

Mayfield CC Tour 2013

Wednesday 26th June 2013

So it's that time of the year again for Mayfield to raise the gross revenue of a UK town's pubs and bar industry, bring joy and happiness to the town and in the mix of this play some cricket.

For 2013 Kent was chosen for the annual Mayfield CC tour with Canterbury selected as our base for the next three nights.

I set off nice and early to take into account rush hour traffic. Failing to hit any traffic, I was the first to arrive at The Falstaff, our home for the first two nights. Checked in, I took a wander around to find the local pubs and food joints (to plan for the night ahead). Thankfully I did not have to travel too far as the main strip was a mere 50 yards away. As I was down as resting for today's game, so I treated myself to my first meal of the day with a traditional English fry-up. I, then along with Femi (who also turned up early) proceeded to the hotel bar for a pre-game drink, while we waited for the remaining tourists to arrive.



Tour tradition intact with a pre-game beverage

Meanwhile, not too far from the Falstaff, Colin, Laurence (Lazza) and Tour Virgin Charlie (Chaz) who were residents at Hotel Swann were also checking out the local strip (club that is!).

Mersham Sports CC Vs. Mayfield Touring XI

With Mayfield Falstaff Residents all present with Steve G last making it just in time (no thanks to my bad directions) and minus Ringo who was meeting us directly at Mersham we set off to our first fixture of tour.

With some excellent driving skills from my tour roommate Femi (who has vast experience in track day racing driving), we made it to our first game in time. Although I don't think Steve G (Gilly), Nigel or Gadget was too impressed.



Gilly not taking any chances!!!

Colin, Lazza, Chaz and Steve F (Ringo) were at the ground with their pre-game be vies and with our day-tripper Ren I thought we were all ready to go. Then it dawned on me, we were a man short. Surprise, surprise it was Ray missing. A quick call to Ray:

Sarj: "Ray, where are you mate?"

Ray: "I is on the A2. My Sat thing not set to England maps. Be there soon."

Sarj: "Ok mate, see you in a bit"

Ray: **Off the phone** – "bumbaclart always rushing me, don't he know who I are"

Sarj: **Off the phone** – "Shit, I hope Colin wins the toss and bats, because I am not getting changed to field after that breakfast and the three beers I have just had!!"

Captain for the day Colin went out to toss and lost, but to my relief, Mayfield were put in to bat in a 40 over game.



Colin almost had to go out to umpire – Thankfully Ren was on hand to swiftly delegate to. Tut Tut

Our openers were Martin and Gilly. Both very keen to get some batting time and four runs to their name. Martin took the strike first and Mayfield sneaked a bye in to get the first run on the board.

Gilly took guard, took a moment to check the fielders and their positions and then bat down ready for the bowler. The bowler came steaming in and the delivery was nudged away to the square leg fielder, directly to his hands, straight to fielder, easy take for the fielder 20 yards away.

YESSSS was the call, NOOOO was the call, YESSS was the call (remember the ball had gone straight to the fielder) some careless calling from Martin left Gilly truly stranded and run out, with a golden duck. Not a great start to our tour campaign, but still plenty of batting to follow.

Never mind Gilly at least there was a "help yourself" bar to console you.

In at number three was Lazza, who had been making some good starts in the season so far. Lazza looked on good form and both he and Martin took full advantage of the new ball and the quick outfield to hit multiple boundaries.

Lazza played some fine shots in his "V" range taking several boundaries through mid-on and mid-off. The 50 was up in the 13th over before Martin found himself caught in the slips on 15. Mayfield 52-1. Walking of the wicket was the easy part for Martin; facing Gilly however was going to be a different matter!! No love lost between the two (although the fine book tells a different story), and Mayfield continue to set a good score.

Nigel at number four, with a quick appearance being bowled for 0 and the second duck of the day.

Captain in at five, who has struggled all season, and looking to break his bad form.

Unfortunately it was not going to happen today, playing a poor shot being caught out on 1. Mayfield 63-4 and looking in a spot of bother.

Ray who had finally made it to the ground was in at six, and in true Ray nature did not take any time to play himself in. A couple of good boundaries and then back to the pavilion being caught by their affluent wicket keeper on 9.

Whilst wickets were tumbling at one end, Lazza continued to take runs at the other, playing some great shots to take boundaries as well as caressing the ball for singles. It was no surprise that his 50 came up after 1hr 20 minutes at the crease.

