

Cavaliers XI v West Riding CC – 09.08.09

West Riding CC 198 for 3 – Cavaliers XI 157 for 8

Glorious weather welcomed West Riding CC for their 1st visit to UCC to take on the Cavaliers. West Riding have been playing friendly cricket for nearly 60 years and came to UCC with a youthful side that was sure to test the Cavaliers.

For their part the Cavaliers had Phil Dixon making his debut after playing for the UCC 2nd XI nearly 15 years ago and just to make him welcome the Cavaliers also included Andy 'Wilso' Wilsdon for his first appearance of the season.

These inclusions offset the loss of Chris 'CB' Burns to work commitments and to a far lesser degree Craig 'It Is Gilly's Fault' Smith who was going to captain the side but went for a day at the test match. Time will tell if this has any impact on his short [and getting shorter] Cavaliers career especially after his decision to play for Idle CC last week.

In came Andy 'Always Ready' Davey and Ian 'Captain' Pratt into the Cavaliers XI when West Riding CC batted first in a 30 overs game.

Surprisingly the Cavaliers fielding was good overall but mention must be made of Bob 'I Do Not Go To Sleep' Skelly who once again managed to let a four through his legs and Ian 'Fast But Short Hands' Pratt who missed a stumping by a country mile.

Ian 'Low Level of Gravity' Pratt deserves another mention as falling over for a person that is somewhat challenged in the height stakes seems to be a recurring theme. Some concern when Andy 'Wilso' Wilsdon missed a catch and started talking about losing his central contract?

All these fielding incidents should not take one away from some good bowling performances from Wilso with 1 for 6 that included a maiden and Phil 'I'm Back' Dixon with 1 for 6. Disaster struck not only John 'The Don' Whitehead, but residents of Fagley estate that were in danger of being hit by stray cricket balls, as he bowled his 3 overs for 45 runs!

Best batting from WRCC came from Oliver Musgrave with 50 no, Darren Atkinson with 36 no and Charlie Swallow [who is not on The Don's Xmas card list] with a brutal 52 no that left WRCC on 198 for 3 after their 30 overs.

Cavaliers opened with our own Little & Large pair of Ian Pratt and Dave Stirk but the partnership did not last long as Ian was dismissed for 7 with the score on 12. Dave '3rd XI Star Player' Stirk went on to make a good 43 who with Phil Dixon making 55 no on his Cavaliers debut were the star batsman.

Mention must be made of the different approach taken by Wilso in hitting 2 big sixes in his 14 and Phil 'Bad Shoulder' Gaunt seeming to play an old fashioned test match innings that Boycott would have been proud of in making 1 in 9 minutes that seemed like 9 hours!!!

The rest of the Cavaliers batting was somewhat forgettable and the innings finished with the Cavaliers on 157 for 8. WRCC best bowlers were Michael Baines with 0 for 12 in his 4 overs, Darren Atkinson with 0 for 6 and best of all Robin 'Warney' Snook with 2 for 14 of top spin bowling.

Thanks go to Lee Miller and Bob Skelly for their umpiring spell and Craig Hudson for his guest appearance as the Cavaliers scorer. The game was played in a great spirit and the Cavaliers look forward to welcoming WRCC back to UCC in 2010.