

Match Reports 2012

May 22 v PPD at Girton

So with the rain stopping at last it meant that Tuesday saw the opening match of the season. A league match against PPD at our home ground.

We had 11 but due to understandable reasons that couldn't be got out of we would have to play the match with 9.

The season started with the Skipper losing the toss and in they went to bat. It was decided to play the league rules i.e. wides don't get bowled again and 2 runs are added. Last season these same openers got off to a flying start but not so last Tuesday.

With Sam and Nick B opening the bowling they struggled to get too many runs from the bat as they played and missed. But the ball was swinging and seaming around and the runs were coming mainly through wides and byes. Half way through the innings they were on a run a ball when Nick B got a breakthrough with Mike taking a comfortable catch behind the stumps. Nick D took over and had the ball swinging around and they were 75-1.

The Skipper brought himself on and it transpired he had started his jocular sledging with their opener the day before on the phone. Knowing the batsman's champagne shot was high and handsome to deep mid on. The Skipper put out a deep mid on and let the batsman know. In he came for his first ball of the season and the opener duly obliged as he got after it but top edged to Nick D at point. Next over Nick D found the edge and Mike took a splendid catch down legside. The Skipper's first ball of his next over hit the top of off stump, his next on the toe on the full and lbw, hat trick ball and a play and miss though the next ball he was clean bowled and the Skipper had bowled a 3 wicket maiden. Nick D roared in and knocked off stump clean out the ground, next ball knocked middle stump clean out the ground, hat trick ball and a play and a miss and now they were 83-8. With Nick D's figures of 3-2-3-3. The Skipper bowled another and finished with a 5 wicket haul 3-1-4-5. Phillip bowled the last over and they couldn't get him away either and in the end went for a ridiculous run and were run out. So all out for 87.

Mike and Nick D went in to open and Mike as usual attacked from the very first ball and had the fielders scampering around with Nick supporting. Mike was out for a very rapid 14. Nick B hit a sumptuous cover drive before falling, 22-2. The Skipper came out and didn't take too long before he too hit the boundary rope while Nick D was accumulating at the other end. And so the next few overs went by and we were scoring at a run a ball, so well above the required run rate. Nick D had now taken the imitative and was making the fielders run around and when the Skipper was out for 19 they had added 53, now 75-3. Sam, next in, got a first ball lbw and one of their bowlers was on a hat trick. Jules making his BAS return after a 7 year absence strode to the wicket to face the hat trick ball and calmly drove it for 2. A few balls later and we had cantered to victory with Jules on a quick fire 7 not out and Nick D on 32 not out with 31 balls to spare.

A cracking game and start to the season.

May 29 v CSR at Girton

So Tuesday saw us in our second league match of the season at our home ground. Due to sickness 10 BAS men took to the field and amazingly the Skipper won the toss, and in we went to bat.

Playing on a used old wicket that had dried out it did look as though it may produce a few shooters and so it did.

Mike and Nick D strode out to open. Mike pulled the first ball away to the boundary. But the CSR bowlers weren't that quick but they were accurate and their pace combined with the pitch made sure the ball just wasn't coming on and it was difficult to get away. Poor Nick D got the first shooter as it barely got two inches off the deck and he was out bowled. Nick B then managed to crash a couple of boundaries but the run rate was a struggle. Mike was bowled for a rapid 16 and the run rate did nose dive a little more when the Skipper came in, and try as he might couldn't get the ball off the square. And on it continued. Nick B was bowled for 10, Ian lbw a few balls later. Tom G joined the Skipper and as the overs ticked by the run rate dragged along even though they were both trying to blast it around. The start of the last over and the Skipper was caught out for 24, Tom fell for 10, Phillip G for 1 and Jon was off joining the Primary Club as the bowler had taken 4 wickets in the over. Phil remained not out. We had struggled to 78-8. Probable not enough.

