

## *A Canterbury Tale* or Mayfield on Tour 2015

### **Some memories first.**

On Thursday Steve Gilliver came up to me with a manky old Grey Vinyl bag – it contained, he said, some stuff he'd been given by (recently deceased) Adrian Harrison.

Since getting back from Canterbury I had a spare hour or so and after sifting through reams of crap - mainly letters (remember them?) between Adrian and the High Beech Hotel in Hastings –

*"I'm very pleased to confirm the booking of 6 twin rooms at the cost of £9.85/room, I apologise for the increase of 30p over last year but this could not be avoided"*

– I discovered some gold in the form of handwritten reports and a 'Fines Book' covering most of the late 1980's and 1990's:

### **1989**

It seems poor batting is not a recent problem; Mayfield could only scrape to 89-9 against Northiam with Ray Victor top scoring with 19. In the same game Danny won the *"Wide Tie"* – which I also found in the bag – not very wide by today's standards but fashions were different in 1989!

### **1991**

Was the infamous *"5 Day Tour of Rain"* – you can almost feel the desperation as each daily page is headed *"Rain"* and the number of fines decreases day by day until Thursday when they'd clearly given up!

### **1992**

Sees Gadget make his first appearance in the fines book; clearly he hadn't yet earned his nickname as the entry reads *"Dowling – Doom & Gloom"*. He must have cheered up though as he also won the Tourist Cup that year.



Femi, Steve and Gadget doing the fines in 2000(ish)

## 1994

On to 1994 where Steve Gilliver won the Tour Trophy for scoring a 50 and a 100 (wish he could have done as well this year); Martin “Buges” got the *Wide Tie* for “*Kissing Steve for his 100!*” This was also the year of another Mayfield Infamous Moment – the Ian Ward 13 ball over; mentioned in the Book as “*Persistent Wides*”.

## Present Day

So to 2014 then and you’ll note that Ray, Gadget and Steve are all still Touring and it’s up to the younger Members of Mayfield to start coming on Tour and creating your own memories. I’d love to be reading a Tour Report in 2035 that talks about finding an old report on a broken hard drive with details of the 2014 Tour (and I imagine Ray will still be going on Tour then too).



The Touring Team in 2000(ish) at the New County Ground in Hastings

6 of this XI played in the First game of the 2014 Tour – can you spot them all?



Femi and Rich enjoy the first pint of the 2014 Tour. Femi buttered up the barmaid to take the shot (Femi and barmaids – nothing changes)

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Unfortunately we got blown out by Mersham on the Tuesday night so we couldn't play any cricket. We did however familiarise ourselves with the pubs of Canterbury. A bit of an odd day punctuated with trips back to the hotel for me to meet and greet various later arrivals (and explain the parking situation).



More non-cricket entertainment

Eventually we had a large crew together and ended up in the Canterbury Tales pub which has a late license; I got annoyed with all the luvvies (it's across the road from the Marlow Theatre) and left a bit before the others but there were trips to the Subway and MacDonald's enjoyed by the rest.



### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Sarjul didn't make breakfast but everyone else did, there was a morning trip to the big church down the road (very nice and a bit of a TARDIS). Then it was off to Sandwich for some cricket.



Off to Sandwich.....in style!

The wicket at Sandwich was a road and one of the boundaries very short and one very long. In a normal game we'd bat first but this is so Tour so.....Captain Sarj lost the toss and the opposition decided to bat.



We opened with Gadget and Sarj and all was good; a Maiden followed by another couple of tight overs saw Sandwich on just 26 off 6 overs. Then the 4's started to flow – after 11 overs they had 47 when we got a breakthrough. Thurgate caught & bowled by Sarj (with a fair bit of juggling) for 35. This saw Zac Fagg stride the wicket, a big lad and a big hitter. After 20 overs they had 142, Zac having gone to his fifty in about 20 balls. After 21 overs they had 160 and we got another wicket – Chapman stumped by Lazza off KY for 42, Zac being 80 NO. One over later and another wicket – Tudor LBW to Femi (who else) for 2, Zac on 88.

Zac then reached his hundred and sportingly retired leaving Ewart to see the innings out for 15 NO and Colins was stumped by Lazza off Samit in the 35<sup>th</sup> over for 45 and Sandwich called it a day and retired at 269 for 3 (4 inc. Zac).



Gadget – 7 overs 0-40

Sarj – 8 overs 1-44

Femi – 6 overs 1-64

KY – 9 overs 2-68

Samit – 4.3 overs 1-45

We then had some sandwiches at Sandwich for tea. And very nice they were too.

