

## Blog from the Boundary, 1<sup>st</sup> XI v MK Air – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010

Since dot was laid up at home with an unfortunate case of sore varicose veins, she asked me to pop down to MK Air to keep an eye on the troops, and to make sure there weren't any fisty cuffs (handbags/swinging bats). But there wouldn't be any trouble, surely? neutral umpires, 20 overs, the oppo being turned over four times in a row of late, one of which being a tame loss to our boys in maroon just a couple of weeks ago. Hmmmm.....

So let's start at the beginning... Lee – toss – loss, fairly standard and with it looking a little cloudy and the wicket looking good it must have been an obvious choice to errr bowl first?!? Fair enough, asked to put runs on the board lee and pinny thought they'd better oblige. With a new pill in hand their open bowler started chucking down some bananas, fortunately starting outside off and getting wider was only troubling their keeper - so a couple of wides to get us going. In the third over pinny slaps a drive along the lightning fast outfield losing the new pill, fantastic, an old scuffed up thing came out to replace it and with no movement it was fairly easy to dispatch. 29 off 3...

Runs came easily for pinny with 16 from one over, Skip was quite happy to just keep it ticking over, and with 8 overs or so gone we were looking good on 70. Pinny departed after one skier too many, their player deciding to tease and juggle it a bit on the boundary. In came the big P (who had obviously had his weetabix) a nice drive here and an agricultural swipe there and GP edged their way over 100 – no doubt helped by some clearances with the boot that the English football team would be proud of. Peterson departed for 20 ish – again, Lee perished for about another 20 odd bringing the weekend hero crazy legs to the crease, with Rob K.

A couple of lusty blows from crazy and some quick singles from rob followed until they decided to have a mothers meeting in the middle, either that or it was a do-si-do, whatever it was, rob was run out. The next over and Crazy missed a straight one, josh got triggered and Luke, well he played all round it and handed blokey a lovely little hat trick, swinging in their favour? Perhaps... a couple of little tickles from the Rowe brothers and another silly (perhaps important) run out – GP 149 – 8 off 20 overs, just about par... Quick team talk and the boys were waiting for the oppo with the light not getting any better...

Matt opened the bowling and looked good, with blokey resembling the Italian tank regiment (credit to Peterson for this one), Ady at the other end got a bit of tap, 30 off 4 and it was looking close (oh if only I knew what was ahead). Skip wanted to keep the batsmen on their toes and changed up the bowling, so apologies if I miss people out...

Luke bowled some rank half trackers, one of which matey decided to pull away only into Mr. P's hands – a good catch, give him a bit of time and he's fine. Luke's next over and more of the same, another rank half tracker which white cap decided to snick to Lee. Josh and Harry both had an over and both got some tap, full and straight young 'uns. Ash runs in to bowl, delivers the ball, and it squeezes past Lee, they set off on a quick one, only for skip to gather turn and release in one foul swoop and the batsman was on his way.

Luke came back on and with nobody stood at mid off the batsman plopped one just over the boundary for the first 6 of the game (nuff said – but in hindsight if we'd had someone there to chest it down/snaffle that would have been 5 runs less). Moments later it runs out to josh – deep, the batsmen call for two, Joshy shells it in, direct hit, umpires finger in the air queue jubilation and celebration, takes me back to josh fielding a few years back on the same ground.

So 36 required from 5... up steps L'Ady, tempting blokey into a skier, pouched safely by Pinny at deep mid on, swing o-meter back the other way...and at the end of the over 28 off 24 required, a boundary off Matt and a couple took it down to 21 off 18. Ady again - 5ish and a wicket (ct behind) to take them to 6 down, requiring 16 off 12 balls. Timmy follows but MK still manage 6 runs taking them to 140 – 6 off 19 over's – take note!

I will try to do this ball by ball, it might be right...

- first ball, dug out – single
- second ball – 2 knocked out into the outfield to crazy?!?
- Third ball – dot
- fourth ball – 2...

Right 5 runs required to win, 4 to draw but they would win on wickets, we find out from the umpers...

- fifth ball flicked out to deep square, batsmen call for 2, Harry runs in to collect, keeps running, and running, throw it everyone is pleading, he releases, hits lee's gloves, takes the stumps, almighty appeal – finger in the air – another one down 146 for 7 – 1 ball left.
- Ady comes up to the crease, releases, the batsman squeezes the ball out to josh chasing in from deep, the batsmen turn for 2, complete the run and and josh brings the ball in safely. MK Air finish on 148 for 7, playing GP 149 – 8, GP win, or is it?!?

2 celebrating teams (screaming, screeching, fist pumping, air punching) = turmoil = tension = debacle = Wavendon Gate Gate... sorry had to be done. Discussions and consternation ensue, umpires have 8 for the last over, as would Karen had the oppo's scorer not told her earlier in the over that she'd missed a run. Queue claims of cheating (both sides), and wins, fortunately for neutral umpires sense prevailed (depending on the results sheet – let's wait to see that) and GP make it through to the final... good work boys... too much for my heart to take though.

At this point I could call names, be rude, all sorts but I won't, I'll rise above it, but I must admit it was funny to see the oppo run on to the pitch screaming and jumping – taxi horns beeping then only 5 minutes later look like their world had fallen in...

**Dot's play of the game-** Lee's run out, Josh's run out, Mr. P's Catch, Pinny's catch, Harry's run out?!? All momentum changing, all very much required, all coming at exactly the right time.

Interestingly, their fielding was woeful, ours was fantastic, yet we end up on pretty much the same score, more concentration required batting, no silly run outs, and from our bowlers more full and straight deliveries please.

**Dot's 'other' play of the game-** Angry Ash standing amongst MK Air and screaming his little lungs off at the end to try to swing it our way – you get the feeling there's a bit of animosity there... Neutral umpire please for August 21<sup>st</sup> – Wootton.

I need a lie down – hopefully that's all I'll have to do this year, lucky i'm a couple of years younger than dot otherwise there might have been an ambulance required.