

London Erratics v Sultans of Swing

A cold, bleak, windy day. The 1.00 start was delayed while the Erratics wandered around trying to find the ground. A 40 overs match. The Erratics won the toss and elected to bat.

On a pudding of a pitch, Brian Berrigan and Bill Coales made slow headway – the excessive lateral movement of the Sultan bowlers seemed to be the only sure way in which the Erratics score crept forward. Bill C finally capitulated in the 12th over. Just as Brian started to hit some shots, James Rivington contrived to get him run out.

Debutant Ed Cadwallader, gleefully swatting anything loose to the backward square leg boundary, enjoyed a useful little stand with James, which dragged the overall rate towards 3.5 an over – then both perished in quick succession.

Debutant Simon Griffiths and John Truscott (playing his first match since 2007) batted attractively: it was a surprise when John was bowled. But when Andy Hosken chased a wide first ball, and Simon succumbed to frustration, the innings was not looking healthy.

Batting out the final ten overs was now a necessity, though scoring at less than 1 run an over wasn't perhaps part of the plan. Finally Bill Bush cut loose, and 28 glorious runs in the last three overs (including a lovely six) boosted the Erratics total to respectability.

The Sultans had public spiritedly used seven bowlers, and their 23 wides were gratefully received. However, even this generosity was surpassed in their provision of a sumptuous homemade tea – many thanks to the Sultanettes.

If the Erratics had found batting difficult in the conditions, the Sultans – in their inaugural match – were likely to struggle too. The bowling partnership of Brian and Richard Heller proved lethal. Gaps in technique were cruelly exposed. Brave flickers of resistance were snuffed out by impossible deliveries. Skipper James mercilessly gave Brian six overs and bowled Richard all the way through – and they each hit the stumps three times.

The introduction of John proved little respite. He instantly settled onto line and length, and he accounted for an antipodean who was holding up one end.

When drinks were taken after 20 overs, the score was 63. The Erratics were in buoyant mood and tucked into the further helpings of sandwiches and cakes that were cunningly put before them; they were deaf to the Cassandra-like warnings of skipper James.

But when the 8th wicket pair started to test the field with sharp singles and to punish a succession of full tosses, the mood changed. Lester Alvis, who had started with some beautiful deliveries, began to struggle; and after an experimental over from Ed, the Sultans on the boundary were suddenly very excited.

Time for Brian again, and under the extra pressure the Sultans gambled unwisely on taking a second run to Andy at third man. With the Mongoose-wielding hitter gone, the last two Sultan wickets fell tamely to James.

The Sultans are a really nice crowd, and we wish them well in the remainder of their first season.

JR

LONDON ERRATICS — batting

		4s	6s
Berrigan	run out	19	2
Coales	caught	3	
* Rivington	bowled	15	2
Cadwallader	c & b	19	4
Griffiths	caught	11	2
Truscott	bowled	8	2
Hosken	caught	0	
† Bush	NOT OUT	43	7 1
Alvis	bowled	0	
Dunabin	NOT OUT	6	
Heller			

162 for 8 in 40 overs

Fall of wickets: 1(Coales)–29, 2(Berrigan)–43, 3(Rivington)–80, 4(Cadwallader)–84, 5(Truscott), 6(Hosken), 7(Griffiths), 8(Alvis)

SULTANS OF SWING — batting

1	b Heller	4
2	b Berrigan	0
3	b Heller	14
4	b Berrigan	1
5 lbw	b Truscott	9
6	b Berrigan	8
7	b Heller	1
8	run out	38
9 c & b	b Rivington	35
10	b Rivington	1
11	not out	2

131 all out in 33.1 overs

LONDON ERRATICS — bowling

Berrigan	8	3	17	3
Heller	8	2	25	3
Truscott	8	1	22	1
Alvis	6	0	43	0
Rivington	2.1	0	8	2
Cadwallader	1	0	17	0

ERRATICS WON BY 31 RUNS