

A wonderful day was had down at Lima Cricket Club yesterday to say farewell to two of the most interesting cricketers we have had the pleasure of hosting in Peru for the last couple of years – Ed(uardo) Baxter and David Sharples.

It has been said that their biggest contribution to *Cricket Peru* was to bring down their (soon-to-be) wives, Helena Houghton and Frances Carr - who incidentally both boast more international cricket caps than their partners! But that would be unfair. Dave bowls a wrong-un as a stock ball (not many have ever done that in *Cricket Peru* history) - and not the waist-high full toss as some have suggested - and Ed (suppressed by his captain for a year) broke the shackles of the LCFC captain (that tend to keep many a good man down), took on the captaincy mantle for the Kiteflyers this year and finally realised a small percentage of the potential he has shown since he first arrived.

It was all on display yesterday, during a single wicket competition, let me tell you. In fact when Hildebrand removed Baxter in consecutive balls in the last over, one might have thought he would leave depressed ... instead, he left with his head held high, almost proud of the fact that he had fallen trying to take it to such a quality bowler.

The Bowler of the day has to go to 'Jumping' Jack Palmer, who enjoyed a sunburnt roof of the mouth watching Louis take him for 4 sixes ... and Louis could probably take the batting mantle, if you think 52 runs from 17 balls is OK. Dave Sharples however impressed with 22 runs; Ian 'The Body' Roughton did well after apparent excess consumption the night before with 25; Chris Mahoney freakish in his 24; Cameron Smith showed some class, but for the run out; and Chris Hodgson would have had 29 had it not been for a plumb LBW off his last ball (thigh pad).

Of the bowlers, only Harry Hildebrand caused any problems ... for the ball fetchers! But wickets were picked up by Jack Palmer (in between the sixes), Nick Jones, Matt O'Connor (with a curve ball), Louis Grandjean, David Hatchett and – surprise, surprise – Chris Hodgson.

Farewell Ed and Dave ... and also Frances and Helena.

By Harry Hildebrand, President of Cricket Peru