BPCC 2019 Match Reports

Sydenham CC vs Blenheim Park CC – 5th May 2019

/ [Match Report](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/category/match-report/) / By [ade](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/author/ade/" \o "View all posts by ade)

We won the toss and elected to bat and even generously offered the 9 men of Sydenham one of our eleven to even things up. Mitch our new Overseas player kindly volunteered. Opening partnership of Keys and West picked up where they left off last season on the road of Aston Rowants wicket, racing to 66 in 9 overs helped by some wild bowling. Before West was bowled for 14 and soon after also Keys for 44 and our innings then fell into a more sedate pace, crawling to 108 for 5 in the 25th over. At which point we were worried we might not make it to 130. But to the crease strode the colossus that is JVF. Who well supported by Stan the man and Kerr Senior plundered 60 from the last ten overs including 35no for himself to give us a competitive total.

There then followed the most impressive cricket tea known to man.

Suitably refreshed (barely able to move) we returned to the field and the opening attack of Walker and JVF found the going difficult. The very fast outfield and 10 man fielding side made it difficult to stem the flow. A difficult chance was put down by Keys diving forwards and then the Sydenham opener flicked JVF off his legs straight to Stan (the man) at square leg who clung on low down to give us some hope. To our horror though we saw Mitch (turncoat) Dewar making his way to the middle. With great timing and long levers we suddenly found ourselves alternating fetching the ball from remote boundaries and tidying up singles and it began to look ominous. A change was called for and the early introduction of Gokani, followed soon after by Stan (the man) Angol slowed things a bit. And then miracle of miracle’s Mitch feathered and edge to Kerr Senior standing up and after much hesitation from umpires he walked for a quickly and classily plundered 35. Gradually it sunk in to the stunned field Ct Kerr, Bowled Angol and an end was open. The remaining Sydenham opener continued to thrive (eventually out for 43) whilst their remaining batsmen struggled with the spin twins of Gokani and Angol. Raj joining in with the next two bowled and a catch by Keys before Angol ripped (yes that is right RIPPED) through the tail with bowled, contentious stumped and caught all featuring. Special note for the spin twins combo of Ct Gokani bowled Angol which gave Stan (the man) his fivefr… Batsman flicked it strongly backwards of square leg where Gokani took off like a cat and caught it brilliantly two handed off the ground, above his head and behind him (Kerr said it was reminiscent of Strauss). An over of Leg spin from Cox Junior and then returning Walker picked up the last man. Sydenham all out for 122 in the 24th over.

We enjoyed Stans jug of beer whilst listening to him cackling “5 for 30” on repeat. And Allan made a formal transfer approach to Sydenham for their tea lady. All in all a successful and pleasant days cricket and hoping the rest of the season pans out in similar fashion.

MOTM – Stan (the man) Angol.

Blenheim Park CC vs I Zingari – 12th May 2019

/ [Match Report](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/category/match-report/) / By [ade](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/author/ade/" \o "View all posts by ade)

On a near perfect May Sunday we started our home season on the South lawn the air thick with heavy expectation, midges and Spitfires. After a hard week of prep without the roller thanks to Raj, Nigel, Phil Boardman, Andrew and Stan the ground and pavilion was looking excellent and our relaid wicket about as good as it could for the first game.

As the striped army of IZ advanced across the Haha and onto the south lawn we were surprised to note that we were all at the pavilion at least 15 ins before start time, hopefully a habit to be continued. As planned we lost the toss and IZ decided to bat in this timed game. So yet a new opening partnership of Walker and Dewar (Mitch ) welcomed our guests with early session variable bounce and immediately we felt we might have something to play for. So when they quickly made their way to 33 we were getting concerned but then Old faithful Walker broke through clean bowling the opener. Then to our utter delight Mitch produced a fantastic three wicket maiden (..WW.W) inducing jag back down the slope, full on front foot LBW and another bowled and suddenly we were sniffing victory already. But with 15 overs of openers past we were needing a change. Jake bowled very tightly and Nick had the remaining opened dropped on the boundary at deep square leg but we made no further breakthroughs as the total began to build. The opener piling on the runs comfortably passed 50. Changing to Gokani and Stoddart started to bring wickets at the other end but with the opener again dropped in the deep it looked like he was inevitably set for a century…but no. Inexplicably with him on 90no and his team on 161-6 his captain declared ten minutes shy of the allotted tea time. (Yes we can’t quite explain it either).

