

**CHILMARK CRICKET CLUB**  
Affiliated to the Wiltshire Cricket Board



**CCC v The Tauregs – Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2017**

The biggest crowd of the season gathered at Cleeves Farm on Sunday to enjoy a sumptuous tea and watch a dogged arm wrestle of a game of cricket.

Taureg were the opposition - a team of nomadic cricketers, many of whom are old University friends of Pete Corbin and a team Charlie Brinton once used to grace. Consequently Corbin was captain for the day, and he got things under way by losing the toss.

Sent in, Corbin opted for two batsmen that have contrasting physical attributes to open the batting. Firstly, there was Ollie Clayton - tall, slim, fleet of foot. The other batsman was Ben Fowles.

Clayton got things underway positively, taking a boundary down the ground which, coupled with four byes, saw Chilmark bounce out of the blocks. In the following over Fowles scored a single. Another boundary for Clayton and some more singles from Fowles saw Chilmark race along to 22 without loss after four overs.

Fowles wasn't to be tied down forever though, soon finding the fence with some delightful nurdles behind square on the leg side and some powerful drives down the ground.

The fifty for Chilmark came up in the 12<sup>th</sup> over, as the two openers unfurled their array of strokes against a strong bowling attack from Taureg. It was all going along nicely. Alas two overs before drinks the visitors struck, hitting Fowles on the pad in front of the stumps. Frog Lane's sixth best cricketer would later claim that the ball had pitched outside leg stump, but umpire Pete Corbin's decision was final (and probably right) and so Fowles's solid innings came to an end on 33.

DJ Gent came in at three and immediately set about lurching down the pitch in his inimitable style. It may not have been purely textbook, but it was effective, as he managed to take singles at will. This gave Clayton plenty of strike and the svelte opener cashed in as he raced towards what seemed a certain half century. It can be a cruel game though. Despite looking a class above the bowling, Clayton fell victim to the pitch, as a ball failed to bounce, got under his bat and took out his stumps.

Ned Pattenden arrived in the middle, took an early single, and then set about scoring primarily in boundaries. The method seemed to inspire Gent also who, despite not being known for big hits, managed to clear the square leg boundary with a powerful shot. Chilmark were racing again: 116-2 in the 21<sup>st</sup> over.

Gent's innings was knocked on the head at 17, as he took one too many explorations down the pitch and was stumped. This brought Brand King to the crease. Last time out at Cleeves Farm the Australian scored an undefeated century. On this day he was caught behind for one.

With 119 runs on the board and another 12 overs to go, there was still enough time for Chilmark to post a score in excess of 200. Jason Stearman joined Pattenden at bat and the pair set about making an assault on doing just that. By now though Taureg had brought on their best bowler. At 6'6" and with a run up that started in Tisbury, things weren't going to be easy for Chilmark's batsmen. Despite this, Stearman and Pattenden survived, and even prospered. They pushed the score over 150 and started to attack in the final overs. Then Pattenden aimed a shot at the Black Dog carpark, missed and was bowled for a well-made 29.

Charlie Brinton arrived to face the music of his old chums, and showed he was a little rusty as he swung and missed at some good, tight bowling. He did connect with one though, sending a six over the clubhouse; however, he was bowled shortly after for seven.

Jason Stearman, meanwhile, was in the firing line. With the tall bowler sending down some short-pitched deliveries Stearman unleashed a hook shot. He was through it before the ball got to him though, turning his head just in time for the ball to cannon in to the side of his helmet. Unfazed he shook it off, took his stance again, then hit the next ball out of the ground for six.

Darren Lee joined Stearman for the last over but was unable to replicate some of his heroics from a couple of weeks ago. By then Chilmark had climbed to a very respectable score of 192-6. The second half of the afternoon promised to be keenly fought.

Another delicious tea was served up by the tireless better halves and friends of Chilmark CC - sandwiches from Emma Taylor, Bev Small, Melissa Corbin and Morag Philpott, and cakes from Sarah Miller, Jenni Eke, Bryan Cross, Bev and Captain Corbin.

