

Sun, 13th Feb, 2011: Kiteflyers v Chak De

The Julian Walter Man of the Match: Jimmy McManners for his 2 wickets in one (very long) over and his constant running around the pitch for me.

The Viv Richards Shot of the Day: Gavin Breeze's 6! A cultured, flat-bat drive over mid off.

The Harry Hilderbrand Fielder of the Day: Gerhard Buttner - Nice catch.

An ominous wisp of fog blowing across Lima Cricket Club on Sunday preceded the much anticipated Kiteflyers vs. Chak De cricket extravaganza which was to bear witness to one of the best team batting performances (or worst bowling performances) the T20 tournaments have seen. It was a game that was played in good spirits and was notable for a number of debuts and enthusiasm on both sides.

2 o'clock, the proposed starting time came and Chak De were ready in their whites, sat in a beautiful team-building circle, with Vishal Vaidya in a ridiculously good mood as always (always a bad sign for the opposition) and cackling away over the three different batting orders they had. As for the Kiteflyers team, four of us were there, with one standing around in pants not sure whether to actually bother getting changed or not, in case the rest of the team didn't turn up. As it turns out, they were in the bar and shuffled over for the eventual 2:30pm start!

Manfully taking to the field with 10 players, (David Murphy, predictably, didn't show up), the Kiteflyers first over went for 8 runs. As it turns out that was probably the lowest scoring over of the innings, as Chak De piled on the runs amassing a ridiculous 248 for 8 off their 20 overs. It was however, strangely enough, a reasonably enjoyable experience for most of the Kiteflyers, many of whom got a chance to bowl. There were some great batting performances: top scorer was Suresh Suryavanshi with 65 and lots of other players chipped in here and there. Particularly memorable was the 3 fours he hit in a row of one utterly rubbish Baxter over. E. Xtra (34) got his top score of all time, I would imagine, too.

Jimmy McManners (2 for 17), on his debut, deserves a mention as he got two wickets in his one over of 12 balls! One of the balls was so cr@p however it wasn't even allowed to be called a wide. Anyway he should be congratulated for getting Vishal (25) out on his full debut.

In other comedy moments, Dave Sharples (1 for 62) bowled the best ball of the day (a dot), fell over and then turned to be relieved that his girlfriend and dad were still having lunch by the swimming pool.

The mist continued to roll in and the Kiteflyers took some great catches and strangely, given the score, actually fielded quite well. Gerhard Buttner must be mentioned for the fine catch he took near the start of the innings.

After a quick turnaround, Chris Abbott (9) and Nick Barsby (6) were sent in to chase the small matter of 12.4 runs an over. They started pretty well hitting a couple of lusty blows for four but then Chak De started to turn the screw, bringing an LBW appeal straight off the middle of Abbott's bat. Needless to say that went down well with the batsman and wickets began to fall. Nick somehow hit the ball behind him to be caught by Kashyap Nansi and the batting order began to disintegrate. Lovely shots included a meaty six by Gav (13) over mid-off and a Dave Sharples (6) four courtesy of Anish's foot (or knee) which was actually 20m from the boundary at point of contact.

Some good blocking by the lower order kept Chak De at bay until the 14th over and the Kiteflyers were eventually all out for 89. After the last shrieking huddle of the day by Chak De, it was time to retire to the bar and, strangely enough, the mist by now had begun to recede ...