

## London Erratics v Chilmark

With this match forming part of Chilmark's summer festival – with spectators! – it was inevitable that the Erratics would trickle in horrendously late. A 35 overs match. Chilmark won the toss and elected to bat.

This was not the most sprightly Erratics side ever to take the field – ageing, and with players complaining of aches and pains. The loan of young Jake Williams to bring the visitors up to full complement was most welcome. And with Matthew Penfold he formed a respectable opening attack, which removed both openers.

Alas, Matthew's failure to take a return catch from the No. 3 when he was still on nought proved costly. That was by no means the end of the Erratics' generosity in the field. Indeed at least two more dropped chances helped the young bat to a big score. And although not helped by the rough outfield of a ground that has only existed since 2002, too regularly the Erratics' desperate efforts to cut off another boundary served only to shovel the ball over the line – to the amusement of the home crowd.

Brian Berrigan and John Truscott bowled tidily and had successes. But in truth wickets were falling only because the home side had adjusted its normal line up – as was clear when their skipper arrived at No. 7. Jake had warned that this bat had only ever been bowled once on this pitch, and he batted with a worryingly casual confidence. When he got into stride, he simply determined *where* he was going to hit his next boundary – disturbing the equilibrium of the local sheep (and an alpaca). It is to Jake's great credit that, given the task of bowling the 35th over, he denied the big hitter his expected century.

Good tea.

Jim Head seemed fired up to hit his own big score in reply. The highlight was a reverse paddle for four, wildly cheered by his team mates – grateful to have something to celebrate. In contrast, Brian was curiously restrained, and contributed just 12 singles to the solid opening partnership of 70 (scored at 4.5 runs per over).

A horrible collapse threatened humiliation – particularly when Jim went. But the home side generously mixed up the bowling, and Chris Dunabin and Matthew helped themselves – easily achieving skipper James Rivington's modest target of keeping the margin of defeat below three figures. Chris brought another big cheer as he hit the ball over the shorter midwicket boundary (his first six since 2004).

This partnership of 86, which cosmetically restored some honour, ended with just one ball of the innings to go – and Bill Bush hit it for four.

Chilmark are a friendly lot, but with one or two players simply too good for the Erratics. If they keep to their promise to issue a repeat invitation in 2011, they said they would pick a weaker side for a more even contest.

JR



Brian Berrigan, about to be bowled.

Photo: Chris Dunabin

### CHILMARK — batting

1	b Penfold	7	
2	b Williams	14	
3	c Berrigan	b Truscott	82
4	c Williams	b Poulter	4
5		b Berrigan	4
6	c Penfold	b Berrigan	0
7	not out		90
8	not out		26
9			
10			
11			

253 for 6 in 35 overs

### LONDON ERRATICS — bowling

Williams	7	0	36	1
Penfold	7	1	24	1
Poulter	3	0	35	1
Berrigan	7	1	34	2
Truscott	7	0	64	1
Head	3	0	31	0
Alvis	1	0	15	0

Fall of wickets: 1–22, 2–40, 3–64, 4–119, 5–119, 6–139

### LONDON ERRATICS — batting

			4s	6s
Head	c & b	62	11	
Berrigan	bowled	12		
Poulter	lbw	1		
Williams	lbw	0		
* Rivington	bowled	5	1	
Dunabin	stumped	26	1	1
Penfold	NOT OUT	47	10	
† Bush	NOT OUT	4	1	
Davie				
Alvis				
Truscott				

183 for 6 in 35 overs

Fall of wickets: 1(Berrigan)–70, 2(Poulter)–72, 3(Williams)–72, 4(Rivington)–86, 5(Head)–93, 6(Dunabin)–179

ERRATICS LOST BY 70 RUNS