There followed a very nice tea.

As suspiciously nobody else seemed that interested in opening the batting with Mitch the skipper stepped up and after breaking his bat and then creaming the perfect cover drove to the rope he was predictably caught by deep mid-off and Lee joined Mitch. However we struggled to really get away against a good opening attack who bowled 21 overs. Mitch picked up the occasional boundary including a huge six over deep wide mid on (cow) but eventually, inevitably the wickets began to fall. First Lee frustrated and then Martin LBW and Mitch (44) caught as the frustration grew. Then a flurry of wickets with only Nick beyond the top order able to break double figures and carry his bat to the end. We eventually held out for a memorable draw (for all the wrong reasons in the end) 110-9 from 39 overs. Unfortunately we couldn’t blame this on the pitch which had evened out over the day and ended up playing quite well.

Still a draw in a timed game against that bowling attack is not to be sniffed at and we proceed undefeated towards the bookworms of Bodleian Library next Sunday.

MOTM: Mitch Dewar

Blenheim Park CC vs Bodleian Library CC – 19th May 2019

/ [Match Report](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/category/match-report/) / By [ade](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/author/ade/" \o "View all posts by ade)

Winning the Toss BPCC decided to have a bat as the forecast looked like it might deteriorate later in the day. Almost immediately normal service was resumed as Keys laid into the opening bowling and West was out to yet another worldie catch (this time keeper full length to leg taking it in the webbing). Joined by Cox Senior Keys continued his onslaught with Cox chipping in as well. By 20 over drinks we were 100-1 and eying a 200 score and when Keys was finally bowled in the 23rd over (72) and we were on 120 and flying. But then the runs dried up with Cox Senior becalmed by some line and length consistency and although partners Boardman and Cox Jn chipped in with some positive stokeplay we glacially progressed to a respectable if not convincing 177. (Cox Senior eventually bowled for 53).

Another wonderful tea was taken in the shelter of the tree as some light drizzle fell and the BPCC bowlers licked their lips.

Ringing the changes we tried yet another new opening partner and this one will be a keeper. Walker was tidy although unlucky in his opening spell and Spearman Jr was excellent and deserved the wicket of the opener (who had won them the game last year) in his first over. The librarians then dug in and by the time of a double change in bowling after 12 overs were just 38-1. More tight work from change bowlers Gokani and Spearman Senior including a good LBW for Gokani and at drinks The Librarians were way behind the rate at 56-2 although their persistent opener was looking like he was getting ready to finally cut loose. With the relentless Spearman Senior joined by LVP Angol (who’s recent ennoblement seems to have made a much more controlled bowler) things began to happen quickly… After an early chance (well certainty really) was dropped, Angol got one caught and 2 LBW and with the healing power of Rhino horn, Spearman Senior, 2 bowled and one caught bowled . The returning Walker also bagged himself a lupus. So with light fading and Spearman Jr and Angol unable to remove the fighting no 11 and the belligerent opener who was seemingly happy to play for red ink, West turned to his mystery spin to remove no 11 at the first opportunity (Caught Cox Senior). All out for 116 (38.5 overs)

BPCC vs Swinbrook – 9th June 2019

/ [Match Report](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/category/match-report/) / By [ade](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/author/ade/" \o "View all posts by ade)

Match report (June 2019): BPCC 152 for 9 at home to Swinbrook 82 All Out (28.3 overs)

Another BPCC win (W6, D1 and L1) in a rare match where everyone contributed – bravo! At 40-4 things looked decidedly dodgy but George (44) and JVF (33) built on the foundation, weathered the … well, weather and set up a challenging total.

In reply, Swinbrook were restricted by some sharp bowling with wickets split between Amir Shazad (1), Nigel (2), Raj (3) and Stan with 2 in 2 balls …. and then comes the hat-trick ball … bowled on the stumps, batsman takes a wild swing … edges it onto the leg-side … wicket-keeper Lee dives for an impossible catch … and it was an impossible catch! BPCC complete a good all-round display with sharp fielding – 6 caught and 2 run-outs! BPCC dominance saw only one opposition batsman getting into double figures.

