

## Saturdays vs Matthews CC



14<sup>th</sup> July 2017



Adrian

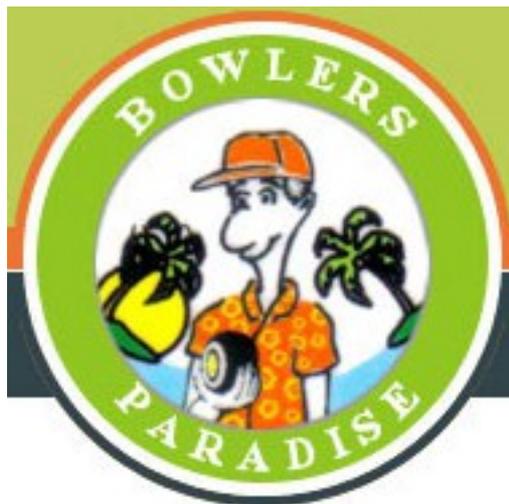
**Mayfield 114 a/o**

**Matthews 46-9 a/o**

**Mayfield Won by 68 Runs**

After three weeks away from the cricket field, I finally returned to the pitch, hungry for a few runs under the belt. Today's opponents were Matthews, the team I last played against (away). I woke up early and headed off to grab some sandwiches and then head home to collect my gear and the rest of the teas.

The forecast was set to be overcast but dry for the remainder of the afternoon, so I was a little surprised when I left the house to see light drizzle in the air. I arrived at the ground at 1.15pm and was greeted by Ravi 'the Duck' Pooran who suggested that we should bat first. As I parked up and returned to the changing rooms, I took a quick look at the pitch and I wasn't surprised by what I saw: green, uneven, and some may say a bowler's paradise!



After a quick chat with today's skipper Asnad, we came to the conclusion of bowling first if the toss was won. Obviously, we didn't win the toss and were kindly asked to bat by the opposition captain. Since Ravi wanted to bat first, we decided it would be the ideal opportunity for him to join me in opening the innings.

Matthews' opening bowlers began with a mixed bag of over pitched bowling from one end and a slightly tighter line and length from the other. I managed to get off the mark with a drive for a single, but struggled to time the ball as the bowlers began to find some rhythm. The first few overs were slow going due to a mixture of inconsistent bounce and seam movement. At the other end, a watchful Ravi finally got off the mark with a pulled four from a loose delivery soon to be followed up with another pull shot for another boundary. Soon after, disaster struck and playing back in the crease once more, Ravi was out -LBW for 8 to a low in-ducker. Steve joined me at the crease and we both had to survive for a while as the ball passed the outside edge with regularity. My struggles finally came to an end as I attempted to deflect a full ball off of my legs only for it to deviate and clip my middle stump.

Lazza was the next man in and scored two lovely boundaries before scooping the ball up to mid-off for a simple catch, out for 8. Steve followed shortly and was bowled after seeing out a difficult period and looking well set to anchor the innings. It was not to be and he trudged off disappointingly back to the changing room. The scoreboard read 37-4 as skipper Asnad came out to join Karamveer in the middle. The skipper didn't last long at the crease, receiving a peach of a leg cutter from the opening bowler, pitching just outside leg and cutting back to clip middle and off for 0. Ash was the next batsman in, scoring 3 before a ball, which kept low, bowled him. Mayfield, now in big trouble at 41-6 had one shining light in Karamveer. For a 15 year old, he batted with great discipline and maturity playing a mixture of attacking sweeps and leg side shots with defensive blocks when necessary. Sachin was next to the crease and was immediately surrounded with close fielders. A few straight drives brought Sachin a couple of twos and he was off and running. At this point we felt that if we could get to a score between 80-100 runs we would be in with a strong chance of winning the game.



**No not for one person..... for the whole team!!**

Matthews decided to turn to spin in the search for more wickets. The change almost paid off with Dave (Phil's twin) finding the outside edge of Karamveer's bat with the first ball bowled, only to see the keeper drop a sitter. A rush of blood saw Karamveer take a wild swing at the following ball and survived a close stumping chance, which the keeper was extremely upset about as umpire Lazza turned down his appeal. At the end of the over, I had a quick chat with K-man and Sachin, reminding them of the excellent work they had done and not to get carried away but to focus again on the task in hand. After a decent partnership between the two youngsters, Sachin was caught and bowled off Dave for 7. This bought Mo to the wicket and he was bowled for 0 soon after. Last man to the wicket was Karl. At this point we hoped he could keep Karamveer company in order to get the total up to 100 and beyond. The first few deliveries whizzed past the outside edge of Karl's bat and the mood in the Mayfield dressing room became rather nervy. The pair eventually settled down with Karamveer scoring the occasional boundary while accumulating the singles and

Karl helping himself to a couple of fours of some generous full toss's. As Karamveer approached his maiden 50 for the club, disaster struck as Karl was bowled for a well made 12 and Karamveer was left stranded on 47 not out. Wonderful innings by the young man and Mayfield were all out for 114.

After tea and suitably refreshed, we took to the field followed by the Matthews openers. Karl and Ash opened the bowling. It wasn't long before we had our first wicket as Ravi held on to a top edge from the dangerous opener Dave off the bowling of Karl for 0. Both bowlers were now in the groove, Karl flighting the ball well and Ash getting good movement outside off stump. It wasn't long before Ash picked up the next two wickets as numbers two and three departed in quick succession, bowling the other opener and having the opposition captain caught by Lazza in the deep. Wickets continued to tumble with Karl and Ash picking up another wicket each before finishing their spells. Matthews were 5 wickets down and their two best players back in the hut. Sachin and Mo were bought on to clean up the lower order and they didn't disappoint. Mo bowled a brilliant spell of away swing without luck. Sachin getting through his overs quickly with good control picked up two wickets in two balls and was unlucky not to pick up a hat-trick as the third ball flew past Karl at slip.

Sachin managed to collect a third wicket and the last man was eventually run out for 1 by Asnad, all before the final 20 overs had begun. Matthews were all out for 53. It was the second successive time we had dismissed Matthews for a low score as they had been bowled out for 30 odd last season, with Ash ripping through their order with figures of 7 for 5! Special mention to skipper Asnad for maintaining his excellent win record. He was very proactive in the field and led the troops well.

M.O.M – Went to Karamveer for his match winning innings of 47no. Great innings, well crafted on an extremely tricky pitch. Special mention to Karl (2 wickets), Ash (3 wickets) and Sachin who had a very good game with bat and ball (3 wickets).

Golden moment: Congratulations to Karl who took 2 wickets and went past Danny Barnett's haul of 578 career wickets for the Club. Well done. Honourable mention to Mo, who took an excellent catch off a skier as we all looked on nervously.



**Karamveer scores career high 47 no..... guess who wasn't there to see it!!**