

## London Erratics v Fernhurst

A warm muggy Sunday at Fernhurst; a hint of thunder. Fernhurst won the toss and elected to bat.

Only ten Erratics present – with four bowlers who like to use the new ball. Would they move it off the seam or off the bat? George Dabby and Brian Berrigan were the first to find out. George struck in his first over, when some extra bounce induced Fernhurst opener Ward to hole out to Michael Stephenson at cover. (General relief at his selection of fielder; he was unlucky later when Richard Heller let a fierce cut through his hands and failed to catch the rebound off his cheekbone.)

The dangerous Melrose came in, but accuracy and a hint of movement from both bowlers confined Fernhurst to 27 for 1. George was then replaced by Michael, who decided initially not to hit the docile pitch. This unsettled the other opener, Ward, into playing on. Meanwhile Brian yielded just six scoring strokes in eight overs, yielding 12 runs. Three consecutive fours annoyed him and provoked his replacement by John Truscott.

John T looped the ball invitingly, but the new partnership of Melrose and J Tytler put on 112, Melrose particularly punishing any infraction of length. John was unlucky to have Melrose dropped at square leg by one of our most reliable fielders.

There was only one remedy: James Rivington put himself on. He bowled Tytler with a zooter and obtained an lbw decision against Melrose, on 89. At the other end, Richard Heller bowled a series of unpunished long hops varied with rediscovered outswingers, before producing two yorkers to bowl batsmen intent on mayhem in the death over. Fernhurst declared on 181 for 6 (21 in wides and no balls).

In pursuit of the target, James and Chris Dunabin progressed steadily and without alarm. They cunningly manoeuvred a horde of fielders into the slip region before launching an assault in front of the wicket. James was caught behind off a rare lifter, Tony Poulter was yorked, but debutant John Lee produced a burst of elegant strokes and Chris unearthed a straight drive of startling beauty.

This induced the opposition to bring on the flighty Pope. Most of us have learnt painfully not to charge down the pitch at him, but he was new to John L ... stumped by a long way. Brian came in and played a poised innings while our middle order was scythed by Melrose's 4 wickets for 6. With victory still an option Chris perished at square leg for 34, then George, Michael and Bill Bush succumbed cheaply, and Richard came in with the victory total a distant mirage.

Two wickets to fall, 11 overs to bat out. Sounds familiar? All went well for 7 overs, mostly played by Brian, until Richard had the fantasy that he could steal a single with the ball in the keeper's hands. Fortunately the last batsman was John T, held back because of a sore shoulder. He and Brian safely played out the remaining 4 overs, not helped by the insistence of umpire Tony in applying the laws of the game and calling unnecessary wides.

A pretty honourable draw, in good company and a pleasant spirit.

RH



Brian Berrigan bats in the evening sun.

Photo: Chris Dunabin

### FERNHURST — batting

1	c Stephenson	b Dabby	1
2		b Stephenson	12
3	lbw	b Rivington	89
4		b Rivington	33
5		b Heller	14
6		b Heller	4
7	not out		0
8	not out		1
9			
10			
11			

181 for 6 dec

### LONDON ERRATICS — bowling

Berrigan	10	1	31	0
Dabby	6	1	14	1
Stephenson	8	0	50	1
Truscott	7	0	36	0
Heller	5	0	23	2
Rivington	2	0	21	2

Fall of wickets: 1–1, 2–33, 3–145, 4–161, 5–178, 6–180

### LONDON ERRATICS — batting

			4s	6s
*	Rivington	caught	10	
	Dunabin	caught	34	3
	Poulter	bowled	0	
	Lee	stumped	19	1
	Berrigan	NOT OUT	25	3
	Dabby	bowled	1	
	Stephenson	bowled	0	
†	Bush	caught	2	
	Heller	run out	1	
	Truscott	NOT OUT	7	1

128 for 8

Fall of wickets: 1(Rivington)–37, 2(Poulter)–37, 3(Lee)–74, 4(Dunabin)–74, 5(Dabby)–75, 6(Stephenson)–75, 7(Bush)–85, 8(Heller)–112

MATCH DRAWN