

London Erratics v Hemingford Hermits

A lovely late summer's day. The toss of a coin determined the format of the match: a time game. Hemingford Hermits then won the toss, and elected to bat.

A potent Erratics attack began with the latest recruit from the Balliol stable, Gavin Sourgen. Such fiery pace, unplayable on West Ilsley's sloping wicket, has been missing from Erratics sides in recent years. But the Hermit openers survived this assault, and it was Brian Berrigan, causing his own problems from the other end, who achieved the breakthrough – Albert Alla taking a low one-handed catch at short mid-wicket.

This brought to the crease the turncoat Richard Masters, who had done such good work for the Erratics with bat and ball the year before. James started to deploy more of his bowling talent: Richard Langley from one end, then the other (with Jim Head bowling an over to achieve the switch); and Albert's spin. However, these riches couldn't prevent a hundred partnership for the 2nd wicket.

In the 31st over, Richard L finally got through the defences of the fortunate opener. And in the next over Albert, who had been replaced by Patrick Cobb, had the compensatory satisfaction of catching Richard M at deep mid-on. The incoming No. 5 attacked the bowling, the fielders pushed back, and the score leapt forward – until Gavin held on to a swirling chance at long-on.

The pacemen were now back, and a snick to keeper Simon Thwaite gave Brian his 18th wicket for the season, and suddenly the possibility of adding to his collection of Erratics doubles. The Hermits crawled past 200, and a declaration must be soon. A return catch at the beginning of his next over nudged Brian to within one wicket of his target. Then tragedy – a foolish run out a couple of balls later had the Hermits skipper waving his players in, and Brian was cheated of a final bid for glory.

[to be continued]

HEMINGFORD HERMITS — batting

1	b Langley	63	
2	c Alla	b Berrigan	9
3	c Alla	b Cobb	57
4	c Thwaite	b Berrigan	16
5	c Sourgen	b Head	33
6	not out		1
7	c & b	b Berrigan	1
8	run out		1
9			
10			
11			

202 for 7 dec

LONDON ERRATICS — bowling

Sourgen	12	3	31	0
Berrigan	8.4	2	25	3
Langley	9	0	44	1
Head	3	0	21	1
Alla	5	0	34	0
Cobb	3	0	34	1

Fall of wickets: 1–31, 2–140, 3–146, 4–189, 5–197, 6–201, 7–202

LONDON ERRATICS — batting

			4s	6s
*	Rivington	caught	21	3
	Andrews	bowled	2	
	Head	bowled	0	
	Sourgen	caught	16	2 1
	Berrigan	stumped	13	
†	Thwaite	caught	16	3
	Alla	c & b	5	1
	Bush	bowled	18	2
	Dunabin	NOT OUT	12	2
	Cobb	NOT OUT	0	
	Langley			

154 for 8

Fall of wickets: 1(Andrews)–49, 2(Head)–49, 3(Rivington)–84, 4(Sourgen)–85, 5(Thwaite)–113, 6(Alla)–120, 7(Berrigan)–121, 8(Bush)–148

MATCH DRAWN