

The Philanderers v Rest of the World XI - Thursday 8 July 2010  
Fenner's Cricket Ground

Rest of the World XI 235-8 (35 overs)  
David Norman 76 & Daniel Mortlock 46  
Alan Clark 3-42, George Pearson 2-34 & Hugo White 2-40

The Philanderers 188-7 (35 overs)  
Charlie Pearson 67 & George Pearson 41  
Tom Dann 2-22, Bernie Spratt 2-35 & Gerald Coteman 2-48

The Philanderers lost by 47 runs

After hot, dry weather for over a month, the early morning of match day dawned grey and grizzly, prompting those who had spent months organising this special 25th Anniversary match to ponder whether the Gods really were on their side. However, by the time the teams and guests assembled for a special commemorative photo in front of the Fenner's Pavilion, the sun had emerged and was to remain out for the rest of the day.

An excellent pre-match lunch was enjoyed by both teams, joined by a number of other former or current Philanderers and assorted guests, and the Rest of the World XI elected to bat first. A study of their passports revealed that the "Rest of Cambridgeshire" might have been a more accurate title but they included a number of former Cambs stalwarts and represented 10 different local clubs.

A reminder of the difficulty of patrolling Fenner's wide open spaces came in John Burnett's first over when three backward defensive shots all went for four across the lightning outfield, but George Pearson at the other end took two early wickets to have our guests at 19-2. Someone suggested taking a photo of the scoreboard at that point as it might represent the high watermark in our fortunes, and unfortunately their comment proved prescient. The RoW accumulated steadily from their third wicket partnership onwards. Dave Norman (Granta) enjoyed his first visit to Fenner's for seven years with 76, and other contributions included 46 from Daniel Mortlock (Remnants), 38 from captain Nigel Gadsby (Camden) and 35 from David Pimblett (Abington). The Philanderers bowlers and fielders stuck to their task, ably marshalled by Nick Redmayne, but loose deliveries were punished heavily and the RoW XI ended on 235-8, despite three of their players recording ducks.

Just under seven runs per over required a solid start from the Philanderers and wickets in hand for a late charge, but the early loss of John Bailey and Richard Golding, followed by Alan Clark and Rob Dean, meant that much rested on Charlie Pearson and the lower order. At 100 for 4, George Pearson joined Charlie and for a few overs it looked as if the father and son combination might provide the partnership that we needed. Both top scored with Charlie hitting 67 and George 41, but when they both went it was only Charlie Pelham who could add a late flurry.

A defeat by 47 runs was honourable in the circumstances, and a good match was enjoyed by all, especially in the bar afterwards. It was this part of the proceedings that reminded us why the The Philanderers was formed. Special thanks were recorded in the souvenir match programme to Mr Tony Lemons, Director of Sport, University of Cambridge, for the use of Fenner's, and to Groundsman John Moden for all his assistance.

Tim Simmons