

Match reports 2009

April 28 v MCC/All Sorts (Won)

On a gloomy but miraculously dry last Tuesday evening, in the first "friendly" of the season, MCC took on the mighty BAS. Our 17-strong squad was reduced by homework commitments (Ben Lascelles, Rob Pople) date conflicts (Nigel Collar) and lame excuses (Rob Brett - foot injury) to only 12 on the day. But BAS fielded approximately 15 so we ended up with a 3-way tournament between roughly 9-a-side teams: MCC, BAS, and a third team, "Allsorts" decomposed of players from both MCC and BAS. As far as my dodgy memory serves, MCC consisted of:

Tris Tyrell - UNEP-WCMC
Tiffany Bogich - Zoology
Matt Fasham - RPS
Jez Bird - BirdLife
Ian Hayward - RSPB
Kevin Middleton - RSPB
Chris Magin - RSPB
Stephen Grady - JNCC
Phil Taylor - BirdLife
Geoff Young - RSPB



Allsorts contained the following MCC players, plus some from BAS

David Fouracre - RSPB
Andy Symes - BirdLife

Due to limited time and light, and in an urge to give the maximum number of players a chance to participate, the complicated Briggs-Boulton rules were followed.

Each match consisted of 7 x 6-ball overs. Each bowler could only bowl one over. Batsmen came in in pairs, and batted for 2 overs before retiring. If they were out, they stayed in, but 10 runs were deducted from their score. Last batting pair therefore only faced one over. Got that? Right...

In the first match MCC took on BAS, who batted first and scored 52 runs but lost two wickets, i.e. final score of 32. MCC inched towards the total, helped by a fine 13 not-out from Stephen Grady "Train", 6 from "Bash'em" Fasham and 14-10=4 from Kevin Middlestump. The captain, yrs trly, then sneaked the winning run from the first delivery. Glory was within MCC's grasp, until the next ball, when Ian "Wayward" Hayward was clean bowled - see photo. A desperate attempt to get the required 9 runs off the remaining 4 balls led to Ian being sacrificially run out again by yrs trly, so BAS won by 19 runs.

In the second heat, BAS beat Allsorts by 75 runs, thanks at least in part to Allsorts losing 7 wickets to BAS's four.



In the third match (now a battle for second place in the tournament, and to see in the gloaming) MCC beat Allsorts by 24 runs. Light was so bad a brighter ball had to be substituted, though this didn't help much - see photo. It is also now obvious that cricketers wear white so that they can see each other in the dark.

Strong wicket-keeping performances were put in by Tiff "Baseball" Bogich and Geoff "Not-so" Young, and there was some demon bowling from Jez, Tris and Phil "The Power" Taylor. David Fouracre and "Comes-in" Andy Symes also sportingly gave MCC some good catching practice.

A good time and several beers was / were had by all, and hopefully most of you are now looking forward to next Tuesday (12th May) when MCC will take on BAS in a proper 11-a-side match at Girton to contest the Geoff Cripps Memorial Trophy.

May 5, v Ridgeons (League) (Won)

In the faltering light of an early May evening as a cold wind buffeted the picturesque grounds in the shadow of Girton College, this their opening league fixture was undermined by a BAS CC batting collapse of truly English proportions. The mood of the procession that departed the wicket in single file matched the blackness of the gathering gloom. Meanwhile, Ridgeons relaxed into a fielding routine that suited the certainty of an apparent outcome.

Or in other words, it rather seemed that the BAS CC were about to get one of their occasional hidings.

Yet how different was their demeanour after battle lines were drawn and purposeful BAS bowling lifted the home side into a position of real promise. The opposition runs trickled, and even some early season rustiness in the field could not undo the accuracy of pace bowler Grant and the deceiving spin and bounce of "leggie" Dan Hill. But parry turned to thrust as Ridgeons established a respectable though by no means assured 96 runs off their allotted 15 overs. During the mandatory ceasefire, Captain Boulton of BAS surveyed the battlefield and bristled with Yorkshire intent. Game on, it seemed.

When hostilities recommenced, a useful opening salvo from the in form Grant briefly swelled the optimism of the BAS rank and file. That is until the high ground was then catastrophically lost after both Grant and Boulton took direct hits whilst pinned down by apparently friendly fire.

And the robust finger of suspicion points accusingly still.