Suitably nourished the two teams took to the field for the second half. With a reasonable score to defend, there was a sense of confidence and buoyancy in the home team. When Jake Taylor sent down a maiden to get things under way, that feeling only grew. After a month of deflating defeats the players felt hardened and determined. Reg 'Golden Arm' Allen came in from the Pettigrew end and leaked a boundary, but was otherwise tight. It was a good start. Then 14 runs came from the third over and nine from the fourth, and Chilmark knew it wasn't going to be an easy afternoon.

Captain Corbin was in no mood to let his old friends cruise to victory, and so pulled Allen from the attack after just two overs. Taking up the attack from the Pettigrew end King was determined to make up for his batting, and quickly built up a head of steam with the ball in hand. His first over went for two runs and his second was looking equally tight; then he struck the pad in front of the stumps and went up for the LBW appeal. Despite the overwhelmingly, blatantly, jaw-droppingly obvious outness of the delivery, the umpire turned it down. When the last two balls of the over were then swiped unattractively for four on the leg side, King was fuming. In his following overs two more

LBW appeals were turned down and a catch was dropped on (and into) the boundary, leaving the normally affable Australian aghast at the horrible unjust nature of the universe and all the umpires inhabiting it.

Taylor continued from the non-Pettigrew end, bowling well but conceding boundaries consistently. By the tenth over Taureg were scoring comfortably above the required rate at 69 without loss. Darren Lee took over from Taylor and went for 14 runs in two overs. Captain Corbin was having none of it. He brought himself on to bowl from the Pettigrew end and gave Ollie Clayton the responsibility from the non-Pettigrew. For the first time in the innings Chilmark managed to put a break on Taureg's chase.

Clayton struck in his first over, getting a rare LBW decision to go Chilmark's way. At 90-1 there was finally an inroad into the top heavy Taureg batting order. Corbin charged in and sent down some near unplayable deliveries. The runs dried up and Chilmark were right back in the game.

With 15 overs remaining Taureg required another 90 runs. Corbin's opening spell of five overs cost just 13 runs, while Clayton's cost 17. In the fourth over of that spell Clayton took the second Taureg wicket, bowling their number three bat with a decent out-swing.

Despite these wickets and the slowing of the run rate, Taureg were closing in on the total. An aggressive batsman came in at four and started finding the boundary again. Taylor was brought on for another over but was hit for 19 runs. Corbin then turned to King, who had simmered somewhat. He was hit for an early boundary, but then finally got his man, as the opener was late on to an ugly attempt at a drive and sliced an easy catch to Corbin at short cover.

At three down for 150 with nine overs still to go it was going to take something special for Chilmark to stop the visitors. Corbin brought himself back on but was hit out of the ground twice in the over. The game was getting away from Chilmark. King finished with a maiden, then Clayton came on for one last over. By now though the batsmen could see the finish line and took 12 runs from it.

Out of reasonable options Corbin turned to Ben Fowles. Frog Lane's only slow right arm non-spinning-though-he-thinks-it-is bowler was hit to the boundary early on, but responded soon afterwards by enticing a miss-hit drive from Taureg's aggressive number four bat. The ball arced high and awkwardly to deep mid-on, where Darren Lee camped underneath it looking every bit like he didn't want to be there. Despite this he completed the catch and Chilmark had their fourth wicket.

Tuareg were within touching distance of victory. However their team was laden with a few very junior cricketers and Chilmark knew if they could get to them, then they could bully their way to victory. This outcome became slightly more likely when Corbin struck in his last over, the catch being taken by Jason Stearman at deep mid-off.

The wicket gave Chilmark a flicker of hope, but when the new batsman - frustratingly adult - arrived and took a boundary off the fourth ball of the 32<sup>nd</sup> over, it was all over.

**Chilmark CC 192-6 (O Clayton 44; J Stearman 37 not out) defeated by Taureg CC 194-5 (O Clayton 2-28; B Fowles 1-11)**