

Park Street vs SDFWP, Thursday 22nd July 2021, Aldenham School

“Ok. The venue is Aldenham School. Make sure that you are there at 5:45 for a 6pm start”, said the match manager. At 6.05pm he finally arrives with his tartan shopping trolley after helping a man with a baby.



It appears that the baby wasn't playing but his dad was able to join in when he wasn't on nursing duties. A beautiful venue. Flat, hard pitch. Outfield a little slow. Oppo had a range of ages as did we with Joss joining us. Of course, this was a return to their alma mater for Peel senior and Peel junior. We kept off the stories about hot buttered crumpets and stuck with cricket.

Bottom and Yips to open. Bottom looking on fine form, striking the ball well as well as stealing the strike. After 3 overs, the Yips had faced one ball. Bottom gave his wicket away with a tickle to the keeper but not before getting a rapid 17 runs. Time for Paggers. Also time for live text commentary on WhatsApp from Mr Church.



If you want to relive the drama of the match, check the WhatsApp feed. Some noted that it was Peter's greatest involvement in a match. I couldn't comment. For drama, Peel senior was given out LBW by Roffers. Looked plumb to me but the oppo generously disagreed with Roffers and let him stay. They also introduced their youngest player, a 12 year-old, who has the makings of a capable bowler. Nonetheless, Paggers took advantage as did Peel before Paggers was bowled by some accurate bowling. "Aim at the sticks. That's all you have to do with these guys" came the cry. Meanwhile Peel had been there for 7 overs and still only scored 6 runs. Run-rate definitely a problem. He looked the part, as always, but this wasn't transferring into rapid runs.



Joss joined his dad and pushed the scoring along. After 9 overs, Peel senior breaks into double figures! Peels, father and son, fell in quick succession (Graham caught and Joss bowled to a good delivery). James Grant came in, looking like he was going to score a hatful but was bowled before his time and CRS got off the mark before also being bowled. Perhaps they were right? Just aim for the sticks is all you need to do. Busted arrived. He wasn't going to be messed about. He was going to play tennis with a cricket bat. It worked too, until he put one down a fielder's throat. Glenno, on the other hand, had seen enough of this inept batting and decided to go for it. He was wearing his glasses, and this helped him actually see the ball. Jones came in to assist. Or try to run him out. His pirouette (see later) was a joy to behold. Glenno powered on and the score moved from a woeful 107-7 after 17 overs, to a much more respectable 145 after 20 overs, Glenno slapping 7 boundaries in his 35 not-out, Michael not-out on 8. Cracking performance and it put us in with a shout.

The opening overs were tight. As we were to find out later, these batsmen could bat so it was good that they were held back. WG, parsimonious as ever gave away very little and took a wicket in his second over. Busted couldn't get his run-up right but still kept the batsmen under control. Glenno chucked it in quickly and gave them little room to respond, having a valuable maiden over for his second. Paggers had to be on his toes to stop the zingers and was advised to "give a few feet" (and then a few more) for Glenno's bowling! Bottom arrived just as they were starting to cut loose. A good delivery was dispatched over his head for 4 and there was a look of pain on his face. "It wasn't a good enough delivery, it was in the slot to be hit", he moaned. Well, yes, but that didn't work for us, where "in-the-slot" meant bowled! Roffers also had the unfortunate timing of bowling whilst they were in "power mode". Peel senior tried to prevent them hitting the ball by rolling it along the floor. Yes, the Yips was back. Corporal Jones (aka, "The Wicket Purchaser") bowled some tight deliveries. He got a wicket in his first over. The incoming batsman asked, "is he spinning much?", to which the other batsman said, "the only spin was when he was batting". CRS decided that he would become a wicket purchaser since Jones had obviously given up on it and also bought a wicket in his first over. He finished with good figures. Apparently, it requires Busted to tell him that he is a crap bowler to get the best out of him. We'll remember that in future. Peel junior deserves a special mention. He had a very difficult first over. The radar was off and he had an over that most would want to forget. He was asked if he wanted another one. He showed a huge amount of character to come back and then bowled an excellent, tight over that may well have helped save the match. Good on you Joss! You'll go far (as long as you haven't inherited the yips!). At the death, WG and Glenno came back to try to secure the win. Tight bowling and another wicket. Jones getting heated. "Every run counts!", he screamed. "Come in to get the ball. Don't wait for it!". He shouldn't have fretted. Between Joss, Glenno and WG we came home with 10 runs to spare. A fine evening, some fine performances and then off to the pub for a cold beer and some tasty food. Thanks PSD. Nice one.