

Match Report

Friendly v Noe 19th April 2009

Stade Sordelo

Our first match on the newly laid track, was greeted by sunny skies and fluffy clouds (*cumulus congestus*). The usual wet Toulouse spring had left one side of the ground underwater, resulting in a very short boundary. Noe arrived with a strong, young team and elected to bat on winning the toss.

Philippe and Jase opened the bowling and both took wickets in tidy spells. Genou then came on and immediately found an excellent length and line. A fantastic catch by Wardle junior at backward square leg gave him well deserved wicket. Disaster then struck. The batsman skied the ball straight up and everyone watched it go up and then come down. Unfortunately this included the batsman and Genou who had a horrible collision mid-pitch. It was our all rounder who suffered most, with an eye injury that required 5 stitches and seriously damaged his symmetry – on the positive side it meant that his bowling average was preserved.

Bowling rotation gave most of our lads an opportunity for glory / humiliation. Michael had some serious rust problems but found some rhythm with a slower off break style. Our substitute player, Wardle Senior, finished the innings with his new, cunning off break style that proved too wily for the opposition. This despite a fat lip courtesy of the Cat who gently lobbed the ball into his mouth – perhaps better just ask him to be quiet!! They finished on 154-9. A gettable total.

Batting was rather disappointing as usual. David Paddock made his debut as opener but after looking comfortable against a quick but wayward attack, was beaten by a straight one. Philippe returning from hospital duties quickly did the same before Two Fags, who had done the hard bit & got himself in, followed suit. By this time it was very gloomy with storms rumbling around close by. Good resistance from Jase with chance riddled support from Skippy was not enough. Even a smashed backward cut from Rob the Clint was only a brief bit of cheer although Michael Fitchett showed good technique at the end as we finished on 64 all out.

So we start with a defeat but a nice match only marred by the Genou disaster. Thanks to Ed for an excellent umpiring performance and Rob for his Clint Eastwood impersonation. Sally is leading the new WAGS appearance league.