

Peru v Andean Masters

With the majority of the team being kept awake by the all-night party in the hostel, it was a slightly bleary-eyed Peruvian outfit that arrived at the delightful surroundings of the Craighouse cricket field to begin a day of hard-fought action. Team management were facing up to a growing absentee list with one member of the team hit by food poisoning, and another failing to even make it out of Peru after coming off second best in an encounter with an over-officious member of emigration staff. This left just ten names on the team sheet but optimism remained high.

Captain Soulsby and vice-captain Hodgson made their way out to bat after winning the toss. They (and every other subsequent batsman) were met with some of the strangest sledging ever heard on a cricket field, courtesy of the Brazilian wicket keeper. The Peruvian opening pair was able to ignore this barrage of witticisms and make a solid start, largely thanks to Soulsby putting away the bad balls on his way to a well-deserved half century. The first wicket fell at 31 when Hodgson could do little about a ball that kept low and had him trapped lbw.

The entrance of Nick 'Don Draper' Jones proved crucial in propelling Peru to a competitive total. His 35 from 30 balls (including three classic cover driven boundaries in one over) had the cricket lovers in the sparse crowd roaring with appreciation. The Soulsby/Jones combination provided a further 66 runs although they were both dismissed within an over of each other. However the remaining batsmen ensured that the run rate kept up at roughly a run a ball for the final few overs, including Harry 'The Concept' Hildebrand rolling back the years with a couple of boundaries.

The consensus from the men in red was that 141/4 was potentially a match-winning score and the ten men took to the field full of confidence.

In contrast to the faultless technique of Peru's openers, the Masters took a different approach and employed a pinch-hitter in their team. 23 off 13 balls from Will Symington gave them the early initiative, although Peruvian hopes were raised when Nick Jones removed his middle stump in the 3rd over to leave the score on 26/1. That wicket could have fallen earlier but Ed Baxter broke the world record for the most times the ball was juggled by a fielder before putting a catch down. In fairness, it was a tough chance on the boundary, but sympathy from his team-mates was limited after Baxter managed to knock the ball over the fence for six.

After Symington's departure, Chilean ringer Simon Shalders continued to dish out punishment to a range of members of the Peruvian attack. With the score on 73/1, Ian 'The Body' Roughton announced his entry to the tournament with an athletic leg-side stumping whilst the bowler (Ed Baxter) was busy distracting batsman Guy Hooper with a shout for lbw.

This led to the entry of everyone's favourite Brazilian wicket-keeper who appeared no less vocal with a bat in his hand, than he had done when he had the gloves on earlier in the

morning. A few streaky boundaries propelled him to 21 but when he smacked one in the air out towards Tony 'Safe Hands' Sanford out on the boundary, he knew his time was up. Obviously needing to have the last word, he protested that Tony had stepped over the boundary rope when taking the catch. Despite a cracking catch off his own bowling from Fitzpatrick to dismiss Shalders, the damage had already been inflicted with the Masters needing just 8 more to win. They duly passed their target in the 16th over.