Raj

BPCC vs Felix Club – 16th June 2019

/ [Match Report](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/category/match-report/) / By [ade](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/author/ade/" \o "View all posts by ade)

Match Report from Sunday 16th June:

Rain, rain go away

After much work to ensure a playable pitch, the match started with us losing the toss and being put into bat. A fine opening stand enabled the score to move rapidly to 136 before the first wicket fell in the 24th over. A vintage batting performance ended with an unassailable score, a brilliant all-round performance and a deserved win! Well done team! Upwards and onwards.

Oh! … and the other match report follows (courtesy of Malc):

Blenheim shoots self in foot

After much hard work and anxious cover hovering we got a game on. The ten men of Blenheim against the 11men of Felix. Felix won toss and elected to Bat and we were in good control from the outset with Jake and Nigel difficult to play. Change pair of Tom Flemming and JVF also performing well and an enjoyable couple of overs of Finn bowling well against his dad. Then the Felix batting turned up and they motored from about 70-6 to 147 all out. Cox picking up a couple at the end. (Jake 2, Nigel 1, Tom 2, JVF 1, Finn 2, Cox 2). Keeper wars escalated another level with Stan conceding no byes and taking 2 good catches. Champagne moment Phil Spearman Ct Angol Bowled F Spearman/JVF departed chuntering about bloody wicket keepers who can suddenly catch.

An excellent tea was widely enjoyed and then the Blenheim chase began. Phil Boardman was confident from the off and had 30 on the board by the ninth over when Martin remembered he was also supposed to add to the score as well and started to pick off the weaker 2nd string bowling. At half way drinks BPCC were 73 for 0. First wicket fell at about 85 (Martin 30) and Phil ploughed on joined by Jake who hit a flashing 25 in short order and ran hard (and Phil into the ground). Then requiring about 25 from the last 12 overs with 8 wickets in hand the Blenheim collapse started. My therapist advises me not to try to recall it but Phil was last man out trying to steal a single off the last ball of the penultimate over to protect the drafted in spectator batting at no 11. Phil made an excellent 70 (and hobbled off the pitch as if he was indeed 70). We managed to give 4 LBWs (at least one of which had a bat involved), had a player bowled of the 7th ball of the over, had a catch given with no bat involved and didn’t have a full 11 to bat.

A match we should have Won, could have drawn and lost by 6 runs. At 1pm the BBC rain predictor said 97% chance of rain, we laughed when no rain came. At 7pm the Match predictor said 97% probability of BPCC win, 30 mins later we were not laughing.

PS: I wonder whether we can attract sponsorship from Kumon, SpecSavers, Boots Audiology etc?

All said and done: W4, L2, D1

Middleton Stoney vs BPCC – 26th June 2019

/ [Match Report](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/category/match-report/) / By [ade](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/author/ade/" \o "View all posts by ade)

BPCC batted first and off to a good start with Bill (53) and Lee (28) leading the way on a windy, grey and cold evening. Other innings of note were a cameo from ex-skip Canham (9NO) and big hitting from current skip West (17NO). Innings closed on 139-7 with BPCC looking for a first win in recent memory.

Middleton Stoney stuttered out of the gate with an early loss but then started peppering the boundary – and some cold hands! First change strangled the oppo with Canham (0-13 from 4overs), Bethell (4-18) and yours truly (4-13) including a stumping exekuted by the kool and kalm Kerr. MS closed on 93 All Out.

MOTM: Bill

Raj

BPCC vs Crusaders – 7th July 2019

/ [Match Report](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/category/match-report/) / By [ade](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/author/ade/" \o "View all posts by ade)

They scored 278. We were all out for 141 in 34 overs. Stan gave a terrible speech, nothing more to say except let’s never play a touring side again…

Malc

BPCC vs Medmenham Village CC – 14th July 2019

/ [Match Report](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/category/match-report/) / By [ade](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/author/ade/" \o "View all posts by ade)

They declared on 199-8 after 48 overs at tea (Stan 2W, Lee 2W, Malcolm 3W and a fantastic spell of bowling by Tom and Josh with just one wicket each). Their opener hadn’t played for 5 years smashed it everywhere got 80ish. Lee and Malcolm got to about 70 before Malcolm got out (28 caught at Mid off) in about 12th over. Same guy opened the bowling and was equally good we just scored off the bowlers at the other end. Wickets then fell steadily and when their 14 year old caught Lee on the very edge of the deep square leg boundary (like Boult should have caught Stokes) for 60ish it was all over. Last pair of Tom and Nigel batted out the last 5 overs of our 38 for a draw.

