

Thursday 24th June 2010

Gloucester City Winget CC vs. Mayfield Touring XI

Yes, we were back up to XI today thanks to the timely arrival of Karl. Plunger was delayed and would meet us at the ground.....or so he thought.....

Back to the start of the day though and after a filling breakfast of fried pig products it was time to sort out the shoeless. Clarks came to the rescue with a pair of Commandoes each for Phil, Norm and Gadget. We then had a stroll around the impressive Cathedral and also took in the county ground at New Road.



As normal the party rendezvoused in the bar (well to be more precise, on the 'Smoking Terrace') and then it was off in the bus to Gloucester. Gilly had taken over the driving today, with Martin riding shotgun. A pretty uneventful journey saw us arrive in the middle of Gloucester at what we discovered was the old County Ground. Once home to none other than WG Grace, and now to be 'graced' by the likes of the Bandit, Plunger and the Bugler! I'm sure the bearded one would have been proud!



Phil looking forward to a rest day at Gloucester

Martin was captain de jour, and with Plunger on his way Phil volunteered to be 12th man. Or so he thought, with minutes to go before the bowl off a message came through from Mark – he was still in Worcester having discovered that the trains only ran every two hours. Get your kit on Connor!

The Game

We opened with the traditional pairing of Ray and Martin and they took advantage of some friendly bowling from Khan to get us to 21 off the first two overs! Things then settled down into more of a rhythm and the score ticked along nicely at 5.5/over until Ray fell for 28, bowled off one that allegedly hit one of the longitudinal cracks in the wicket and kept low. Nigel was in, and out, at 3 and Gilly followed shortly after to a diabolical waft outside off stump guiding the ball to slip.



Nigel & Steve get ready for their splendid innings' at Gloucester

So, 3 wickets down and 79 on the board after 16 overs. Not bad we were looking at a par score of around 250 off the allotted 40. Time to move up a gear. Lazza is a simple lad and given instructions like this is in his element – the score moved along rapidly to 106 when Martin was out for another score in the 40's. This time he got a good 42 including 8 fours.

Sarj had joined Lazza and did the usual – unfortunately the usual didn't last long enough and when Lazza went for 22 the score was 119 off 26 overs. Gadget then took over the strike, didn't score a lot but at least the collapse had been halted.

Sarj was next out for 15 in the 31st over and it was now down to Phil, Norm and Karl to support Gadget through to the end. Phil got a duck, Tebby-Tebbs 6 and KY had to go out with seven over still to go. Looks like I'd have to pad up after all!!

A couple of late lusty blows from Karl pushed the score along, but at the close of the innings 182 didn't look anywhere near enough!

After the freshest sandwiches ever made it was out to field. There was a suspicion that Gloucester had reversed the batting order when I saw that Khan was also opening the batting. Not that he lasted long as Harry Potter took his stumps in the 4th over with the score on 25. That was pretty much as good as it got as the Glous No 3 (who bats at 10 in their 1st XI) set about our bowling with gusto!

The other opener fell for 7 with the score on 64 (bowled by Karl) which sort of shows what was happening!

Capt Martin turned to Ray in desperation to get a break-through and not being one to disappoint Ray decided to go for a suicidal C & B and then ran off the field mid spell for the second consecutive game for repairs. Today it was Phil's job to finish the over – which he did in style, almost getting the prized wicket but a dropped catch put paid to that.

On his return from the hospital Ray came back on to bowl and took the 3rd wicket – the score was now 159 and only 26 overs had passed! With his ton approaching Picton showed no signs of decelerating and got it in due course, he then through his wicket away to Sarj for 101 (7 fours and 8 sixes). This left Ankit and Burt to see Gloucester home in the 28th over. A poor overall display, not enough runs to start with and then we were poor in the field, dropped catches and missed stumps do not win matches.

Sarj – 1 for 36 off 6.4, Norm – 1 for 34 off 3, Gadget – 0 for 29 off 7, Karl – 1 for 42 off 6, Ray 1-28 off 3.1, Phil – 0 for 0 off .5 and Gilly 0 for 10 off 2 (unlucky though – both the missed stumpings were off Steve).

After such a comprehensive thrashing it was a fairly dispirited bunch that assembled around the Gloucester bar, and we were not overly impressed that most of the oppo chose to go out for a net rather than socialise. I know we weren't very good but at least make the effort for your guests! Anyway, back to the hotel, a quick shower then time to get 'shoed-up' for the night out!

We opted for the traditional 'Noah' tactic to get into Bushwhackers, and so like a strung out posse of middle-aged homosexuals in new shoes we lied our way past the bouncer ("Are you part of a larger group?", "No, just the two of us, Sweetie!") and into the Promised Land.

Which was a let down.

There was us (in various small groups pretending not to know each other) a bunch of middle-aged women on what looked like a works outing, two very fit bar girls and the security staff. Not quite the buzzing joint we had expected. On the good side it has a huge outdoor area and the luke-warm beer was comparatively cheap.

Thankfully, after the regular pubs closed the place started to fill up with eye-candy. Problem was it didn't stop filling up until you could barely move, which for the younger, single men was a good thing! Personally I retired at about 1.30 for a kebab with Plunger, so I can't offer much in the way of gossip. Having said that it was a good job I didn't stay to the 3 Am finish as on arriving back at the hotel I found a bunch of stray Tourists napping on the Smoking Terrace as none of them had taken keys!