

From the Boundary Rope

37th EDITION

**Day 2 - Fixture 1 'C' MCC 1st XI vs Strandfontein CC played at the MCC Oval
Saturday 7th February 2009.**

TOP ORDER FAILURE ASSISTED BY POOR UMPIRING....!

Millies skipper winning the toss and again having the confidence to bat first, it was going to be up to the new opening pair namely, Braham and 'new boy' Craig, to set the tone of the day. Playing on our second choice pitch due to a NO ROLLER situation we went out to see the first 15 over's and then work further.

The first time this season that MCC has recorded an opening partnership of 50 and at 11h15 drinks were served with the home team on 56/0.

(Message at drinks was let's push forward and not lose any wickets which would undo this good foundation..!)

Well words were not even cold yet and Nyland was bowled and Justin was given out to a real "baddy" decision first ball up!!!!

Millies from 56/0 now found themselves 56/2 and all the hard work up front was being nullified by the opponents.....and then Wessel's removed Braham and Millies were now 57/3 in 24 over's!!!

Fires coming in at number five, his new "pensioner" position, had a look at the bowling for a couple of balls and then launched and in the next 7 over's took the score to 105/4 when he was undone by a good delivery. Fires scoring 35 in even time with 30 in boundaries.

(We have 5 more innings in the season and I think the Fire has just been lit!!!!)

Another shocking decision would follow, with Bevan being given out caught by the keeper after clipping his pad in the shot, just when he was looking to get on with his innings!

Millies 105/5.

The all too mentioned Belting Supplies boys were back in business and saw the next 13 over's through and took the score to 134/6 when Leon was caught off Melenephy for 14.

Newly promoted McKinley came in and after 6 over's together with Zarin saw Zarin go on another big one only to be bowled for 43. (An innings of 32 in boundaries.)

Millies 165/7. Thereafter, Copeland departed and Keulder got a Leg before off an inside edge and the innings came to a very confusion reigning end.

Sign language confusion, umpire insistence and declaration were the order and Millies were 180/9 declared!!!!

(Yet again, we are leaving ourselves short of what should have been!!!!)

Enter Holman with the cherry and during his second over he must have been thinking what now having been dispatched for 10 runs in the first 5 balls of his second over, but the man was not fussed and took Cullis LBW with the sixth ball!!!!!!

11/1 in 3 overs!!

It was not until the 15th over that the Spin twin partner was successful with a LB shout and SCC were 43/2.

The third, fourth and fifth wickets fell within the 25th over and a good partnership followed for the sixth stand. A serious cramp cut short Fillies innings and Strandfontein with serious application of crease management saw the day out on 148/6.

Excellent bowling from the Millie's boys with Holman 2/32 in 14; Keulder 2/32 in 13; Fires 0/20 in 10 and Copeland back to near best (according to him) at 2/23 in 15.

(Well done guys and Craig my money is on you to demolish the Strandfontein batters in the second innings!!!! I see some big bowling points coming our way again next week with 12 over's to go!!)

**One day Fixture 1 'C' MCC 1st XI vs Montrose CC played at the MCC Oval – Sunday 8th
February 2009**

MILLIES THROW AWAY POSSIBILITY OF A FINAL SPOT!!!!

Having played three and won two, this could have been our ticket to the finals, but the team did not want victory on the day!!

With the Montrose skipper winning his first toss of the season and our debutant skipper Justin preferring to bat second, was asked to pad up and have first knock, or should we say third usage, of the pitch.

Playing on the same pitch as Saturday with no extra preparation we went into bat!

In the 6th over of the game Craig Nyland was caught and Millies were 18/1.

Three over's later with the addition of seven runs Braham was bowled by a brilliant off-cutter.

Bevan joins Justin and a partnership was now required. Justin hit a spectacular six hitting the vibracrete in front of the squash club only to be undone a few balls later by a late replacement fielder or fumbler on the third man boundary. No luck for Justin this season!!!

Millies 37/3 in the 12th over.

Hardenberg had a responsibility on his shoulders now, especially as our other explosive batsman was unavailable for the day, he preceded to set about his task.

