

Tour '95 – The Return of the Blodgers

The touring Blodgers returned on Friday 4th August from another jaunt around the Somerset countryside, having won two out of four games with one game lost and one abandoned due to rain. Once again the tour party thoroughly enjoyed themselves in the Cider County.

The game on the Monday was abandoned due to a thunderstorm so in order to keep the crowds amused Rapid entered into a contest with their skipper. Puddle Diving was the name of the game! Each contestant had to run up and dive from the bowling crease and slide as far as possible down the pitch. The final score was 20 yds to 17 yds in favour of Cheddar. We then had a drink with the opposition in their local pub. This is where the first Murky Pint of the tour was consumed. Steve Niven, otherwise known as the "Murky Pint King", took on the Australian import from Cheddar C.C. and won thanks to a few spillages.

We then headed off for the Foresters Arms to unpack. Once settled in we began the quiz, which was convincingly and deservedly won on a tiebreak by team two. Several hours of drinking, dancing and singing followed this. Later that night, Gary Carr decided it would be fun to headbutt a solid wooden beam on his way to the toilet and made rather a mess of his tour cap. The ambulance crew from Minehead offered to admit him for the night but he declined. The next morning most of the tour party headed off to either Minehead or Lynmouth to do a bit of sightseeing before continuing on to Burnham-On-Sea after lunch.

This game is one that Damien Seddon will never forget however hard he may try. In attempting to push along the run rate he pulled the ball into his mouth and removed one tooth and chopped another in half. After visiting the local health centre he was rushed down the motorway to Taunton where his teeth were seen to. Damien will soon be appearing in a children's comic under the name of Gnasher!!! Thanks to Andy Renny's 39, Martin Niven's 4 wickets and Steve Niven's 2 cheap cheap wickets we recorded our first victory of the tour that day.

One lesson I've learned from this years tour is never go to sleep because you're liable to miss out on something and this was never more true than on the Tuesday night when 7 Blodgers decided that it was time to streak. With only their trainers on they headed up Long Street for a short distance, hiding behind bushes whenever vehicles approached.

On Wednesday we recorded yet another victory thanks to Steve Niven's marvellous innings of 60 and Lloyd Owen's 4-35 from 10 overs. With the 4 match series won, we headed off to the local pub, which was owned by one of the opposition players. Whilst the rest of the team tucked into their superb pub dinners, Nipper spent his time tucking into a gorgeous piece of Chicken Pie which had followed him round the ground all day. It turned out that this Chicken Pie was In fact the landlord's daughter. Aye Aye!!! Watch this space to find out whether or not she actually uses his phone number that Andy Renny accidentally gave to her.

On Thursday we went the short distance to Bishops Lydeard to play the toughest game of the tour. After an opening partnership of 72 Barry Sturgeon turned it on with the ball taking 2 for 39 in 10 overs. A late flurry from the Bishops Lydeard Australian import left the Blodgers facing 208 for victory and despite Gary Carr's 42 they were never in the hunt losing by 54 runs. Off the pitch the Blodgers gained valuable experience in pest control as more than 20 wasps were trapped inside a pint glass by Steve Niven, Mike Renny & Co.

Then back to the hotel for the last fines committee hearing, murky pints for the fines committee, entertainment's committee and tour organiser and best of all the cabaret. The tour party was split into five teams and each was required to do a turn on stage – the results of which were truly outstanding. After using up the contents of the fines pot Le Streak Part Deux took place only this time it was even better. 8 Blodgers took part in the sequel and 5 of them ran to the other end of town and back. One resident got quite a shock when she went to see who was knocking on her window at 2 am only to find three backsides staring her in the face. We returned on Friday, some of us via Minehead and Butlins with only one thought in our minds.....Roll on July '96.