

Sun 13th Feb, 2011: LCFC v Eidgenossen

Sunday, 13th February 2011 saw the recommencement of the National T20 Competition. In this early season league, also known as the 'Apertura', the four main teams battle out over three weekends for the *Chimu Adventures* Shield. LCFC were playing Eidgenossen in the morning game, to defend their unbeaten run in all league games last year. As usual the game did not start as planned but half an hour late and was quite stopstarty, as the ball kept getting lost in the bushes after Clint Donkin (74) kept depositing it there off some pretty wayward bowling by the Eids. Incidentally LCFC had won the toss and decided to bat first. Chris Hodgson (13) was out with the score on 22, so new boys Donkin and Grandjean (71), set about the bowling, putting on a stand of 148, taking the score to 170 ... when disaster struck: Clint was stumped by the Eids wicketkeeper off John Bell's slow, slow bowling. Good technique to use on this pitch with the ball practically stopping when it pitches. Hans de Wit was out immediately next ball for a Golden Duck, bowled by another incredibly slow ball. It literally stopped on top of the stumps! Julian Walter (1) was then run out in comical fashion and Rob Champion (11) was yet another victim to Bell's slow boa constrictor-like bowling. John Bell (15 for 3) must be mentioned in despatches for his bowling, showing the majority of other bowlers how important accuracy is. LCFC scrambled to 182. An adequate score.

In response Eids were none for two in the first over with Hans dismissing the openers very cheaply, bringing Gary 'Workaholic' Sargent (14) to the crease with Chris 'Revolving Door' Mahoney (51). Chris has switched teams more times than Nicolas Anelka - good thing he is a jolly nice bloke! Both batsmen were making fairly good headway in the chase, which required at least two boundaries an over, until Gary holed out to Donkin off Sanford's bowling. Then the pivotal moment of the innings came and it belonged to LCFC's youngest player Sebastian Santiesteban. Sebastian failed to grab hold of a catch offered by Ravi Krishna (10), but the batsmen decided on a suicidal single. Seb quickly picked up and flung in to Jorge Pancorvo, who ran out Mahoney with some aplomb, who it has to be said was the danger batsman for the Fellowship team. Nick Jones (48), the new English teacher at Cambridge College, then tried to give Eids some credit batting with Ravi - until Ravi was stumped by Jorge, again off Julian Walter's bowling (36 for 1). And although Eids managed to only lose by twelve runs due to some pretty wayward bowling in the back ten by LCFC, the result was never really in doubt. Hans (18 for 2) and Louis (31 for 0) came back at the end to shore up the runs. Tony Sanford (17 for 2) was the pick of the bowling for LCFC, bowling neatly taking a couple of wickets and not giving too much up in way of boundaries. A satisfactory but slightly untidy result for LCFC. Kiteflyers next weekend.

As a side note, two of the three players to leave LCFC last year are now captaining their respective teams: Vishal Vaidya at Chak De and Ed Baxter at Kiteflyers. And Derek Jones has gone on to head a school in Doha. Make of that what you will.