

# From the Boundary Rope

69th EDITION

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*Love is in the air.....!!!!*

*On behalf of the Stag Members, we would like to congratulate our Chairman and Luka on their marriage on Friday; to these two wonderful people we wish them many years of happiness in wedlock.*



Day 1 - 1<sup>st</sup> XI vs Strandfontein CC played at MCC 'A'

## MILLIES BOWLERS APPLY THE PRESSURE

The lads arrived at 8h30 with bags full of confidence ready to play the second two-day game of the season. With 3 changes in the team through illness and work commitments this gave McKinley, Pietie and Copeland a chance. Thank goodness the toss went our way as the pitch was a tad green and tacky.

Millies to bowl first and with the first ball of the day there was a wicket as Zarin snicked the batsman off to the keeper. Some negative batting and good bowling saw Strandfontein struggling. Pietie on debut bowled well and claimed 3 sticks. Robin and Bedders as per usual took a couple and Copes picking up his first wicket of the season. Holman wrapped it up as Strandfontein were all out for 87.



Millies got off to a flyer until Robin was bowled for 14. Another quick wicket fell as Morgs edged to gully. Crowley and Bedford then looked to build a partnership. Bedford hitting it to all parts of the ground as MCC went to 63. Crowley "caught" for 11 and Bedford LBW for 33 saw MCC 4 down. Barnes looked good until he was caught on the boundary for 12. The next partnership was key as Zarin and McKinley put on 69 runs for the 5<sup>th</sup> wicket. McKinley out for 21 and Zarin 49 got MCC to a comfortable lead. MCC 159 for 9 declared.

Strandfontein had a minimum of 24 overs to bat out before the end of play. Robin snicked the opener off for 4 as MCC were looking to roll through them. A few overs by Pietie until the ball was thrown to Sir Holman. Some more negative batting saw Holman grab a quick 3 sticks. A rash shot in the last over of the day saw Bedford claim his first wicket in the second innings. End of play Strandfontein 46 for 5.

Another good day at the MCC for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI and we look forward to wrapping this one up!

Report compiled by: Damian Crowley

***(With all respect to Bellville South of last week and now Strandfontein, this Stag team need to pull up their socks and get ruthless. We had Strandfontein 34/7 and allowed them to score 87???? The next two matches are no walkovers and we need to lift the intensity and all eleven must show that they want to be and deservedly are in the First team. Lets beat the weather and Strandfontein come Saturday and then start digesting Ottomans and Edgemead – a very important month of cricket lies ahead.....!)***

## Day 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> XI vs Old Mutual Police played at Old Mutual

### OLD MUTUAL POLICE FEAST ON THE STAG

Rocking up at the field we all had a good look at the pitch as well as the nice short straight boundary. Pitch looked ok, but because of weather conditions we hope to win the toss and have a bowl. Unfortunately the toss went the other way and found ourselves batting.

Our openers Nyland and New comer Brett struggled a little with the well disciplined bowling attack of Police. We started playing some shots and with no help of the pitch doing funny things with a few balls keeping low and the odd bounce now and then the wickets started to fall. We found ourselves all out for 76.

We knew we had to put a hard performance in the field. Denver and Renick took the new ball a Denver making the first break thru followed by Renick a few over's later. A partnership developed and Skipper brought on the first change with Wesley, but only for him to struggle with the poor run up conditions and see the ball find the boundary to often. Skip then brought himself on and slowed it up a little with 2 great c&B.

Police showing no respect for the bowlers started to play a couple of shots. Achmat came to the crease and blazed a quick 37 before middling one to Mid wicket and Jason taking a blinder of a catch fracturing his finger in the process. Nyland also attempted a catch only to find himself fracturing his hand.

Police Declared on 217 after 60. We knew we had to knuckle down and see the 18overs out for the day. With Nyland out of the batting attack we sent in G Smith also new comer to the squad. Unfortunately having no bails for the day due to the wind a claim on being bowled saw him back in the hut. We sent in Denver as night watchman. The pitch was really playing tricks with the ball almost rolling thru seeing batsman after batsman getting dismissed. Jason pulling a Graeme Smith came in to try and put some dignity back into the score line but it was in vain, Unfortunately MCC were done for 27/9 with Nyland Retired hurt.

Special mention must go to Renick for picking up 4 wickets. Police being the better team on the day deserved a well earned victory beating MCC by an Innings and 100 runs. 2<sup>nd</sup> team with an eye open will knuckle down for the next game.

