

## Mayfield CC Tour 2013

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2013

There were certainly a few sore heads this morning, least of not mine. Breakfast at the Falstaff was a good one, with eggs made to order, a selection of cereals and juices – So Femi tells me as per Sarj's tour tradition I was unable to make it to breakfast. Thankfully I didn't need much food as I still had remains from the night before in my throat.

By the time I had crawled out of bed we were joined by Karl and Phil, who were rearing to go, with Martin and Ray sitting out today's game.

Meanwhile over at Hotel Swann, Chaz had woken up a little unnerved, but was soon feeling better after his breakfast in bed.



**CHAZ: YOU TOLD ME THIS WAS A SAFE ZONE!!!!**

I couldn't tell you about Canterbury's historic buildings, Cathedrals and history, as I only wake up in time for the game, and didn't find time to wander about.

I hear it is very nice.

## Sandwich Town CCVs. Mayfield Touring XI

So onwards to our second tour fixture in the little Sandwich Town, against as you would expect Sandwich Town CC.

We car-pooled to the game and as we arrived and parked up, Nigel looked up to see a sign which said "park at your own risk!" Taking heed of the notice, Nigel moved his car to a different spot a little further away from the ground.

The ground had streams on two sides, giving the perception of an island on an island. The setting was wonderful and to the near side there were covers. At the far side and central to the ground was an Astroturf pitch. Where is the Wicket? Surely we are not playing on Astro. The covers came off and we had sight of the wicket, a mere 30-40 yards from the pavilion!!



**Lazza:** *"It does not seem like there is going to be anything in it for the bowlers today?"*

**Femi:** *"Listen guys, all you got to do is put the ball in the right areas, don't worry about pace and we will be fine. Watch how I do it, all I do is tweak the ball ever so slightly and....."*

With full team on sight we decided to treat ourselves to a pre-game beer, (Phil in particular was gasping as he was unable to squeeze a drink in at the Falstaff), as well as take a look at Sandwich's club history.

We had discovered from Mersham CC the day before that Sandwich have an under 16, who managed to score 170 plus the weekend before – We were hoping that he had an exam this day. To our relief he was not available today.

We also came across several other accolades by Sandwich members. A John Jones who has achieved 3000 runs in one season and an A Amos who achieved in one game 10 wickets, all bowled. I guess as long as they are not playing we should be fine.

Well, turns out that John was their captain for the day and Mr Amos was present in the team.

Sandwich also has a West Indies international A team player – thankfully he was not currently in the UK.

Our captain for the day was Tour Virgin Charlie and after losing the toss our worst fears were realised and Mayfield were to be in the field for the first innings, in a time game.

With plenty of bowling in the team, Chaz opted for Gadget to open the bowling with me bowling at number 2.

Both Gadget and I started well, and kept the first 4-5 overs relatively tight. We had a right-hand (S Smith), left-hand (B Chapman) combination to face, which is always tough to bowl at. I managed to beat Chapman's bat on numerous occasions, but just could not quite force that wicket.

Gadget too was struggling to get that all important first wicket breakthrough. Not much was given in the field, other than perhaps a couple of half-chances.

Change of bowling due Phil replaced me to hopefully try and mix things up to get the wicket. Unfortunately for Phil by this time both openers (especially Smith) had got their eye in and were looking to accelerate the score – and boy did they accelerate.

Phil was belted for 35 in just three overs! Quick change of bowlers and Karl was on. Meanwhile at the other end Gadget was replaced by Femi. Femi bowled a good spell unfortunately their openers found boundary after boundary and the latter part of Femi's overs went for many runs, but relatively low compared to everyone else who had the pleasure of bowling. After his spell of 5 overs Femi went for 48 for no return.

At the 20 over mark Sandwich was 125-0. Not a bad start for Mayfield given the pitch conditions and short boundary on one side, but could we keep the run rate down. Short answer: No.

Unfortunately the drinks brought about a rejuvenated opener, who having reached his 50, decided to unleash his full talent.

Karl and Chaz were on the receiving end of what can be described as an absolute hammering. Smith's 50 soon become 100, and within minutes 150. Thankfully, he decided to retire on 154, although the damage had already been done. He managed a whopping 17 x 4's and 9 x 6's (one 6 nearly taking Martin and Sandwich's scorer out sitting in their box on top of the pavilion). Fortunately for Mayfield, there was plenty of respite as many balls were despatched to the stream and had to be fished out (even with all the back-up balls they had).



**The score box on top of the pavilion was not such a safe zone**

Score now on 230, Chaz brought me back on to see the remaining overs through, although we had only bowled 27 Overs.

The new batsmen at the crease did not take long to get his eye in and was off the mark with a boundary. Chaz and I persevered to get the first wicket, but both batsmen were looking very good with the bat.