Malcolm

BPCC vs Islip CC – 21st July 2019

/ [Match Report](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/category/match-report/) / By [ade](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/author/ade/" \o "View all posts by ade)

Joey Burgess scored a gazillion (actually 148\*, Ed), and would have won the game on his own had BPCC not used eleven ‘bowlers’ in reply. Boardman and Cox got a few; neither Spearman got any. Rob Kerr let some byes through, but not all of them, Comfortable win.

BPCC vs Steeple Aston CC – 24th July 2019

/ [Match Report](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/category/match-report/) / By [ade](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/author/ade/" \o "View all posts by ade)

After the fall of stand-in skipper in the first over Joe Burgess carried on his fine form with a score of 62 forming the foundation of a very healthy 150ish. SA lost wickets at regular intervals (shared amongst BPCC bowlers) and SA never really threatened.

(This poor excuse for a match report was brought to you by Raj Gokani -Ed.)

BPCC vs The Cricketer’s Club CC – 28th July 2019

/ [Match Report](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/category/match-report/) / By [ade](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/author/ade/" \o "View all posts by ade)

BPCC won … the toss and choose to bat and immediately had second thoughts when Lee was caught to a stunning catch in the second over! However this set the tone for fielding in both innings. After Phil B’s early departure BPCC slowly rebuilt the innings with Simon Parker (58ish) and Martin Cox (46) to take the score to 146 for 6 from the allocated 40. In reply the Cricketers were soon in trouble with some fine bowling from Tom W and Nigel … and finer catching – most notably a driving one-handed grab by Simon P fielding at short mid-on. First change Phil S promptly hypnotized the batsmen with his soporific bowling and claimed 3-12. However, with the introduction of the ‘spinners’, the scoreboard started ticking … and Cricketers comeback. However, they had been pinned down for too long and with an asking rate approaching 10/over from the last 3, their last batsman found the juggling man-mountain Martin C patrolling the long-on boundary. Great ‘knuckle-ball from last-minute addition Josh … the man-of-the match goes to Tom for his on and off-the field performance i.e. 2pm mercy run to Oxford to get Josh!

Raj

BPCC vs South Wales Hunts CC – 11th August 2019

/ [Match Report](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/category/match-report/) / By [ade](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/author/ade/" \o "View all posts by ade)

South Wales Hunts galloped onto the South Lawn for our latest cricketing encounter.

Bowling first, Walker (9-0-23-1), & Weedon (8-2-22-3) ripped the heart out of the top order to sabotage the Hunts innings. With captain Gokani seemingly forgetting that one of his responsibilities was to rotate the bowlers, both JVF (11-0-43-2) & Rhino (13-5-23-1) ‘enjoyed’ extended spells that ensured the Hunts’ innings completely stag-nated, much to everyone’s joy. 34-4 after 11 became 96-8 after 39. It really was that exciting. Two catches a-piece were taken by Weedon & Kerr along with another by JVF\* but a final flourish saw the visitors end on 143-8 after which we all enjoyed tea compiled by the family Keyes.

In fading light and on a clearly slow & difficult wicket we opened with new boys Kelly (who remained not out) and McCall (who got close to F-all). Keyes also perished but managed to top score with 6.

With darkness descending however and rain ultimately falling along with thunder claps and lightening (very, very frightening evidently) the scent of victory had clearly diminished and the game was declared a draw at 6pm with Blenheim on 17-2. The Hunts prey were therefore free to escape into the shadows of the Woodstock Arms safe to enjoy a pint, whitebait and chips unhindered by the sound of the bugle and the sight of jodhpurs. Boyo.

\* Or not depending on your viewpoint (and the scorebook).

Rhino

BPCC vs Sydenham CC – 18th August 2019

/ [Match Report](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/category/match-report/) / By [ade](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/author/ade/" \o "View all posts by ade)

Firstly another big thank you to Andrew and his team for a fantastic prelude to the game which was very much appreciated by all who attended.

