

## Mayfield CC Tour 2013

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013

So the morning of the final day on tour, and the forecast for the day per Google, accuweather, iPhone, BBC weather, met office, all indicated that there would be heavy showers from 2pm onwards in Sheppey.

Whilst it was unlikely that we would get a game out, me and KY were in contact with the opposition to confirm if Mayfielders should make the journey over to the Isle of Sheppey.

I then managed to lock myself out the room, key intact – clearly the 2 days on tour already had taken its toll on me!

Since we were leaving the Falstaff as our last night would be at the Holiday Inn Express, a couple of miles outside Canterbury Town Centre, the plan were to check out and meet at the bar at 12.30 to decide on proceedings.

However, from our telephone conversation with the opposition, the game start was actually 1pm and not 2pm, per my Shitesports schedule. Apparently there was an email exchange confirming the earlier start time.

From discussions with the opposition skipper Mark, given the forecast; it was quite possible to squeeze in a 20/20 game before the rain came down.

We were down to 10 today, as it did not make sense for Ray to travel all the way to Sheppey, when the likelihood is that the game would be cancelled.

After deliberation, we decided to make our way to the Isle of Sheppey and take it from there, with everyone driving themselves to the game. I informed Hotel Swann, where the earlier time meant they were behind schedule on breakfast and their mid-morning naps.



***Over the Bridge to the Isle of Sheppey – weather was clearly not looking great!!***

### Minster (Sheppey) CC Vs. Mayfield Touring XI

So captain for today's 20/20 was Martin. Martin made his way swiftly to Sheppey and was the first one there, which gave him time to sort out the batting order etc.

Karl, Femi, Phil, Gadget and I were next to arrive at Sheppey.

As soon as we arrived at the changing rooms with our kit, Martin confirmed we were batting in a 20/20 to start now. "You mean 1pm, right?" no "NOW".

With a view to squeeze the game in before the rain pushed through, the game was to start before we even had a full team.

The 10 man team was short Nigel (batsmen), Colin (batsmen), Lazza (batsmen), Chaz (batsmen), so who would open the batting?

Step up Femi. Martin decided that he and Femi would open the batting. Femi was all padded up and ready to go, he even managed to borrow an opposition member's trainers as he has left his on the Kitchen table, tut, tut.

Meanwhile Nigel was still not with us, even though he departed the same time as we did. Those Sat Nav's are great tools!!

Eventually Nigel found the club, and we were now up to a 7 man team.

So the match began.

First ball and Femi hits it straight to the fielder at mid-off. YESS is the call; NOOO is the call, both batsmen stranded and Martin run out on the first ball.

Hang on a minute, Martin is still out there. The ball was called a dead ball and we started the match again. Mayfield 0-0 (actually 0-1).

By this time, Colin, Lazza and Chaz arrived and all three immediately padded up.

Mindful that this was a 20/20 game, Femi did not hang about or waste any deliveries. A couple of great boundaries later he found himself bowled out on 11. Mayfield 13-1 (actually 13-2).

Quick, quick, next batsmen in, with small drops of rain falling, Colin who had just stepped out the changing rooms was rushed in at number 3.

I then saw for the next 15 minutes, the old Colin resurface, playing to his potential, despatching the bowlers for several boundaries and showing real aggression in his batting.

Martin was next out, being bowled on 7. Mayfield 40-2 (actually 40-3)

Quick, quick, next batsmen in, Lazza went in next. Just as Colin was looking to push the score further, after hitting a beautiful six, he found himself caught by their skipper Mark at Long-off on 33. Mayfield 76-3 (actually 76-4)

Quick, quick, next batsmen in, I went in at 5 (or 6 depending on how you look at it), and having not played quick cricket for a while (I always thought this was with a blue plastic bat and red plastic ball) I found myself under pressure and bowled out on 6. Mayfield 83-4 (actually 83-5).

Quick, quick, next batsmen in, as Chaz went in, Lazza came out being bowled on 6. Mayfield 85-5 (actually 85-6).

Quick, quick, next batsmen in, Gadget went in Chaz came out being caught out on 4. Mayfield 88-6 (actually 88-7).

Quick, quick, next batsmen in, Phil went in and came straight back out, being stumped on 0. Mayfield 89-7 (actually 89-8).

Quick, quick, next batsmen in, Nigel walked in (more like hobbled) and walked back out, after Gadget forced a quick single, that was not so quick, with Nigel carrying a groin injury. Mayfield 90-8 (actually 90-9)

Quick, quick, next batsmen in, Karl was the last man in, and after a run from Nigel to bring Karl onto strike, I as a joke put up 91 as the first innings total. Sometimes I hate being proved right. Karl was bowled out by Sheppey's overseas player (Batsmen). Mayfield 91-9 (actually 91-10).

But for one reason or another dead ball was called (Mayfield 91-8 (actually 91-10)), and Karl was given another chance. Perhaps another 5-10 more runs. No. Next ball Karl was caught in the slips by Mark (which was an extremely good take). Mayfield 91-9 (actually 91-11).

A quick, quick turnaround and Mayfield were out to bowl.

