



Mighty Wanderers v St Anne's Allstars

Greenwich Park, Sunday 13th September 2009.

Toss: Mighty Wanderers.

Weather: overcast, windy.

Debuts: C. Harrison.

Format: declaration.

REPORT

By Nick Chadwick

In the long and illustrious future of St Anne's Allstars Cricket Club, the 2009 fixture against Mighty Wanderers will, I feel, set a benchmark for the many games to follow. For whenever the subject of how far east or west is a particular venue comes into general conversation, we will always refer back to this match, in Greenwich Park - just yards from the prime meridian. (A cursory bit of googlemapping gives the centre of the square a longitude of 0.000987^o east, roughly seven metres.)

It was not a warm day in Greenwich, but the ground was sheltered by a ring of trees, and the presence of sight screens and the sporadic attention paid to the game by passers by toting toddlers and kites, rather than baseball caps, bikes and swear-words, made this a cut above the average park venue. An added motivation was the chance to win the newly instituted James Abrahams Trophy, awarded to the winner of this and future contests with the Wanderers. Knowing that, as we won this fixture the previous year, a draw would be enough to retain the trophy this time around, we accordingly took the field.

Tim Ross and I made good use of the new ball, taking advantage of the swinging conditions and variable bounce to take a wicket apiece in the first two overs, and then keep the impressive third wicket partnership of Tim Maddison and Lars Smith on a tight leash. However, the change bowlers loosened this leash a little, and found themselves getting somewhat savaged, especially by the excellent Smith, with the expansive but pacy outfield making runs fairly easy to come by once batsmen got their eye in.

Enter debutant Chris Harrison, a left arm wrist spinner whose chief weapon appears to be surprise. He proceeded to take 3-33, the wickets taken with (a) a full toss (well taken at deep midwicket by Sam MacDonald), (b) a double bouncer, and (c) a hit wicket. Chris stated afterwards that he claims victims hit-wicket all the time, so we look forward to more of the same next season.

The declaration came at 193-6 off 34 overs, after some solid biffing towards the end by the Wanderers' lower middle order. After a tea unlikely to trouble the scorers in the Tea of the Year competition, James Hindle and Sam opened the batting, and got us off to a rip-roaring start, putting on 54 in the first five overs with some impressively aggressive running and shot-making until Sam fell in the 6th over for 27.

From this stage, victory looked fairly straightforward as the opening pair had markedly reduced the required run rate. James continued to play well before falling for 40, and after a minor wobble, the in-form Jon Hautot (33) and Paul Nicol (20, who perhaps should apply to play for the Wanderers having yet again disappeared at the beginning of our innings, presumably chasing after some sort of exotic bird, seeing us most of the way home.

Some inelegant swishing from me (20*), and mindful defence from Jon Ryan, saw us home with four wickets to spare. Jon seemed to be under the impression that we were still going for the draw, refusing to be drawn into a shot under any circumstances, despite a target of 5 runs needed from seven overs, leading their captain to spread the field on the fifth ball of the over, stating "let's give this idiot the strike, we can still win this". Ryan stoically blocked, I agriculturally scythed, and the James Abrahams Trophy was secured.

Both teams then retired to the Cutty Sark Tavern, with the victorious Allstars treated to Paul Nicol's Top 50 countries listed by quality of female company available. After a chorus of "I wish they all could be Kyrgyztani" we all set off home; well done the Allstars - let's hope we can take this winning momentum eastwards to Ibiza*.

**The 2009 Ibiza tour, three weeks after this fixture.*

Man of the match: (as chosen by the secretary) Nick Chadwick, for the most economical opening spell imaginable, followed by an unflappable innings to close out the match.

Champagne moment: Chris Harrison's double-bouncing 'ball of the century'.

SCORECARD

Mighty Wanderers

T Maddison		b Ross	40
†J Mortimer		b Chadwick	2
S Tjasink		b Ross	0
L Smith	c M'Donald	b Harrison	68
Blatcher		b Harrison	0
Charlton	hit wicket	b Harrison	11
Kelly	not out		24
*Winter	not out		21
Extras (19w, 1nb, 7b)			27
Total (34 overs)			193-6

DNB: Mathias, Montgomery, M. Page

Fall: 1-3, 2-4, 3-130, 4-130, 5-139, 6-145

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Chadwick	7	3	9	1
Ross	9	1	38	2
Seth	5	0	40	0
Nicol	6	0	37	0
Ryan	2	0	17	0
Harrison	4	0	33	3
MacDonald	1	0	12	0

St Anne's Allstars

S MacDonald	c Maddison	b Mortimer	27
JM Hindle	c Smith	b Page	40
T Ross	lbw	b Montgomery	16
†J Hautot	run out		33
A Reid	st Mortimer	b Page	0
P Nicol	c and	b Mathias	21

N Chadwick	not out	20
J Ryan	not out	1
Extras (14w, 16nb, 6b)		35
Total (27.5 overs)		195-6

DNB: C. Harrison, V. Seth, *MJC Haddow-Allen.

Fall: 54-1 (A), 89-2 (2), 3-97 (3), 4-99 (5), 5-160 (4), 6-184 (6)

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Tjasink	6	0	44	0
Mortimer	5	2	41	1
Page	7	0	48	2
Winter	2	0	15	0
Blatcher	4	0	10	0
Mathias	1.5	0	10	1

Result: Allstars won by four wickets.