

Match reports 2010

April 27 v Sepura (Won)

The whites were white, old injuries were being tested out, and the sun hung low in the sky – it must be the start of the cricket season again.

First victim for the mighty BAS was Sepura, and although a friendly it was clear from the pre-match talk they were serious about winning. Not to be outdone, Dick gathered the troops for a pep talk. “We’re playing this like a league match” he says. Clearly he too was serious about winning.

BAS won the toss and fielded first. The first Sepura wicket tumbled in just the first over, and BAS was off to a flyer. Concerns were raised in the second over when the skipper twisted his knee fielding off his own bowling but undeterred, Dickie Knee (Aussie reference – google it) picked himself up off the pitch and continued bowling. Unfortunately a burly South African was in no mood for compromises as he took advantage and raced towards his 25 n.o. However a little stubbornness from the batsmen soon subsided with a classic catch behind the stumps (c. Timms b. Hill), and the soft underbelly of the Sepura batting lineup was exposed. Enter Sam Goodall. Sam’s no nonsense stump-to-stump bowling was far too good for the Sepura batsmen as he castled five of them (13/5). Sam’s bowling, and the outstanding performance of the fielders ultimately restricted Sepura to a total score of 99/8.

BAS’s innings began steadily, with Goodall and Grant taking time to get used to the pace of the wicket. A few boundaries later, and BAS was away until Grant (12) spooned up a simple catch. Goodall pressed on and made a watchful 16 before losing his wicket, which brought together Rich Hill and Dickie Knee. The run rate was rising, and we were far off our eventual target with a long tail. In years gone by, this would have been the trigger for a collapse, but not this year. Rich and Dick each crafted fine innings, with a mix of clips off the toes, punches through mid-wicket and hoicks past square leg. The retirement of Hill (26 n.o.) brought Ricky Timms to the wicket at just the right time – about 20 to get with a few overs remaining. True to form, Ricky (11n.o.) flogged the bowling to the boundary and brought BAS to the precipice of victory, from where Dick (23 n.o.) calmly tucked away the winning runs in the final over.

So, a fantastic victory and outstanding fielding, bowling and batting performances from all. Thanks to Sepura for the fun match and the great atmosphere.

May 4 v Motts (Lost)

This was an 8-a-side match over 15 x 8 ball overs with the ball swinging about in the conditions.

BAS lost the toss and were put in.

Dick (on one leg) somehow captained the side even though he initially relegated himself to umpiring duties (compromised by his appealing when standing at square leg).

Sam G misread a loosener (first ball) and was out without troubling the scorers, Mike I thumped a positive 22 and was joined by Ian D who hit an unbeaten 25 on debut (returning to add 5 more to his total). Ricky T made 14 and Jon S 11 not out (averages shanks?). Phil G and Andy M (on debut) contributed the remaining runs off the bat. Robert C enjoyed the champagne moment by demolishing his own wicket (putting both bat and gloves through the stumps apparently), something we have all done of course but rarely with such aplomb.

Mott in reply were tested by a BAS team short of bowlers due to injury but we had a go regardless. Of these Dick was impressive taking 2 wickets off a single pace (and presumably adjudicating on his own appeals too). Phil G outdid son Sam with a threefor and Ian D stepped into the breach to bowl the very last over with Mott needing 7 runs for victory. In the end they (Mott) won with 4 balls remaining.

All this was relayed over the phone by Dick so I hope I have got it right. It sounds like it was a lot of fun and close which is always a good thing. But I forgot to ask Dick what the final scores were! BAS scored 95 all out (I think).

May 25 v MCC (Won)

On a rapidly cooling, darkening evening, BAS secured a last over victory against a robust MCC team.

Dick continued his fine captaincy form and lost his third toss in a row, consigning us to twilight batting again. Sam Goodall had us off to a great start however with 2 wickets in the first over of MCC's innings, and bagged 4 for 20 in total with another display of controlled aggressive bowling. This may well have been the bowling display of the evening were it not for Mick Grant turning in a 4 for 10 display - combining deadly accuracy with movement and pace. Mick's display included a hat-trick opportunity following consecutive top draw catches from Messrs Goodall and Dunn. BAS fielding was excellent all-round with Robert Johnson, Jon Shanklin, Robert Culshaw and Phil Goodall putting in displays of great commitment; including crucial stops with various limbs, head and lip as the outfield took its toll. Jon's taste of blood was to come to the fore later in the game.

BAS was set a target of 109 to win, with S Goodall walking in the first over with a fine ball squeezing through the gate. Fortunately for BAS, E.x.Tra for MCC kept the score board ticking, ably supported by good scores from Mick Grant and Mike Irwin. After a solid 11 by the captain a mid order collapse on the fast darkening pitch left BAS needing 15 to win off the last 12 balls. In true IPL style, with the tang of blood on his lips, in walked Jon Shanklin for a match winning performance. Robert Johnson defended his wicket well whilst Jon slashed and thumped the ball to the corners of Girton to complete a hard fought victory with 2 balls to spare.

June 15 v Ridgeons (Lost)

On a cool but glorious summer evening the BAS cricket team took to the field again after a three week weather break caused by global cooling. Choosing to field first after a successful toss of the coin BAS put on an excellent bowling display - with the first 12 overs by Sam, Mick, Guy and Rich keeping the score to a highly respectable 72 for 4. [Helped by a stunning slip catch from Ian – Ed] Unfortunately the last three overs brought in the Ridgeon heavy hitters and combined with marginally more variable bowling went for more than half the total of the previous 12! Ridgeons finished on score of 112, a daunting target but one not felt unsurpassable for BAS.

However, BAS immediately faced some very experienced and accurate bowling. With the sun dipping and shining into the eyes of the University End batsman, it was clear that the slower ball spun out of the sun was going to cause problems. Helped by a highly variable bounce out of the rough at the A14 End, Mike and Sam fell early with single figures still on the board. Guy followed them back having suffered one that kept low and he went for an Egyptian, quickly followed by Ricky who slashed – and burned – going for a Mallard on his second ball. Mike came in, thumped - and humped – and was caught for a Venetian also off his second ball. A batting collapse of epic proportions was on-going; 17 for 5 on the card. The captain strolled in, faced 15 tight balls before scoring but held his wicket and proceeded to reach the highest score of the innings. Ian was run out for 10 off a call that challenged his sprinting capability well beyond its reach; Jon Shanklin could not repeat the glories of the previous distant match and Robert received a vicious dipping ball and went for a Golden! Rich prevailed for a while hitting a beautiful straight drive boundary in the process and Phil prolonged the match beyond the first half of the Brazil game but BAS was finally put out of its misery with 52 on the board. Three players reached double figures, being Ian, Phil and Dick, with Dick top-scoring on 11! Win to Ridgeons and back in time to see North Korea score, the highlight of the evening.