

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

**Old Rutlishians CC 1<sup>st</sup> XI v Farncombe CC 1<sup>st</sup> XI**

**ORCC 252-6 beat Farncombe 116 a.o by 136 runs.**

**'Farncombe destroyed and Sonny slightly bleary eyed'**

Traditionally, there are amusing stories told before, during and after cricket matches that can often be recreated in print for team mates and even the whole family to enjoy, chuckle about and imagine. However, as Saturday proved, I heard tales from Asia, various Universities around the UK, visits to the doctor, and Friday night in general that:

1. Cannot be done justice by a limited wordsmith such as myself; and
2. Are too scandalous to publish on the internet.

So there we have it.

Most notably from the warm up, Sonny arrived looking like he was on another planet after his end of term Ball, he was green; if he'd put both hands in his back pockets, he'd have failed to find his arse. He had no clue who he was, where he was or what he was doing. Due to our strike bowler being out of action, Egg won the toss and decided to bat taking the attacking option to post a score and knock over the opposition for low score as they had been rolled for 75 the week before.

It wasn't plain sailing. Opening up Dom went early for 6, and both opening bowlers looked tidy. On the plus side, Joe Hart is finding his feet in English conditions and batted in a confident, compact watchful manner leaving the ball well. Also there were encouraging signs for the skipper, who batted extremely skilfully, punishing all loose balling for four on all sides of the wicket. Both got good deliveries, Brad bowled, CD caught behind putting on 72 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> wicket. Sal fell cheaply for 10, obviously missing his holy batting partner, which brought the Shack to the wicket and the chance for the Ruts home faithful to see what he is capable of with the bat. His 60, including 6 fours and 3 sixes was top notch and gave the innings good impetus taking the score just before the magical 200 mark.

Mappy again looked in good touch, and greeted an emotional Sonny at the crease. Now for the most incredible scenes of the day. Sonny, guessing correctly to go for the middle ball of the 3 or 4 he was seeing, managed to get his eye in. Hitting 5 fours and a six he smashed the ball to all parts ably supported by both Mappy and Evan Almighty. Quite how Sonny managed 38 not out is one for the Cricketing Gods to work out, but I think some kind of performance enhancing test for banned substances is in order.

And I'm 'not twisting your melon, man', the Ruts managed 252 for 6 after 50 overs.

After another splendid Ruts tea, the Dorset Apple cake going down particularly well with Chicken, the Rust 1<sup>st</sup> XI took to the field knowing that once again, a tight bowling and fielding performance could result in maximum points plus a bonus.



Sonny (left) and Shack warm up for their opening spell with a song.

The new ball, taken by both Sonny and Shack, was bowled to probing lines, although Sonny's spell was cut short due to his fragile mental state. Chicken soon replaced him at the Morden end and Shack soon bowled the Farncombe opener for 5, the early break through we craved. Although some boundaries were picked up in this early period, Shack and Chicken bowled tight enough lines to ensure the run rate continued to rise, consequently, all we had to do was keep fielding focused and take the chances when they surely arised.

And arise they did with Sal and Barney into the attack.

Mr Consistent Mohammed again bowled excellently for his 3-14 from 7 overs. Able supported by Barney, the dangerous opener was sharply stumped by Bradders after struggling with Barnicott's angles all afternoon. The champagne moment of this stage of the game came from a Sal direct hit run out at the bowlers end. It was perfect timing, because if there was one criticism of the fielding performance it was that it got slightly sloppy when we were well and truly on top; we need to be weary of this because in league cricket and in tighter games, fielding is often the difference between winning and losing.



'We played some good cricket lads, keep it up,' said the skipper, Joe 'CD' Riches.

Anyway, 3 good wickets for Woolland at the end of the innings and the final angled wicket for Barnicott ensured that Farncombe were bowled out well short of the 252 target for 116 in 32.2 overs. All in all this was a tidy performance, roll on next Saturday and what will surely be the sterner test of the Met Police.

Early nights on Friday I think...

**Alex Barnicott**