

Group Game: Brazil v MCC

Luckily the Saturday game was a slightly later, 12 noon start against Brazil. Before the game had even started many of the MCC lads were deep in negotiations with their opposite number to do a shirt swap after the tournament had finished!

Winning the toss, Brazil chose to bat first and immediately came under incessant MCC pressure. Despite playing with a straight bat and good technique, the openers could not get to grips with openers Tidbury and Atkin who, despite not taking wickets, were miserly in the extreme.

After the tight powerplay spell from MCC, Brazil needed to up the pace and, in truth, they struggled against the spin of Pollard, Donald, Watling & Smallwood. Donald, in particular, shone with figures of 3 for 5 off 2 overs.

With a late flurry, Brazil made it to 115 for the loss of 8 wickets.

MCC's response was controlled at first, with an emphatic finish. A sensible opening knock from Akhtar (26) was followed up with more of the same by Donald (53 not out) and Swetman (32 not out), before Donald let loose in the 14th over, hitting 21 runs in 4 balls to conclude the match.

MCC ended up the victors by 8 wickets. Afterwards manager, Akhtar did his usual presentation speech thanking the umpires and the opposition for the game and, in a special moment, chose to present the MCC *Spirit of Cricket* T-shirt for the funniest/most special moment of the game to an old friend, ex-Kent cricketer, Matt Featherstone, whom Jaz had played with some 25 years ago as a pair of fresh-faced junior pros in their early twenties!

by MCC Captain, Jon Rea-Palmer