Regarding the game itself; a whole new format was invented with the 32 over thrash being contrived by the captains prior to the toss (they’ll all be playing it next year).

And a thrash it was.

Whether brim full with beef or laden with sumptuous strawberries or just sozzled with champers, only two Blenheim batters managed to scrape into double figures in a rather forlorn looking scorecard. But wait what’s that at the top? Keyes 103 retired (out). Yes the vociferous one had managed to bypass double figures completely and in doing so carry the team to a more than reasonable 185 all out. Either he must have been right at the back of the queue and missed out on the earlier food & drink or perhaps right at the front and therefore had ample time to digest /sober up. Either way he was in no mood to hang about in the middle. Four followed six followed four as wickets tumbled at the other end with persistent regularity.

Clearly not used to such a format the Blenheim innings came to an end within 31 overs.

A quick refuel later (courtesy of returning tea man Mike) and we were back in the field. Again wickets fell regularly with all 8 bowlers taking wickets (except for Rhino) with top figures recorded by Weedon of 3-9 off 4.

Catches were taken by a gloveless Kerr (Snr) and Spearman (Jnr) as Sydenham subsided to 121 all out in the final over.

Rhino

Isis CC vs BPCC – 26th August 2019

/ [Match Report](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/category/match-report/) / By [ade](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/author/ade/" \o "View all posts by ade)

In a weekend of unprecedented comebacks and with an enforced break from the South Lawn we all headed East (without our usual captain, West) to take on everything Isis could launch at us. We lost the toss and remarkably on such a hot, bright, sunny Bank Holiday afternoon, we were inserted. Did the oppo have some intelligence we we’re not privy to? Maybe.

At 89-9 after 30 it seemed they did as the game was all but over. The battle was clearly lost as we had ceded too much territory to our opponents already.

But wait! The fat lady hadn’t been informed as Nigel Walker joined Tom (11th hour replacement) Weedon. In scenes reminiscent of Headingley the previous day (& 1981), Weedon played the Stokes / Botham role whilst Walker was more Graham Dilley than Jack Leach. Weedon farmed the strike as much as possible, hit his maiden 6 (six) and a hatful of fours whilst Walker, when permitted, grabbed his own share of the spoils with several boundaries of his own whilst also executing diligent defence. Whatever previous success our opponents had had, this ancient relic was not for being toppled in a hurry.

Isis were therefore unable to maintain their stranglehold and before we had time for yet another drinks break to catch our breath, these two bowlers had advanced our cause to 148 before Weedon (45) succumbed in the final over leaving Walker undefeated on 14. 59 they had put on in a little under 10 overs and the tables had turned with Isis appearing more intent on infighting rather than dispatching their common enemy from the West.

Prior to this onslaught little resistance was offered as we had been like lambs to the slaughter. Even Cox (Snr) was having trouble timing his shots on a surface unfamiliar to Blenheim-ites – it being rock hard and offering little assistance to the bowlers other than the occasional extra bounce. Nevertheless Cox managed 40 with only scant cameo roles from two Spearmen for support before we found ourselves staring down the barrel. It had been tortuous progress, but more incompetence on our part rather than being terrorised by the opposition bowling.

New skipper Boardman displayed captaincy skills hitherto unseen from a Blenheim chief, setting out his new ideology during an inspired tea time team talk. Whilst celebrating our two new heroes he reminded them that it all meant nothing if we lose and offered them both first dibs at trying to defend our position. And defend it they did.

After 16 overs Isis had retreated to 32-2 with Walker & Weedon (2-14) holding a steady line. Reinforcements came in the shape of two Spearmen who launched 12 overs with a combined return of 3-34 leaving our hosts reeling on 52-5.

Gokani (1-19), Vaughan-Fowler and a returning Spearman (J) (2-20) completed the innings at a time when the batsmen were looking to get after them. But they too stood firm and the victory was complete.

The early skirmishes were indeed lost but the game was won and Isis defeated. They should have known that our very existence was borne out of battle and that we don’t roll over easily (sometimes).

Excellent catches were executed by Kerr, Spearman (J) & Weedon (who therefore cemented his all-rounder credentials). A plethora of easy, difficult and half chances along with near misses and outright jibs came & went but the 2019 Battle of Blenheim vs Isis was won by the boys from the South Lawn.

