

From the Boundary Rope

129th EDITION

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CLUB CAPTAIN'S WEEKEND ROUND UP

1st Team: An unbelievable victory, pure guts and passion to bowl Strandfontein out for 48 chasing 63 well done however batting needs lots of application and shot selection leaves a lot to be desired. Huge amount of positives to take forward.

2nd Team: For me the highlight of the day, in 20 seasons at MCC this was the most remarkable days cricket I have seen, the attitude , application and passion shown by the whole team needs to be commended , makes me proud to be part of the stag family , 2nd team losing by 1 wicket after being 130 runs behind at the start of the day.

3rd Team: Another great effort fighting all the way and narrowly missing out on a win , I was lucky enough to watch one of the best seam bowling spells I have personally witnessed , Darren Brandt take a bow.

4th Team: Need lots of work especially on attitude and application when it comes to batting, they seem lost and not very committed, plenty room for improvement.

6th Team: Never really in it about 50 runs short of a decent total but good fun had by all.

(Thanks Wray, you have definitely started your campaign hitting the road running, great stuff The Rope is very happy to publish your weekend synopsis! Keep them coming!)

Day 2 - 1 'C' MCC 1st XI vs Strandfontein CC played at MCC 'A'

GUTS, GLORY AND PRIDE!

Day 2 is upon us as we travel to the hallowed grounds of TMP. A deficit of 17 runs, 1 wicket down and a hungry Strandfontein await us. We arrive to find a pitch with very little preparation (***3rd week in a row that pitch contractor as ignored instructions from MCC Grounds Coordinator***), more grass than Hershelle Gibbs keeps in his kit bag and a howling wind that BMW would be lucky to have in their wind testing tunnel. Nevertheless we had a job to do, so after some footie and a warm-up we settle in the change room for a chat from our Coach Craig and Craig Naicker. Guts, glory and Pride were the key words for the day.

We lost our skipper on day one which left The Don and The Portfolio at the crease. We heard after the game was completed that Portfolio sent The Don a BB message on Friday night saying, "tomorrow you be Gibbs and I will be Kallis"!!!!

Unfortunately Gibbs didn't add too much to his score and was dismissed for a good looking 34. Zarin came and went, Kallis tried to hit one onto the racetrack but missed, The Pinnacle was beaten for pace or lack thereof and chipped one to cover, Brett didn't trouble the scorers, Justin got a roughy to be dismissed for a very good looking 30 on his birthday. Craig didn't hang around long, Josh was dismissed shortly after hitting two glorious boundaries and Morne brought out the dancing shoes again and was bowled and Jason was left stranded. AGAIN!

Millies posting 131 all out, leaving the Seagulls having to score 63 to win. A simple total really but small totals are dangerous totals. We sit quietly in the change room during the break with the wind knocked out of our sails but not the fight, we all know cricket is a funny game and today was to be an extremely funny day.

Morne once again opens proceedings and get hit for four on the first delivery. Was this going to be quick? Robbie opened up into the wind from the other side and struck early thanks to The Pinnacle taking a good catch at point. Morne bowled another over, Zarin came on from his end and bowled three while Robbie kept it tight on the other side. We go to lunch with the Seagulls on 31/1.

Needing 32 further runs for victory, Strandfontein assured us they would finish quickly. This is where things got funny. Kallis bowling spin from the clubhouse end and our fearless leader from the other side, the two would bowl until the end of the game. Robbie picked up 2 wickets in his first over after lunch and Kallis would pick up 1 before a further run was added. Some more wickets fell and a panic run would result in a run out. Before we knew it, we needed 1 more wicket and the Seagulls needed 16 runs. The field is brought out to give the batsmen a single as we wanted the non striker facing up. With 15 required for victory, Robbie picked up the last wicket and a distraught Strandfontein was beaten. Milnerton ecstatic!!!

The seagulls all out for 48. Millies win by 15 runs. A most unlikely victory. Never say Die boys!

Notables:

Gibbs with 34 runs

Justin with 30 runs.

Kallis with 2/14 in 8 overs

Robbie with 7/12 in 12 overs.

A truly inspired and incredible bowling and fielding effort made this possible. Robbie took 10/55 in the game. Well done Skipper.

REPORT COMPILED BY BRETT PAPAYANNI

(Guys our batting was poor – 77/9 in 24 overs, that is Pee poor! But yes the balls shown in the winning bowling innings was hot and that is what I asked for – GUTS, GLORY & PRIDE.....! Now with a possible shake up in the texture of the team, we will go and challenge Tygerberg CC who have momentum and confidence, lets break them down and spit them out!!!!!!!!!!!!!!)