Mind, the openers for CSR couldn't get anywhere near the 2 Nick's opening bowling. As they played and missed and only got runs from false shots or lucky edges that went safe. With so many dot balls the pressure started to mount on the batters. They then went for a mixture of defence and swishes but still they couldn't get it off the square. Nick B then bowled one of the openers before he bagged another wicket in the next over as the ball pitched it didn't bounce at all and ran along the ground hitting the off stump. After 8 overs they weren't quite halfway to the target. Nick D finishing on 4-1-7-0 and Nick B taking 2 wickets. Tom G and the Skipper came on. Tom taking a caught and bowled and we were really in this match. Jon gently sledged the other opener, telling him the Skipper gets a wicket first ball. The Skipper's first ball was a shocking full toss which he pulled straight to Nick D at mid on and he was out. The last ball of the over hit the bat, boot, pad and bottom of off stump, but the bail miraculously stayed in place. By now their big hitting number 5 was in. It wasn't just agricultural either, he was playing cricket shots and he made hay with Tom and the Skipper's next over. But it wasn't until well in to the 13th over that they hit the winning runs. A tad disappointing but we did fantastic to make it such a close run match and it was fun in the evening sunshine.

June 12 v Over 2 at Over

So last Tuesday saw us gather at Over Cricket Club as we were to take on Over2. A bunch of talented, keen as mustard, not lost all season, likeable fellows.

As 6pm came and went the hardy BAS men (and you needed to be as it was pretty cold) had gathered, well 6 of us. The toss became a contrived one so that we could bat first to try and make a game of it. In strode Tom G and Nick B onto the artificial wicket. The outfield was lumpy, long and a tad damp, akin to standing in a meadow. Or is it that we are spoiled playing on such lovely college grounds? They were either getting movement in the air or flinging it down with some pace on it. But undeterred Tom and Nick pushed the singles, it was nearly impossible to run two's on this outfield, or clattered it with aplomb to the boundary. As the overs ticked by and the runs accumulated other BAS men arrived at the ground till we had 9. As we padded up it looked as though we may not be needed as the openers kept on going and kept on going at a good run rate. Then Tom was caught behind for a splendid 38 soon to be followed by Nick for an equally impressive 31. Ian came in and gave some lusty blows before being bowled for 12. The Skipper didn't bother

the scorers too much, Sam was lbw and some terrific running for leg byes, no balls, byes, right at the end of the innings by Robert J and Phillip G with 1 not out each had helped us to a excellent 117-5.

The Skipper took the gloves for the match and Sam and Nick B charged in. The Over boys knew their artificial wicket and knew the bounce and all attacked in front of the wicket. The first ball got spanked and Tom did a full length dive and did brilliantly to get his finger tips to it but couldn't quite snaffle it. The Skipper politely turned down their kind offer of giving us some fielders. And on we went. They attacked when they could and tried to dispatch the ball to the boundary. Half way through one of Sam's run ups we could hear/see the contortions in his arm and hand as he was preparing to bowl his leg break slower ball. Mind the batsman was completely bamboozled and popped it up to deep mid on where Sam has just asked Rob M to go and Rob took a calm, comfortable catch. A normal slower ball saw the batsman hit and run but Sam off his own bowling was first too it and with a direct hit got rid of another. Nick was keeping it tight at the other end. With every wicket that went down they seem to be replaced with yet another lad who could bat. But we still had a chance. Tom and the Skipper came on to bat with Ian taking the gloves. The batters were in attack mode now and the ball was scuttling about. The Skipper got one as the batsman mis hit one to long off and was caught by Nick. Tom also took a wicket and it was nip and tuck. But they were really swinging now and the Skipper may have kept himself on for an over too many as the ball was screaming to the boundary. And they got home with one over to spare.

Mind, they were a good and pleasant team and we did great to get so deep in to the match.

June 18 v Allsorts at Girton

So last night saw us play in something called sunshine. Our fourth league match of the summer this time at our home ground. The covers had been left off leaving a wicket that was very soft with a good covering of grass. Waterbeach Cricket Club were there in good time warming up in the outfield. The hearty men of BAS were a tad late arriving *i.e.* only 4 by the time of the toss. So we went for the contrived toss and in we went to bat.

