

Elsted

Lynchmere's Sunday XI arrived at Elsted on a classic English summer's day. The Elsted ground has a majestic view over the foothills of the South Downs, and north to our own Blackdown.

The game was a 35 over game, although perhaps this information was not distributed as widely as it needed. In a limited overs game, Lynchmere's favourite pastime of batting out for a draw is out of the question so captain Deacon decided to bat first.

It's fair to say that Lynchmere had the edge in experience. Which is a polite way of saying that we had more veterans in the side. Which is a polite way of saying we had quite a contingent of over 50s.

Peplow opened with King. The opening bowlers, Archie Wadey and Jack Norris, kept it extremely tight with well-aimed pace on or about off stump. King was bowled for a single in Norman's second over, but McGlynn joined Peplow to blunt the attack. By the time David Evans who replaced Wadey started his second over, we had scored only four runs in 10 overs.

But we did have resources in hand, and slowly McGlynn and Deacon started to find some fluency. Efficient outfielding meant that the batsmen had to run for their scores, with few boundaries. The pair had seen off first and second change by the time they brought up the 50 partnership in the 20th over. But now that Lynchmere seemed to be batting with confidence, Peter Goble managed to shoot one through and Peplow was smartly stumped.

McGlynn now saw his role as taking most of the strike to let the new batsmen acclimatize themselves. Perhaps his days on the Veldt made him believe he would play better at the high altitude of the South Downs. Although surprisingly Lynchmere's ground is significantly higher above sea level¹.

Terry Wadey bowled Prince Pappachan and had Dave Hains caught, both having seen McGlynn move the score forward. It was only when skipper Deacon came in to bat in the 28th over that he was advised of the few overs left. Goble bowled Deacon with the score on 91-5 with just over 5 overs left, and with McGlynn on 48. In true Village style no-one dared tell the Sunderland Saffer he was approaching a milestone. He'd only just found out it was a limited overs match.

Jis Lal joined McGlynn. If McGlynn had a preference for scoring by boundaries it wasn't shared by Elsted and the pair busily put on 30 runs, only a single boundary coming and 23 runs taking another 500 yards from the legs including the single to bring up a well-earned 50. McGlynn's lungs certainly hadn't been told that we weren't playing at altitude, and he did well to keep going. Lal fell to Tom Marion in the penultimate over. The last over's attempt at acceleration was little more than Brown's wafting hacks which missed the ball by several seconds.

After the parsimonious start, Lynchmere did well to finish on 125-6, and McGlynn did very well to finish on an impressive unbeaten 60.

Elsted's openers, Fergus and Dave Evans, may have had a social engagement to rush to. They certainly were not in the mood to stay just on the run rate of rather 1s than 4 an over. We opened with a combination of short and long names, with Jis Lal and Aidan Taylor-Gooby. The pair put on 26 in just 16 balls, with five fours, before Lal struck, taking Fergus Evans LBW for 13 from 9. Archie Wadey joined and was more aggressive than his opener, using his local knowledge of the slope to

¹ Lynchmere's ground is 533 ft, Elsted's only 287ft. Hindhead 700ft for those interested. If you need to know the heights of other cricket grounds where Lynchmere play, look up "neurotypical" in a dictionary.

take fours on the slopes to the north side of the ground. After Archie brought up the 50 partnerships with a 6, Lal struck again when David Evans nicked to Deacon as keeper².

Mikhail Williams took over from ATG, but new man Anthony Wadey was feeling no gentler than his brother. At 121-2 after 12 overs, we needed a miracle, so skipper called on Stu “the Murracle” Murrell. He managed to have Archie caught for 52, but was unable to provide either the remaining 7 wickets or 23 maidens we needed to save the game. Olly Simpson carried out the coup de grace³.

So, a chastening defeat against a side with too much quality for us, but played in the right spirit and accompanied by a thorough debrief in the Three Horseshoes.

² Skipper and keeper.

³ Which doesn't mean cutting the grass