Batting then. Not a strong point at Hazelwood but surely a team with the likes of Ray, Gilly, Lazza, Kavit, Sarj and Gadget could put up a decent effort.

Well.....no.

Wickets fell in the 1st, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> overs with Ray, Nigel and Lazza each scoring “4 and out”. Clearly a Tour Rule that I’d missed! Steve hung around until the 10<sup>th</sup> over when he was out for 1, shortly followed by Samit for 2 in the 15<sup>th</sup> over, Sarj for 7 in the 16<sup>th</sup> over and Gadget for 1 in the 19<sup>th</sup> over.



The all-too-familiar Mayfield Walk of Shame



Kavit batting nicely

So yes, 41-7 off 19 overs, and shortly to become 43-8 in the 20<sup>th</sup> over when Femi was out for a duck.

And what a Duck it was too, Kavit (who was batting nicely) was trying to keep the strike and called Femi through at the end of the over for a single, but alas Femi was not interested as he Can Bat and didn't respond. There then followed one of the best tantrums of all time which included:

- swearing (to Gadget – “you're a nobhead”),
- chuntering (to himself behind the clubhouse),
- moaning (to everyone – “we're better than this, we face better bowling every day of the week”)
- Complaining (to everyone – “I Can Bat!”)

A good 20 mins later the game continued with Kavit getting out in the 24<sup>th</sup> over for 29 (probably feeling guilty for poor old Femi) and then it was left to KY and Rich to see out the game with KY smashing a few 4's on his way to 16 before being caught. Rich ended 0 Not Out for the 26<sup>th</sup> million time.



See – Femi CAN BAT (from 2000ish)

Mayfield 77 all out.

We then retired to the bar for drinks, fines and presentations (we gave them a pennant and got a club tie in return). Bizarrely we are still invited back next year, I guess we must smell nice or something coz it can't be for the challenge!



*Steve pointing out Gadget's "semi" to Lazza who seems to find it very amusing!*

On to the evening – usual round of pubs, beers but with adding singing this evening. Not a full on Bournemouth style karaoke but we did blast out many “tunes” in the Bell and Crown!



I believe we ended up in the Canterbury Tales due to the late license and then it was on to MacDonald's and Subway for a late snack.



Sarj enjoying a snack!

### **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

Post breakfast it was off to the Isle of Sheppey for the final game at Minster and the scene of Charlie's Death Egg debacle the year earlier. See video on YouTube if you haven't already:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMGBh9eemIE>

Photo's are a bit lacking today due to Femi going home (possibly due to being run out the day before???) but we do have a few of the post game celebrations. But first the game!

Minster batted first and it was evident from the off that they were way too strong for us and not that inclined to take the game seriously. We were grateful for the sub fielders provided whilst Ray and Sergeant made their way down from London, especially the splendid sledging they gave their team-mates.

Battingwise Minster scored a shed-load and rotated the batting almost constantly with retirees left right and centre – they score 300odd runs but we did pick up a few wickets:

Sarj – 2 for 61 off 8

Karl – 3 for 58 off 8

Kavit – 1 for 13 off 2

We also enjoyed bowling from Gadget, Ray, Dave S and bizarrely Nigel and Lazza (combined for 3 overs none for 44). Catches were taken by Ringo (as keeper), Dave, Sergeant, Kavit and 2 to Gadget.

Our batting was a bit of a procession with only a fantastic 70 by Kavit giving us anything to shout about. Lazza was second best with 26. We scored a reasonable 189 with Ringo not out at the end on 11. The game ended a bit farcically with Minster rushing to wrap things up as their colts were arriving for coaching and the coaches were in the field against us!



Then it was on the Death Egg 2014 – as Tour Virgin Kavit did the honours and showed Charlie up for the little girl that he is:



In the evening was back out again, can't remember much detail (but I am writing this in May 2015!), I do recall it was pissing down so there wasn't as much wandering as usual but my notes do refer to us being in the Seven Stars and undertaking "Random dancing and pool" and it being bloody cold.

I expect that it all ended in the Canterbury Tales followed by MacDonald's and Subway but I have no proof of this!



So that was that, another successful Tour and possibly the longest time I've ever taken to write a report – started in July 2014, finished in May 2105. Just in time for Tour this year where I hope to see everyone for beer, cricket and Scorpion Death Chilli Chocolate (which is this year's challenge!). Cheers, Rich