Mike and Nick B lead the way. The bowling wasn't quick but was accurate and it was swinging and seaming around and it just wasn't coming off the pitch so timing it was tricky to say the least. So dot balls were everywhere. Nick B went for 3, the Skipper came in and played his fair share of dot balls too before being caught out for 4. And on it went. By now our ranks had swelled to 9 but with a quick phone call Alan Rodgers came to get us up to 10 players. Mike and Ian tried for some lusty hitting before Mike went for 12 and Ian for 9. Sam and Robert J carried on in the same vain before they were out for 9 and 5 respectively. Leaving Rob M and Phillip G in for the last couple of overs. Glancing shots and mad dash running saw them stay not out on 6 and 4 and our innings had come to an end. 61-6.

So it was a matter of would we be back for the start of the second half on the footie match on the telly or would we get most of the first half too?!

Sam belted in and proved without question that we had the fastest bowler of the match as his first ball flew to the boundary for 4 wides. His radar remained askew for the rest of the over and 14 runs were on the board. Looked like we might get to see all of the footie match at this rate. Nick B came in from the other end and wallop, the ball was at the boundary line. Then a loose shot and an inside edge and a terrific catch by Mike behind the stumps which lead rise to a bit of gentle sledging by the Skipper and Jon and by the end of the second over Nick B had taken another wicket and they were 23-2. There were thoughts about changing the bowling but Sam stayed on and roared in, during the

over he bowled one and with a bellow of lbw backed by the Skipper had another, he was out (he was plum in front) The batters now had the jitters and weren't fancying the bowling too much. Nick kept it tight till Sam charged in again. Dot balls until the 7th ball, big slice and Nick B took a catch in the deep. Next ball and timber, Sam was on a hat-trick or would be at the start of the next over. Nick took another wicket as he clean bowled him and they were 7 down for 45. Sam's next ball hit the top of off stump and in the process broke the bail and only then did it occur to the Skipper that Sam had taken a hat trick. We gave a belated cheer to recognise the fact and the broken bail went into Sam's pocket as a memento. Sam finished with a fabulous 5 wicket haul. Nick bowled his spell out and finished with a terrific 3 wicket haul. And after 8 overs they were 52-8. Plenty of overs to go for the batsman and finally the two lads batting realised this and decided to bat accordingly. Rob M came on and with one or two extras and some safe shots by the batsman they just creped over the victory line.

So it was well into the second half of the footie on the telly by now and it looked as though we were going to get thumped but another marvellously competitive display made it an exciting close match.

June 26 v Allsorts at Parkers Piece

Tuesday night saw us play in our fifth league match of the season against Allsorts on Parkers Piece, where the great Sir Jack Hobbs learned to play his cricket. And as we surveyed the sponge like green wicket also knowing of the variable bounce of this strip we all felt a bit like Boycott as we mused about playing on uncovered pitches.

Mind for the first time this season we had 11 players, in fact we had 12 and Jon graciously umpired for the match letting us all get a game. And welcome to Shane, Ricky's friend who joined us for the first time.

The Skipper surprisingly won the toss and in we went to bat. Well not quite as it proceeded to bucket down for the next half hour. They produced a pink ball (help us see it in the fading light) and help it swing and seam even more! Mike and Tom G went in to open. Second ball Mike cracked one in to the covers only to be caught by a brilliant diving catch. For the next few overs dot balls got the upper hand as the Skipper was in and then the runs started to come at a steadier pace but no boundaries. As water was spraying off the ball as it ran in the outfield. Tom G fell for 11 and in came Ricky for his first match of the season. And he too struggled with his timing. After 9 of the 15 x 8 ball overs had gone by we were 50-2. Mind a 100 on this wicket would be a huge score. The Skipper tried to get on with it and holed out for 14. Ricky had now got his eye in though and he spanked a huge 6 over long on and pulled and drove and took 21 of one over. Sam went for 5. Ricky continued on his way until he was caught out too for a fabulous 42. Shane and Ian the last men in as we finished on 104-6.

