

London Erratics v Inkpen

A 35 overs match. The Erratics won the toss and elected to bat. Weather: regularly changing mix of sun and showers.

James Rivington never looked at home on the unpredictable Inkpen wicket, and soon fell to a diving catch at mid-on. George Dabby and Jim Head played with caution, and the running of the elder partner lacked aggression; it was the 8th over before the first boundary of the innings was recorded. When the first change bowler came on, George mis-hit him in the air towards square leg: the young fielder made no attempt to catch it, but did pick up and throw to the keeper – hapless George experienced the hollow feeling of finding himself half way down the pitch, and Jim unmoved.

Tim Green, back from his first year at university, now came to the crease, and together he and Jim built a partnership. Rain now began to sweep across the ground: impressively, the home side showed no sign of quitting, and it was the visiting umpires who started gesturing to be replaced. The hundred was passed in the 24th over. Both bats started hitting bigger shots, and the running became sharper – and the sun came back out.

In the 32nd over, just 3 runs short of the hundred partnership, Tim gave a stinging return catch. Chris Dunabin was the lucky man to be awarded a run around – skipper James deciding he now had the luxury of dropping Brian Berrigan down the order. Jim survived unbeaten on 88 – though a less panicky point-blank shy at the stumps would have seen him gone when he attempted an absurdly tight single with a loose shoe.

For the Erratics, the opening bowlers were George and debutant Alex Stewart (a friend of Tim). Alex started with a maiden, but the young bats soon showed that they could play some shots. The 6th over proved eventful: first ball, Alex trapped the free-hitting opener; the next two balls were pulled for four by the incoming left-handed Inkpen skipper; and the last ball was miscued high to Tim at square leg. Next over, George changed to bowling offspin, and was rewarded with a wicket.

Now Jim was on, and he removed the new bat with his third delivery. This brought in the man who scored 69 two years ago: this year he lasted one ball. And in Jim's next over, the home skipper top-edged to Brian at slip: 39 for 6.

Time for the 1974 vintage, Chris Dunabin and Richard Heller. With the sun shining brightly again, Chris tossed it up invitingly – and the invitation was accepted. Richard bowled some good stuff when he was able to find his rhythm – and the No. 7 obligingly hit him straight to Brian in the covers.

The 8th wicket pair put bat to ball: Inkpen were ahead of the rate. But more ominous was the next wave of dark cloud looming, which might allow the home side to escape (or even to claim a Duckworth-Lewis). The Erratics skipper brought himself on, and Tim: the tighter bowling slowed the scoring. But as James nervously eyed the skies, the chant of 'We want Brian' rang around the field. This proved alarmist, as James took a wicket with each of the last two balls of his third over. He was denied a stab at a hat-trick, because Tim wrapped things up in the next over.

JR

LONDON ERRATICS — batting

| | | 4s | 6s |
|-------------|---------|----|----|
| * Rivington | caught | 5 | |
| Dabby | run out | 6 | |
| Head | NOT OUT | 88 | 10 |
| Green T | c & b | 37 | 6 |
| Dunabin | NOT OUT | 5 | |
| Stewart | | | |
| Long | | | |
| † Thwaite | | | |
| Berrigan | | | |
| Green J | | | |
| Heller | | | |

163 for 3 in 35 overs

Fall of wickets: 1(Rivington)–7, 2(Dabby)–45, 3(GreenT)–142

INKPEN — batting

| | | | |
|----|------------|-------------|----|
| 1 | lbw | b Stewart | 10 |
| 2 | c Green T | b Stewart | 3 |
| 3 | c Berrigan | b Head | 12 |
| 4 | lbw | b Dabby | 0 |
| 5 | | b Head | 3 |
| 6 | | b Head | 0 |
| 7 | c Berrigan | b Heller | 8 |
| 8 | not out | | 37 |
| 9 | | b Rivington | 10 |
| 10 | | b Rivington | 0 |
| 11 | lbw | b Green T | 1 |

108 all out in 23 overs

LONDON ERRATICS — bowling

| | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|----|---|
| Dabby | 6 | 0 | 23 | 1 |
| Stewart | 3 | 1 | 15 | 2 |
| Head | 2 | 0 | 5 | 3 |
| Dunabin | 3 | 0 | 26 | 0 |
| Heller | 3 | 0 | 19 | 1 |
| Rivington | 3 | 0 | 6 | 2 |
| Green T | 3 | 0 | 8 | 1 |

Fall of wickets: 1–19, 2–29, 3–29, 4–36, 5–36, 6–39, 7–67, 8–105, 9–105, 10–108

ERRATICS WON BY 55 RUNS