

## Marshalswicket – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018

This match was eagerly anticipated by the opposition as their chance to redeem themselves after a crushing defeat to us earlier in the season (we got them all out for 21 and then pasted them in a beer game).

Anil, their still smarting leader, declared that they would give us 'a right good dicking' as revenge. This seemed like an unusually tame comment from Anil and one can only assume that Mr Curtis kindly toned it down before delivering the message to us. Poor Diprose Jnr however is currently sitting a school detention for trying out some of his new vocabulary, innocently picked up while listening live to Anil's match report.

To be honest, for the Saddo team, it was really just another day at the office. The game started 22 minutes late, this time no fault of Thameslink, but instead of Capt Peel's Parking or lack of. Not content to park within a marked space he chose instead to be the architect of parking mayhem.



That said he went on to captain the team well, winning the toss, and delegating all further captaincy duties to Michael. Needless to say however, Mr Longbottom fine tuned the field at his own discretion and perhaps reflects that fielding, from a Saddo viewpoint, is mainly about discussing and debating where best to place fielders as opposed to actually fielding the ball.

But we batted first and in doing so showed our strengths. Opening pair Graham and Colin went in to face what was to be the strongest bowling offered by the oppo. Colin survived one over with a run to his name before being bowled in what was to be a wicket maiden. James L took to the crease but by the end of 4 overs we only had 12 runs.

However, with a change of bowlers the run rate picked up steadily and before we knew it both Graham (32) and James (25) retired making way for two lanky gits, Peter and the Shed to try their luck. Taking just a couple of steps each time upping the run rate wasn't really difficult for these two. Both enjoyed retirement after facing a mixed bag of wides and wtf's. Peter survived a direct hit from one of the Shed's boundary attempts but, being 5% fit these days, he was ok.

Robbo and Busted were up next to see the innings out – Robbo reaching a respectable 19 with a huge six into the neighbouring field but Busted only facing enough to get one run. Michael, Jan, Chris C and Tim W did not get to bat but even so the total at the end of our innings was 173 for just 1 wicket.

So we took to the field feeling semi-confident – knowing that we'd set a pretty tough target but also aware that this was a different oppo team with some new faces who might be able to handle a bat. We needn't have worried. Within the first three overs we took 3 wickets – Tim an LBW and Jan two wickets in one over, stumps and a catch by Graham on the one.

Enter batsman number 4, a usually competent batsman who, in our first game, was out not just once but three times. Keen to banish this record from his copybook he set about running up a respectable score before retiring. Mark had done his best with some tight bowling and Michael had done his best offering the oppo a chance to swing the bat...but no catches just runs ensued. I understand from Mr Curtis that this was for personal statistical reasons.

Saddos kept their bowling reasonably tight - the exact details are difficult to decipher from the scorebook legend but certain events stick in the mind. There was a run-out during Peter's bowling and Jan took a fantastic catch off Graham's bowling and would be 'man of the match', if it weren't for that small gender question mark.

Chris and Busted kept the run rate down with Busted taking a critical wicket. At some point during this spell their returning retired batsman was run out – another key wicket as he had accounted for a third of the oppositions runs. Credit must go to wicketkeeper Mr Longbottom who, having missed a catch earlier in the game, made sure that no further chances were missed. This general eagerness spread to the rest of the team with a comedy series of wildly inaccurate over-throws allowing the opposition to treble what was really only one run.

And so the last two overs fell to Colin and the Shed, comfortable in the knowledge that the required run rate was almost certainly beyond the opposition batsman. Not content to rest on their laurels they both bowled well, Colin bowling out the now gibbering wreck of a captain, Anil. A strange bout of football between Jones and Curtis on the boundary (world cup fever?) took the ball over for 4 runs during the Shed's bowling. He's not upset but has had a quiet word with Jan to be particularly vigilant with regards to fines for these two players at tonight's Sandridge Triangle.

The game finished with Marshalswicket only reaching 121 so a good win for us, and plenty to reflect on for Anil and his team.

Just a couple more things to mention – Tim Winfield's stunning throw to hit the wicket and stump-out the batsman in the last over; Tim Winfield dropping a catch after spending too long discussing retirement with Jonno on the boundary; the relentlessly glaring sun that made any piece of fielding a miracle; a Great Tit was in evidence in the boundary bushes; and the Sandwich Triangles washed down with Heineken and marshmallows...

Thanks also to Anil and his team for a great evening – we know they'll be back but we'll be ready too!