

Hetairoi vs Checkendon

After the failure of a couple of aging bodies in the lead up to this game, we gratefully took to the field with 11. Peter Beck welcomed as a late stand in.

Uncharacteristically dry, and playing on a used pitch that had only yielded 200 runs in total the day before, chasing seemed a better option. . And so into the field we went.

Hetairoi who have played this fixture would readily recognise the approach of our hosts. . . And it's not safety first. A fine opening spell by Simon Evans (the younger) taking three wickets, was only eclipsed by John Ball who took over from Rafe, pleading to be taken off after four grueling overs into an arctic wind.

John's bowling, slowed into the head on wind, induced four batting errors two bowled of various bits of batting kit, and the crucial wicket of their top scorer caught at deep square leg by Simon Evans (the younger).

An initial scoring rate of over 8, came under control, Peter Beck proved a useful replacement when Simon Evans completed his seven over spell. His two wickets took Checkendon to the brink and it was left to Karim replacing John to provide the coup de gras, two balls only the first whacked for six the second holing out.

Special mention should be made of Janaka's valiant efforts as stand in keeper. A stumping off Peter's bowling, a highlight. Jana - Kumar surely.

And so to the batting, the score board showed a target of 139 to win, it seems subsequently that that was 140.

Resting the bowlers, Dylan, David, Simon Evans (the older), and Jana-Kumar, all found the going tough, and only requiring 4 an over seemed harder than it should have been, but 3 an over in the first half of the innings hardly left a mountain to climb, but wickets falling engendered a nervous uncertainty. David's lengthy string of dots at the start of his

innings, was not entirely lacking in enterprise. . Never in the history of cricket have so many cover drives been attempted for so little contact (David assured us they all go off the middle of the bat in the nets. . We believe you David . . Not)

Cometh the hour, and cometh Simon Evans (the younger). Ok simon has notched up two hundreds on this ground in the last two years, but his calmly compiled 50 brought us to the brink of victory with five overs to go. That he skied a catch when we all thought the scores were level, gave John ball the chance to come in and stroke his first ball through the covers for four and a hard earned two wicket victory.

Sent from my iPhone