BPCC 148 ao (39.2 overs)  
Isis 125-6 (40 overs)

Rhino

Sheepscombe CC vs BPCC – 1st September 2019

/ [Match Report](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/category/match-report/) / By [ade](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/author/ade/" \o "View all posts by ade)

In the absence of ‘David Hughes (Club Secretary) and author of humorous match reports’ (as quoted from page 46 of David Levison’s Book ‘Remarkable Cricket Grounds’), it lies to me to fill you in with the basic match facts & stats. So if its humour you are looking for, look away now.

As we rocked up in the Cotswolds with a strong side to see 3 (very) youngsters in whites and others seemingly passed their best before date, thoughts of a humiliating one sided affair took shape. This was further emphasised after hearing stories of the oppo staying up all night in the clubhouse to celebrate their league side’s promotion and somehow swallowing keys along the way. With an early wicket falling to Bethel, we all wondered why we had bothered with concern over whether they would score enough to allow many of us to wield a bat.

We needn’t have worried.

Six followed four followed six as a century stand ran us ragged and only came to an end after 25 overs of hard leather chasing and long grass rummaging. Last week’s heros Walker and Weedon along with JVF collectively took one for the team during this passage of play during which we also witnessed a scene that might have been played out on the South Lawn itself. An overseas tourist-cum-spectator situated behind the bowlers arm and paying scant attention to the game, took, on the chest, the full force of a(nother) powerful lofted drive. It was the closest we had got to catching him out all afternoon. We all wish Sarah a speedy recovery and thank our lucky stars the turn of events didn’t turn out worse. Bruised ribs aside we can (hopefully) laugh about it now but at the time …

After yet another maximum off the Rhino which saw the retirement of the (by now) centurion it was left to Rhino & Cox (Snr) to clear up the mess and remarkably Cox took a 3-fer (‘three-for …’) – cleverly changing pace & flight to out-wit the pre-teenage batters at the other end. Rhino would have joined or even trumped him on a 3-fer had it not been for Jibber Bethel shelling two sitters at mid-off. For any Sheepscombe players reading this – it wasn’t a thinly veiled scheme to avoid the centurion coming back in – he just really is that rubbish at catching.

We can laugh about it now but at the time …

Catches were taken by both Spearmans, and JVF with an Angol run out ensuring the total remained below 200, but by posting 184 off 35 the hosts had given us every opportunity to show off our own batting skills.

However, we also suffered an early wicket – with Bethel turned victim rather than victor. At 20-2 with Boardman also in the shed we were rapidly becoming second favourites but Burgess and Wes Spearman repaired the damage with their own array of boundaries until Burgess (39) expertly picked out the boundary fielder who was possibly the only one who would have caught it. West similarly found the lone boundary fielder whilst Cox & Vaughan-Fowler both appeared to be auditioning for the new series of Strictly – JVF performing a lovely pirouette in front of his stumps while Cox (23) unusually left his crease before executing his best Bambi-on-Ice impression and being stumped.

So, 127 -6 with 15 overs remaining it was still anyone’s game. Wes was still there and he shepherded the tail – apart from Walker whom he ran out – but a 32 run partnership from Wes ‘n’ Weedon got us tantalisingly close.

With 20 still required Angol joined Spearman with only Spearman-the-elder and 7 overs still to come. We needn’t have worried as Wes picked out a fielder who couldn’t catch to bring up his 50 and Stan larruped one square for four and we were home and dry with fully four overs to spare.

A cracking game, in a cracking location, in cracking weather. But, we hope, no cracked ribs.

Rhino

Post navigation

Swinbrook CC vs BPCC – 8th September 2019

/ [Match Report](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/category/match-report/) / By [ade](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/author/ade/" \o "View all posts by ade)

Our latest excursion saw us in the scenic Windrush Valley as we paid a visit to Swinbrook’s picture postcard pitch beside the pub and river.

We batted first and got off to a flyer with Boardman and Keyes taking us to 56 before the latter was caught for 40. Maximums (but not much else) were recorded by Weedon and Cox and fleeting cameos came and went by West & Kerr. This allowed Spearman Jnr and Shaw the time in the middle to admire the scenery as if on some Sunday afternoon picnic in the park, ambling the odd single here & there when the mood permitted. Blenheim ended up on 174-6 off their allotted 35 overs – Boardman the pick of the batters with a fluent 72, presumably now free of any injured-spectator-anxiety-syndrome.

