



English Heritage v St Anne's Allstars

Audley End, Essex, Wednesday 26th August 2009.

Toss: English Heritage.

Weather: cloudy, windy, occasional drizzle.

Debuts: T. Reed, B. Johnstone.

Format: 35 overs per side, 7 per bowler.

REPORT

Heritage leave Allstars hopes in ruins

By James Morgan

Although this midweek defeat against our friends at English Heritage was disappointing, we all enjoyed the day immensely. For starters, we were able to play at one of the most picturesque grounds in England – set in the gardens of Audley End House, a country estate slap bang in the picturesque north Essex countryside. It was a quintessentially English setting. The outfield was manicured, historic buildings provided the backdrop, ducks and swans watched from a nearby rivulet, and tourists occasionally wandered past ... probably wondering why twenty two blokes dressed in white were chasing a red leather sphere. It was certainly one of the most beautiful grounds at which we've ever played. But unfortunately, our batting was not quite as pretty a sight.

After winning the toss on what looked like a decent pitch, Heritage decided to bat first. Although they connected with a few lusty blows, we actually did quite well to restrict them to 188-8 off 35 overs. The standout performance came from our Australian fast bowler, Tristan Reed, who bowled with good pace and aggression to pick up a wicket at each end of the innings and finish with 2-20 from his 7 overs, plus a superb run-out. There was plenty of fire in his belly - perhaps due to his countrymen's inability to retain the Ashes earlier in the month (does it still hurt mate?) His fellow antipodean, Brodie Johnstone (1-33), also bowled a useful spell, as did James Hindle (0-39), Adam Clements (2-34) and Andy Clarke (2-48).

Overall, we were pretty satisfied with how things had gone – and we were confident that our strong batting line up could chase down what we thought was a very gettable total. However, as you can probably guess by now, things didn't exactly go to plan.

Aside from the wonderful gardens that surrounded Audley House, the other characteristic of this picturesque ground was the Lord's style slope that ran towards the aforementioned rivulet. The water was a tempting target for our eager batsmen, but it wasn't long before it was our run chase which was going downhill. In fact, things started to go pear shaped after just three overs, when Clarke played an elegant (but somewhat uppish) off-drive straight into the grateful hands of mid-off.

The next over, Sam McDonald, who had been in such magnificent recent form, tried to run a ball down to third man and chopped it onto his stumps; the score was now 9-2. Hope was briefly re-ignited when Simon Hindle and I steadied the ship with a useful partnership of 36, until I had something of a brain meltdown and tried to swat a straight one through midwicket. Plum LBW was the result (yes, I was aiming for the water ... silly boy). Things then went from bad to worse, as we lost Andy Reid and Chris Gould in successive overs. We subsided from 48-2 to 50-6. It was a collapse even the Australia of 2009 would have been proud of.

However, unlike Ponting's men, our team showed a bit of fight. In fact, at one stage, James Hindle's buccaneering innings of 40 and late pyrotechnics from Tristan (33) and Brodie (18) threatened to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. However, it was not to be. As the rain began to fall and the run rate climbed ever higher, Heritage's bowlers turned the screw; we were all out for 157. In the beautiful surroundings of Audley House, our hospitable hosts were lords of the manor.

SCORECARD

English Heritage

P Allen		b Reed	11
R Slatford	c M'Donald	b Clements	39
R Coldwell	c Reid	b Clarke	45
†C Pitts	c M'Donald	b Johnstone	0
O Frankham	c J Hindle	b Clarke	44
G Wiltshire	run out (Reed)		3
*T Cromack		b Clements	11
L Close		b Reed	1
G Linden	not out		26
P Griffiths	not out		1
Extras (breakdown not recorded)			8

Total (35 overs) 188-8

Fall: 1-39 (1), 2-65 (2), 3-73 (4), 4-123 (3), 5-137 (6), 6-150 (5), 7-156 (8), 8-175 (7).

Did not bat: M. Fall.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
T Reed	7	0	20	2
J Hindle	7	0	39	0
Clements	6	1	34	2
Johnstone	7	0	33	1
Clarke	7	0	48	2
Morgan	1	0	11	0

St Anne's Allstars

S MacDonald		b Close	8
A Clarke	c Frankham	b Fall	3
*JM Morgan	lbw	b Griffiths	10
S Hindle	c Frankham	b Close	26
A Reid	c Allen	b Griffiths	0
J Hindle	c Fall	b Pitts	40
†CR Gould	c and	b Close	0
AC Clements	run out		7
T Reed		b Linden	33
B Johnstone		b Fall	18
MJC Haddow-Allen	not out		2
Extras (3w, 1nb, 4b, 2lb)			10

Total (32.5 overs) 157

Fall: 1-11 (2), 2-13 (1), 3-48 (3), 4-48 (5), 5-50 (4), 6-50 (7), 7-84 (8), 8-103 (6), 9-154 (9)

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Fall	6.5	2	21	2
Close	7	0	26	3
Griffiths	7	0	40	2
Linden	6	1	18	1
Cromack	3	0	14	0
Pitts	3	0	32	1

Result: English Heritage won by 31 runs.