

## **Match Report**

### Toulouse Cricket Club v Armagnac - Siddals cup quarter finals

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2007

There was a lot of pressure riding on this game being the QF of the Siddals cup. Additional pressure was on Armagnac to try and beat Toulouse who have a 4 match unbeaten record against them. It was obvious, from the side that Armagnac were playing, that they meant business, none of the 'Creche' were in and there were some new faces draughted in from various parts of France.

Toulouse lost the 'toss' and went in to bat opening with Two Fags and Raboisson, Raboisson still riding high after his triple boundary innings against the A380 FAL, although this was short lived as he was out the ball after his glorious four. In strolled El Presidente and made a quick five before being bowled. Father Ted at the crease next, whose innings started with the first over from Lewis which was referred to as the 'Buffet Over' by Ed.

With Two Fags and Father Ted looking almost unstoppable boredom set in and they began throwing up chances for Armagnac to take catches, several of which were missed. Eventually Armagnac accepted the gifts and they were both out with solid scores both in the seventies. This opened up for Delboy and Brooksy to make reasonable innings, particularly nice for Brooksy as he has struggled for form with the bat all season.

Brooksy was 'dubiously' run out and greeted the decision with a 'McEnroesque' performance including bat abuse, blaspheming replaced by gratuitous swearing, most of which was directed at the poor umpires.

The other notable innings was Gay Gordan with a quick 17 runs, this left Toulouse on a rather handsome 260 for 8 off the 35 overs. John Thomas not out for 10 and Philippe Grenouille not out 1. A difficult total to chase (or so you would think).

In came Armagnac with Bungle and Jeffrey opening, sorry, correction Hopper and Jeffery (cheap laugh) both of whom quickly settled in. They began chipping away at the total helped in no small part by the bowling of Rice (writing this) and the early overs from Skippy. The only ray of light for Rice was a full toss that clean bowled Hopper, who after hitting constant sixes of the same full tosses decided that this was not fair so didn't walk. This caused another ruction in the Toulouse camp with the usual suspects shouting and screaming about bad umpiring and foul play.

We needn't have worried though as on the very next over Skippy pitch one short that tempted Mr Hopper to step down the wicket and attempt to slog, he mishit and it was caught out of his crease and run out by Skippy in a magnificent re-active move. (Poetic Justice).

Enter 'Degsy the Destroyer' at the car park end to remove both Jeffrey and Mathews in one over, this unnerved Armagnac and the 'school choir' who had been very vocal up to this point began to quieten a little. Armagnac then got themselves settled down a bit and started to threaten the total before Degsy got things under control by removing one of the threatening pair and J Thomas the other.

By the last 5 overs it seemed that Armagnac were beaten needing around ten an over but small flashes of brilliance (and crap fielding) gave them much needed boundaries. The game finished somewhat closer than expected with Toulouse winning by just six runs after Hands hit a four and a six of the last over.