Day 2 - Res 'B' – 2nd XI vs WPCC played at MCC 'B'

2ND XI FIGHT HARD AND ALMOST CLAIM AN IMPOSSIBLE VICTORY

Resuming the follow on innings on 34/0 still 105 behind Swartz and Karel started solidly. Gareth especially protected his wicket as though his life depended on it (but more about Gareth'S knock later). Karel rotated the strike nicely and punishing the bad balls eventually succumbed to probably the slowest bowler many of us have faced, caught in the covers for 46. Well played and a good partnership that took us to 58/1 in 34 overs.

Skipper Leon came in but did not stay to long missing one of those super slow balls out for 5. Young Eric joined Swartzie who was still as solid as can be. Eric played a big shot or 2 but in the end also got done by the "slow" bowler getting a leading edge caught at point for 16. Jaime in at 5 and looking very solid playing some nice shots but unfortunately was caught in 2 minds half playing at a ball and left his gloves out with the ball just brushing his gloves caught behind for 16. 85 for 3 when Wes joined Swartz who was still grafting ever so hard.

Wes also went quickly for 2 and the next 2 batsman Leon / Gavin also went quickly. With score 116/7 after 67 overs Kaiser joined Swartz and played a quite entertaining cameo with some lusty blows that included 2 sixes and ending up on 38. The score now 168/8 after 78 overs. Swartz was next to go for 25. A marathon innings that lasted over 6 hours and more than 80 overs at the crease. Great concentration from Swartzie considering all the chirps he had to endure and the countless number of balls he faced. Denver also played a few nice shots and was unlucky to go out for 16 leaving Kean stranded on 3 not out (a very solid 3). MCC 188 all out leaving WPCC 50 to win and could it be a repeat of what the 1st XI did to Strandfontein.

WPCC got off to a solid start and it was only in the 8th over that the 1st wicket fell when Kaiser got the opening batsman out LBW. With little runs to defend and wickets required skipper Leon gave all the bowlers short spells (except one bowler of course who got to bowl 10 overs).

Eric replaced Denver who only went for 5 runs in his 4 over spell. Kaiser after 6 overs with 1/13 was replaced by Wes who only bowled 3 overs for 9 runs and was replaced by skipper Leon. In the meantime young Eric took his 1st wicket in 4th over and Leon took 2 wickets in his 2nd over. Eric after 5 overs had figures taken 1 wicket for 3 runs (the last runs he would concede on the day) His next 5 overs each included a wicket and not a single run conceded. WPCC all of a sudden found themselves at 44/9 and the game finely balanced. Skipper Leon in his 6th over unfortunately bowled a no ball beamer that went for 4 and tied the scores. Another single was taken in the over for WPCC to claim victory by 1 wicket.

Unlucky for MCC but a great performance on the day. We showed some real guts batting and can only improve from here. Bowling wise defending a small target was never going to be easy but our bowlers all bowled well making it very hard for WPCC to score runs. In the field everyone gave 200% and even Leon R could roll back the years taking a catch in

the slips off Eric's bowling that probably counts in his top 3 (and Eric you still owe me a drink for that and I owe you the plaque for your batting).

If we build on this performance there is no reason why we could not win the majority of our remaining games. Well done team, a great day !!

And well done to Eric with the following bowling figures: 10 overs, 5 maidens, 6 wickets and conceding only 3 runs.

REPORT COMPILED BY LEON RUSSOUW

(Club Captain said it all. Well done on great Stag fight back!)

Day 2 - Res 'F' – 3rd XI vs CC played away

OPPORTUNITY MISSED

Durbanville started their second innings with a 9 run lead. Millies game plan was simple once again, we bowl channels apply pressure with field settings and take our chances. Darren "the stripper" Brandt and Gavin "Livewrong" bowled extremely well first up, and applied the pressure from ball one! No chance for scoring easy runs anywhere in the field. Within the 5th over we had them 6 for 3. Darren bowling balls that would have had first class cricketers in trouble, swinging away through the air and nipping back off the seam at a frisk pace! On the other end Gavin was bowling his channel teasing the batsman to drive through the covers. These youngsters really took to their job, and executed the team's game plan without fault, many saying that - they matured as cricketers in this spell.

Darren bowling 16 overs on the trot for 34 runs and a superb 5 wicket haul. Gavin bowling 12 overs for 42 picking up 3 wickets Hilman with a solid 4 overs 1 run and one wicket Credit must be given to these bowlers for trusting in the game plan fully and for then executing it, a real "thorough bred" performance with the ball. Millies bowling them out for 84. So with the job done with the ball it was up to the batters to take home a "very rare" victory from Durbanville. The captain said to his players that we must not forget who we playing against here, they will not fold over and make it easy for us.

Chasing 93 to win. Unfortunately the batsman did not stand up and take it upon themselves to bat through and take Millies to a desired victory. In the end it was left up to our bowlers to try and win us the game at the end with the bat. We came extremely close and our stag fight and spirit was their to the end...

