

## Mayfield Canterbury Tour 2015

### Wednesday vs. Mersham

A pretty uneventful start to the tour this year, we met at the Wetherspoons next door to our Hotel (The Falstaff) as the hotel's being renovated. No non-arrivals and everyone accounted for one way or another. Unfortunately Sergeant was ill so we were down to ten for the first game, but Mersham had already told us they were short too so it matter not overly much.

Tour shirts were handed out and then it was off to Mersham for the first game.

(Somewhere betwixt the Wetherspoons and the game Gadget lost his shirt without wearing it once! At least he paid for it)

Anyway, Capt Dave Starck won the toss and as usual inserted the oppo. Gadget was thrown the ball to open the bowling – at least he'd not lost his cricket shirt too. Gadget proceded to bowl a tidy spell of 7 overs for 34. At the other end Dave elected to surprise everyone by opening with.....L Swann? One 9 ball over later this experiment was binned (Lazza – 1 over for 10, 1 NB, 2 Wides) and Laz was replaced by Guy.

Guy sprayed it around a bit as normal but did end with a perfectly reasonable 5 overs for 27 (2 wides). The first 'real' change bowlers were Charlie and Not-Spare Ravi P – Charlie was frankly toilet but did pick up that real rarity, a wicket on tour! A catch in the deep by (who else) Dave seeing the end of Mr Pullin for 39. Shortly afterwards Starcky was in the game again, combining with me to run out the number 3 batsman (Malik) for 1.

Ravi and Charlie finished their spells fairly uneventfully – Ravi 5 overs for 28, Charlie 6 overs, 1 for 37.

We were now into the dying overs of the 35 agreed upon and Dave decided to close out with Ray and himself. Ray was expensive but did pick up the wicket of the other opener (Carney for 118) thanks to a stunning catch by Chaz. Dave just bowled very tight and kept the runs down (Ray 6 overs 1 for 46, Dave 5 overs for 21).

Mersham – 215-3 – certainly a competitive score but one we fancied chancing down.

Tea was then taken and was, as normal on Tour, a splendid spread and then it was out to bat. Steve Gilliver and Ren being given the honours.



**Ravi P enjoying his first  
Mayfield Tour**

Both took their time about getting to grips with things – Steve trying to remember what to do since he hadn't held a bat in 365 days and Ren who hadn't seen a proper cricket wicket since the last time he was on tour.



**Steve playing a leg glance – he's still got it!**

6 overs ticked by for 19 and then the batters started to open up a bit until in the 9<sup>th</sup> over Mersham brought on their secret weapon.....Katie.....earlier we'd seen she could bat but could she bowl.

Wellllllllllll.....yes. second over Ren played, missed and was given LBW for 16 in a partnership of 45 with Gilly. This brought in Ravi and he and Gilly began to push the accelerator. Nothing overly dramatic, just the odd four to keep us up with the run rate. Ravi made 28 before edging behind and Lazza took over the role of playing with Gilly. They didn't play for too long though a Gilly got worried about having to buy a jug and decided to use his pad instead of his bat to get out LBW for 48. Not a bad knock coming after so little cricket!



**Dave, Ravi and Ren's  
nemesis, Katie**

Ray then came and went in his normal mad manner – caught behind off the handle of his bat somehow. At this stage we'd lost 3 wickets in 4 overs and needed new man Guy to steady things a bit, which he did by getting off the mark with a 4. Laz and Guy then set out chasing down the 106 runs we still needed to win. The runs flowed until sadly Guy missed a straight one off the dibbly-dobbler and was out for 35.



**Guy on the pull**

Mayfield 191 for 6.

Mayfield 192 for 7 – Dave the Duck caught out for nowt.

So here we are – 2.1 overs to go, Charlie and Lazza at the crease and 23 needed. Chaz gets a single off his first ball, and it's 193 with 2 overs to go. Chaz gets a 4 and then a single to get Laz back on strike. Laz plays out a dot and then the bowler starts to lose it with a wide followed by another wide (plus a run). Another dot ball plus another 4 and the over is over with us on 205!

So last over 11 to win.....can Guy and Chaz do it....can they do the maths to realise what they need?

Back to the ball-by-ball coverage.

