

## London Erratics v Great Milton

With the Erratics only able to muster nine, the home side generously loaned them two players of varying ages: Patrick Gaughan (younger) and Chris Martin (older). Great Milton won the toss, and elected to bat.

With the visitors' own bowling resources somewhat limited, skipper James Rivington readily invited 17-year-old Patrick to open the bowling alongside Erratics veteran Brian Berrigan. The youngster proved extremely lively – in his first 5 overs (3 of them maidens), he took 2 wickets for 5 runs; and Brian chipped in with another at the other end. After Brian had taken a good catch over his shoulder off James R's second ball, and then James Poole had taken an Oscar-qualifying catch at mid-wicket to dismiss the obstinate No. 2, the Erratics unexpectedly founded themselves well placed, with half the opposition back in the pavilion.

But then the frailty of the attack was revealed: James R got ragged; James P took time to settle with his offbreaks; debutant Neil McCrae had been fielding with flair, but his bowling betrayed the fact that he hadn't played for 15 years. The 6th wicket pair swung their bats lustily and ran boldly, and the score passed 100, then 150.

Finally a run out broke the stand; and in the next over a smart direct hit by James P brought another. Now Patrick was back in the attack, hungry to get at the tail: the No. 9 gloved one to Nasir Khawaja. James P finally claimed a well-deserved scalp thanks to an over-ambitious swat, and Patrick wrapped things up by knocking over the home side's top scorer.

A target of 169: in a marginal note, our loyal scorer Robert Waller mused 'Will they get half way there?'

The Great Milton side had its own fiery young bowler, who fizzed down some of the quickest deliveries seen this year. But while he may have beaten the bat, edges and steers ran away nicely for runs, and James R and Peter Andrews patiently built a score. Peter finally succumbed to the youngster, but 41 represented a solid platform.

After he had survived a tight stumping decision, James R hit out with more abandon, uncharacteristically outpacing Nasir. Nasir responded by pulling a long-hop straight to mid-wicket. James P strode to the crease – brandishing the second Mongoose bat to be seen in as many weeks – and perished first ball in identical fashion. And in the last over before the final 20, James R played another late cut for four to bring up his half century – and was stumped next ball.

Mike Long hit a nice boundary, then fell to an unfairly good catch by a rotund silly mid-off. Now the target was looking remote. Brian nursed the score past the hundred, but the loss of Andy Hosken and Neil in one over looked ominous. Bill Bush now joined Brian, and together they crafted a crucially effective partnership, matching each other's determination – even when the opening bowlers returned. Bill fell to a lapse in concentration, giving Patrick the chance to enter the stage again – contemptuously, he carted the most accurate Great Milton bowler back over his head for four. Brian flicked the young quick for runs, and the fielding suddenly seemed to disintegrate as the Erratics surged towards the winning total. Patrick, the rising star, seemed all set to hit the winning runs – but they came cruelly in the form of four byes. (Great Milton conceded a match-losing total of 23 byes.)

At last, a win!

JR

### GREAT MILTON — batting

1		b Gaughan	6
2	c Poole	b Berrigan	26
3	c Bush	b Gaughan	9
4		b Berrigan	2
5	c Berrigan	b Rivington	9
6		b Gaughan	60
7	run out		17
8	run out		1
9	c Khawaja	b Gaughan	1
10		b Poole	1
11	not out		4
			<b>168 all out</b>

### LONDON ERRATICS — bowling

Berrigan	11	4	27	2
Gaughan	10.3	3	35	4
Rivington	4	0	23	1
Poole	7	0	45	1
McCrae	3	0	24	0

Fall of wickets: 1–17, 2–29, 3–43, 4–61, 5–70, 6–151, 7–157, 8–159, 9–160, 10–168

### LONDON ERRATICS — batting

		4s	6s	
*	Rivington	stumped	52	9
	Andrews	bowled	14	1
†	Khawaja	caught	5	1
	Poole	caught	0	
	Berrigan	NOT OUT	46	8
	Long	caught	4	1
	Hosken	lbw	0	
	McCrae	lbw	0	
	Bush	bowled	14	2
	Gaughan	NOT OUT	7	1
	Martin			

**170 for 8**

Fall of wickets: 1(Andrews)–41, 2(Khawaja)–75, 3(Poole)–75, 4(Rivington)–88, 5(Long)–96, 6(Hosken)–110, 7(McCrae)–110, 8(Bush)–146