Not one player didn't give his all, yes boys we as individuals could all have played or contributed more with the bat however this is not through a lack of desire or a lack of ability, pressure got to us as we batted slowly and lost momentum. I am proud of each and every one of you, and I know that you all left everything you had on that field. We played an extremely hard opponent (top of the log) and we showed ourselves just what we capable of. To lose by 4 runs is heartbreaking and I love the fact that each player was

hurt and disappointed; this just shows how much you guys are committed to your cricket and team!!

We can only take away the positives and the great match points achieved. I'm honored to lead you men and next week we take what we have learnt and we continue forward. Well played gents, heads up!

Thank you to the Club Chairman and Club Captain as well as everybody else who came down to support us at an away fixture, this was appreciated by all of the 3rds.

REPORT COMPILED BY JJ REBELLO

(Now that is the Stag cricket that I have loved for 6 years, well done guys! You guys can take a positive out of this that you ARE up there with the log leaders, now work on displacing them at the top! Although a team game, well done to the two youngsters, Darren and Gavin, keep working on your game.)

3 'A' – 4th XI vs Pinelands CC played at MCC 'A'

Match Lost – No report received

3 'A' – 5th XI vs UCT CC - Bye

Game rescheduled for 17 March 2013

3 'D' – 6th XI vs Tygerberg CC played away

THE SIXES GETS MAULED BY TYGERS

With our regular skip being unwell, yours truly was co-opted to do the honours although I was also crocked by being pinned in the nets on Tuesday. Anyway we arrived at Florida Park to a hard, dry wicket and a heavy outfield. We lost the toss and were put in by Tygers.

Our openers were Josh Karpas, who likes to go in at the top of the order and no-feet Mike van der Merwe. Unfortunately Josh gets a first-baller and Mike struggles to get going for a streaky 9. Jordan van Vuuren starts off with a 6 and a 4 but is yorked. Jordan even Jacques Kallis has to block yorkers! Dwayne Blomerus got 24 runs being the only other batter to get into double figures and five batsmen did not trouble the scorers. Millies posted a disappointing 70.

However, we came out fighting and Tygers were 5 sticks down with some way to go when their skipper got stuck into our bowlers and posted a quick 22 which took the game away from Millies. Another 30 runs were needed to make the game a real contest. Gerhard Meyer and Dwayne Blomerus bowled tight overs with newcomer Chris McKay picking up 3/27 (I hope he has recovered from his stump run). So it is back to the drawing board with our batters needing to dig deep and build partnerships to post totals that we can defend and some catching practice!

REPORT COMPILED BY VERNON VAN DER BERG

(Uncle Vern, that only 30 runs has haunted us as well, but bring the boys across at 18h30 and we will see if they any better in catching than the Fifts were last week, see you guys tomorrow.)

3'A' – Tigers XI vs Green Point CC played away

POINTERS HAVE TIGERS IN A SPIN

We arrived at Green Point very pleasantly surprised by the beauty of the oval and also the facilities. These are the “good cricket days” that we looked forward to while slogging away in the lower leagues. We won the toss and opted to bat first.

Daz McKinley and Peter Gillmer headed out to lay the foundation. They did a solid job with Daz scoring all the runs. Peter was well caught in the slips for 2, but they had put on 19 so we were away comfortably. Crax then went on the pull way too early in his innings and gloved one down the leg side to be out for 1 and when Daz was bowled by a jaffer for 21 we were in spot of bother at 40/3. Cometh the hour, cometh the man with the calm head - Steve Gregan. He and Bryn “Chamo” Whithair went about rebuilding the innings and did a very solid job sharing a 48 run partnership.

However, the introduction of some quality leg spin heralded the beginning of the end. The batters found it difficult to score and in our attempts to score off him and also the bowlers at the other end we ended up gifting them a few wickets to be bowled out for 125 with 10 balls remaining in our knock

Notable batting performances:

Steve Gregan 53; Darren McKinley 21; Bryn Whithair 16

We headed out to try and defend our sub-par score on what was a very good batting wicket. Our openers, Champ and Slinky Taylor bowled well and built the pressure. We were fairly convinced we had their opener caught behind for 0, but it was not be and he went on to make 51 which in the end proved fairly pivotal in the outcome. We rotated the bowlers quite a bit in an attempt to pick up wickets as that was our only chance of victory. We were not going to restrict them. It was, unfortunately, just one of those days as all the shots that were hit uppishly found space and we also put down a chance or two so they cantered to the win by 5 wickets with 12 overs to spare. Thoroughly outplayed in the end.

Notable bowling performances:

B McCracken 4-0-13-2; S Harris 5-0-25-2; B Whithair 4-0-22-1

REPORT COMPILED BY BRETT McCracken

(Was that Leg Spinner's name Derek Watling!!)

Until next week.....

From the Boundary Rope was edited by Coach Craig

Thanks for the respective input from the roaming reporters / skippers.

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