Report compiled by Wes Groenewald

***(Guys, no pitch excuses.....OMP scored 217 on the same pitch, it all comes down to application and wanting to be there. We need to open more than an eye and do more than knuckling down, something in the line of pulling our finger out our and so on.....!!!! This does happen, but in this case we***

***can't say there was application and that Stag commitment, sorry but just not good enough for the feeder team to the first team!!!!!!!!!!!!!!)***

## **Day 1 – 3<sup>rd</sup> XI vs Northerns Goodwood CC played at Monte Vista**

### **THIRDS SHOW CHARACTER ON THE DAY**

On arriving at the lovely Village Green setting that is the Monte Vista Cricket Field for an early start to accommodate the rugby fans, the lack of a greeting from the opposition made it crystal clear that the day in contrast to the setting would be characterised by some hard-nosed cricket.

Northerns batted first and Peter Hillman and Richard Van Soest did the honours with the new ball. Hillman made an early breakthrough a good catch at slip by Jason De Vries. Van Soest by his own admission swung the ball miles but went unrewarded in terms of wickets.

With Northerns making good progress Sias was introduced to the attack and had an LBW appeal upheld to get rid of Alex Abel just as he was threatening to go big. Craig Zeeman had replaced Van Soest and was keeping it tight and during one of his overs a moment of brilliant fielding went unrewarded when Sias made a great stop at short cover and while still prone whipped in a return over the keepers head. Keeper Broker caught and threw the ball with extended arm to dislodge the bail as the batsman tried to drive into his crease in swimming pool fashion. The umpire called for the assistance of the 3<sup>rd</sup> umpire who failed to answer his call. The attempt at humour was lost on the fielding side.

Although feeling aggrieved Milnerton stuck to their guns and did not abuse either batsman or umpire. Sias eventually broke this stand thanks to a good catch in the outfield by George Kamfer. Sias picked up another wicket caught Zeeman in the outfield and Marko also picked up a stick caught behind as Northerns plunged from 121 for 3 to 127 for 5 off of 29 overs.

Unfortunately the next 16 overs yielded 142 runs as Sias tiring in the heat took a bit of tap especially in his last over which he later called his Mandela over. It had something to do with Mandela's cell number on Robben Island. For further details please consult Sias in the Clubhouse. Or contact George Kamfer who completed his apprenticeship on how to scale a fence with barb wire on top. It was also during this period that Craig Zeeman and Kevin Barnes were seen jogging along the streets of Monte Vista looking for a cricket ball. Eventually Peter enticed Holtrop (128) to try and hit a six into the wind and Richard Silver took the catch at Long on. Northerns still managed to score ten runs an over off the last two overs to finish on 269 for 7.

During tea time someone suggested it was beer o'clock and this was reinforced by the start with George and Justin Broker being out in the first three overs. Jason de Vries and Kevin Barnes also went cheaply to leave MCC tottering at 54 for 4.

Chris Silver hitting the ball very sweetly had scored 38 of these runs. Sias put his head down and grafted for 55 minutes for his 15 runs. Marko hit a swashbuckling 20 and Peter Hillman 12 to assist Chris Silver who had promised so much the season before last without delivering and who had allegedly done it before during a sojourn in the UK but never for MCC. He never lost faith in his own ability he was confident

he could do it and on the day was determined to pull it off. He hit 12 fours and 3 sixes in a magnificent innings of 104 to record his maiden century for MCC. In doing so he kept MCC in the game as MCC had progressed from 6 for 2 to 172 for 7 by the time he was dismissed.

The follow on avoided Craig Zeeman used the long handle to score 15 not out to see MCC finish on 190 for 8.

Report compiled by: Kevin Barnes

***(Well done Mr Chris Silver, a maiden century to assist the team, also to the lower order for supporting him to his century. This game is not lost, give it stick next Saturday!)***

### **3A - 4<sup>th</sup> XI vs Pinelands CC played away**

#### **TEAM PERFORMANCE EARNS ANOTHER VICTORY**

An early start confirmed for 11am and everyone involved tackles the trip to Pinelands High School hoping to find it in time.

Vlam loses the toss, which was a bit of a relief as his memory of the field involved a 3A encounter around 5 seasons ago where an “elderly” fourth side were set a target of 200+ to win...which we almost did! The track a pure synthetic which resembles the same astroturf material used on hockey fields. Bounce is high and it would turn out to be a fast track to bat on.