I opened the bowling with Karl, however with the pitch being slightly damp, my run up was affected and so my bowling was not sharp at all, the first delivery going for 6. Karl doing slightly better than me but also going for runs. Karl did however manage to pick up a wicket bowling out one of the openers. At the end of my spell I was 26-0 after 2 overs, and Karl was 27-1 after 3 overs.

We were replaced by Gadget and Femi, who bowled much better lines.

Femi managed to pick up the second wicket, with some sharp work behind the stumps from Lazza for a stumping.

Femi was then involved in some Jonty Rhodes style fielding at cow corner, diving feet first, with a magnificent slide after which the ball rolled into his stomach. It was spectacular nonetheless.

Unfortunately Femi's sharpness in the field did not rub off on everyone else, and the fielding was in general poor, with Colin dropping a dolly and some poor pick-ups from me.

With a low target, it was not long before Sheppey levelled the score reaching 91-2 after 11 overs.

Chaz was then given the ball and with the wet outfield, Chaz showed us his spin bowling. Turning it a mile, Chas was rewarded with a wicket maiden, again some excellent work behind the stumps from Lazza for a stumping.

Sheppey hit a boundary of Femi's next over to finish the game on 95-3.

Minster (Sheppey) CC wins by 7 wickets.

Just as we came off the light rain showers halted and a glance up showed clear clouds. A look at the forecast showed a complete U-turn and rain not due to continue until nightfall.

Whilst Sheppey were rearing for another 20/20, the tired Mayfielders had to kindly decline the offer, to rest their bodies and nurse their injuries.

Back in the changing rooms everyone was showering up, but me and Karl thought we would just relax and have a shower back at the hotel before going out. Man, was I going to regret doing that.

Final fines concluded for the day tour awards were handed out.

### Player of the Tour - 2013

There were two real contenders for this award in Lazza and Nigel for their batting performances, but the winner of the award went deservedly to Nigel Ball, for the top score on tour and Mayfield best of 75 (and not 74 like I announced).



***Player of tour 2013 – Nigel Ball***

Tourist of the Year - 2013

For his outstanding service with the WIPs and comedy moments both on and off the field, this award was duly given to Femi Efthemiou.



***Tourist of the Year 2013 – Femi Efthemiou***

Well done to Femi for winning the award two tours in a row – will he make it a hat-trick next year?

Minster (Sheppey) CC has many clubs that tour at their place. Mark (their captain) has various challenges that they set tourists, which we too had to be a part of, and rightly so.

After grouping at the bar, Mark unfolded two plates, each with some crisps, cake bar and a Death Egg, along with a small bottle of juice.

He then selected Chaz being tour virgin to take a seat in front of one plate. At this stage most of us were under the impression that Chaz would face-off against a Sheppey member. We were wrong.

For making the schoolboy error of wearing my whites in their clubhouse (I have to say KY too had his whites on but was a little more discrete), I was selected to sit opposite Chaz.



### **Death Egg Challenge – A memorable experience**

We were briefed on the challenge – essentially to finish the plate of food and drink, although warned to eat the egg, which was known as the “Death Egg” last (I would like to point out, Chaz only had half an egg).

The death Egg is an egg that has been allowed to mature in a jar with some “secret” ingredients for over 2 years.

When it came down to it, I finished the challenge in record time.

Chaz on the other hand..... Well you will just have to wait and see the video for this which will be made available on twitter as soon as possible.

All I can say is Mark – man you are crazy!!

Because most of us were driving, we were unable to stay for the “50” chicken nuggets challenge.



### **Spot the difference??**

We departed for the Holiday Inn Express / Hotel Swann to get ready and hit Canterbury centre for our final night.

As we had finished early from the day's cricket, drinking began early. Lack of food during the day meant we had to pit stop at Ronald's place, where KY was performing magic tricks, in exchange for a Big Mac – Times are hard!!



***Karl is certainly giving Dynamo a run for his money!!***

Lazza found his long lost twin brother in Canterbury, who seemed to follow us wherever we went.

Drinking continued, and we found ourselves in several fine establishments including a club which had thrones waiting for me and Colin.

Ultimately we ended up in Canterbury Tales (where we went on Wednesday night), for our final session before a pit stop to Subway followed by a cab back to the hotel.

A relaxing finish to a wonderful tour.

That concludes the Kent 2013 tour.

I would like to say a big thank you to Mersham Sports CC, Sandwich Town CC and Minster (Sheppey) CC for being great hosts and giving us three unforgettable days in Kent.

Thank you to our chairman Richard Granger, Nigel Ball and Karl Cullen for their role in organising this tour.

And finally thank you to our 2013 Tourists and day-trippers without whom this tour would not have been possible:

Surendra "**Ren**" Bhairo  
Ray "**timelord**" Victor  
Laurence "**Lazza**" Swann  
Colin "**Oooussshh**" Paul  
Charlie "**Chaz**" Goodchild – Tour Virgin  
Steve "**Gilly**" Gilliver  
Steve "**Ringo**" Fisher  
Femi "**Fembot**" Efthemiou  
Mark "**Gadget**" Dowling  
Karl "**KY**" "**Dynamo**" Cullen  
Phil "**Northern Monkey**" Connor  
Martin "**Buges**" Bentley  
Nigel "**Dave**" Ball  
Sarj "**Bilko**" Patel

I leave you with a Guess who.....

Can you guess which current Mayfield star this is:

