



St John's College CC v St Anne's Allstars CC

St John's College Sportsground, Oxford, Saturday 3rd May 2008.

Toss: Allstars.

Weather: sunny and mild.

Debuts: J. Hautot, J. Reid, D.S. Radcliffe.

Format: time.

REPORT

Our prospects had not seemed propitious, heading into a very tough fixture with neither Tristan nor much in the way of experienced bowlers – and three debutants I hoped to avoid exposing to a whitewash. In the end, though, we made a pretty respectable fist of things – applying genuine pressure with the bat, and making John's work for a victory which we at least delayed till the last three overs.

I won an unprecedented but influential toss, and, for the first time in six iterations of this fixture, we batted first. The pitch, as ever, was slowish but blameless, and all six of the day's wickets were to be attributed to batsman's error. The first was the run-out of Jon Ryan, who'd applied himself solidly until the ebullient James Hindle pushed for one sharp single too many. James's bright and ambitious cricket, however, was a huge asset overall, and he was the dominant personality in the lively second wicket stand of 55 with Sam McDonald, broken only when the former danced down the pitch only to york himself.

It was Sam, therefore, who went on to anchor the rest of the innings, constructing in the process perhaps the most aesthetically pleasing Allstars century I have witnessed. He played absolutely beautifully, combining deft late cuts with thunderous pulls off the spinners and the occasional, elegant, drive. James Morgan has likened Sam's style to Chris Gayle, and I think he has a point.

The third wicket partnership was worth 89 when Felix became the first Allstar in history to be stumped off a wide. Damian Radcliffe hit the first ball of his Allstars career to the boundary – shades of Gower v India, 1978 – and his third ball straight to short extra cover. While our innings had generally progressed with some confidence and fluency, it had also been punctuated by lulls in scoring which meant that with the declaration overdue we had not, in truth, quite enough runs on the board. But as 5pm neared I could not sportingly allow us to bat on, and when Sam reached his century I, for the first time ever, declared an Allstars innings. For a moment, as I stood on the boundary calling them in, I felt like a proper captain.

Bowling was always going to be our weaker suit, and batting the stronger for John's. It is also a very difficult ground on which to contain such a class batsman as Chris Lawton, whose serene captain's century ultimately took the match beyond our grasp. Our bowlers and fielders gamefully stuck to their task, nevertheless, and our afternoon was brightened by two wickets for the scrapbook: Garreth bowling the opening batsman with his first ball, and a super direct-hit run-out by Sam.

MHA

SCORECARD

St Anne's Allstars

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------|----------|-----|
| JM Hindle | | b Loxton | 31 |
| JP Ryan | run out | | 5 |
| S MacDonald | not out | | 100 |
| FOJ Haddow-Allen | st Turnbull | b ? | 19 |
| DS Radcliffe | c | b Lawton | 4 |
| J Reid | not out | | 8 |

Extras (27w, 5nb, 6b, 2lb) 40

Total (40.2 overs) 207- 4 dec

Fall: 1-27 (2), 2-82 (1), 3-171 (4), 4-175 (5)

DNB: J Hautot, J Abrahams, †CR Gould, GA Duncan, *MJC Haddow-Allen.

MacDonald 100: 88 balls, 7 x 4, 5 x 6.

| Bowling | O | M | R | W |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Loxton | 9 | 3 | 15 | 1 |
| Berend | 9 | 0 | 29 | 0 |
| Evans-Young | 4 | 0 | 41 | 0 |
| Lawton | 8.2 | 1 | 25 | 1 |
| Clapshaw | 5 | 0 | 37 | 0 |
| Adams | 1 | 0 | 24 | 0 |
| Staupert | 1 | 0 | 16 | 0 |

St John's

| | | | |
|-------------|---------|----------|-----|
| *C Lawton | not out | | 106 |
| O Adams | | b Duncan | 20 |
| S Loxton | run out | | 42 |
| †C Turnbull | not out | | 10 |

Extras (21w, 8nb, 1b, 1lb) 31

Total (26.2 overs) 208-2

Fall: 1-68 (2), 2-181 (3)

Lawton 106: 97 balls, 12 x 4, 2 x 6.

| Bowling | O | M | R | W |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Ryan | 5.2 | 1 | 36 | 0 |
| Hindle | 3 | 0 | 31 | 0 |
| Radcliffe | 4 | 0 | 39 | 0 |
| Duncan | 6 | 1 | 46 | 1 |
| Abrahams | 3 | 0 | 26 | 0 |
| Hautot | 2 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| F Haddow-Allen | 3 | 1 | 13 | 0 |

Result: St John's won by 8 wickets.