The Pinelands skipper pondered his coin on the track and chose to bat.

The Millies side, even though we were missing some key players in Emil, Gabriel, Sias, Leon B and Carl, were stronger in the bowling department than previous weeks. We bargained on getting them bowled out quickly so as to keep the pressure on our somewhat brittle looking batting order down to a minimum.

With Kean Hayes promoted to opening the batting it made sense to give another bowler the new nut. So Gavin opened the bowling with his skipper and from the first ball Pinelands were happy to try and see us off without taking too many risks. Vlam struck in his first over trapping the opener LBW. Pinelands 0/1.

By the tenth over Pinelands crept to 19/1 before the combination of Vlam and Rick removed their Nr 3 for 11. Vlam bowled a slower ball which saw the batsman skip down the track, swished and missed and Rick removed the bails. Pinelands 19/2 after 11 overs.

By the 18<sup>th</sup> over Pinelands managed to scratch their way to 52 before they lost their 3<sup>rd</sup> wicket. At the drinks break Pinelands were well behind a decent runrate at 59/3.

Andre Groenewald struck twice in 2 balls in the 21<sup>st</sup> over to leave Pinelands reeling on 63/5 – both wickets coming courtesy of the safe hands of Rick behind the stumps. The next 6 overs saw Pinelands consolidate before they lost their 6<sup>th</sup> wicket with their score on 84 in the 27<sup>th</sup> over. With every bowler bowling short stints of 4 to 5 overs at a time we did not give the Pinelands batsmen any time to get too used to a particular bowler and it reaped real benefits.

Pooven, Kean and Slim all bowled tight lines and chipped in with wickets to bowl out Pinelands for a below par score of 133 in 39.4 overs.

Special mention must go to their opening batsman, Hirschy. He rode his luck and should have been out around 11 times with balls landing in open spaces, catches not going to hand (admittedly a bit of a worrying aspect) and edges flying between slip and gully a few times. Yet, he got bowled off the last ball of their innings for 52.

Our batting order saw some major shaking up as we missed a few top order batters. Slim was promoted to Nr 3, Kean to opening the batting and everyone else that can hold a bat went up the order one or two spots. To call our tail a long one would be unfair to some of the guys as they can all bat, but their lack of time in the middle over the last few weeks was a concern.

Leon and Kean made their way out and Kean immediately impressed as he batted to instruction from the first ball he faced. Leon looked a bit out of sorts on the track, compared to his usual self, but still managed to bludgeon a couple of hefty boundaries before getting out for 13 (17). Millies 38/1 after 8 overs.

Slim went out to face the quickest bowler Pinelands possessed. A cause of concern to most guys in the side on THIS track. The first ball Slim faced he squared up to it and punched it over point for 6! Remarkable shot. Kean went about his business unperturbed by the bowlers, leaving the balls outside off stump with authority.

In the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> over we lost both Kean - 17 (36) – and Slim - 17 (13). Millies 52/3 after 12 overs. This caused two new batsmen in Vlam and Rick being out in the middle. Rick took the patient route making sure he rotated the strike when needed and seeing off the quickie by leaving anything that won't hit him or the stumps. Vlam played within himself at the start – content with defending as much as possible without becoming too bogged down.

What followed was a reasonably paced 48 run partnership – one that was given impetus when Vlam decided to tear into a Pinelands spinner – taking 24 off one over.

When both Rick – 5 (26), Vlam – 47 (35) and Andre - 2 (13) went in quick succession Millies were in a spot of bother at 107/6 after 24 overs. Richard Dale and Rudi H steadied the ship. It took them 7 overs to whittle 10 runs off our required total before Rich edged behind – 5 (23).

Gavin joined Rudi in the middle. Rudi started off shaky but towards the end of his innings he started to find the middle of his bat more often than not and without going

large steered Millies home with 6 overs to spare. Millies 137/7 in 34 overs and winning by 3 wickets.

The game was played in a decent spirit and everyone, apart from the dropped catches, contributed to a good team performance.

