



RAC V Ashtead Butterflies CC
Sunday, 30 July 2017
12.00 noon
City of London Freemen's School, Ashtead

138 all out from 35.1 overs Royal Automobile Club 135 all out from 35.3 overs Butterflies won by 3 runs

Following heavy rain overnight and having circumnavigated road closures owing to several million lycra-clad Ride London cyclists, the RAC took to the field at the wonderful setting of the City of London Freeman's School first XI pitch for our annual fixture against the Butterflies CC. Early breakthroughs from Johannesson and Havers plus a sharp run-out returned the Butterflies' top order back to the display cabinet with wings pinned and the score at 52-5. The middle and lower order fluttered their wings a little more steadily with some lusty blows to bring the total to 138 all out. D. Allan and Buss bowled effectively to claim two wickets apiece, including a steeping catch by Havers and a further run-out in a strong fielding display by the RAC.

Having dismissed the 'flies for under 140 in barely 35 overs, there was a certain optimism among our side during the fine tea provided by the Woodcote Park kitchens. Scarcely having digested the Victoria sponge cake pièce de resistance, our openers Caviet (skipper) and Buss encountered some tight new ball bowling at the top of the order and the score was soon 23-2 with Caviet dismissed for 15. This brought to the crease Havers and erstwhile wicketkeeper Williams to steady the ship with a 50 run partnership, before Havers fell for 20 and Williams went on to top score with 35. The RAC was well ahead of the required run rate after 20 overs, propelled also by D. Allan's quick-fire 21.

Sensing defeat, the languishing lepidoptera brought back their opening bowlers and sharpened their antennae in the field, which left the RAC lower order struggling to get over the line. The match culminated in a tense passage of play with Soni and Conway carving their willows in treacherous fashion with less than 10 runs for the win, before a straight one got through and the RAC were all out for 135, falling short by only 3 runs. All told a compelling and close match played in the right spirit - roll on next year!