

Saturday 31 May

ORCC 1st XI v Streatham and Marlborough (ORCC win by 181 runs)

ORCC 231-8 (Riches 64, Mohammed 55)

S&M 50 a.o

After a yet another week of rain and two weeks without any cricket, the Ruts were chomping at the bit to get on the park against Streatham and Marlborough. It was even rumoured a few of the lads had cancelled plans with ladies to make sure they were tucked up in bed ready for the days fixture (the skip was stood up). The rain really had taken its toll on a pitch not exactly known for producing lots of runs, 'a pudding' is really the best way to describe it.

Important then to win the toss and bowl first, which S+M did, much to the delight of our very own James Shackleton, who had been away with the MCC all week drinking and playing the odd game of cricket. A few hours to recharge the batteries and tell some stories was welcomed!

Not to be deterred Sal and Dom started brightly, batting watchfully against the S + M openers, seeing off a tricky spell from Carr, but always dispatching the bad ball to the boundary. The score board ticked along nicely, Dom hitting 5 fours in his 27, before attempting a drive down the ground off S+M most impressive bowler Singh (1-33) which had him caught. Sal and Egg continued the building and again ticked along nicely, reaching the 100 mark just before drinks with only one wicket down. Sal was just getting into his groove, dispatching the wayward S+M spinners for plenty of boundaries including a big six. The score was 125 in the 31st over when some good fielding and a dubious decision brought an end to his innings for 55. But Egg continued where Sal had left off, smashing the ball to all parts including a lovely straight drive for 6. He and Bryan put on 50 in 8 overs before Bryan was caught for just 12, and Egg followed shortly after for 64 off just 88 balls. Shackleton, refreshed by his few hours in the sun, immediately took the attack to S+M and had some fine strokes (not the first of the week by all accounts) massaging the ball to all parts in his 25 off 16 balls. With wickets in hand Ruts continued to attack and ended the innings on 231-8. All in all a pretty good effort on a pitch not conducive to scoring freely.

After a good tea, it was time to unleash the Seam trio, Shackleton, Colyer started and once they found the right length wickets began to tumble (Shack really polished off the openers). But only after the skipper moved second slip to a short midwicket for a very bottom handed Hassan. Hassan obliged two balls later sinking one straight into Dom's very grateful hands. 17-1 and it didnt get much better for S+M after that. Shackleton bowled two S+M batters leaving them 24-3, Ellis' front pad was resistant though and put away anything on his legs. It took Pez (3-31) to nip one back just enough and at the seventh time of asking Ellis was finally on his way back to the pavillion for a gutsy 23. After that it was a bit of a procession from 42-4, Cooper immediately took over from where Shack (3-2) had left off, bowling with pace and accuracy to take 3-13. Ruts gave nothing away in the field, and the skip decided to put S+M out of their misery by introducing Alex 'the finisher' Barnicott. Another 2 wickets for Barn, with no runs conceded meant S+M limped to 50 all out. Another thoroughly impressive display from the Ruts 1st XI and another ten points in the bank. Altogether now, O.R.C.C. O.R.C.C!

Mr. X.