A 32 partnership between him and Bevan followed in 20 minutes, before Zarin skied a catch to be taken, Monties were happy to see the back of him scoring 26.

Veteran Baird joined Bevan and they were quite happy to nudge the ball around for singles and keep the scoreboard ticking.

Ten over's later with the score on 92 Leon witnessed a most bizarre shot played by Bevan, a ball most juniors would have dispatched, but Bev decided to lunge this hook where to we still do not know, but succeeded in doing a 360 degree and in the process hitting his stumps.....!!! I am sure Bev will be haunted by this shot for weeks to come!!

Millies 92/5 in 28 over's. Our target of 180 was still possible, but.....

Leon followed balls later with no addition to the scoreboard.

Keulder was sent in to do a job and after doing some damage to Gomes confidence, Gomes had the last laugh with a ball that should have still been travelling, but instead bowled Cornel for 13.

Copeland being the only other batsman who worked to push the total on and when he fell Millies were all out for 127.

Well, we needed to come out and take wickets and although the bowlers tried the total was never going to scare Monties and they easily cantered in for victory with 7 over's to spare and only 5 batsmen back in the hut.

Richard again the pick of the bowlers with 2 for 23.

(We played 4 and won 2, some would say not too bad, but what we expect of the Stag this is disappointing and we know what could have been.....!!!!!!)

Hopefully the concentration and effort will now be generated into beating Strandfontein and Bonteheuwel and then the clash of the neighbours!!!!)

Day 2 - Fixture Res 'B' MCC 2nd XI vs United CC played at MCC 'B'

''2nd TEAM STRUGGLE AGAINST UNITED''

Going into this crucial fixture against United CC without our two star batsmen we knew that the other senior players had to step up and contribute. Things started well by winning the toss and Skip Sias elected to bat.

With the pitch looking reasonable, openers Brett and Gareth Swardt started off well and at 13/0 we looked comfortable. Gareth was first to go after 30 minutes and this started the collapse that we thought will never happen. Cliffie and Shivon followed soon and at drinks the score was 23/3 after 70 minutes. With scoring opportunities rare we lost our way and with the exception of Brett (15) the rest of the batting order fell apart with everything going against us. Good bowling from United, a sub-standard pitch and poor shot selection all contributed to our demise. 45 all out in 26 over's.

With 20 minutes to go to lunch we new wickets was important and Christo obliged by removing 2 wickets in his 2nd over.

After lunch we bowled too many bad balls and with the pitch flattening out United started building a substantial lead. Sias and Shivon curtailed the run rate to an extent, but with United hitting regular boundaries they were right on top of us. Our bowlers battled hard and with Wesley Green breaking his finger in the field we knew it was not going to be our day. After 53 over's we dismissed them finally for 180 and with a deficit of 135 runs after the first innings we were almost out of the game.

With 26 over's left in the day we hoped not too lose any wickets but we failed to achieve that and four small bags was racked up with some honesty from our player's. Clifflie battled to the end of play with Powelly and with Wes Green not being able to bat next week we will need a small miracle to get anything out of this game.

On a sour note the umpiring by the United players was shocking to say the least with some obvious cheating occurring. Next week each batsmen left will try their best to do the unthinkable and pull of a draw like only the 2nd team know.

One Day Fixture Res 'B' MCC 2nd XI vs Cape Town CC played at Bergvliet

“111 WAYS TO FETCH LEATHER”

With some late pull outs we went to Cape Town CC on Sunday in this dead rubber with only victory on our minds. With a beautiful batting pitch and fast outfield we knew that a high scoring game might have been on the cards. Skip Sias lost the toss and CTCC decided to bat first.

Opening bowler Shivon claimed an early scalp and with some good fielding we managed to run out the other opener to leave CTCC in big trouble at 14/2. With 16 year old Brendon joined by Mark we looked at finishing the CTCC early. Unfortunately we did not realize that this youngster Brendon had other ideas. He proceeded in hitting all our bowlers to every part of the ground and with no bowler being spared he brought up his fifty in no time.