**Bowlers:**

G James – 2/18 in 8 overs (4 maidens); G Armstrong – 3/25 in 7.4 overs

**Batsmen:**

G James – 47 (35) - (5 x 4's, 3 x 6's); A Mudali – 17 (13) - (1 x 4's, 1 x 6's)

Rudi Hartzenberg – 17\* (30) – (1 x 4's)

Report compiled by: Gert James

*(Well done Gert and de span, that is now 3 out of 3!)*

**3D - 5<sup>th</sup> XI vs Willows CC – Opposition no show – Default win**

**10 POINTS BUT NO CURRIE CUP!**

Following a phone call from at 13:00 on Saturday afternoon informed the Skip that the opposition only had 4 players and would not be making the trip. Vice Captain Wray van Schalkwyk resigned himself to another week without a run and the Fighting Fifts enjoyed a few cold ones on the balcony supporting the 1<sup>st</sup> XI in full view of a prepared but deserted MCC-B track.

After playing all 21 fixtures in the 3D last season, it is very disappointing to see no shows and default wins dampening the spirits of these committed players!

Report compiled by: Mike Reynders

**3D - 6<sup>th</sup> XI vs Durbanville CC played away**

**STAG DOWN BUT NOT OUT!**

We arrived at Durbanville ready for a good day's cricket, light breeze across the field, perfect weather. Two captains did the toss and Durbanville decided to put MCC in to bat. Opening the batting for MCC Chris Coetzee and Mike van der Merwe (every time I right that name it feels like the next sentence is going to be....walks into a bar....sorry Mike ☺ ). Their two opening bowlers are a bit nippy but nothing dramatic...Mike decides in the 3<sup>rd</sup> over runs are coming too slowly and takes a two that he wasn't gonna make. MCC 11/1 after 3 overs. A very confident Rob Lucas walks out to the middle, Rob and Chris don't take too many chances and put on a 48 run partnership before Chris gets caught on the boundary. MCC in a good position 51/2 at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> over, with lots of batting to come. However the addition of just 16 runs for the loss of 8 wickets saw MCC bowled out for a pitiful 88.

With very little to defend Rob Lucas and Chris Coetzee both bowled their full 8 overs on the trot ending with figures on 24/1 and 27/1...with very little to defend, Durbanville cruised to an easy victory passing the MCC score in the 21<sup>st</sup> over. TFC awards all round, everyone on a team needs to take responsibility for the team, and we cannot depend on one or two players to do it on their own, every week. NEED TO SEE MORE HEART FROM THIS TEAM!!!

Report compiled by: Chris Coetzee

***(Guys, it's easy to sit in the armchair and comment, but knowing all of you guys, I know the improvement will come, the talent available will blossom and this team can still finish in the top 10 come the end of the season!)***

### **3C - MCC Toshiba Tigers vs Belhar CC - Opposition no show – Default win**

#### **MILLIES TIGERS MAKE IT 4 FROM 4!!!**

A new look Millies Tigers arrived at the Gary Kirsten Oval to overcast conditions ready to take on the selfish Belhar team who refused to move the game on a Sunday.

13h00: Stumps are out, boundary rope moved.

13h10: Tigers are changed ready to play.

13h20: New Keeper Cameron Taylor is looking sharp in warm ups. No Belhar. Claim the Toss and decide we are going to bowl first and be back at the club for the rugby.

13h30: Manager Harris is in the change room trying to get hold of Belhar.

13h45: No Belhar yet, new Tigers recruit, Tony Akerman, hurts himself in warm ups.

13h55: Belhar Chairman doesn't know where his team is and forfeits game.

14h05: Tigers claim VICTORY-4/4!!! THE HOFF whips out a 6pack of Black Label-really Hoff...why not more.

Rest of Afternoon: Paul "Huge" Huges, Jason "Strippies" Gorden, Christo "Cyclops" v/d Berg, Tony "New Tiger" Akerman and Shaun "Stalker" Harris back at the club supporting the 1<sup>st</sup> team!

Thank you to my starting 11 for willing to give up the finals on Saturday. I know you guys were gutted when the Belhar team didn't show, but it just goes to show what a great club we all play for with all the committee putting in all the hard work behind the scenes to make sure everyone is sorted. Thank you Craig Phillips, Kevin Barnes, Mike Reynders, Brett Pap and Leon Russow (can't leave out the barman!!!)

Report compiled by: Shaun Harris

***(Great to have your support on Saturday, keep up the wins and as said before complete "The Mission to 'B'"!!!!)***

Until next week.....

From the Boundary Rope was compiled by  
Coach Craig

Thanx for the input of the respective  
captains.