Last over.....dot (argh).....4 (cheers)....dot (arghhhhh)...1 (woo)...4 (hooray).....last ball and we need one to win.....the bowler comes in and Chaz (non-striker) leaves his ground like a whippet....Lazza swings.....and connects.....and it's past the fielders for 4!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Mayfield win a game on Tour for the first time since (we think) Hastings!

An incredible game with the tightest possible finish.



**The winning X: Granger, Gadget, Ravi, Ray, Ren, Dave, Gilly, Lazza, Chaz & Guy**

Post game was very enjoyable thanks to the wonderful hospitality of Mersham and the rarely felt glow of a win!

Well done everyone! Man of the Match Lazza finished with 67 (he reached his 50 in just 53 minutes) and included 9 fours.



Also Nigel had joined us at Mersham just in time not to see any of the cricket.

After we left Mersham it was a short journey back to the hotel (enlivened by the sight of a naked woman being chased by some police at a roundabout) and then out for the evening.

We went first to the Wetherspoons as a meet and then off to the Cricketers where we lost Ren, Ravi and Guy to the delights of a sit-down meal across the road. Sadly we were not to see the three of them together again until breakfast due to lack of mobile checking and coverage.

Various other pubs ensued but to be honest Canterbury on a Weds evening is dead and we just ended up in the Canterbury Tales as this is the only place with a Weds night late license. After this it was on to Munchies for some munchies (burgers/kebabs) and then back to bed.

Or so we hoped.....

Turns out the Falstaff has combination locks and it's very hard to push dinky little numbers with drunken fingers. Eventually we realised that in addition to the numbers you also had to push (not pull) the door and got in, after waking up Guy who was standing watching us struggle from his bedroom window.

## **Day 2 – vs. Sandwich**

Next morning it was down to the Wetherspoons for breakfast; cooked breakfast and coffee for most but Ren and Ravi did show some real tour spirit by having wine and cider with their brekky. Hard core!

The plan for the rest of the morning was to relax, see the sites of Canterbury and generally chill out, however the Falstaff had other ideas!

It all started when Steve popped into reception to put his key in only to be greeted with the comment "Are you checking out sir?", "no" replies Steve "we're here for 3 nights". "No you're not" replied the receptionist, "you're only down for 1 night, and we're fully booked!".

Cue much frantic running around, making phone calls and holding discussion groups.

After many anxious minutes I managed to get enough rooms booked for Thurs night back at last year's hotel (the Premier Inn) and then Gadget, Steve and I took a walk up there just to confirm in person that the rooms we're OK.

Thankfully they were and were celebrated having beds for the night at the Buttermarket.



### **Gadget celebrating at the Buttermarket**

Of course moving hotels also meant we had no parking, but Lazza and his mum came through for us once again with visitor permits. Still no hotel for Friday night but I took the view of worrying about that in the morning!

So, off to Sandwich for our annual thrashing! We arrived quite early so on the advice of Paddy (captain of the oppo and all-round Mr Sandwich it seems) we retired for pre-game beer in the Red Cow.

By now we had been joined on tour by Mark 'Plunger' Bailey, Ian 'Caveman' Hibbeard and Karl 'Dogger' Cullen.



**Beer at the Red Cow – Plunger on the phone (again)**

Karl clearly wasn't sure about the Premier Inn and set out trying to woo some of the local bitches into sharing their bed with him.....



On to the game then; Charlie had volunteered to be captain and he duly got us inserted into the field.



**Chaz gaily races back to the Clubhouse to Toss Off- Up**

Non-playing tourists - Gadget was umpiring today, I was on scorebook duty and Colin eventually turned up by train and wandered around aimlessly.



**Mayfield XI vs. Sandwich 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

**Steve, Nigel, Karl, Gadget (umpire), Mark, Ian, Laurence**

**Ravi, Guy, Charlie (Capt), Ren, Dave**

Charlie opened with Cave and Dogger, Cave bowled well and should have picked up an early wicket but Plunger dropped a dolly at slip (although he might have something to say about this!) Karl took the traditional Tour pasting though as Sandwich racked up the runs.



