



## St Anne's Allstars CC v Weekenders

Barnes Common, Saturday 8th August 2009.

Toss: Allstars.

Weather: sunny.

Debut: R. Miller.

Format: declaration.

### REPORT

*By Simon Begley*

As England were being put to the sword in the Ashes at Headingley, we were making a better fist of things in Barnes - but a collapse that outdid anything seen in Leeds proved costly as we narrowly failed to defend a modest total in a hard-fought game against the Weekenders.

Things had started much more brightly. On a sunny afternoon in south-west London, Maxie won the toss, chose to bat and would have been satisfied as his openers laid the foundation for a good total. Facing some accurate bowling from Chris Douglas and R. Cooper, Tim Ross was initially circumspect and an excellent judge of what to leave. At the other end I was more aggressive, looking for the boundary off anything too full and, albeit with a couple of scares, the fifty partnership came up in the 13th over.

So it was a surprise when the first wicket fell. Shortly after the dangerous opening bowlers had been replaced, I missed a straight one and was bowled. Felix, Chris Gould, and Dave Halladay, each gave brief support to Tim - who was beginning to play some wonderful shots and looking set for a big score. But, like his opening partner, Tim fell in sight of a deserved half-century. Still, hopes were high as Damian Radcliffe and Jon Hautot picked up where Tim had left off, the latter causing me to lose a valuable beer in taking evasive action at square leg umpire.

There then followed one of the more disastrous batting collapses in Allstars history. Damian and Jon had added 48 together, taking the score to 150 – only for both to fall within three balls, each looking to clear the rope. Two balls later, Ben Hampton smashed a short ball to midwicket\*. The carnage continued in the next over. Ryan Miller was a yard short as Tim Murray called him through for a run which was never really on, before Maxie nicked a good one and fell to a stunning one-handed catch at the wicket. Five wickets had fallen for four runs in 10 balls, and 154 all out felt at least 30 runs below par.

Sated by Jon's superb tea – and some of us by a glass or two of red – we needed a good start with the ball, particularly as time was unlikely to be a factor with almost 40 overs available to the Weekenders. Responding to the task, Tim Ross and Ben immediately found a good line and length and the batsmen found themselves under pressure. Despite a few good blows from some useful top-order batsmen, wickets fell regularly and we were always in the game.

The pair bowled unchanged for a heroic twenty overs, but with their tight line and length increasing the pressure on our opponents, Maxie saw little reason to look elsewhere. As the scoreboard kept ticking on, change finally came – and what a change it was. Ryan replaced Ben and sensationally struck with each of his first two deliveries as an Allstar. The hat-trick was avoided, though, and the

match continued to hang in the balance. Tim picked up the crucial wicket of the obdurate Cooper to leave the Weekenders 130-8, and for the first time we looked marginal favourites.

But it was not to be. Fox and Whitehead played sensibly to forge a matchwinning stand of 25 and see the Weekenders home by two wickets. This was probably the right result – we didn't make enough runs and the opposition's tailenders showed the patience we lacked. A defiant performance in the field wasn't quite good enough.

**Man of the Match** Tim Ross. A terrific all-round performance: top scorer in the match and an epic spell, bowling unchanged from the Railway end throughout the entire Weekenders innings.

**Champagne Moment** Ben Hampton. A stunning caught and bowled to dismiss Brockis, charging forward and diving full length to reach a miscued pull.

*\*Editor's note: these wickets fell in the same over, bowled by Weekenders skipper Husain Husaini. This is the first known instance in an Allstars fixture of a BBC Asian Network head of programming taking three wickets in an over. MHA.*

## SCORECARD

### St Anne's Allstars

T Ross		b Fox	49
SG Begley		b Whitehead	41
FOJ Haddow-Allen		b Fox	4
†CR Gould		b Whitehead	5
DA Halladay	c Brockis	b Whitehead	0
D Radcliffe	c Fox	b Husaini	27
J Hautot	c McDonald	b Husain	21
B Hampton	c Lee	b Husaini	0
T Murray	not out		0
R Miller	run out		0
*MJC Haddow-Allen	c Brockis	b R. Cooper	0
Extras (b7)			7
<b>Total</b> (34.5 overs)			<b>154</b>

Fall: 1-56 (2), 2-73 (3), 3-98 (4), 4-102 (1), 5-102 (5), 6-150 (6), 7-154 (7), 8-154 (8), 9-154 (10)

<b>Bowling</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Douglas	8	3	22	0
R Cooper	8.5	1	40	1
Whitehead	9	2	33	3
M Cooper	1	0	5	0
Fox	5	1	25	2
Husaini	3	0	21	1

## Weekenders

Lee	c F H-Allen	b Hampton	13
McDonald	c and	b Ross	23
†Brockis	c and	b Hampton	11
Wahi		b Hampton	7
M Cooper		b Ross	35
McAllum	c Gould	b Miller	3
R Cooper		b Miller	0
C Douglas	c Gould	b Miller	8
Fox	not out		21
Whitehead	not out		8

Extras (b16, nb6, w2) 24

**Total (35.4 overs) 155-8**

Fall: 1-30 (1), 2-52 (3), 3-53 (1) – the other wickets not recorded.

Did not bat: \*H Husaini.

<b>Bowling</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
T Ross	18	0	91	2
Hampton	10.4	5	19	3
Miller	7	1	28	3

Result: Weekenders won by 2 wickets.