



Orpington Cricket Club

Goddington Dene
Goddington Lane
Orpington, Kent
BR6 9SX

www.orpingtoncc.co.uk



SOCIAL REPORT

OCC Presidents Day 2005

Somewhat late, I have finally got around to setting aside the time from being idle to put pen to paper and give a roundup of this year's President's Day. So here goes!

With each passing year brought mounting expectations and with the weather forecast favourable, another great day was inevitably to be had.

The Invitational captain, Harry 'The 'B'stard' Patel, was still clearly smarting from two successive losses and was determined to not make it three.

He and the Mad XI captain, Graham 'Banana' Fry, had been slugging it out over the previous four weeks 'negotiating' the terms, teams and conditions and as the day drew nearer a distinct bitterness has broken through the skin of cordiality.

Diplomacy and political correctness between the two had, at times, been discarded by the odd remark slighting of personality. Harry's comments, lending to Banana's attitude in previous years, such as 'Needs to be played within the spirit of the game' and 'It's all about having fun' and 'It's what your Old Man would have wanted' made only for a translucent film of deception crudely designed to mask over other snide remarks made:

'He took it far too seriously, last year!' was a particularly favourite angle of attack by Harry that was countered effortlessly by Banana: 'He is only saying that because he lost last year!'

It's hadn't just got personal, it had been personal a good while!

Finally, and with grudging consent, the format for the day's game had been agreed upon. The day arrived and the weather was acceptably fair and at 10am the 'Ground Crew' arrived at the Olive Tree cafe to stock up their fat reserves in readiness for a long day. By 1pm, the side shows were all in place, the bar open and the first of the players began to arrive.

This was their big day!

Martin 'Hoppy' Hopkinson, by far and away the most miserable and grumpy (and latterly, drunk!) griddler I have ever come across, fired up the barbeque.

Ably assisted by Shaun 'Fingers' Thomas and Ben 'The Gimp' Clarkson, the three of them managed keep the collective hunger at bay well into the night.

Stuart 'I Blow-dry' Bullard had surpassed himself in procuring a feast for the barbeque that was beyond most people's expectations.



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There were even a few salads for the ladies!

The formal opening celebrations began with the Haka being performed led by local Maori, Gavin 'Custard' Morton, to a near-hysterical crowd.

The toss was won by Harry and the Invitational XI elected to bat.

Bearing in mind that many of these players had not donned white flannels since the President's Day the previous year, they lurched and staggered their way to a mighty 180. Mediocre inputs were made by various players and notable inputs from David 'Rabbit' Robinson (40 odd) and also by that puke-inducingly talented Simon 'Pretty Boy' Jervis. It is worth mentioning that Pretty Boy was later cheated out of a 50 by the increasingly worried and desperate opposition! That well known steam train, the Westerham Express, a.k.a. Andrew 'Tonka Toy' Davis, skittled out Robbo and later Neil 'Horse' Bradford, with figures: Two for twelve off four.

Shortly after tea, Harry decided to bring in 'Iron Gloves' Knight from the crowd to keep wicket which prompted Banana's mid-game stop.

He sourly reported his misgivings to the match referee (me) and after many deliberations was told to: 'Shut the XXXX up!' In Banana's, or my defence, the Pimms jug that I had been escorting around to the masses had been 'evaporating' faster than one might expect for a partly cloudy day!

With Banana's grievance deftly resolved, the second half began. The Invitational XI were surely comfortable with their score and unleashed their opening attack on the hapless batsmen....or so they thought!

Ian 'Woozie' Coleman and Bullard's opening stand was a defiant one (the latter's tea consisted of 5 pints of Stella and 1 ...'cigarette!'). They managed to put on 40 before the first wicket fell (poetic licence used here!). It was Paul 'Mr Pest' West's unfaltering 60 batting at number 3, together with Paul 'A Complete' Schmidt's 47 n.o. and Pete 'Crackpot' Smith's 30 n.o., that secured a victory for the 3rd year running (4th if you count the first year which was decided on a toss!).

Other points worth mentioning of the day (and the lead up to) were Clive 'Sticky Mitts' Meyer's stunning catch and Gordon 'Run-a-ball' Hall's contribution of all the clever bits to the programme. I am loath to admit it but Keith 'Legend' Stockbridge's overall support of the side attractions throughout the day was a big help. On that occasion, he really was quite effective!



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The day's entertainment was rounded up with an auction hosted by local entrepreneur, 'Super T Auctioneer extraordinaire, all the way from Cushty (JA)', who managed to raise,

amongst other amounts, £80 for the German national football shirt, donated by Steve 'Bookem' Bennett.

It was another successful day, good fun was had, and good funds made for the Club.

ROLL ON NEXT YEAR!!!

Graham 'Hoover' Davis.