



St Anne's Allstars CC v Twelve Caesars

Barnes Common, Barnes, Sunday 1 June 2008.

Toss: Twelve Caesars.

Weather: overcast.

Debut: D. Sellwood.

Format: 35 overs a side; 7 maximum per bowler.

REPORT

Our first home game of the season brought a reunion with Adrian Marsden, our old friend from Oxford days, and his eccentrically dressed team, most of whom sported Roman emperors' names (from their regular dining club) and who took the field wearing, variously, a blazer and a pirate's bandana. Before the game, Maxie presented Tristan with a trophy to mark his 100th Allstars appearance.

The pitch was damp and spongy following overnight rain, and I was surprised when Adrian decided to bat first on winning the toss. He may have regretted his decision as we made an early breakthrough, his opening partner Titus driving James Devlin straight into my hands at mid-on. Next ball, Tristan bowled Adrian (aka Julius) with an unplayable shooter and the Romans were 5 for 2.

This brought their main man Stu (who obviously hasn't graduated to the emperor's robes yet) to the wicket. A class above the rest, he quickly got his eye in with some scorching drives off Tristan and was making light of the conditions when he was given out LBW off Devers having gone a long way forward. Devers quickly added a third wicket, taking a smart caught and bowled to remove James, and the middle order and tail showed little resistance to Paul Nicol's cutters and my legspin. When their last man BJ (given a second innings as the Twelve Caesars were down to ten on the day) obligingly hit a full toss from me straight to Devers at square leg, the Caesars were all out for 41 and I had the scarcely believable figures of 1.5-0-1-3.

Having not made the greatest of efforts with the bat, Adrian and his team put up a much better fight in the field, bowling tightly and catching superbly. Tristan, Sam MacDonald and John Hautot all got themselves out trying to finish the game too quickly, and when Simon Begley was out to a marginal LBW decision we were in a spot of bother at 22 for 4. James Hindle and Paul kept their heads and calmly saw us to victory.

With the game finishing early, we decided to play a 10-over thrash after tea, with everyone getting a bowl. My colleague Dan Sellwood, on his Allstars debut, gave us a fascinating glimpse of things (hopefully) to come with a superb display of clean hitting,

Felix nearly gave me a coronary with some sharp running of threes, and Scratch weighed in with some big-turning leg-breaks and googlies as we easily defended a score of 94. The champagne moment of the day fell to Maxie, taking a caught and bowled a Test player would have been proud of before we headed for the Sun Inn with a first win of the season under our belt and some old acquaintances happily renewed.

Garreth Duncan

SCORECARD

Twelve Caesars

Titus	c Duncan	b Devlin	4
*Julius/Marsden		b T Haddow-Allen	4
Domitian	lbw	b Duncan	4
Stu	lbw	b Devlin	26
James	c &	b Devlin	1
BJ	lbw	b b Nicol	0
Tiberius	not out		3
Vitellius	st Hindle	b Duncan	0
Claudius	st Hindle	b Nicol	0
Grace		b Nicol	0
BJ (2 nd inns)	c Devlin	b Duncan	1
Extras (1w)			1
Total (20.5 overs)			41

Fall: not recorded

Bowling	O	M	R	W
T Haddow-Allen	5	0	25	1
Devlin	7	4	11	3
Nicol	4	0	4	3
Duncan	1.5	0	1	3

St Anne's Allstars

T Haddow-Allen	c Stu	b Titus	4
SG Begley	lbw	b Titus	9
S MacDonald	c (midwkt)	b Julius	6
J Hautot	c	b Julius	0
PT Nicol	not out		2
† JM Hindle	not out		14
Extras (4w, 4nb, 1b)			9
Total (13.1 overs)			44-4

Fall: 1-10 (1), 2-?(?), 3-22 (?), 4-22 (?)

DNB: D Sellwood, FOJ Haddow-Allen, JFG Devlin, GA Duncan, *MJC Haddow-Allen

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Titus	7	0	19	2
Marsden	6	0	21	2
BJ	0.1	0	4	0

Result: St Anne's Allstars won by 6 wickets.