

**Saturday 27 April 2013**

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

**ORCC 250-5 beat WPCC 133-7 by 117 runs.**

'Feel the pressure your back's against the wall' sang the Four Tops in their top ten 1988 smash hit 'Going Loco Down in Acapulco'. Fortunately for the ORCC 1<sup>st</sup> XI, their sterling performance against a club two divisions higher, ensured that their backs were never really against the wall at any stage in the 45 over a side clash on Saturday.

Losing the toss and being put in to bat ensured that the new opening partnership of Dan Wood (the Machine) and Dom Ashley Elsdon Wood was put to the test early. To say it was a success is a slight understatement. With both batters punishing anything short, and running extremely well between the wickets, the 50 partnership was achieved in no time. After more lusty hitting and deft touches, the first wicket fell at 99 with Dan Wood holing out to deep cover; this guy has played cricket against Allan Donald, Courtney Walsh, big Curtly and Jimmy Anderson to name but a few - some good stories will be had over the coming season I am sure. He's even hit Dennis Lillie for four...

With Wood gone, luckily for the Ruts another Wood remained and alongside the skipper, kept the score ticking. Elsdon passed 50 putting on 41 with Riches until the skipper, slightly frustrated, skied one to mid on for 20. With a welcome return for Mohammed, the score started to motor. Both Mohammed and Wood continued to punish wayward bowling with a stand of 60 in no time. Sal was hitting the ball extremely cleanly for a man who did not have a pre-season and showed what a natural talent he is with the bat. Adding a further 14 runs Wood tapped a short delivery to gully departing for an excellent 100. He makes batting look so easy, it is actually rather annoying. On the plus side, scorer Atkins had Elsdon on 97 until a recount and we didn't get to clap what was Dom's fourth ton for the club in 1 season and 2 games. Outstanding.

Some scampered runs from Spiby (scored more off the field this weekend, well done son!) and good hitting from Cooper and Watson, saw the Ruts reach a competitive 250 for 5 off 45.



Mick's budget cutback takes hold at tea

After an incredible rain and hail down pour, the Ruts took to the field spurred on by Riches's team talk to bowl tight lines, set tight fields and back up bowlers with tight fielding. Although Sonny didn't bowl with his usual fluency due to run up problems, he formed a good partnership with Chicken to restrict the scoring early on and was backed up with some really sharp Ruts fielding.



Sonny opening up

What a difference a mustard keeper makes (no disrespect Vidal) and this enabled Chicky's uncomfortable line just outside off stump to take real effect. A sharp catch for Spiby up to Chicken accounted for the opener who was quickly followed by wicket number 2, caught really well at second slip by Elsdon. With Mohammed and Barnicott introduced into the attack, wickets continued to fall. Sal's two wickets were well caught by the Machine and Egg, and Barnicott's wickets were erm...well caught also.

With the light fading, WPCC – missing a few of their more regular players and ex-Old Rut Sandeep Gangully – were beaten and although Woolland struggled to find his length early on, he produced a tidy delivery to bowl their number 8. With Kam bowling at the Morden end, the game ended with the Ruts restricting WPCC to 133-7 in 45 overs. The rain started to fall as the players left the field.

This was a good win, nothing more, nothing less. In the words of the skipper, plenty to work on until the league games arrive on 11<sup>th</sup> May. Some important decisions are still to be made, for example, what should be the club song? Altogether now, 'If you like pina coladas and getting caught in the rain...'

**Alex Barnicott**