With voyager miles up for grab we cashed in as Brendon hit Christo(92m), Jason(90m), Sias(81m), Rich v Zoest(73m) and one of Wes(71m) onto his own dad's car roof that left a big dent. **(Distances measured by Google Earth, the satellite just escaped the six off Christo – refer pic below!!!).**

Brendon slowed down but still reached his ton in good time. The young man played an innings that will be remembered by all and even though we were on the receiving end it was great to watch. We started putting some pressure on them with some great bowling and good fielding and with a stroke of luck we grabbed the wicket of Brendon(111). He was at the non striker's end when captain Rickus thumped the ball back to Jason Maritz who dropped the catch but the ball deflected onto the stumps to run out Brendon, the best dropped catch ever!! At 177/4 with 13 over's left we looked like chasing a big score but the bowlers stepped up to restrict them to 218/9 in their 45 over's. Sias (9-1-44-3), Shivon (9-1-41-2), Wes (9-0-41-2) and Christo (9-2-20-0) all came out of the innings with good figures after Brendon's onslaught.

Our run chase started well with Brett(16) and Gareth Swardt(13) getting us off to a good start. 34/0 after 7 over. Unfortunately we had a big collapse and with Sias joining Gavin Paulse at 97/6 we had to do something. Sias hit a blistering 21 of 9 balls before trying to make it 27 runs in 10 balls and being bowled. Jason joined Paulse (17) and with Jason (23) hitting some big sixes of his own there was some hope. Unfortunately Jason was caught right on the boundary and with Christo and Richie tying their best at the end it was just not enough. MCC 162 all out.

On the day there was nothing between the two sides except for Brendon. Skip Sias would like to congratulate his team for never giving up and fighting to the end.



Day 2 - Res 'F' MCC 3rd XI vs Rygersdal CC played Playhouse

The start was delayed at the Playhouse due to a school game but Rygersdal CC showed true sportsmanship by accepting the situation without even a murmur of a complaint. They then won the toss and predictably elected to bat on a steaming hot day in Milnerton. Having done so they proceeded to make the most of the conditions in scoring 197 for 9 off of their 45 overs.

Peter Hillman made the initial breakthrough and Craig Zeeman took the second wicket. Thereafter Brian Fulton took two wickets during a good spell before he broke down with an ankle injury. Richard Silver and Chris Silver each took one wicket but the top wicket taker on the day was Gavin Palse with three in a welcome return to the crease after correcting his propensity to bowl leg side wides with some hard work in the nets.

Gert Badenhorst also making a welcome return to the team as opposed to the crease picked up two catches, as did Craig Zeeman.

MCC in reply got off to a flying start when Gavin Smith obviously affected by the sun and the absence of Charl Willoughby decided to take the attack to the bowlers. His approach rubbed off on Old Man Barnes and together they put on 52 off of 10 over's for the first wicket. Smith ending up on 37 and Barnes 27.

The carnival to a certain extent seemed to be over on the departure of Barnes as the weather became cooler and wickets started to fall at regular intervals. At 110 for 8 MCC were in serious danger of not picking up a single batting point on the alleged Mecca of batting strips when Craig Zeeman joined No. 9 batsman Peter Hillman at the crease.

Now Hillman was in a jolly mood after taking some pain killer medication and decided that attack was the best form of defence. He hit 12 runs off one over and followed this up with 20 in the next over from that end. Zeeman chipped in with five off of the over in between plus an extra as the pair took the score to 148 in the three point five over's before Zeeman perished.

Thereafter Brian scored a single off of a no ball and Hillman tried another big hit only to be caught at long on for 32.

MCC 150 all out in 30 over's a deficit of 47 runs on first innings and definitely finishing second on the day.

Thanks and full marks to Keith Silver for scoring.

(Must be noted that MCC rewarded Mr Silver's excellent loyalty to the team with a Club after match shirt, thanking you Sir!!!)

3 'B' MCC 4th XI vs Bonteheuwel 'B' CC played at home

In absolutely scorching temperature we waited on the Bonteheuwel charges to arrive. With an N7 highway that was clogged up like a rhino that had too little roughage for breakfast it was only at around 14:00 that we all managed to leave the club for the Monte Vista / Edgemoed field.

