

East Coker Cricket Club

Match Report

Saturday May 30th 2009
Home - Wembdon Wyverns



Long Furlong Lane was bathed in sunshine on Saturday 30th May as players and spectators were treated to a Titanic battle between East Coker and Wembdon Wyverns.

With skipper Martin Kearvell losing the toss, the home side was put into bat. Coker were initially a bit concerned about the track but in the searing heat, it stood up well and provided a mammoth 430 runs in the day.

Coker's opening pair of Charlie Watts and Chris Saldanha set about the task of building a solid score with real gusto. Taking advantage of the lightning outfield and some generous extras, the openers wasted no time in advancing the home side to 70-0 from 10 overs. Saldanha eventually perished for 21 after dancing down the track once too often bringing Kilbee to the crease.

Watts and Kilbee made some useful runs and were clearly enjoying the opportunity to smash balls around the ground amid the constant chirping of the opposition team. While the talkative nature of the fielders drew no objection from the batsman, several comments did provoke near hysterical laughter, particularly first slip's analysis that Watts was "completely tied in knots now mate" after smashing the 2 previous deliveries for 4 and 6. Kilbee fell soon after for 27 to a loose shot and a sharp catch at mid off; while Watts went on to make 36 in partnership with the increasingly assured Kearvell.

The Captain and opening bat were both removed at vital stages of play however which left Coker concerned at the prospect of a sub 200 score in perfect conditions. Salvation soon arrived though in the giant shape of Jimmer Patten and the marginally smaller Morton twins and Tom Kearvell.

Patten resisted his normal urges to smash the ball into neighbouring villages and crafted the innings that Coker needed. Ably supported by the fantastic techniques of the side's future stalwarts, Patten played what would become the match winning innings. Coker, after a shaky period halfway through, finished on a very respectable 227 for 9.

Once again, the tea was superb (Morton senior's claim to have had only one chocolate caramel slice looking highly dubious) but Coker were keen to take to the field and proactively defend their lead.

The Wembdon innings ebbed and flowed and produced incredible moments of drama that completely encapsulated what English village cricket should be about.

After losing several early wickets to the patient yet effective bowling of Saldanha, Wembdon were looking in a perilous position at about 60-4. Coker - tails firmly up and scenting the prospect of being in the pub by 7pm - were keen to finish the job but did not reckon on a near 100 run stand by their young opening bowler and Jenkins, the secondee from a higher team. Both batted fantastically well, playing straight bats when necessary but also flailing the ball when it was there to be hit.

Suddenly, the game was on a knife edge. Kearvell, by this stage displaying his customary signs of stress - cap on, cap off, head shaking, boots scuffing the turf - played the perfect hand by bringing Patten into the attack. Jimmer buoyed by his breathtaking batting, produced a wonderful spell of 3-21 which removed the danger man Jenkins and restored order to the Coker attack.

With one more wicket needed, Kearvell threw the ball to Kilbee (now officially and unequivocally retired as a bowler no matter what attack we've got!) who seemed determined to raise the drama levels even further. Bowling one long-hop and one full bunker which were rightfully dispatched to the boundary over the head of a red-faced, foaming-mouthed Kearvell, the game was back in the balance.

Patten had seen enough however and keen to finish the game and get in the pub, took a blinding catch at mid on from Kilbee's next ball, leaving the visitors stranded at 200 all out and firmly cementing his man of the match performance.

Coker, ecstatic with victory, enjoyed an excellent evening at the Foresters Arms and continue to look forward to the rest of the season.

Chris Kilbee