

CACCC v Artificials
Saturday 11 June 2011

Result: Draw

CAC: 156 (G Wynne 46)
Artificials: 119-7 (G Wynne 4-40)

Battersea is always a popular fixture and replacements were quickly found for two late withdrawals. What has slightly spoiled the game is the view from the ground of the Power Station, which has been blighted by a recently developed block of flats obstructing all but the chimneys of this famous landmark building.

Dominic Thomas captained the side and wisely decided to have first use of a drying track following heavy overnight rain. This was to produce variable bounce throughout the game and our batters soon found themselves in trouble. We lost three wickets including Alex Chamberlin, to an unlucky played on and Jaffer Akbany to a controversial lbw decision. The innings reached a nadir at 72-4 after 15 overs.

However, Gibby Wynne at the other end held firm and ably supported by Stephen Bate revived the situation. Gibby accelerated the score rate with some excellent strokeplay and was unlucky to miss out on half century. After his dismissal to a lifting ball the innings fizzled out and 156 looked a vulnerable score.

After some impressive strokes from their openers, Artificials soon found themselves under pressure, the protagonist again being Gibby with an impressive spell of aggressive seam bowling. From the other end Steve Talbot found pace and lift and the oppo slumped to 42-4. Two of these wickets resulted from brilliant diving catches by Christy Kulasingam in the gully, the second of these definitely qualifying for a 'champagne moment' nomination.

The bowling changes and field placing was skilfully handled by Dominic who also put in a tidy spell of bowling. At 101-7 with 5 overs to go victory seemed attainable but the oppo batters defended resolutely and the game ended in a draw.

Many congratulations to Gibby on a sensational debut with bat and ball!