Good score, but could we defend it? Second ball and a beauty from Sam, seamed and way too quick for the opener as it hit the top of off stump. Sam's second over and lbw (plum) and an over the top reaction from the batsman. Who was disgruntled to say the least, few words exchanged and of he went. An over or two later he reappeared on the pitch wanting to umpire in a foul mood and to be blunt he was a disgrace to himself and his team. Jack Hobbs must have been spinning in his grave. He couldn't help himself chiding and chatting away. The Skipper had a word with him and their Captain and Tom G made it very clear what he thought of him (good on him too) The next 6 or 7 overs certainly had an edge to them. Tom G had already taken 1 wicket as he steamed in for his final over bowling at break next speed. 7 dot balls and then out went their Captain and a wicket maiden for Tom G. His celebration in front of their umpire was quite something as he slid on the wet turf on his knees roaring his delight. Top stuff. The Skipper came on, didn't take any wickets but apart from

an occasion wide they couldn't get him away and his 4 overs went for a miserly amount and the run rate was soaring. Phillip G joined in and although their big hitting middle order were in and luckily got one or two away they were also got out by Phillip G. Tom D came on for the last over and also took a wicket and they finished on 72-6.

We had won by 32 runs. Another intriguing game.

July 3 v Geoff Cripps Memorial Match at Girton

So last Tuesday, we somehow managed to get a game on in splatterings of rain and with the wind blowing the clouds on but mainly due to Steve the grounds man being a nice fellow and letting us play.

Geoff Cripps match, the MCC had 10 and we had 11 (we leant em a fielder) The Skipper is now making a habit of winning the toss and he put them in on a seaming wicket. Nick B and Shane opened the bowling and we got off to good start, runs were coming but not in a rush. A speculative shout for lbw from the ever optimistic Skipper off Nick B's bowling and much to everyone's surprise the finger went up. A few balls later and on Shane's bowling debut for BAS he too got an lbw and had his first BAS wicket. Tom G and Ricky took over the bowling duties and both roared in and the batsman struggled to get them away. Ricky got a wicket with a second bounce Yorker. Phil T and Sam took the ball and had it seaming around and Phil T got in on the act and he too hit the stumps taking a scalp. And the MCC weren't quite stuttering along but looked as though they wouldn't make the benchmark of 120 runs. On came the Skipper and amazingly for the 3rd time this season he took a wicket with his first ball. After taking another in his next over he indulged himself by keeping himself on for the last over of the innings. One or two runs from it but also 2 more wickets and a third as a throw from Shane in the deep back to the Skipper who took the bails off and a run out. Phil T came in to bat for them for the last ball and they had made 103-9. Not a bad performance by both sides in the end.

In reply Tom G and Ian went in to open and their left arm opening bowler was flinging it down at pace and the first two overs the batsman were watchful. Then they started to fizz it round the ground and the runs were coming at a good rate. The rules for the Geoff Cripps match are if you get to 20 you have to retire. So Tom G came out on 20n.o soon to be followed by Ian on 25n.o. (none of the MCC boys managed this feat) With two new batsman at the crease unsurprisingly the run rate slowed. Shane went for the big shots but unfortunately didn't quite connect and was caught out. Phil T and Robert J were valiantly batting together and with the ball seaming away and the field now close in the run rate was creeping up. Phil T was caught out for 7 and in came Robert C. And with a mixture of good tight bowling, defence and throwing the bat and the kitchen sink at it the lads struggled to amass the runs. With overs running out and still quite a few runs to get Robert J gallantly retired not out on 6 with two overs to go to give Ricky a blast. The ball whistled around but mad dash running was also order of the day and Ricky was run out for 12 trying to get the strike. With 2 balls to go we needed 7 to win and couldn't quite make it. But never mind. It was a great effort and good cricketing fun had by all. We will get the trophy back next year.

