

London Erratics v Bank of England

Match manager Peter Andrews had a double duty, recruiting for both sides: Peter and Bill Bush became a pair of bankers. The Bank won the toss and elected to field. Supposedly a 2.00 pm start, but for once it was not the Erratics who were dallying.

Two teenage bowlers gave the Erratics opening bats plenty to think about, in particular a left-armer producing late in-swing: George Dabby was bowled off his pads; Matthew Neal ambitiously tried the charge...

A change in the bowling improved the chances of scoring. After being tied down for so long, James Rivington regarded the introduction of the wily Richard Langley almost as light relief, and began to play some shots. Brian Berrigan prevented a youthful off-spinner from settling by brutally punishing anything wayward. The fifty partnership was reached after the drinks break.

When James fell to a loose shot in the 24th over, the young bowler found his elusive confidence: debutant Frazer Comley succumbed to big turn; Brian was bowled trying to attack. At the other end, a more seasoned leggie was now plying his trade – and took what must have been the catch of his life to dismiss the unlucky Matthew Eltringham.

Tim Green and Mike Long halted the slide, and pushed the score towards the 150 – until Mike failed to clear mid-on. Out of practice Simon Green couldn't cope with the spin the offie was generating. But older brother Tim continued the sparkling form he had shown at Inkpen, with a debut six over mid-wicket – then miscued back to the bowler next ball. Lester Alvis clubbed some useful runs. But skipper James was absolved of having to consider a declaration because, wearing his umpire's coat, he adjudicated that Chris Dunabin had become the young spinner's fifth scalp. Over tea, scorer Jonathan Green helpfully boosted the total with 4 runs as he checked his arithmetic.

Because the Erratics had apparently lingered too long over the scones, the officious Bank skipper added five minutes to the match: the final 20 overs would now start at 6.20 pm. Openers Peter and Richard Down were kept pretty quiet by the bowling of George and Tim. In the 11th over, skipper James gave in to George's request to bowl spin, and Richard D holed out to Matthew N at mid-off. And in his next over George accounted for Peter too – perhaps he has a point about his preferred bowling style.

Double bowling change. Brian started with a maiden. Frazer received rough treatment from the belligerent No. 4; but he got sweet revenge in his second over, and a reaction catch by Tim at short cover gave him a stunning bonus next ball. When Brian removed the opposition skipper, the Erratics were on top at 79 for 5.

Blocking the path to victory was Bill, who had come in at No. 3. He was combining his natural talent with a new found sense of responsibility. [to be continued]

JR

LONDON ERRATICS — batting

			4s	6s
* Rivington	caught	33	4	
Dabby	bowled	6	1	
Neal	bowled	8	1	
Berrigan	bowled	43	6	
Comley	bowled	9	1	
Green T	c & b	36	4	1
Eltringham	c & b	1		
Long	caught	11	1	
† Green S	bowled	0		
Alvis	NOT OUT	8	1	
Dunabin	lbw	1		

179 all out

Fall of wickets: 1(Dabby)–12, 2(Neal)–35, 3(Rivington)–92, 4(Comley)–112, 5(Berrigan)–119, 6(Eltringham)–124, 7(Long)–148, 8(GreenS)–154, 9(GreenT)–166, 10(Dunabin)–175

BANK OF ENGLAND — batting

1	c Green T	b Dabby	20
2	c Neal	b Dabby	12
3	c Rivington	b Alvis	30
4		b Comley	25
5	c Green T	b Comley	0
6	c & b	b Berrigan	1
7		b Green T	27
8	not out		20
9	not out		10
10			
11			

181 for 7

LONDON ERRATICS — bowling

Dabby	9	1	31	2
Green T	10.4	2	43	1
Berrigan	6	1	25	1
Comley	4	0	31	2
Alvis	3	0	23	1
Neal	3	0	11	0

Fall of wickets: 1–27, 2–39, 3–78, 4–78, 5–79, 6–133, 7–141

ERRATICS LOST BY 3 WICKETS