

## London Erratics v Bampton in the Bush

Nine Erratics arrived at Bampton's recreation ground. A 40 overs match. Bampton won the toss and elected to field.

The opening bowlers, particularly the very tall one, got plenty of bounce out of the artificial surface, and one could not have asked for a more solid pair to face it than Jim Head and Peter Andrews. Peter was out in the 6th over.

Jim and Nasir Khawaja then began a partnership that would become the 12th largest in Erratics history. They never really slaughtered the bowling — the long grass reduced the number of boundaries, and with Jim still road-testing his new knee, the running wasn't what it might have been. But they stayed — the opposition obligingly failed to hold the chances that came their way — and they built the innings with admirable skill and tenacity. Ten runs off the 33rd over represented a handy acceleration, so inevitably Nasir fell next over — and Jim the over after that.

In the closing spell, Matthew Neal had a brief swish. Skipper James Rivington then watched admiringly as Alex Padmore swatted a brisk 20 to give the Erratics a useful total.

Alex has blossomed into a real threat as a pace bowler, and the Bampton openers had to focus on survival; at the other end Jim teased them with flight and turn. In the 7th over, Alex produced an indecently good delivery to remove the opposition skipper.

When Alex was rested, he stayed in the game as he caught the other opener at mid-off in Matthew's first over. In the 19th over, James R completely misjudged a swirling skier, and dived to catch it almost as an afterthought.

The home team had kindly loaned the Erratics a couple of fielders, and then offered the services of a keen 10-year-old, Jack Holford, who had come on from playing football. All these now came into play. The No. 5 fell to an unreasonably good catch at deep extra cover by one sub — who then had to trot off to pad up. This wicket brought in Jack's dad and the young recruit was eager to bowl at him: however, the parent hoicked his first ball to the square leg boundary where he was well caught by the replacement sub — enabling Balliol Erratics recruit, James Villalard, to join the select ranks of those who have taken a wicket with their debut ball for the London Erratics.

The remainder of that over and one from Jack allowed the Bampton innings to gain valuable momentum. Time for Alex and Richard to return: Alex tightened things up, but couldn't remove the annoyingly effective left-handed No. 3. James R now had to find the remains of a fifth bowler from somewhere, and realised with alarm that it was going to have to be himself. Fortunately, the No. 3 pulled up with cramp after running another cheeky single, and Richard snuck one through his defences a few balls later.

After an indifferent start, James R had settled and took a wicket in the 35th over: with five overs to go, Bampton needed 30, with 3 wickets in hand. Seventeen off the next two overs boosted the chances of the home team. Then smart footwork by Matthew off his own bowling earned a run out at the beginning of the 38th over, and the Erratics were finally amidst the frail tail. With James R claiming a second scalp with his last ball, it was six to win off the final over, with one wicket standing. Who to bowl this crucial over? Chris Dunabin's first ball was pulled for two, but an attempted repeat was top-edged and Nasir held it safely. Great finish to a game in which everyone contributed.

### LONDON ERRATICS — batting

			4s	6s
Head	caught	63	3	1
Andrews	caught	10		
† Khawaja	caught	67	7	
Neal	caught	7	1	
* Rivington	NOT OUT	6		
Padmore	NOT OUT	20	3	
Dunabin				
Heller				
Villalard				
Holford				

**186 for 4 in 40 overs**

Fall of wickets: 1(Andrews)-21, 2(Khawaja)-149, 3(Head)-157, 4(Neal)-159

### BAMPTON — batting

1	c Padmore	b Neal	16
2		b Padmore	2
3		b Heller	73
4	c Rivington	b Neal	7
5	c sub	b Heller	18
6	c sub	b Villalard	0
7	c Khawaja	b Dunabin	34
8		b Rivington	3
9	run out		8
10		b Rivington	1
11	not out		0

**182 all out in 39.2 overs**

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-29, 3-48, 4-85, 5-87, 6-146, 7-155, 8-174, 9-180, 10-182

### LONDON ERRATICS — bowling

Padmore	8	3	12	1
Head	8	2	21	0
Neal	8	0	46	2
Heller	8	0	35	2
Villalard	1	0	15	1
Holford	1	0	13	0
Rivington	5	0	34	2
Dunabin	0.2	0	2	1

ERRATICS WON BY 4 RUNS