

Bledlow Ridge Match Report 2026

Another lovely day in the Chilterns saw the Hetairoi X take on a Bledlow Ridge XI captained by the evergreen and well known to the older Hetairoi, John Rolfe.

A parched outfield and used wicket beckoned as we lost the toss and took to the field. The wicket performed exactly as expected. Rather like some of our senior members "low and slow" was the order of the day. The bowling unit led by Simon Evans and Will Ball did well to bowl full (mainly) with little luck. The odd short ball sat up and was usually summarily despatched over the desert surrounding the green oasis of the square. Simon bowled one opener, and despite many fine deliveries, Will went wicketless. Charlie Fryer replaced Simon and as it became clear that at the pavilion end there was little for the seamers, he was replaced by our welcome debutant mukkunda.

So with the seamers booked in at the far end and Mukkunda weaving his magic at the pavilion end, the course of the arch was set.

Mukkunda took four wickets and a stand out moment was the triumphant stumping (that signalled the declaration by Bledlow Ridge) by stand in keeper Will Fryer. No stump left undemolished.

Overall, restricting the home side to 192 in just over 40 overs on a fast outfield with only ten fielders was just about as good as we could have expected.

A most welcome tea followed before the task of chasing a target that amounted to 5 an over.

I'd like to report that we made a good fist of it, but after losing the prolific Simon Evans jnr in the first over and stand in keeper Will Fryer not much later, hopes rested on the Ball family to take us close. When Will fell just after the drinks at the start of the final 20 the score on 87, the impetus of the innings was lost. The middle order came and went all too quickly. John reached his fifty with the ben stokes moment of the match when a misdirected throw from a fielder was deflected for 4 buzzers taking him from 47 to 52.

When John departed shortly after if remained for the tail to salvage what we could. Mukkunda bagged a duck on debut, but Charlie Fryer and Matt Robinson got us to the penultimate over. With 4 balls to face your correspondent negotiated them and Matt calmly blocked out the final over for a hard earned draw, even the Rolfe tactic for the final ball of putting fielders back announcing for Matt's benefit "it's a free hit last ball". Matt was not to be suckered.

Well done to all who played, this fixture deserves a full turnout!!