A quick phone call from Vlam to the Edgemoed secretary(?) revealed that the pitch, recently, was the venue of a 300+ score. Whether or not the score was posted prior or after the last match some of the 4th team players had played on that field remained a mystery and it was with apprehension that we inspected the pitch. Upon closer inspection the pitch revealed a healthy covering of grass, but the grass barely managed to cover up the indentations, ditches and other weird and wonderful offerings the pitch had on offer. A 300 pitch...hell no. Maybe...well...if you had 4 year olds under arming balls at you!

Vlam lost the toss and the opposition captain decided to bat.

Being a rested bunch, seeing as last week we all had a bit of a breather, we went in to field under a relentless sun.

The first over was bowled without any incident, but the 2nd over, being bowled by Carel van Niekerk, caused some serious fireworks. There were two errand balls, but also four balls that were right on the money and the result was a swift removal of two batsmen.

In the third over Vlam struck, uprooting the middle stump off the inside edge, and Bonteheuwel saw that the light at the end of the tunnel was dimming.

Over number 4 went by without any serious problems. But then Vlam struck twice in two balls to render Bonteheuwel helpless at 12/5. The hat trick ball was only narrowly kept out to keep the state of their innings unchanged.

Van Niekerk was not done yet. In the 6th over he removed two more batsmen (by now the captain, according to our guest scorer, was dreading going back to their club as he knew his team would be in for some serious ridicule). The spinners in the Millies side were speaking as one when they enquired about a possible bowling change, seeing as "pace was clearly not working today".

The 7th over turned out to be an eventful maiden with balls missing everything more often than not. But then Van Niekerk took two more sticks in the 8th over to reduce Bonteheuwel to 12/9. There were three hat-tricks on offer on Saturday, but unfortunately all went a begging.

Vlam's 5th over went for 10 runs which included a huge inside edge past the keeper for four. Van Niekerk, aiming to pick up 7 sticks, had to make do with a sharp run out when he collected off his own bowling, took aim and hit the middle stump on the full with the batsman out by about two meters.

Bonteheuwel all out for 22.

A mixture of arrogance and a pretty crappy pitch was the main reason for some serious butterflies in Millies' tummies when we were reduced to 13/5 in the 6th over. Everyone looking solid but being either outdone by a magic trick off the pitch or a rush of (sorry Craig for stealing your phrase) pooh to the brain!

In the end our batting depth secured us a win at 24/5 when Vlam and Wilson guided the team home, Wilson depositing the bowler over cow corner for six to bring an abrupt end to an abrupt game. Millies victors by 5 wickets.

Hats off to the Bonteheuvel team for sticking around to be humiliated again in a Pro15 game. Guess that next time someone offers another game they would decline and trade that for a few cold ones back at their club.

Such is life; teaching you some valuable lessons on the way.

(Well done Vlam and players and also hats off to our Bonteheuvel buddies. I hope the first team clash against the same opposition (not team) in two weeks time has much the same Bonties total!!!!)

3 'D' MCC 5th XI vs Rylands 'B' played at Monte Vista

FIGHTING FIFTHS BREAK RECORDS AT THEIR NEW HOME OF CRICKET – BOSMANSDAM HS

As they say in the classics, records are meant to be broken and Saturday 7 February 2009 has got to go down as record breaking day for MCC and the Fighting Fifths. The first record to be negotiated was the extreme ambient conditions (Neil Manthorpe's on-air description for F. hot!). The iafica weather site or the guy with the ghastly yellow tie on SABC may not have declared 34°C a record, however for the "serious" cricketers of the Fighting Fifths these conditions were bordering on the unplayable.....!

Skipper Mike received life threatening SMS's and phone calls in the morning about winning the toss and batting first! Fortunately no blood was spilt, the opposition arrived at 14:10 and a relieved skipper claimed the toss.

On paper it was a new look team with 4 changes from the victorious side of the previous week. Gert Badenhorst and Kean Hayes were promoted to higher honours in the 3rd and 4th span respectively. Andre T went fishing (the real hook line and sinker stuff not the usual outside off stump stuff). ***(I was wondering whether Barnsie gave him absence of leave.....!!!!)*** Just as well he is not Australian otherwise the DC might have to watch out for the drunken radio interview next week!