But typically resolute, the BAS then dispatched their heavy horse to plug the front line breaches, though tragically many immediately lost their way in the now rapidly failing light. This then was BAS CC's darkest hour, when seven good men floundered in the mire of best intent. And all a very long way from their target.

But in the depths of their despair, the smoke cleared momentarily from the battlefield, and a faint flickering light of hope shone defiantly as one man stood alone on the hill. Matching armour plated defence with the destructive riposte of a Trebuchet, man of the match Hilyard began the utterly daunting task of hauling his battle weary troops away from the brink of total annihilation. It seemed an impossible task, brave but futile. And yet not one of the battle weary protagonists could avert their incredulous gaze, even for a moment.

On and on the light flickered, slowly at first but then eventually, when the beleaguered Hilyard was joined in battle by the gladiatorial Pirabaka, with sudden and ferocious intensity. So terrible was the effect on the opposition that their joy of a victorious campaign was instantly extinguished in favour of a sudden and surprising fear of losing. A nervousness took hold of their foot soldiers, faster even than the media reports a doubtful case of swine flu.

Now seeing impossibly better in almost pitch darkness, as the projectile became a decreasingly visible ball, Pirabaka (who clearly has the eyes of a cat) and Hillyard began routing their unsettled opponent with a volley of imposing shots. Consequently, with 2 overs remaining and 13 runs now required, Ridgeons formed a redoubt, even bringing their elite troops back to man the hastily put up wall. But being nearly spent from the earlier exchanges, the gathering speed of the BAS attack took out their defences, with Hillyard and Pirabaka leading the charge. Then, by surging past 50 with a boundary, (half) Centurion Hilyard tied together the scores. Finally, the capable Pirabaka secured this least probable of victories by unleashing a punched drive deep into the very last over.

Proof, in case it is needed, that the BAS CC are made of very much sterner stuff these days.

With special thanks to Ridgeons CC for contributing much to a memorable and topsy turvey evening played out in the best traditions of social league cricket.

Game on? Indeed.

May 12 v MCC (Lost)

Last Tuesday, still smarting from a narrow defeat in a "friendly" two weeks earlier, the Mixed Cambridge Conservationists took on the British Antarctic Survey in the annual challenge match for the coveted Geof Cripps Memorial Trophy at Girton College Ground, Cambridge. MCC team was:



Mike Crosby - BirdLife
Matt Fasham - RPS
Kevin Middleton - RSPB
Stephen Grady - JNCC
Jeff Knott - RSPB
Tris Tyrell - UNEP-WCMC
Phil Taylor - BirdLife
David Fouracre - RSPB
Richard Allcorn - ex FFI and RSPB
Ian Barber - RSPB
Chris Magin - RSPB
Rob Pople - Zoology

The game consisted of 15 x 8 ball overs, with batsmen retiring at 15 and coming back in once all other batsmen were out or retired. BAS batted first. Captain Dick Boulton opened the batting and quickly closed again, being clean bowled by "Bashem" Fasham on the first ball of the game. However, despite continued high pressure from bowlers Tyrell, Middleton, Grady, Knott, Taylor and Fouracre, four good innings by Mick Grant (20 not out), Rich Hill (18 not out), Guy Hithard (17 not out)

and R "South" Mimms (15 not out) inched BAS's total to 103 for 8.

But then it was MCC's turn. Fine innings by Jeff "Alan" Knott (26 not out) and Tris Tyrell (17 not out) took MCC to 104 for 9 with 6 balls to spare. Man of the match had to be Jeff Knott for MCC.

To cries of "20 years of hurt, crickets coming home its coming home" your Captain was presented with the Geof Cripps Memorial trophy, an old bat (see photo). I had always wanted a trophy wife, but now instead I have a trophy that reminds me of her....

May 20 v Girton (Lost)

Wednesday 20th May BAS cricketers rocked up at the Girton Recreation ground looking to avenge the bit of a thumping we took from em last year. Them with their weekend first teamers and those pesky kids.

On a splendid sunny evening Captain Boulton lost the toss and Girton put themselves in for a bat. With our guest bowler Cheyne Cikoja, who was an Australian version of anybody's Mum & Dad's brick outhouse. He and Mick Grant piled in at the Girton top order and after 4 overs they were 19-2.