July 17 v John Lewis at Girton

Last Tuesday saw us away against John Lewis (St Catherine's ground) in the League. Thanks to their grounds man, he let us play as the outfield was squelching underfoot and the strip was compacted

mud with sparse green grass on top. By 6.15 we had 10 and they had 7 so the Skippers had a contrived toss and in they went to bat.

Tom G and Nick B opened the bowling. Not much chance of swing as the Skipper spent most of the time trying to dry the ball but it did nip about but not as much as we thought. They got off to an ok ish start and then heavy drizzle turned into a downpour and off we pegged it to the pavilion. Back out in light rain and the wicket was already cutting up and now you could smell the mud. Most peculiar cricket conditions. Then two of the Goodalls got the breakthrough as off Tom's bowling Phillip took a comfortable catch at mid on. Sam had now arrived and came on to bowl and it wasn't long before he crashed one into the pad of the batsman stuck on the crease and a satisfying appeal from him and the Skipper saw the next wicket fall. Tom took another with Shane having the safe hands this time. The Skipper came on and yorked the number 3, Sam got another and we were steadily going through them but they were picking up runs along the way as the big hitting number 6 was in. Then a magical moment, as one ball got crashed into the outfield and Phillip G and Mike set off in pursuit with a combined age of 129. Phillip dragged it back from the boundary line and tossed it to Mike who screamed it in, one bounce to the bowler who whipped off the bails and their Captain was out by miles. Phillip G then took the wicket of their number 6 and Shane came on to bowl the final over. A run or two but what a caught and bowled as it was spanked back at him and Shane made it look like shelling peas. We had taken 8 wickets but they too had done well to get to 103. Which this season on these wickets it a tremendous score.

As we left the field to pad up the wicket looked as if we really should be planting it up with spuds and not trying to chase down a big total. Mike and Tom G went in and Simon their opening bowler had the ball seaming square. Mike was just getting going but fell for 4 and Nick B came in, the run rate was always there or thereabouts. But it was difficult to score too many of Simon but the boys stuck to the task. Tom heard the crash of timber and was out for 11 but by now Simon, their opening bowler only had 1 ball to come. Ricky safely negotiated that, however there were still many runs to get. The light was beginning to fade but Nick B and Ricky were hitting their straps now. Boundaries had been hard to come by all match with such a soggy outfield. Mind the chaps were leathering it now and that boundary rope was being hit. Nick B was driving, square driving, flicking off his pads basically playing shots all round the park with Ricky backing him up and spanking it around. Applause broke from the pavilion as Nick B had reached his 50 and politely lifted his bat in acknowledgment. Ricky fell for 17 as he was beautifully caught just inside the boundary. The Skipper replaced him with only a dozen runs to get for victory. An inside edge to the keeper and he was called through for a run. A mixture of not being so spritely anymore and a direct hit by the wicket keeper meant' the Skipper was on his way for 0 after not facing a ball. Sam came in to keep Nick B company and towards the end of the penultimate over the ball disappeared for four and we had won. Sam finishing on 5 not out. Our third win of the season (all in the League). An excellent all round team performance topped off with a terrific innings of 62 not out by Nick B.

July 24 v Ridgeons at Girton

So last Tuesday night saw us play for the first time this year in stifling heat. On the firmest wicket this season though it was still green and seamed about. Due to work & family commitments, holidays and sickness bugs 9 BAS men took to the field. Well, by the start of play we had 7 (caught in traffic) so a contrived toss and in we went to bat.

Ridgeons had not lost all season and in came their bowlers seaming it about off a length. Dot balls started the innings, that and Nick B coming off for some tape to try and keep his lucky (disintegrating) bat together as the grain was tearing with every shot. Mind he was in no mood to

run in the heat and all his scoring shots were boundaries before he fell for 16 lbw. Tom G replaced him but was soon back on his way to the pavilion as he was run out for 0 after not facing a ball. Ricky was next in and biffed one to the boundary before being bowled and the Skipper came in to help with the dot balls. Fortunately Mike was now timing it from the other end and runs were coming. He cracked another and the fielder made a difficult chance look easy and Mike had gone for 34. Phillip G and Phil T took their turns to try and keep the runs coming before being bowled and stumped respectively. The Skipper got himself caught in two minds and his leg stump disappeared and he was gone for 12. For the final over they put on their normal opening bowler (hadn't bowled so far this innings) and unsurprisingly dot balls returned as try as they might Jon and James couldn't get too many of him. And we finished on 91-7. Would it be enough?