**Karl and Cave**

Change bowlers were Ravi and Dave, and it was with this that the wickets started to tumble...batter 1 retired for 70, batter 2 retired for 58. The new batsmen carried on regardless. Ravi finished off and was replaced by Ren and we got a wicket – bowled by Starcky, then batter 3 retired for 54. Guy replaced Ren and Dave picked up another. Then it was the Guy show as he picked up 2 wickets in short order as tea approached (one LBW and one caught by Dave). Plunger had a solitary over at the end. Sandwich 266 for 7 declared off 39 overs. It was a time game by the way.

	Overs	Runs	Wickets
I Hibbeard	5	26	0
K Cullen	6	56	0
R Pooram	5	43	0
D Starck	12	54	2
S Bhairo	5	48	0
G Bowden	5	28	2
M Bailey	1	6	0



**Dave bowled a mammoth 12 over spell, Guy watches from the deep.**

Tea was, as usual, excellent and after the break it was out to bat with Gilly and Nigel leading the way.

**Colin and Ren talking batting, Chaz is just glad that, as Capt, he didn't have to bowl!**



I think it fair to say that Nigel and Steve found the batting a bit tough – after 6 overs we had 6 runs and it didn't get any better when Steve was bowled in the 7<sup>th</sup> over. Mark was next in and Nigel ran him out for 2 in the 10<sup>th</sup> over and we had 9 for 2 wickets!



**Nigel struggled to hit the ball at first.....**

**.....But at least he got his belly out of the way, unlike Steve**



Things did marginally improve as Ravi came in scored 14 before being out to a very good slip catch, with Nigel falling shortly after for 22 (in 72 mins!). We were now 58 for 4.



### **Sandwich on the attack!**

Time for a bit of a revival – Chaz only contributed 6 but Lazza (21) and Guy (26) took us past the 100 in the 28<sup>th</sup> over. Round about now Gadget decided to encourage the batsmen to score a bit quicker – “Come on! We’re in run chase!”. This was followed by a huge gale of laughter from the Sandwich Pensioners who clearly thought we didn’t have a chance.

Sadly it seems they knew what they were laughing about as our score fell from 87 for 6 to 116 for 7, then 8 and then 9 as Ren and then Dave the Duck departed for Zero.

Not a lot left but a last wicket flourish from Cave and Karl – Karl finishing not out with 12 and Cave sweeping his way to 21. Plunger wins prediction of the day for correctly calling Cave’s first three balls/shots – sweep, reverse sweep, no sweep!



**Karl and Cave cut loose in the final overs. Is this the start of new friendship? They started the game together and finished it together. They both like dogs and they also shared a room on the final night!**

Mayfield 144 all out in 37 overs.

After the game we drank beer and generally sulked a bit until Gadget livened things up with the fines and then it was back to Canterbury to find parking bays and go out for the evening.

We started off in a different Wetherspoons (cheap but grim as they all are) and then we wandered around a few other pubs which were all fairly quiet and ended up back at the Canterbury Tales for the same reason as the night before.

Not a lot more to add, some had food in the Subway (fast becoming a Tour Tradition – the annual Footlong with Steak, Cheese and the Works) and the rest had food with added violence in the McDonald's. I wasn't there but apparently it all got a bit Wild West Saloon; rather than people getting chairs broken over their heads they were having their burgers sat upon.

### Day 3 – vs. Walmer

Friday dawned much as Thursday had done; breakfast in the Wetherspoons and then searching for a hotel (eventually I got us into the Holiday Inn just outside Canterbury) a little bit of sight-seeing and then off to Walmer for our final game.

Walmer was a new fixture and they'd requested a late start due to work so pre-game we visited the Sportsman next door to the ground. Ray joined us again on Friday and we agreed with the oppo to have a rotating 12<sup>th</sup> man and that one of us would miss out on batting (I got in first, narrowly before Cave).



Ray checking out phone-porn at the Sportsman



Colin was skipper today and lost the toss so it was out to field.....  
.....once more.

Today's opening bowlers were Gadget and Guy on a pitch that looked excellent but soon unveiled some unusual bounce. Gadget bowled an excellent spell of out-swing and soon picked up the opener – bowled around his legs from one that swung from outside leg stump! This was quickly followed up by a wicket courtesy of a great one-handed catch at slip by Steve and a caught-behind off Guy. Walmer 3 down for not a lot.

