

Sun, 30th January 2011: Viv Ash 'Cuba Libre' Invitational

On Sunday, we had a one-sided game followed by a far better game.

In the first game, the plaudits went to Vishal Vaidya (6 for 4), whose naggingly accurate bowling was a lesson to all - aided by wayward and abject batting - resulting in another hat-trick. His second in two weekends! Is this some kind of record? Should we be submitting this to Wisden? He was ably supported by the bowling of Nick Fitzpatrick (12 for 3), and the overall effect was to bowl out Viv Ash's team for a meagre 53 runs. For the batting side, Tom Jolly (5) and Chris Mahoney (18) were the only ones who can hold their heads high, proffering some defence.

In response, Louis 'Run Machine' Grandjean (34*) showed why he is a promising new signing for the T20s ahead, battering everyone, assisted by Matt 'Terminator' O'Connor (12) who was able to partner Louis admirably. Skipper, Gavin Breeze, whose birthday we celebrated, also came in and assisted in the 9-wicket victory.

A second match was rapidly scheduled by the skippers with Viv suggesting to Vishal that he should sit out the match as this would balance the affair! This rebellion was quietly and quickly quashed, and Vishal was then handed over to Viv Ash's team - like the Black Prince's favourite horse lent to appease the Dauphin in the Hundred Years War! It was a better game overall: Vish (2 for 20) took wickets again, though not as many this time; Gary Sargent (3 for 20) was on target this time and quickly swept through a rather brittle lower order; until Sonu (22) and Julian Walter (28) came together and put on 40-odd runs; and with Tony Sanford (3*), the score was lifted to 117.

In response Nick Barsby (37) proved he likes smiting the ball lustily. He was then followed by Kamlesh, whose stonemason continued the rapid scoring, until he was caught behind by Gavin Breeze off Louis GJ's bowling. Chris Hodgson, meanwhile, played a great holding innings (36*) and he and Gary Sargent (25*) wrapped up the match with two overs to go.

*With thanks to Julian Walter. For the unexpurgated version of this report, please see:
<http://perucricket.blogspot.com>*