Lazza was joined by Ren who formed a useful short partnership before Lazza was bowled out on 64. Mayfield 108-6.

Gadget joined Ren at the wicket, but his lack of play this season with his home club showed and become our third duck of the day being caught behind the stumps.

Chaz and Ren looked to reconcile the Mayfield innings and both played some good shots to move the runs along dealing mainly in boundaries. Chaz hit a super six (and the only one of the Mayfield innings), demonstrating why we call him Boom Boom.

Ren was next out being teamed up by Faggs, G Fagg with the ball and I Fagg with his hands, caught out on 14.

Ringo was next in and played very well to rotate the strike to the in-form Chaz. Ringo first eight runs all being from singles.

Chaz who was looking to accelerate was the next wicket to go, being bowled on 22. Mayfield 145-9.

Femi and Ringo made a good last wicket stand, before some sham running and calling between the wicket (you would have thought they had learned from Martin and Gilly), meant Femi dropped short of the crease and found himself run out on 1. Mayfield finish their innings 157 all out in the 40th over.

Tea's on tour have recently been a hit or miss (tea on day one of Galway tour being unforgettable, not for the right reasons). Mersham Sports CC however had laid on an extremely good tea, and you can now see why they would have wanted to field first.

I was able to reap the rewards of sitting out in today's fixtures and thoroughly enjoyed my second meal of the day.

Teas done, Mayfield went out to defend a below par score, and with this in mind Colin opened the attack with Chaz and Femi.

The bold move of bringing Femi on with the second new ball of the day paid off and Femi took a wicket in his first over, bowling the number 2 bat. Mersham CC 2-1.

Chaz although not taking any wickets was bowling some tight lines and length and the batsmen were struggling to take runs of him.

Femi took his second wicket in his 4th over yet again knocking over the bails. Mersham CC 19-2.

Could this be the start of a Mersham CC collapse and all time Mayfield touring victory....

Short answer No.

The opening Bat and number 4 batsmen decided that was enough wickets for Mayfield and set about destroying the hopes and dreams of Mayfield. Boundaries came flooding in, quick singles, and some technically sound batting from the pair shifted the score to 129 before Gadget took the third and final wicket for the day. It is vital to note that the opener was dropped by Gilly (who was probably demising to plot against Martin) very early on in the innings. Fem and Chaz bowled some tidy overs.

Gadget although picked up a wicket was smacked around for 37 of his 8 overs. Colin attempted to mix the bowling with Ren, but after being punished for 23 off three overs was swiftly retired.

Gilly continued his bad day in the field with some misfields and at one point we thought he was part of a match fixing scandal – odds for a win to Mersham in the 29th over 10-1?

Nigel threw in an over which went for 12 and Lazza finished off the innings bowling 4 deliveries being punished for 16 (2 x 6, 1 x 4 and a dot ball).

A couple of great sixes from Mersham CC's number six batsmen G Hansen to wrap the game in under 30 overs.

Mayfield lose by 6 wickets.



Some light reading for Ray post game!!

After the game we enjoyed Mersham CC's hospitality with several beers before announcing the fines for the day, which heavily featured Martin – I wonder why?

MoM – this was deservedly given to Lazza for a fine knock.



MoM Lazza on fine form, both on and off the pitch

Golden Moment – This was given to Chaz for his fine 6, and the only one in the Mayfield innings.

We returned to the Falstaff / Hotel Swann for a quick change and then met in Bishop's Finger (yes this is the name of one of many strangely named pubs) to kick off the night.



A real "Cheers" moment in the Bishop's Finger

After some fine drinks at a couple of pubs (although we steered clear of the Dogg-Inn) we spent much of our evening at the Canterbury Tales, where we befriended the owner who sought to give us advice about the Isle of Sheppey.

It seems to be a new tour tradition to party very hard the first night, and this tradition was certainly held in tact with Femi going all out on the first night, and Ringo drinking enough not to remember the kebab he ended his night with.

After bleeding the bar dry, we decided to call it the night with some Chicken Cottage, where I had my third meal of the day, very shortly followed by my fourth meal of the day in a tasty local Kebab establishment (boy, would I regret that the next morning).

Colin, Lazza and Chaz retired to Hotel Swann, where we understand Chaz was shown what it's like to be a tour virgin.

The rest of us retired to comfortable beds of the Falstaff, although Ringo much preferred the sofa in the bar lounge!! At least he did not have to travel too far for breakfast in the morning.....