Trevor Batt was a late withdrawal with an injury on Saturday morning. Their spots were taken by returning Fighting Fifters, Ginja Ninja Ben Seller and Shaun Kelly. Debutants Rory Keane and Gammie Singama made their belated start to the season. The batting was rearranged accordingly and Wray van Schalkwyk took his guard with Leon Oosthuisen. Leon went out in the 7th over with the score on 33. Emile Petrus was next to the crease and for the next 31 overs Wray and Emile provided their span maats, sitting under the cool shade of the trees, with unimaginable record breaking entertainment. In the process both batsmen reached 3 figures (2nd record for the day - 2 centurions in the same team). First to the milestone was Wray with his second century for MCC. ***(Well done Wray, those planned net sessions are obviously working for you mate, well done especially as ton's have been amiss from the club this season!!! Goes without saying that an immediate 2009/10 pre season invite has been posted to you for the first team fitness sessions.....look forward to seeing you there!!!!)*** Emile followed some 8 over's later for his maiden club 100 in just his 2nd game for MCC! ***(Well this is history, can our President/Statistician Tony confirm when last, two batsmen from whatever team scored centuries on the SAME day or even the same match???)*** The fielding got their 2nd wicket with 2 overs to go, eventually hanging on to a catch. Emile was walking back to the tress for an exceptionally well played 106 (13x4, 5x6), ***(Invitation on its way to you Sir as well!!!!)*** ending a 2nd wicket partnership of 213 runs (record 5th team partnership for any wicket). Skipper Mike contemplated the declaration with the score on 246, but as No 4 batmen Jason de Vries had been padded up for 38 over's (question mark about is faith in top

3?), he was given a run in the middle. A further 10 runs were added to the total and the Fighting Fifts posted a record score of 256/2 off 40 overs. The other not out batsman was legend Wray van Schalkwyk on 120* (175 mins, ±100 balls, 4x6, 15x4, 1x2, 34x1). The cricketing term "carrying his bat" is used for a not out opener at the close of the innings. This however needs to be reconsidered since Wray could hardly lift his bat towards the end let alone carry it! In the post match interview the question was posed to Wray as to what his preference would be, 40 over's running 34 singles in 34°C or 40 overs fielding at 1st slip.....the smile reflected the real answer, while the body will take a week(s) to convince the mind otherwise! Well played matey, the knock of the decade!

An upbeat fielding side took to the field at 17:15 with some merciful cloud cover and a thunder storm looming on the horizon. Opening bowling duties were shared by Andre Groenewald (Snr) and SK. With a big score to chase, the batsmen were under pressure and a direct hit from Emile at point saw the 1st wicket fall. Change bowler Gammie took the next wicket in his second over, while SK remained tight but wicket less at the other end. The Ginja Nija picked up the 3rd wicket before Skipper Mike took the ball in the 22nd over with the opposition on 128 chasing the target.

Eight over's later the Skip ended up with a maiden 5 wicket haul recording figures of 8-1-30-5. ***(A hearty congrats to the most "back seat" cricketer of the club, Mike I have always seen that you put others before you.....A real Clubman that has the respect of his comrades!!!! Yes if we went to war, you would be my choice to lead the Stag in!!!!)*** The milestone was assisted by great catching from the Ninja and Emile Rhodes in the field. Veteran Vernon was given an over to avoid the TFC, this was followed by debutant Rory picking up his 1st club wicket. The Ninja and keeper Leon then combined to see the Fifts to victory with a sharp stumping. Rylands bowled out for 194. With the match cards were signed, the boundary markers and stumps collected, the thunder and lightning made an appearance equaling the fireworks witnessed earlier on the pitch. Brilliant game of cricket, even better way to spend a Saturday afternoon!

3'E' MCC 6th XI vs SWCC - Match Conceded by SWCC.

(Hey Cameron, I trust that the team still claimed their 12 winning beers.....???)

One request to all you players – please attend practices to the completion of the season, as there are teams that can win some silverware this season.....imagine holding the Stag high!!!!!!

One, two, three.....MILLIES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Until next week.....

From the Boundary Rope was compiled by Coach Craig
Thanx for the input of the respective captains.