The Girton batsman then decided the only thing to do was to 'tee off and have a dip' They got away with a good couple of handfuls of play and missing and sent some steeping catches into the outfield that the BAS fielders did well to get a hand to. But the runs were now flowing. And once the final bowl had been dispatched, W. Butts ended on 43no and A. Dyer on 61no and their total score was a hefty 187-3

In the run chase 5 BAS wickets were to fall. Boulton didn't trouble the scorers too much, Rich Hill spanked a clean hit back over the bowlers head, Ricky Timms had a swipe and Dan Hill stuck to his role of swishing wonderfully. But after half the overs we were well behind the run rate.

At the crease was Mick Grant and Guy Hillyard and away they went. Nudging for singles, bisecting the field and running hard for a couple or just spanking into the adjoining field for six. Was it possible to chase down such a huge target? The shots kept coming and the ball kept disappearing back into the setting sun.

With only 5 runs to get to his half century Mick was bowled. Time was now running out and Pirbaka Sivasubramaniam carried on running hard but the sand had slipped through the egg timer. BAS had managed a magnificent 160-5 which is a huge score to loss with. And as they trooped off the field Guy Hillyard raised his bat as he was undefeated on 85.

Time to decamp to the George Public House in Girton with the opposition to pick over the details of the game, oh and to have a beer or two.

June 2 v Over (Lost)

CRICKO - GRAM

DIRECT TO YOU VIA
World Wide Network

DEAR SIRs,


I REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT THE BAS CRICKET TEAM WAS SLAIN IN BATTLE AGAINST OVER C.C. LAST NIGHT. BAS FOUGHT VALIANTLY BUT WAS OUTGUNNED BY A WELL ORGANISED UNIT.

BAS BATTED BRAVELY AGAINST TIDY BOWLING FROM OVER. ALTHOUGH PINNED DOWN BY HEAVY FIRE BAS STILL MANAGED TO MAKE A RESPECTABLE 90/7. NOTABLE PERFORMANCES CAME FROM HILLYARD 28, IRWIN 15 AND S GOODALL 13. BAS' ONLY LIFE MEMBER OF THE PRIMARY CLUB, BOULTON, MADE AN AVERAGE BOOSTING 12 N.O. WHILST GRANT AND GRAHAM 0 BOOSTED BAS' MEMBERSHIP OF THE CLUB.

BAS PUT IN AN EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE IN THE FIELD MANAGING HOLD OFF THE OVER BATS UNTIL THE ELEVENTH OVER. SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS FOR P & S GOODALL WHOSE BRAVERY WITH THE BALL NETTED THE ONLY OVER SCALPS OF THE INNINGS. HILLYARD COLLECTED TWO AWARDS: CATCHING AWARD FOR HIS SCREAMER AT FIRST SLIP AND A PURPLE HEART FOR INJURIES SUSTAINED IN BATTLE AFTER BEING HIT BY TIMMS' FRIENDLY FIRE. HIGHLIGHTS FOR OVER WERE BENSON'S 47 N.O. AND WILLIAMS' SPANKING 62 N.O.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ANNABEL FOR SCORING AND CONSOLING INJURED EGOS

OVER AND OUT



June 23 v Mott McDonald (Won)

“Midsummer Madness”

A gorgeous evening at Girton. The best of British weather. An intake of breath as the BAS Captain, in his most important role of the evening, won the toss. The BAS innings started hesitantly: seven dot balls for Dirk Briggs, as Pankash and Leech bowled annoyingly straight. But gradually the old rule proved true: form is temporary, class is permanent. Briggs was out for a snail-like total of 4, but Grant and Irwin were undefeated with a total of 52. Then the tail wagged vigorously, and the BAS innings ended on 133.

“Lads, we can defend 133” said the BAS Captain. But even as he spoke, the warm breeze made the top branches move around the ground.

Now Mott McDonald’s huge strength became apparent. To the dismay of BAS, they could bat a bit. The opening pair showed 20/20 class on a level with many minor counties. Despite nagging accuracy by the top BAS bowlers, and the trusty gloves of Irwin, they nudged the score along. Then their stylish Captain attempted one offside drive too many: caught behind! The game turned, like the planet earth on its axis. The following Mott McDonald batsmen struggled hard, pinned by lively bowling and some heroic stops in the deep field. Yet still their runs mounted, like flies on a dunghill, and the vast crowd (four people, some of them awake) yawned its appreciation and uttered the customary cry of “where’s the bottle opener?”

