

Old Rutlishians 4th XI v Streatham & Marlborough 4th XI

This week saw the visit of Streatham & Marlborough to Nursery Road. After a few key players being unavailable from last week's defeat, Wrighty pulled off a brilliant coup with this week's team selection. Rob Lever was only available to play at home this week, Hog was back from injury and Kash was also available to keep, meaning that Wrighty could joyfully relinquish the gloves!

Anyway, to the toss. The opposition skipper called incorrectly and Wrighty won his first toss! Soon as the coin hit the ground, a huge grin spread across Wrighty's face as he elected to bowl on a very green track. (1/3)

After a quick team talk about putting last week's catching woes to one side, not to give easy runs away and to make Nursery road our fortress, the field was set and ready for the off. Mo bowled brilliantly and ended his opening spell with remarkable figures of 5-3-4-1. At the other end Ian, making his 4th XI debut, bowled well although without much luck. The initial breakthrough came when S&M's openers cracked under the pressure that Mo was able to exert and set off for a suicidal single. Rob Lever swooped from point and with great assistance from Kash behind the sticks, ran out one of S&M's openers. Hog and Tony came on first change, and while Hog managed to exert control in his spell, Tony was a little wayward. Eventually Hog had to be taken off as his injury started playing up. Tony finally started grabbing wickets with full tosses and half trackers and finished his 13 overs with figures of 5-44. Malcolm replaced Hog and was wayward in his brief spell. Rob Lever came on to gain the luckiest stumping ever seen, after Kash managed to divert the ball onto the stumps with the batsman well out of his ground. Sumair took a great catch in the deep off Tony to remove S&M's no.5 and Mo managed to take a brilliant over the shoulder catch running back from mid on to dismiss the no.6. Rob held 2 more comfortable catches off Tony to help complete his 5 for. Meanwhile up the other end, S&M's tail took a liking to Rob's pies and hit him out of the attack. Mohammed and Ian then came back on to mop up the tail and bowl out S&M for 143.

A sample of what Rob was serving up:



After another gorgeous tea, Wrighty and Beardo went out to open. Wrighty started nervously, and kept trying to give fielders catching practice and was eventually caught at mid on for 4. Beardo stuck around although his partners in Sumair and Elliot didn't last long. Kash came out and drove his first 2 balls back past the bowler for 4, which set the tone for what was to come. Beardo eventually got out, bowled all ends up by S&M's skipper, which bought Rob Lever to the crease. Both then

assuredly saw us home to a comfortable 6 wicket win. Rob batted with fluency and class, whilst Kash battered S&M's bowlers into submission including a monstrous 6 over cow. After S&M's opening bowlers came off, there wasn't much threat to either batsman's wicket and both Rob and Kash finished on 53*. Another 13 points in the bag, and the 4th XI go marching on.

The fielding was much improved, although several catches did go to ground. Luckily these were not to cost as they had done previously. Next week sees the 4th XI hit the road and travel round the corner to Old Wimbledonians.

I haven't done this previously, but the man of the match award this week goes to Tony Green for his 5-44, proving that it is possible to not bowl as well as previous weeks and still take wickets!

Adam Wright