

Gentlemen of West London vs Cairns Fudge

Kingston, Sunday 15th June. Gents Won Toss

The Gents of West London provided the opposition on this historic day for the Fudge, our first real London fixture. A sharp decline in living standards in Oxford allied with the lure of the big smoke has led to a number of original Fudgers residing in South London. Whilst a number of inter club games have been played, this was to be our first against outside opposition.

Kingston provided the setting for the opening match of the season between the newly christened London and Oxford Cairns Fudge factions, so returning to the ground for our first game was apt. Mild weather conditions, a good wicket, beautiful ground and we were ready to make history.

Two debutant Fudgers opened the batting for us. Bodie, a regular during early season nets and Steve Kent, his Aussie mate, strode out to the middle. 'Snarler' Snelling opened the bowling for GWL providing steep bounce and pace, troubling both batsman and quickly taking Bodie's wicket for 1. Our first ever Aussie managed to stick through the initially troublesome opening period, gradually finding his timing and began to take the fight to the attack. Having previously held a no Aussie policy, our amnesty paid dividends as Steve 'Kenny' Kent went on to score a magnificent 53, with a range of well hit boundaries. His score provided the fulcrum for our innings, with Jonny departing on a duck and Andy Kemp a 6, it was time for some runs....

Enter 'Team CFS' (Cairns Fudge Swashbucklers), Mark Carroll stepped up to the plate hitting a swift 23 with a notable 6 off his legs. Then came the spiritual and physical embodiment of Team CFS, Mr Jimmy Fargher himself. True to the legend he came out swinging, scoring a vital 33 only getting out with three overs to go when he tried to smash Hibbert, the outstanding bowler of the day, narrowly missing and being bowled. A personal best for Fargher and a knock warmly appreciated by the opposition on his exit. Jim Clark and Howells both fell to Umpire Carroll decisions, the former very harshly and the latter probably fairly, one can't help but think that Mark had tea on his mind when deciding their fate! Correal left without a score, ably assisting in support of Fargher for a while, only to be found trying to sell his cricket gear later. Jensen and Jarred ended the innings with ten not out and a duck respectively.

Ending on 167, tea was taken in the local pub with slight disappointment that we didn't get closer to 200 on a good pitch, still an innings to be proud of and a terrific debut from our antipodean newcomer.

With the pressure on to take wickets, the opening ball from Jensen was clipped straight back for a nervy yet well held catch. Game on. After a perfect start things got increasingly hard as Ravi Inkollu played himself in and found there were runs to be had with some superbly struck boundaries. Luck wasn't on the fielder's side as a number of edged chances either fell just too short or too high for the slip cordon off both Jensen and Clark.

Wickets were to be found on either side of the drinks with changes of tact in the bowling proving crucial, Fargher delivering with his trademark aggression and enthusiasm provided an impetus. Duly allied with the introduction of Kent who in his own words could 'throw down a few leggies', indeed he can. Not content to star with the bat he changed the game with the ball as well. Whilst GWL may have been feeling comfortable at the drinks break, things changed rapidly as the Cairns Fudge rallying spirit kicked in and Kent found his

way to a 3 wicket haul. Bodie, having swapped wicket keeper duties with Jim Clark (who made a superb contribution behind the stumps) succeeded in baffling the bats with his sly mix of wides and on the money balls; an unconventional form of attack which garnered 2 important wickets. One of which was caught superbly by Jonny behind square leg. Jonny, who before the game declared he couldn't bowl but could certainly catch proved thus as he dived forward and snaffled a wonderful chance. Combined with a strong all round display in the field Jonny was swiftly renamed Jonty.

Throughout this GWL had crept closer and closer to the target, finding themselves on 166 with an over to go. Bowling out the last over was Jensen who succeeded in getting Snarler Snelling with the first ball and up stepped a GWL debutant Gary Lee. Three balls later for no score and the crowd were at fever pitch, Erika Hertl even glanced away from her book for a split second. With the fielders tight in a ring, Mr Lee chose the penultimate ball to dash hopes of an incredible draw finding the smallest of gaps to drive through. Heartache and heroics with one swing of a bat.

A fantastic day's cricket from which both sides could leave with heads held high, new friends garnered and moments to be cherished. The first of many rematches we hope and the beginning of a new era for Cairns Fudge, as the London faction take steps into a bright new dawn.

Snarler Snelling on the game - "One of the best ever"

Cairns Fudge; Bodie 1, Kent 53, Andy Kemp 6, Jonny 0, Mark Carroll 23, Jimmy Fargher 33, Jim Clark 0, Daf Howells 1, Matt Correal 0, Kristian Jensen 10 not out!, Jarred 2, Extras 36, **166 (34.3 overs)**

FoW; 10, 62, 67, 105, 119, 120, 131, 148, 157, 166

Bowling; Snelling 1-21, S Patel 0-29, Wright 1-21, Inkollu 2-27, Sciberras 0-13, Shanvare 1-18, Hibbert 5-11

Catches; Denton 1, Hibbert 1, Inkollu 1

Gents; Shanvare 0, Sciberras 29, Inkollu 63, Wright 6, Hibbert 2, *S Patel 16, Buck 0, †Denton 10 not out, Snelling 7, Lee 1 not out, Burman did not bat, Extras 30, **167-8 (34.5 overs)**

FoW; 0, 104, 112, 126, 135, 143, 152, 166

Bowling; Jensen 2-21, Clark 0-33, Kenp 0-18, Carroll 0-13, Fargher 1-25, Kent 3-25, Bodie 2-16

Catches; Jensen 2, Jonny 1,

Gents of West London Won by 2 wickets