So at last, a breathless hush. Even the owls stopped hooting. One over left. The BAS Captain, a shrewd judge of character and an even better mathematician, looked at the scoreboard. 16 for Mott McDonald to win. Yes, he could take the risk of using his weakest bowler. "Just keep it tidy and straight" was his advice. The antique BAS bowler nodded, but knew that neither of these options was in fact available to him: his last successful over had been when the Jackson Five were top of the charts. So he prayed silently and tossed down five of his mildest offspinners. 12 runs scored. The entire fielding team risked cardiac arrest. The Captain lost the will to live. The bowler prayed to a different God, and his last ball thudded into those trusty Irwin gloves. BAS had squeaked home.

But, in truth, the victor was the Game of Cricket. This is how the greatest game should be: sunshine, good comradeship, English humour, and a close finish. We look forward to Mott McDonald versus BAS next year.

July 13 v Comberton (Won)

BAS Record a thrilling victory

Last night BAS recorded a thrilling victory over Comberton CC at Comberton. Bad fortune struck early as swine flu claimed our skipper and chief sledger, Dick, leaving us with ten fit players. When it was clear only seven of ours had arrived by the start of play, the Comberton captain inserted BAS after winning the toss – a display of generous sportsmanship that Strauss would do well to learn from after that debacle in Cardiff!

Comberton's tight bowling at the outset kept the runs to a trickle – just 9 runs off 4 overs, but a few "powerplay" overs in the 6th (18 runs), 9th (24) and 11th (20) broke the back of the Comberton bowling attack. Chief destroyers were Guy Hillyard (23) and Ricky Timms (21) whilst Mick Grant (55*) held down the other end. Some valuable cameos from James Smith (6) and Robert Culshaw (5) bookended the innings, leaving BAS on 123. It should be noted that for the occasion, Timms displayed his surprise weapon: the forward defence. "Guy taught me" he quipped.

Despite James Smith's first over wicket it was soon clear that these guys knew how to bat as they quickly set about chasing down BAS's total. BAS replied with a disciplined and frugal bowling effort matched by a committed effort in the field. Tight lines from Phillip Goodall (0/23 from 4), Ali Graham (0/24 off 3), James Smith (1/40 off 3), Guy Hillyard (1/4 off 1) and Mick Grant (0/18 off 4) denied Comberton the scoring opportunities they needed. Just three Comberton wickets fell (one run out) but each of them came at critical times as Comberton were looking to break free of the BAS stranglehold. In the end, just 10 runs were needed from the last over, but the precision bowling of Ali gave up just 6 runs from the last 8 balls despite Comberton's desperation and wild swings.

So a thrilling victory to BAS! The biggest praise goes not to an individual performance, but to the fielding effort which was dogged, determined and leaked very few runs – a critical factor in such a tight match. Simon Morley, Phil Taylor and Jon Shanklin all threw themselves at the ball when it was coming their way, and surely had a huge hand in winning this match for BAS.

Well done to all, and we look forward to another BAS victory next week.

July 20 v 1Spatial (Won)

"There can't be many thatched cricket pavilions in the world" was gently said as the BAS cricketers were in repost waiting for the game against 1Spatial to get under way. With the avenue of Horse Chestnuts, the mixture of red brick and weathered stone, the view from the thatched pavilion was quite stunning at Jesus College cricket ground.

So the fine BAS fellows took to the field, well seven of em did as the others were stuck in traffic. Captain Boulton once again lost the toss and then we watched as his opening over got dispatched through the beech hedge, into the coppice and way over into the car park. He made the solid decision of when the Goodall's appeared of taking himself off. Ali bowled from the other end and only allowed a miserly run rate to be scored.

Then enter the 'Man of the Match' Dan Hill our leggie, on a seamers wicket, took a ball or two to get into the groove and then away he went with his 'Shahid Afridi' esk quicker ball. Backed up by the safe hands of Timms (stumping) Goodall (Sam) in the deep and Boulton close to and finished with figures of 5 for 34. The Goodalls ended with 3 wickets with Phillip claiming two. Even the Skipper got a brace. So they were bowled out after 18.5 overs for 110.

The opening bowling of Sanderson and Butcher was tight and James Smith and Sam Goodall doggedly fought away eating up their overs and going along at just over 3 an over for the first 8 overs. Then James leg stump disappeared and off he went to the thatched pavilion for a battling 8. Shanks on his third ball tonked the bowler hard and straight and looked as though it would fell the umpire but Sanderson stuck out a claw and snaffled it. Sam was determined to stay in now at one end and let the big hitting Ricky lose to attack the ball. A masterly plan.

