

The Philanderers Cricket Club

30th Anniversary Season

Sunday 16th August 2015

FP Fenner's Ground

The Philanderers C.C. vs. Middleton's Marauders

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The Philanderers C.C. vs. The Rest of the World XI

If 2015 looked a long way away when The Philanderers first took to the field against Ely on the seventh of June 1986. It perhaps looked just as distant when the club last played at Fenners to celebrate its' 25th anniversary. In fact the programme notes reveal a sense that this might be somewhat of a 'last hurrah' ominously stating "*the trouble is that there are only a few matches left in the box...*"

The 'box' however has yielded plenty more in the intervening years (77 games and 44 victories to be precise) – and the thirtieth season has seen a clutch of other records which pay testament to the present strength of the club, including the most number of members (67), tourists (26) and even fixtures (27). From such a position of strength it was no surprise that Phil had surpassed himself by assembling not one but two Philanderers teams to mark the occasion, complete with four umpires from the clubs ranks, two scorers and at least four Philanderers amongst the opposition. Adding in the number of supporters who joined and this was surely the largest group of Philanderers ever assembled on a single day.

Despite these positives the day almost got off to a terrible start, as Phil fell victim to his own over-ambitious admin, scheduling a start time at least an hour before he, in his own words, '*had ever got out of bloody bed before*'. This resulted in him arriving at 9.59 in a somewhat grumpy mood and spending the next hour grunting and swearing at all and sundry, especially Tim Middleton.

His mood was eventually brightened by an excellent batting performance by The Philanderers against the might of Middleton's Marauders. In the interests of getting everyone time in the middle captain Sir George forcibly retired batsmen at 25, a milestone reached by Rob Gill, off only 8 balls, Jack Dillon and Ken Siddle. Ken's knock was perhaps the highlight of the day, as the long time Treasurer of CUCC, who was unbelievably playing in his first match on the ground, played a delightful innings, finishing with a glorious straight drive, a shot which was not to be beaten for beauty in the 800 runs that were to come. In all nine Philanderers got a bat for the loss of just four wickets, including Hegarty reminding us that some things never change, by being caught at mid-wicket, the final score being 145 at the end of 20 overs.

In reply Middleton's Marauders began with the eponymous opening pair of Middleton Snr and Middleton Jnr, who struggled to deal with a Philanderers attack that boasted almost 700 wickets between them in Messrs. Redmayne, Burnett and Pearson. Perhaps intimidation led them to target John Greene, on a somewhat less impressive zero club wickets (though in his defence this was only his second appearance), as he emerged the pick of the bowlers with the impressive figures of four overs, five wickets for nine runs. At the other end Burnett bowled tightly for no reward and Sir George himself picked up two wickets. Ed Dodson got the last wicket to fall in the final over with the score on 107 to give The Philanderers a comfortable victory by 38 runs.

After an excellent lunch the afternoon began with The Philanderers batting first against a strong looking Rest of the World XI. In the pavilion Phil was salivating - at not just through advancing age - but partly also excitement at what he claimed to be *'The best Philanderers XI to ever take the field'*. This claim sent lifer Redmayne into a most indignant rant about the late 1980's vintage and how they would have *'wiped the floor with these youthful layabouts'*... whatever the reality, as that wise old sage Gimson pointed out, *'you just can't compare eras'*.

Back to the cricket and opener Skinner fell for just four, emulating David Warner with a slightly odd shovel off the top edge into the leg side, which was easily caught by the bowler. This bought Coe to the crease to join Hammond and together they busily set about building a solid foundation. Will was the first to depart for 41, including a delicate reverse sweep and some beautiful cover drives, with the score on 103. Freed from his over-bearing captain James was now able to express himself at the other end, scoring the bulk of the runs in a partnership with Richard Hesketh that was worth 97, before he departed for a quite magnificent 117, including a towering six off the bowling of Alan Clark that sailed over the pavilion. Hesketh now shifted gears and accelerated, advancing his score to 68* at the close, thanks to support from Sherwin (16) and Rutt (10), and The Philanderers to 272-4 from their allotted 40 overs.

Though a good score The R.O.W. batting line-up was full of pedigree, none more so than in the form of David Henry John Baker who strode out to open the batting against Rutt and Campbell. Hammond and Hesketh were scarcely able to contain their excitement as their idol started brightly, peppering the third man region, before, after seemingly set for a century, he was caught in the gully by Davidson off the bowling of Campbell. This bought Foxton captain Webster to join Billy Norman. Webster particularly looked in sublime touch and The Philanderers bowlers, enjoying a flat pitch at Fenners rather less than their batting counterparts, didn't look like making a break-through. Just as the R.O.W. were getting on a couple of rank balls from Dean did the damage, as a full-toss first accounted for Norman well caught by Cassels, and then Webster slapped a long hop to Hesketh.

Despite these crucial wickets the R.O.W. marched on, with Osborn looking like he could still propel them to their target, now just over 100 away and 10 overs to get them. With the pressure rising captain Hammond stroked his ginger beard and made a double change, introducing Davidson and Gimson, his two most reliable bowlers of recent seasons, who he

had inexplicably ignored up until this point. Was this clever man management from Hammond, or had he simply forgotten about them? We don't know, but the change worked. Davidson took a wicket with his third ball and then ran through the tail, finishing with 3-34 and Gimson bowled tightly as ever taking 1-28 from his five overs, including the crucial wicket of the dangerous Osborn. With the game won Cassels bowled the final over and somehow took a wicket to leave the Rest of the World 240-9 from their 40 overs and giving The Philanderers victory by 32 runs.

Overall it was an excellent day made possible thanks to the supreme organisation of Phil and the spirit and camaraderie displayed both on and off the field... the very same two reasons why the club has flourished these past 30 years, and if current form is anything to go by, will do so for some years to come.

George Dean