

London Erratics v Horningsham

To make more meaningful and enjoyable a game where both sides were short, Horningsham skipper James Osborne suggested an experimental 20-20 'test match'. Erratics skipper James Rivington agreed. The full ramifications would be worked out as the game progressed. By agreement, Horningsham would bat first.

James O and his partner were much too brutal for James R's frail bowling, and he quickly replaced himself. Albert Alla bowled well. But the 'breakthrough' came when James O, having romped to fifty, elected to retire – a precedent that would be followed throughout the game.

Albert was rewarded for a good lbw shout, and Richard Heller took a stunning one-handed return catch. But otherwise it was hard work for the Erratics bowlers and fielders. Bill Bush had his first trundle since July 2007.

As the teams swapped over, the Erratics found their numbers boosted by the generous offer of local lad Alex Fraser – bringing them up to nine.

Jim Head and Nasir Khawaja quickly had the home team running around in the field too – Nasir hitting a succession of imperious boundaries. Jim was very unlucky to be run out by a direct hit from square on. Nasir carried on, and retired on passing fifty.

Andy Hosken enjoyed himself with some effective hitting, but after that opening partnership the Erratics had not managed to sustain the required tempo.

Under the half worked out rules, precedence in the second innings batting order would be given to those who hadn't batted in the first innings. So when skipper James R was bowled with just two balls left, he called on Richard – in order to leave Albert free to lead the Erratics second innings.

Horningsham, on the other hand, had to begin their second knock with a young lad who wasn't best placed to get them off to a flying start – good conditions for Andy's debut spell for the Erratics. After a few overs, the lad was gently retired. In contrast, Alex, the lad gifted to the Erratics, turned out to be a useful bowler, and claimed two scalps – one courtesy of an excellent high reach by Albert in the covers.

In a virtuous triangle, Alex caught one for Patrick Cobb, and Patrick caught one for Albert. And Richard had the satisfaction of bowling James O – as the Erratics proved a bit more effective at restricting the home side, in spite of one brisk fifty.

The Erratics should have been confident of not being bowled out in 20 overs and therefore of guaranteeing the draw; but if they were to win they would have to score at 8 an over, which might make it interesting. However, with the home side trying to blast them out rather than lure them into a suicidal run chase, the Erratics immediately fell behind the required rate.

Albert, Bill and Alex all succumbed. Nasir took on the challenge single-handed, and thumped another unbeaten half century, before bowing to the day's convention – an awesome performance across the two innings.

But the man who anchored the innings turned out to be Patrick, who began to string some crisp shots together – and hit the last ball of the day through mid-on for four, to reach his fifty.

MATCH DRAWN

HORNINGSHAM — 1st innings

1	c & b	b Heller	26
2	retired		53
3	lbw	b Alla	8
4	not out		41
5	not out		29
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

168 for 3 in 20 overs

LONDON ERRATICS — bowling

Rivington	2	0	20	0
Alla	5	0	28	1
Head	4	0	39	0
Heller	5	0	35	1
Cobb	3	0	32	0
Bush	1	0	8	0

LONDON ERRATICS — 1st innings

			4s	6s
	Head	run out	20	3
†	Khawaja	retired	51	8
*	Rivington	bowled	28	2
	Hosken	stumped	19	4
	Fraser	caught	2	
	Bush	NOT OUT	4	
	Heller	NOT OUT	0	
	Alla			
	Cobb			

145 for 5 in 20 overs

Fall of wickets: 1(Head)–68, 2(Khawaja)–??, 3(Hosken)–126, 4(Fraser)–131, 5(Rivington)–145

HORNINGSHAM — 2nd innings

1		b Fraser	29
2	retired		0
3	c Alla	b Fraser	12
4	retired		53
5	c Fraser	b Cobb	3
6	lbw	b Alla	17
7		b Heller	7
8	not out		3
9	c Cobb	b Alla	0
10	not out		0

135 for 8 in 20 overs

LONDON ERRATICS — bowling

Hosken	2	0	10	0
Fraser	4	0	24	2
Cobb	2	0	14	1
Head	4	0	23	0
Alla	4	0	27	2
Heller	3	0	35	1

LONDON ERRATICS — 2nd innings

			4s	6s
	Alla	bowled	10	1
	Cobb	NOT OUT	51	5
	Bush	c & b	6	1
	Fraser	stumped	5	1
†	Khawaja	retired	50	7
	Hosken	caught	1	
	Heller	NOT OUT	5	1
	Head			
	Rivington			

139 for 5 in 20 overs

Fall of wickets: 1(Alla)–20, 2(Bush)–35, 3(Fraser)–41, 4–??