As Ricky opened up on his first two deliveries by playing his new shot 'the forward defensive'. The next four vanished in quick time over the boundary rope. So did a few others and we were back on the required run rate and when on 22 he hit a blow that we all thought was on its way into an adjoining field. It must have hit some errant jet stream, for there is no other reason that it came down into a fielder's hand and out he was. Sam's huge stride forward down leg stump didn't help him either as the umps finger went up and he was also on his way for 14.

So enter once more 'The Man of the Match' Dan Hill. Playing like the West Indian Geoff Dujon he spanked every delivery splitting the field. With the Skipper on the way to the crease there were cries of "No Geoff Boycott stuff today Dick, hit the thing". And even our Captain joined in the free hitting. Dan finished on 25 not out and retired to let Ali to the crease.

With one over to go we needed 4. Down came the ball and the Skipper dispatched it to the boundary and another glorious victory came to the wonderful BAS chaps. Hearty handshakes and a beer or two in the Radegund to celebrate the great game at a 'top of a biscuit tin' lovely setting.

July 28 v MCC (Won)

The MCC viewpoint from Chris Magin: Under a grey and occasionally lightly drizzly sky, last Tuesday MCC roused themselves for the last Test in this year's two match series against "ye auld enema" BAS, until this point leading 1-0. (The first fixture on Tue 28th April ended up being a three-way friendly).

MCC won the toss and elected to bat, and before long the wickets were falling like skittles to BAS's "ten-pin" bowling. A series of comedy run-outs did not help our cause either. But then Captain Magin leapt to the rescue. Heroically spotting a likely-looking Indian loitering on the sidelines looking wistfully at the game, he invited him to sub in for our missing man, Rich "Late" Allcorn. Harsha by name, the guest proved harsher by nature than our opening batsmen, and forming an unlikely strong tail-end partnership with the Barberian which soon propelled MCC towards a respectable 79-9 with a match-winning innings of 40.

Or so we thought.

In reply BAS's run rate was kept low, too low, by a combination of excellent bowling by Messrs. Tyrrell, Middlestump, Harsha and Taylor and the addition of our finally-arrived twelfth man as a fielder. Until the last few overs we were on course for victory, despite a total of five dropped catches (which can win matches - ed.) and some dubious non-lbw decisions by the BAS umpires, particularly "Dead-eye" Dick Boulton. But then BAS's two best scorers, Staniland and Extras, got fully into their stride. With 13 scored from the last but one over, BAS were within sniffing distance of squeezing a win, and on the second ball of the last over, they got their snouts fully into the trough, achieving 80-9.

BAS apparently played 12 matches this year and won 6 and lost 6, while MCC played 3, won 2 and lost 1. All ours were nail-biters, see recap below.

Tue 12th May Geoff Cripps Memorial Match BAS 103-8; MCC 104-9 with 6 balls to spare Tue 16th June Zootallurgy 120 for 7; MCC 121 for 6 with 2 balls to spare Tue 28th July MCC 79-9; BAS 80-9 with 4 balls to spare

Have a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Eggy Easter, and hopefully see you all next season.

MATCH STATS

The scores on the doors for this match, kindly provided by Dick Boulton (BAS captain) were:

Knott bowled 4
Middlestump run out 2
Crosby bowled 0
Lascelles caught 6
Bird bowled 5
Butcher run out 4
Harsha run out 40
Tyrrell bowled (first ball) 0
Taylor bowled 1
Barber not out 8
Magin not out 1
Extras 8
79 - 9

Sam Goodall 2 wickets
Mick Grant 2 wickets
Dan Hill 2 wickets
Dick Boulton 1 wicket (robbed)
2 run outs

Goodall caught 1
Grant caught 13
Irwin bowled 8
Timms run out 1
Hill caught 0 (first ball)
Boulton caught 3
Shanklin bowled 6
Staniland not out 20
Morley caught 7
Bill Goodall caught 4
Phillip Goodall not out 1
Extras 16
80 - 9

BAS won with 4 balls to spare
Middlestump 4 wickets
Bird 1 wicket
Taylor 2 wickets
Tyrrell 1 wicket
1 run out