Boundaries kept coming and when there were no boundaries, there were overthrows. In one delivery we had three overthrows. Gilly in an attempt to run out the batsmen threw it at the stumps, which went past me (not backing up properly), I then picked up the ball and tried a run out, which no-one backed-up and they squeezed another run and then Femi, I believe then got the ball and again threw it at the stumps with me far away and no one else backing up – would you believe it three overthrows!!!

The number three bat then looked to hit a full toss out the ground, and he did successfully..... however.... crash!!! The six had landed on a Jag (belonging to Mr Amos who was umpiring at

square leg at the time), putting a dent in the bonnet. The funny thing was that it landed exactly where Nigel has initially parked – Good call Nigel!!!

A quick look at the scores and batsmen 3 was already on 50, while batsmen 2 on 90 odd. We now understood that they simply wanted the second batsmen to reach 100 before they declared. But Chaz and I were not going to make this easy.

We grafted hard and at the end of the 34<sup>th</sup> over when they were on 308, I picked up the first wicket bowling out the number 3 bat.

Sandwich skipper deciding the number 2 bat had long enough to get his 100, and declared, Chapman finishing on 97 n.o. – Surely one more over could have been justified!

So Sandwich 308-1. Mayfield 309 to win – no problem?

After a lovely tea from our hosts, and careful consideration from Chaz of the batting line up, Gilly and Nigel opened the batting.

It was a slow and steady start for Mayfield. After 10 overs we had 22 on the board, but more importantly we had all our wickets in hand. Given the early declaration from Sandwich, we had plenty of time to achieve our target.



**Plenty of time for Phil and Karl to ponder on the night ahead**

After the initial 10 overs, both Nigel and Gilly decided to get the score moving.

First bowling change brought about a Mr J Tudor (who from the Sandwich CC scorer I was told should give us plenty of runs. I believe her words were "if you can't get runs off John, you can't get runs off anyone!"). Oh, was she correct, Tudor went for 33 runs of his three overs, Nigel reaping most of the rewards. After his three overs Tudor Snr ran on the pitch at a short interval between the overs to provide his son with a much needed glass of sherry! This happened at practically every opportunity (ball being despatched to stream, outside ground etc.)

Maybe we will see John Paul bring Colin Paul a Lager out on the pitch during club game?

Nigel and Gilly were forming a good partnership and sensing the potential danger, Sandwich deployed their secret weapon in A Amos. The legendary Mr Amos lived up to his name and Gilly was his first victim of the day, being caught on 22. Mayfield 72-1.

Lazza came out to bat, and after a couple of good shots, become Amos' second victim, C&B Amos on 7.

By this time, I knew I needed to get padded up, but with Colin and Chaz I could take my time. I had only just got to the changing rooms, and Gadget came rushing in – “you better get padded quickly, Colin is out LBW”. Colin became Amos' third victim, out for a duck.

Captain Chaz went in at number 5, but very soon returned to the pavilion, being caught of his gloves behind the stumps on 2. Mayfield 90-4 and looking in a spot of bother, again.

I joined Nigel at the crease who had by this time hurt his groin, but was still going strong; having already passed the 50 run mark.

I played as I always do, took one ball to get my eye in and then despatched the second for a six. After making a quick-fire 35, I found myself caught out, chasing a slightly high ball outside off stump which caught a thick edge. For once it was a different bowler my wicket went to.

Nigel was next out, having batted extremely well, was bowled out on 75 by, yes you've guessed it Amos.

Phil, Karl, Femi and Ringo made brief appearances but with too many overs still to play, we just could not quite hold out for the draw. Femi being last man standing 0 n.o.

Mayfield 168 All out after 44overs of play, but with 7 overs remaining.

MoM – This went to Nigel for a Mayfield best score of 75.



**Well done MoM Nigel for a great knock and achieving his highest Mayfield score.**

Golden Moment – There were several moments of the day, but the comedy moment and golden moment winner was the unbelievable overthrow saga.

Post game we enjoyed several bebies at the clubhouse, and mingled with the opposition who provided us with fresh cockles straight from their surrounding stream. We were also invited to go “crocodile hunting” (I kid you not) that evening, unfortunately our tight drinking schedule meant we had to turn this down.



Is that Port  
your  
drinking?



**Our host's invitation for crocodile hunting was kindly turned down – but the cockles were a treat!**

We returned to the Falstaff / Hotel Swann for a quick change before deciding to meet at the Cricketers to start our night out.



***Mayfielders – Unphased by a Google search of 2 girls and a cup***

Second night out in Canterbury was just as good as the first, and after some debating about club vs bar, we found ourselves at a bar which played good music and had a massive open terrace. Drinks were free-flowing, with Femi and Chaz showing everyone else how to dance.

After the bar closed it was off for a late night supper and then bed.

Half opted for a subway, and half opted for a Kebab. I leave it to you to guess which group were suffering in the morning!!

Post food we retired to the Falstaff / Hotel Swann with a strong inclination that there would not be any cricket on Friday.



***Start of the night at the cricketers***

