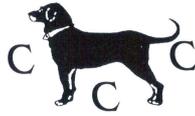


CHILMARK CRICKET CLUB
Affiliated to the Wiltshire Cricket Board



CCC v The Authors – Friday 5th May, 2017

Chilmark's blistering, unbeaten start to the season came to a shuddering, chilly halt on Friday evening, as The Authors CC took the honours at a windswept Cleeves Farm.

After losing out at the toss, captain for the day Patrick 'The Doc' Craig-McFeely found himself mustering up a new ball pairing that might challenge The Authors opening batsmen. Proving that reputations are brighter than form, The Doc turned to Reg Allen and Darren Lee, and four overs later The Authors were 28 without loss.

Allen was banished to fine leg for the duration, while Pete Corbin, playing his first game of the season, took up the challenge from the Pettigrew end. It only took a couple of deliveries for Frog Lane's most feared swing bowler to get in to his groove, as he started to trouble the batsmen with pace and movement. After Lee's third over went for 14, Corbin returned to make the breakthrough, swinging the ball through the batsman's defence in iconic Corbin fashion. Thus returned to the Cleeves Farm wicket the welcome sight of Pete Corbin in celebratory pose - weight slightly on one leg, hands on hips and eyes looking off into the middle distance as he awaits the onrushing congratulations of his teammates. The Authors were 51-1 after seven overs.

Brand King, his hair not handling the windy conditions well at all, replaced Lee (no such hair problems) at the non-Pettigrew end, conceding just three runs in his opening over, before Corbin (again - hair - not an issue) struck once more in his next, this time getting the umpire's support on an LBW decision against a respected sportswriter. Chilmark were back in the running, with The Authors 59-2 after nine.

A tight couple of overs followed, before King went for nine in his third over and eleven in his fourth; however with Corbin choking the opposition from the other end The Authors weren't able to fully break away.

Paul Butler took up the attack from the Pettigrew end and continued his form from the game earlier in the week. Eight runs came from his first over, but only four from his second, before he finally did what he does best, this time an unpublished family history writer losing his stumps. It came at a price though, as an author of Mediterranean history books took guard and then a boundary and a six off the last two balls of the over.

With runs starting to flow The Doc needed to prescribe his team a dose of hope. He opted for a Carl Jacobs shaped pill. Unfortunately there were some immediate side effects, as eight runs and a Dave Ulliyot dropped catch came from his first over. By now The Authors had moved their total beyond 100 and were looking to accelerate, but Jacobs, reborn as a bowler, indeed, a cricketer, was having none of it. He put the breaks on in his second over, conceding just four runs, before taking the form of an athlete in the next over. Fielding at deep mid-wicket Jacobs scurried after a well hit ball that seemed boundary bound, arresting its assumed fate a few yards inside the line. With the batsmen turning for a second run, Jacobs delivered a bullet like throw right over the bails, where 'keeper Max Allen completed the play. With the 2015 winner of the Daily Telegraph's History Book of the Year a few inches short of the crease, The Authors were reduced to 123-4.

Jacobs should have been rewarded with a wicket of his own in the final over of the innings, when a skied shot headed in the direction of Ben Fowles on the long on boundary. However with the ball hurtling towards him he seemed to consider the consequences of dropping it, his lips muttering all the warm hearted support his teammates would inevitably convey should it spill from his grasp. They were words he was all too familiar with and so he stepped back from beneath the ball, which landed a few inches from his toes, and "stopped the boundary" instead. Shortly after the innings came to a close with The Authors posting a respectable, but gettable, 132-4.

The Doc paired Fowles with Darren Lee to launch Chilmark's chase, in the hope, perhaps, that those who drink together can bat together. But no. Lee managed a well struck four down the ground to open his account, however in the second over he was trapped in front by a writer of medieval history for six, as Chilmark fell to 12-1.

Brand King joined Fowles at the crease and managed to get an early boundary through point, before there was an unexpected delay in play when a dog fight erupted on the sidelines. With scorebooks, drinks and spectators flying in all directions, made worse by the windy conditions, the delay ended up lasting the best part of three minutes. Upon the resumption of play a clearly rattled Fowles, the owner of two dogs (not implicated in the brouhaha) and lover of neatly kept scorebooks, missed a fast in swinger from a literary agent and was bowled for two.

Things were looking shaky for Chilmark as Gus Steele joined King at the crease, and they got much worse when the latter was trapped in front for five, by a ball that barely bounced. Later that evening King stoked the conspiratorial rumour that the pitch hadn't been rolled for left handed batsmen. His patient audience generally muted him with pints of Thatchers.

At 22-3 after six overs Chilmark were in need of a fertile partnership, and in the contrasting forms of Steele and Dave Ulliyot they got something like that. The pair put on 37 runs for the fourth wicket, before Ulliyot lost his stumps to an author of unidentified credentials.

By now the need for runs was pressing. With eight overs remaining there were still another 78 required. Max Allen took up the mantle, promising to apply a sequence whereby he blocks and then smashes alternate deliveries. He was almost as good as his word too, blocking the first two balls he faced, before sending the next two to the boundary. With Steele playing some assured shots at the

other end there remained in the hearts of Chilmark supporters the hope of a courageous and successful chase. But then Allen was bowled for nine and the flame dimmed.

Reg Allen replaced his son in the middle and for two and a half surreal overs appeared to know what he was doing with the bat. Three boundaries formed the bulk of his 13 runs as again the locals dared hope, before a poet broke his stumps and Chilmark hearts with them.

Pete Corbin (0) lasted two balls and The Doc (3) lasted five, leaving Carl Jacobs the challenging quest of hitting 31 runs from the four balls still at Chilmark's disposal. The two boundaries he managed were impressive, but of course not enough, and The Authors claimed the win by 22 runs.

Chilmark 110-8 (D Ulliot 21; G Steele 18 not out) defeated by The Authors 132-4 (P Corbin 2-15; P Butler 1-28)

Postscript - The following day The Authors played Fonthill Park; as they were two players short they asked Chilmark if anyone was able to fill in. Carl Jacobs and Brand King obliged, both claiming that having been published in the Village Voice validates their appearance in a team of proper writers. Jacobs bowled a very tidy four over spell, coming close to getting a wicket on a couple of occasions, while King batted at three and hit a half century, as The Authors cruised to a comfortable victory. For Jacobs and King, beating Fonthill twice in four days made the previous evenings loss somewhat more palatable.