Annoyingly our change bowlers couldn't keep up the good work and despite a wicket from Plunger the numbers 4 and 6 for Walmer racked up the runs. Both eventually scoring maiden 100's, McGarth retired on reaching his ton and we did pick up one more wicket – bowled by Cave as Walmer reached 259 for 6 off their 35 overs.

Not a great day in the field – I dropped some behind the stumps being tricked by the bounce into standing too deep for two and hit in the shoulder by another (stood up to Mark). Nigel copped a corker in the shin and also carried on another tour tradition – dropping the ball over the boundary for 6 (no donkeys this year to laugh at him though!) The exception to the general crapulence was Charlie who ran himself into the ground sweeping on the long boundary down the hill.

	Overs	Runs	Wickets
M Dowling	7	15	2
I Bowden	4	17	1
M Bailey	6	50	1
K Cullen	6	52	0
I Hibbeard	7	58	1
R Victor	5	58	0

I was suffering a bit from the heat so didn't eat much at tea, but I'm sure it was lovely as usual on Tour. There were sausages and French bread with pate, I did notice that much!

Ray and Chaz opened today – Charlie continuing his poor run with just 7 before he was out, Ray followed shortly after for 20 (4 fours). Lazza joined the procession with just 4 and I was thinking we were on our way to another pasting.



Colin and Guy however had other ideas – both set about the bowling with gusto and at the drinks break had pushed the score along to 113 off 17 overs.



**Cave has a quick nap during the drinks break**

Post drinks they both got back to work and Colin went past 50 before giving his wicket away with a soft guided loft to gully for 62 – Mayfield 164-4.



**Colin and Guy had a partnership on Tour!**



Plunger joined Guy at the crease and continued where Colin left off with a breezy 36. It looked like we were in with a chance but Guy got worried about buying a jug and was out for 48.

Gilly joined Plunger and hit a few runs before they took a risky second and he was run out for 18. Plunger was out with score on 230 and we were running out of overs.

Nigel and Gadget went in, but Nigel is a stroker not a hitter and was out for 3 (in fact he'd already been stumped twice but the umpires had given up watching) and it was left to Karl to swish at the last few balls without connecting.

Mayfield 253 for 9, a game that we could have won if only we bowled a bit tighter in the middle overs, fielded better throughout and scored more runs.

I guess that goes for most games of cricket really!

Post-game there was the usual final game sense of anti-climax as various people set off on their way home leaving the last ragged remnants of tour (Colin, Lazza, Charlie, Karl, Cave, Gadget and me) to go back to Canterbury and out for the last evening. Not a lot to add really, started in the Wetherspoons, then off to a few more pubs (thankfully Canterbury had livened up substantially) ending up in the Black Griffin.

Whilst in the Griffin playing on the quiz machines Lazza got a bit soggy thanks to a very drunken Eastern European gentleman (in the Walking Zombie phase) and for some reason Charlie took this very seriously. Cue much macho posturing on the streets of Canterbury. Sadly for Charlie the only outcome was a lost Subway as the bloke didn't have clue which country he was in, let alone have the ability to apologise.

After this excitement it was back to either the hotel or Chez Lazza for the final kip (without Cave who stayed out dancing) and home the next day.

### **Finally a few thank yous and the awards:**

Thanks to Mersham CC, Sandwich CC and Walmer CC for their kind hospitality, hope to see you all again next year.

Thanks to Karl and Nigel for helping organise the tour once again.

Thanks to all the Tourists, without you it wouldn't happen: Gadget, Nigel, Karl, Steve, Ren, Ravi P, Dave, Ray, Colin, Charlie, Lazza, Mark, Ian and Guy.

### **The Awards:**

#### **Best Player on Tour**

Despite some good bowling performances from Gadget (14 overs 2 for 49) and some good all-round performances from Guy (109 runs, 14 overs 3 for 72) the award goes to Lazza (1 over 0-10, 92 runs) for his winning knock (67 NO) at Mersham on the first day.

#### **Tourist of the Year**

It was hard to award this without the usual culprits (Femi, Sarjul and Phil) and over breakfast on Saturday Gadget suggested I award the award to myself for making sure everyone got a bed for the night in the end!

Join us next year for hopefully a less stressful few days of cricket and beer!

**Rich "BedsRme" Granger**