

MATCH REPORT

ECCS VS UCC - 14 DECEMBER 2014

By Jon Aspin



Far be it from me to use this forum to stir the pot even further, but Sunday's UCC v England result came down to just two words - 'Good' and 'enough'. Unfortunately for England fans, there's a conjunction missing at the beginning which roundly sums up their performances so far this season - 'not'. As good a blokes as they are*, and try as they might to justify three successive losses, they just haven't shown enough in circumstances where they've had a sniff. Bowling well for 11 overs against the Aussies doesn't get you a ticket on the win train, and when you send the UCC into bat these days, there's a chance they'll smash you for 200.

Spring-boarding from a sensational last ball tie against SACC to now win three on the bounce - including two bonus points from their last two games, the UCC are the form team before Christmas and deserve to sit on top of the ladder. Guy Dormer, the newest member of the UCC's "I dropped a catch off Jon Aspin's bowling and all I got was a mention in this crappy match report" club, along with James Davis - the man with the best legs in VCA history (check 'em out, seriously) have quickly formed as efficient an opening pair as I've seen in this league. It was unsurprising then, that these two set Purple Hearts a-flutter once more with a rollicking stand of 75 at about 11 or so an over. Dormer awarded shot of the day for an along the carpet cover drive that raced to the boundary and had the purists doffing their caps and reaching for

the scones - who knew such strokes existed in this format? At the other end Davis avoided falling on his stumps this week and reached 40 off about 18 (same old Davis, always scoring) so he retired out for Chetan. That's when a storm that was already pretty scary ramped up to gale force and no one's figures were safe. Not exactly a chance-less innings, Chetan did what Chetan does and went nuts with a piece of willow. The highlight was a reasonably pitched up ball that he simply rocked back onto and dispatched cleanly over the midwicket fence for six. I don't think anyone really knows how to bowl to our little master; such is his creative invention at the crease. When he'd finished, it was a case of blink and you missed it though, taking him a sluggish 14 balls to reach his four zero. After that Tossif came in and for once didn't get hit in the head while lashing 25, Guy eventually made his retirement score and Steve slapped a couple of loose ones along with Geoff, who's G-Stats were unavailable at the time of writing, though much talked about in his conspicuous absence from post-match inebriations.

England's initial response was ok. They had the run rate up until the end of the 10th over, Zakharoff, Jay and Tizzard flirting with making a fist of it, however consistent wickets from Dan Malone and eventual M.O.M Bala meant their lack of depth was exposed on the high altitude slopes of a mountain called 207. Fielding throughout the day was poor, with both teams spilling several simple chances, but fortunately for the UCC, this had little impact on the game and victory was a formality. Bala's impressive figures of 3-14 meant we had a weapon the ECC just didn't fancy, and provided the icing on the cake set up by an awesome batting display. Malone also took 3 at a cost of 33, Vijesh took one over of damage but recovered to close out the innings, leaving England stranded at about 8 down and 60 plus runs short. This meant a bonus point and a happy time at the Tav for those in Purple before a mid season winter break commences.

See you in January folks!