

London Erratics v Balliol Erratics

A traditional declaration format (for a pleasant change), but with the twist of its being a 12-a-side match (with 11 in the field at any one time). Balliol won the toss and elected to field.

James Rivington and Richard Carver found runs came easily against a fairly friendly opening attack; but when a fifty partnership seemed on the cards, Richard C tried to sweep a straight ball. Nasir Khawaja contemptuously spanked two boundaries, but a leading edge looped to mid-on. James hit a sweet shot back over the bowler's head, then was beaten by a quicker ball in the following (16th) over: 82 for 3.

A nice little partnership between James Rowland and Matthew Neal brought up the hundred. But there was then a hint of a wobble as three wickets fell, and at 126 for 6 the Erratics did not yet have the makings of a big score.

But with tea getting closer, Brian Berrigan and George Dabby shared a sparkling partnership of 85, scoring at 8 an over. Brian ploughed the bowling to the leg boundary, expertly picking the gaps between the deep set fielders, and his half century was well deserved. And George easily passed his best tally for the Erratics.

Brian sportingly retired with one over to go before tea, and young Sami Khawaja helped himself to 7 runs off three deliveries.

In each of the first four games of the season, the Erratics opening attack had had an aggregate age in three figures; not so today, as George and Jaspar Khawaja bowled with good accuracy and movement. George made the breakthrough, with a wicket maiden in the 9th over.

Debutant Ahmed Zabadne bowled some offspin to try and lure the Balliol batsmen out of their defensive shells, but it was Brian who struck in his first over – another wicket maiden.

The No. 3 (who had been the home team's best bowler), played some shots, while his partner concentrated on keeping the ball out – and the final 20 overs were slipping by. Brian took two wickets in one over – the first thanks to a good slip catch by Ahmed, the ball deflected off Nasir's gloves. The batsmen now stopped scoring completely – no runs in 5 overs – though a Richard Heller yorker got through a defensive prod. Sami winkled out James Villalard – another good catch by Ahmed, at silly mid-on.

The arrival of Jim Head at No. 8 prompted a brief return by Brian. But with stalemate beckoning, skipper James spread the remaining overs around.

JR

LONDON ERRATICS — batting

			4s	6s
*	Rivington	bowled	34	2
	Carver	lbw	10	
†	Khawaja N	caught	10	2
	Rowland	bowled	19	
	Neal	c & b	15	1
	Hosken	caught	6	1
	Berrigan	retired	56	9
	Dabby	NOT OUT	32	2
	Khawaja S	NOT OUT	7	
	Khawaja J			
	Zabadne			
	Heller			

221 for 7 dec

Fall of wickets: 1(Carver)–43, 2(KhawajaN)–54, 3(Rivington)–82, 4(Neal)–106, 5(Rowland)–116, 6(Hosken)–126, 7(Berrigan)–211

BALLIOL ERRATICS — batting

1	c Rowland	b Dabby	21
2	lbw	b Berrigan	24
3	c Zabadne	b Berrigan	30
4	not out		11
5		b Berrigan	2
6		b Heller	2
7	c Zabadne	b Khawaja S	0
8	not out		18
9			
10			
11			
12			

120 for 6

LONDON ERRATICS — bowling

Dabby	7	1	28	1
Khawaja J	5	0	20	0
Zabadne	4	0	30	0
Berrigan	7	3	14	3
Heller	3	1	5	1
Khawaja S	2	1	4	1
Rivington	1	1	0	0
Neal	1	0	3	0
Khawaja N	1	1	0	0
Rowland	1	0	4	0
Carver	1	0	5	0

Fall of wickets: 1–31, 2–61, 3–91, 4–93, 5–96, 6–96

MATCH DRAWN



The big partnership: George Dabby and Brian Berrigan force the pace.



Last over of the Erratics innings: Sami Khawaja sweeps and sends the fielders scurrying.



Ahmed Zabadne gives it a big tweak, and Brian Berrigan fizzes one down.



The Erratics celebrate as Richard Heller takes the 5th wicket ('his captain's hand on his shoulder smote'); then Sami Khawaja and Ahmed Zabadne congratulate each other on taking the 6th wicket.