 4, Al was bowled by a nasty swinging delivery from Trussy.

Hillsy nurdled a slow 6 and young George P (no, not a parent yet) a typical 10 were both bowled before Stu M was unfortunate to be run out.

Skip Mike S was out after a swashbuckling 36 (nice move for the Parents on the 'retire at 25' rule) before Paul S for the Staff started his destruction of the Parent's batting with the dismissal of both Jon & Dom Black.

Craig Mc, Raj and Tony R soon followed and Paul finished with figures of 4.3-0-17-5 Rob R and 'The Chancellor' added a few at the end before the Parents were dismissed for a total of 117.

The months of anticipation for the famous Bedales cricket teas were soon forgotten as we all tucked into a sumptuous feast of thick cut sandwiches, fat donuts, slabs of fruit cake and skewers of fresh fruit (someone ensuring our 5 a day) all washed down with lashings of steaming tea (and oddly, a few coffees) with both teams confident of victory.

The Staff opening pair of Botty and young George S came to the wicket and Jon B took the first over for the Parents. His left arm over action produced a first ball that cut across Botty, caught the edge and flew high to Raj in the slips who caught it nonchalantly. The joyous cries of "Howzat?!" soon dissipated when the Parents realized that the 'first ball, free hit' rule meant Not Out (bad move for the Parents on this rule).

The Staff score began to build before George was deceived by the one of eight that was bowled on the stumps for a score of 10 before Trussy fell to one of Al Mc's famous donkey droppers for 6.

This brought Ransi, 'The Lion of Bedales' to the wicket for his swan song before his retirement. He and Botty started scoring freely and put on a partnership of 67 before the Lion roared his last and was run out.

With 26 required and 15 overs to go, the Parent's cause seemed hopeless - which indeed was the case.

Botty hit the Parents to all corners of the Memorial Field for a magnificent 70 not out (nice move for the Staff on this rule) and with a cameo appearance by Ben S and a not out contribution by Greg C, the Staff cruised to victory by 7 wickets (we were playing 12 a side).

Again, a hugely enjoyable afternoon for a fixture where we were glad to see a few new faces but where a good number were either older ex parents and younger yet-to be parents or staff.

The Gentleman of Bedales Cricket Club is made up of members of staff, parents, ex parents and old boys.

We are very keen to recruit new members who enjoy playing cricket in an atmosphere of fun and sporting good humour.