Tom G and Nick B opened the bowling and kept it very tight. The batsman were playing and missing, flicking and glancing and an occasional hit to the boundary rope. The fielding was also excellent. Phil T charging around the field filling in all the gaps, the Skipper putting in a dive or two and the ball seemed to track Phillip G round the park. As the overs ticked by Ridgeons were just about on the required run rate but it was tight. Nick B got the breakthrough as the opener was bowled off his pads. The Skipper came on and tried to maintain the pressure with some accurate bowling and one or two bellows for lbw before hitting middle stump. The middle order were in now and swinging and a few runs came before Ricky took revenge by giving the pads to Nick B and with Nick B taking a catch off Ricky's bowling. The other opener now decided to retire on 29, obviously with an eye to the Ridgeons end of season do and his own personal standings in the averages. That or he was letting the more free flowing batters in to take them home. Which is what they managed to do at the end of the penultimate over. Another good, close game and we had really given em a run for their money.

August 7 v Elsworth at Girton

So last night saw us play in our last match of the season. A league game against Elsworth Cricket Club. After the last weeks heavy showers Tuesday evening turned out to be a clear and sunny affair. Mind the wicket was very spongy underfoot especially on a length. The Skipper won the toss and decided to bat as we only had 7 at the start as the others battled through traffic.

With occasional high bounce from the pavilion end (there will actually be a pavilion there next year) the ball also limped towards the bat and wouldn't come off the pitch. The Elsworth Captain also astutely put on a series of slow bowlers and the ball really wasn't coming on to the bat. The second over and Nick B popped one to short cover and he caught it on his boot laces and he was out for 0. Next over Mike got one that went half shin height and it clipped leg stump and had gone for 1. Ricky miscued one to point and out for 0 and we were 3 for 3. The Skipper and Tom D then put in a defiant show of dot balls peppered with a few singles and the overs were ticking by. A few boundaries followed but by the end of the 9th over (6 more to come) we had only scored 25. The batsman were trying to get after the bowling, then Tom D went, caught at midwicket for 4 and not long after the Skipper top edged one and was gone for 16. What could Sam and Ian now do. Well Ian called for a runner after his first single as he limped to the other end and so their Tom went out to run for his Dad. Ian decided best if he just planted his feet and spanked it, which he did. Their Captain's over got dismissed to all parts of the park, well mainly midwicket which is Ian's champagne shot. Sam backed him up from the other end as he drove straight. Ian fell to a great catch on the boundary line with only one ball to go of the innings for 32 and Sam finished on 21 not out and we had amazingly got to 85-6.

Sam and Nick B opened the bowling. Mind these boys looked as though they could bat a bit. They were pinned down for an over or two but then started to play cracking shots of good balls and pulled and drove and got themselves ahead of the run rate. Nick B playing in his last match for BAS before moving to Birmingham in the New Year, best wishes to Nick B. Bowled a beauty as it nipped away off a length got the edge and Ricky snaffled it with the gloves and we were in. The next batsman played and missed at a few before settling down and finding his timing. He struggled though to get off the square as Tom D confounded him with his spin. However the batsman were still way on top of the required run rate and the Skipper went through the bowling changes looking for a breakthrough. With each new bowler having an over or two, the Skipper, Richie, Phillip G. All bowled well and tight but just enough runs kept coming and as they were closing in on the target. Nick B came back on for his final BAS over and with his first ball yorked the batsman. But as the 12th over of the innings came to an end they clipped the winning runs. Another jolly evening on the cricket pitch.

So the end of the season. Played 9 (which is amazing given these years weather) won 3 lost 6. All 3 wins in the league (3 wins out of 7 matches) which should leave us in 4th position in the league which is great.