

Match Report

**CACCC v Merriott House
at North Perrott on 31 August 2008
Result: Draw**

**CACCC: 178-7
Merriott: 138-8**

**S Varma 62 & 2-31
G McConnell 58**

North Perrott is a picturesque ground apparently sometimes used by Somerset CC for practice games – could we have been treading on hallowed ground once trod on by giants of the game Sir Ian and Sir Viv!?

Back to reality, I won the toss and having checked on the hangover states of the team who evidently had thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality of our kind hosts Charles and George Hickey the night before, decided to bat.

On a skiddy wicket due to overnight rain this was a solid batting performance. The order was slightly reversed to give some of the usual lower order chaps a piece of the action. Francis and Ed Skillers formed a useful early partnership. Ed managed 32 off just 29 balls including 5 fours a really good effort on a slowish outfield with huge boundaries.

Gary started steadily but then accelerated scoring a solid 58 and forming a partnership with the Magician Suraj who was on his usual excellent form, despite an appalling hangover, 62 off 44 deliveries. I declared at tea with the score on 178-7.

After an excellent tea, singing Charles happy birthday and consuming large pieces of delicious cake, egg mayo sandwiches, cans of Carlsberg etc we took to the field.

Chris was to use a contemporary phrase ‘right on the money’ from the start taking a wicket with his third ball, a lifting caught behind that I took in front of first slip. Christy bowled tidily and accounted for the wicket of their dangerous looking No 4 batsmen thanks to a juggling catch by in the action again Chris at short fine leg.

Ed bowled a tidy spell finishing with 1-30 off 7 while ‘timble tumble’ the Magician got stuck in at the other end providing me with a second caught behind from a straightening ball that had been preceded by two leg cutters. A subsequent high velocity delivery thankfully hit the wicket – had the hangover finally worn off brilliant stuff!

Unfortunately we were unable to take the last two wickets and some credit should go to the batsmen including Charles Hickey as floodlights were pretty much required under increasingly darkening skies.