So Swinbrook required precisely 5 an over to win but with Spearman (Snr) and Walker opening and bowling their usual wicket to wicket, straight as an arrow line and length, the opposition found the going tough. By the time these two veterans had finished Swinbrook were reduced to 34-5 off 14. With Vaughan-Fowler and Spearman Jnr also joining the party this soon became 44-7 and with only 15 overs remaining the contest was all but over. A late flourish saw the hosts into 3 figures but not before young Spearman had doubled his return and Cox had added to his impressive September bowling bounty in addition to two catches and a jib. Fittingly Keyes had the final word when running out the runner. Or was it the injured striker. Or non-striker. Either way 10 were down and Blenheim had triumphed once more.

A convincing team performance in which everyone contributed. Well done the lads.

Rhino

BPCC vs Stonor CC – 15th September 2019

/ [Match Report](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/category/match-report/) / By [ade](http://www.blenheimparkcc.co.uk/author/ade/" \o "View all posts by ade)

On the eve of our final game at the back end of the season when preparations should have been in full swing, the pitch prep possie turned out to only to find the Palace closed due to an embarrassing toilet incident. Yes, a fully functioning solid gold toilet had been stolen and thus a flood of juvenile toilet hilarity got underway. Frankly as we are Blenheim Park Cricket Club one might expect the members to rise above such puerile humour. But we are what we are …

So we batted first in our inaugural home fixture with guys from Stoner who had hosted us in the previous two years. We opened with the two Phil’s – that’s Pee. Boardman and Pee. Spearman. The first ball of the match hooped past Boardman’s edge down to Fine Leg for 4 byes. ‘U-bend it like Beckham’ exclaimed the in-form Phil before despatching a glorious cover drive for 4 more on his way to 29. Spearman, unusually cast as a No.2, didn’t fair quite so well and left no deposit in the runs column.

Parker (32), as one would expect, drove nicely and steadied the ship with Blenheim reaching 52 in the 15th over before further mishap. Elsewhere, whilst West again had issues hitting the ball-Cox loitered like a lingering smell, whereas the late arriving Keyes hit out and got out. Meanwhile, Weedon again top scored down the order with a much needed 34\*.

Generally batting was tough going and ultimately we couldn’t squeeze out any more than 166-8 off our 40 overs.

So, into the field we went (so to speak), and although the lid was kept on the run rate the visitors also refused to get bogged down. At the half way stage they had progressed to almost half the score but ominously with only the one wicket down.

During the course of the innings, with all the police in the area it was remarkable how so much criminally loo’s bowling passed by almost unnoticed. However, thoughts that they’d somehow gotten away with were a little wide of the mark with only Walker (as always, bowling into the wind; 8-3-22-1), and Spearman’s P (8-1-29-3) & J (5-1-15-0 – having regularly found the edge) up to having their figures reproduced here.

As Stonor closed in on victory thoughts of our win counter incrementing went down the pan although at one stage at the fall of a rare wicket, all the talk was about the Timed Out rule as the incoming batsman appeared to take longer than the normally accepted couple of minutes after the previous gent had vacated the vicinity.

Our final highlight of the game was when West flushed out another wicket with Wee’dOn excellently judging a catch on the boundary off the skippers moon ball.

So as the lid went down on another season and we retired to the Woody Arms, we were left to reflect on the crime that preceded the game. As a club we should probably wash our hands of it but the police apparently have nothing to go on so who could have carried out such a big job?

Although a 66 year old man had been arrested conspiracy theories abounded. Blenheim’s own ‘WC’ mysteriously cried off and was otherwise Engaged the afternoon before the game with father Martin allegedly unaware of his whereabouts. Was JVF’s curiously quiet game a secret admission of guilt? And where was ‘property maintenance guru’ Stan (mid-60’s) Angol when it was all kicking off. Apparently abroad with a water-tight alibi – but has anyone actually heard from him? The clever money is on Stanley Angol in the closet with a sledgehammer. I’ll have a pony on that!

Rhino