

Match Report

CACCC v Barnes Occasionals CC
At Kingston GS Thames Ditton on 31 May 2009

Result: Drawn

CACCC: 283-5

BOCC : 148-2

J Whiting 106

N Goold 96 and 2-28

Jolyon Rebbeck 40

If Michelin rated cricket grounds they would probably have little cricket bat signs rather than stars and this would have three of them. What more could we ask for, a good true wicket, fast outfield and spectacular setting by the Thames with views of Hampton Court Palace over the trees along the river bank. A big thank you therefore to Mark Lichfield and the BOCC for inviting us to play.

Having lost the toss again we were put into bat and it immediately became clear that Julian Whiting, who opened with Stephen Bate, had been watching far too much IPL on television (!) because this was a hitting spectacular the likes of which I do not think anyone watching had ever seen. We were treated to a truly impressive display of shots all round the ground off the back foot, front foot and down the wicket. A massive slog sweep for a maximum clearing a distance of over 100 metres almost dislodging a tile on the groundsmans house provided the second 'champagne moment' of the weekend. Julian's hundred in a remarkable 41 balls included 12 fours and 6 sixes.

If this was not enough there followed another epic innings from Nick Goold. Sponsorship from M&H must surely be in the reckoning. In relative terms this was a more 'classical' innings with some particularly impressive driven sixes onto the adjoining pitch which actually became quite hazardous for the players during his and Julian's onslaughts. We found out though that they were the Charing Cross Hospital team so reckoned they could take care of things in the event of any mishaps. Unfortunately Nick missed out on a century but recorded 4 sixes and 12 fours in 55 balls for 96.

Jolyon Rebbeck in his first game for CACCC played a very useful supporting role hitting 44 off 55 balls including 3 fours with some fine looking strokes off the back foot.

I declared at tea with the score on 283-5 so we had probably getting on for 40 overs to bowl BOCC out. To be honest we never really looked like achieving this. Our bowlers were accurate and Andrew Gow in particular impressed with his inswingers. There was a strong breeze across the ground from the river end and Paul Costelloe and Omar both found it difficult to prevent the ball drifting away harmlessly to the off side.

It was not until Nick Goold came on that we really looked like seriously troubling the batsmen. He deceived one of their openers who was clean bowled with a viciously inswinging stump high full toss and had their number three caught off a well disguised slower ball. Unfortunately two slip catches were spilled off his bowling which if taken would have put pressure on the mid order but it was not to be and the game ended in a draw.

