

Saturday 1st June

Old Rutlishians CC 1st XI v Old Emanuel CC 1st XI

ORCC 210 – 5 (D.Wood 57, J.Riches 61*) beat OECC 153 a.o (A.Barnicott 5-18)

“You can’t drink that in here mate.”

“Pam ddim? Rwyf wedi dim ond ychydig a Corona hwn yn flasus,” said ORCC’s newest overseas signing, from Neath.

“Ok then, get some food and then off you go! Don’t cause any trouble!” replied the McDonalds security guard.

“Dim problem!” replied the sly Welshman as he returned to the queue for a burger. “Wow, wow rydym yn hanner ffordd yno! Wow, wow byw ar gweddio! Yn llwyr yn awr Tooting!”

Anything can happen in a local derby, but fortunately for the Ruts, the form book was not turned on its head and another comfortable win was recorded. A few changes were made this week, Chicken was away for his last night out in Kent, Dan ‘Our Saviour’ Wood returned and perhaps best of all, Roza was back in the 1s to set a good example with a brand new pencil case, sharpner and an unerring ability to pester the Chairman for a Cafe Creme cigarillo.



The Chairman enjoys nothing more than a cigarillo whilst watching the 1s.



Roza getting ready to set up in the score box.

Winning the toss again, CD decided to bat on a flat looking track that didn’t look like it’d have much in it for the bowler. Elsdon and Woody resumed their successful opening partnership once more and were quickly in their stride punishing loose bowling and running well. With pretty innocuous bowlers at their disposal, the first wicket came as something of a surprise. Not as surprising as Shack’s story about his mate’s unnerving incident in his parent’s bedroom with his girlfriend, the family dog and a visit to the VETs, but surprising none-the-less, Elsdon caught at slip with the score on 94. Elsdon was quickly followed back to the pavilion by his batting partner Wood who, nailing a long hop to mid wicket like the Saviour’s wrists being nailed to the cross, was out to a good catch.

At 100 for 2 the runs started to dry a little and new impetus into the innings was needed. Mohammed tried to inject life into the score we were setting, however he holed out disappointingly to long on for 15. Egg began to get into his stride upping his run rate to bring up his own half century

and alongside Shack and Sonny ensured that the 200 mark was reached. In fact we scampered to a slightly under par 211 for 5.

A first for me during tea, not only did the OECC team set the tea out, they also served coffee instead of tea. I have to say, it was a pleasant change to the usual classic tea based drink, especially as Elsdon drank a whole cup thinking he was in fact drinking funny tasting tea.

After another stirring team talk from the skipper, the Ruts took to the field with clear instructions: bowl tight lines, field well and wickets will come. To be fair to Sonny and Shack 'my knee hurts, my ankle hurts and my foot hurts' Shackleton, they did bowl tight lines, but there really wasn't much in it for the pace bowlers, even after overdosing on Co-codemol. Consequently, the spinners were soon into the attack in the form of Mohammed, Barnicott, Woolland and Bailey. Mohammed and Barnicott were tasked with keeping it tight and luckily they did this and picked up 2 wickets. In an effort to mix things up, Riches then brought Woolland and Bailey on in a bid to close out the game. Both bowled exceptionally well, especially Woolland who kept the danger Mann quiet for most of his spell, unlucky not to get him out when Elsdon dropped a tough one at deep mid wicket. Our ground fielding was good and after Bailey and Woolland had both bowled their 10, Mohammed and Barnicott were brought back. The tail was mopped up quickly with a 5fer for Barney and 2 for Mohammed. The game was pretty much won when Mann holed out to Woody in Barnicott's first over back, a towering catch and a dance from the catcher to top things off.

So, another 10 point bonus win and the prospect of a good game against Oxted next Saturday. We will have to be at our very best to win, but we have another gear to go up.

We were at our very best Saturday evening I think you'd all agree. After a 2 hour taxi ride from Wimbledon to Brixton to Tooting Broadway back to the party house in Wimbledon. Sheehan dressed in his 'off the peg' designer River Island shirt was on top form, Sonny managed to pull a locomotive in the Tooting Tram and Social, but best of all was McDonalds and the impromptu sing song with a load of random punters enjoying their late night greasy takeaways.



Sonny pulls out of the Tram and Social.
Chooooo, Chooooo!

Alex Barnicott