

Staff Student Cricket Match

Closest encounter in years earns students second victory in a row.

On the hottest day of the summer so far, the annual cricket match treated spectators to a gruelling encounter which left the staff reeling after their second consecutive defeat. The staff innings was nevertheless a good one, with not a single wicket falling. Rowley got proceedings underway with a solid display, exposing the students' shaky fielding and their shambolic wicket-keeping from the outset. Arguably the better team technically, staff batsmen all performed elegantly, the Bedford-Parkin duo putting in a particularly prolific display. However, they were perhaps guilty of complacency in their tactics: their decisions to retire batsmen at the peak of their performances were highly debatable. As if evidence were needed that this was a tense encounter, an altercation between King and Parkin was caused by the student bowler's decision to aim his balls suspiciously close to the batsman's head. This incident proved a turning point for the students who improved their bowling, tightened up their fielding, and finished the innings well. However, the poor bowling display at the start ensured that the staff closed with 220 runs.

Following this, the student's innings began impressively, with King and Bisson (of the RI) forming a deadly partnership. They scored 79 runs between them and thereby erased any doubts that there may have been about the students ability to turn the encounter into a close match. Sportingly, the two retired after six overs to give their team mates a chance to bat, whereupon the staff sensed blood. Wickets started to fall, with the only concrete resistance coming from Binions and Fowler. The crowd was treated to some excellent bowling, especially the refined technique of veterans Anderson and Bedford. Under the guidance of Parkin, the staff captain, the students were put under relentless pressure, and the doubts that it wouldn't be their day started to creep back in. However, a last minute display of decent hand-to-eye coordination from tail-ender Taroni turned things around, the cricket novice scoring 25 runs and forming a good partnership with the impressive Fowler. Staff laid siege to the pitch, and Parkin, by now a man possessed, twice came within an inch of bowling Fowler out. It was time for the final showdown. With one over left the students needed two runs to draw. Taroni, recognizing he was out of his depth, conveniently ran himself out to put King back at the seam. King wasn't about to let his team mates down; at his first attempt he nonchalantly blasted the ball for four, and propelled the students to a thrilling victory.

Staff v Students

08-06-04 at Shenley

Students beat the staff by 2 runs

Staff traditionally bat first

Each innings consisted of 20 overs of 8 balls each

Innings

Staff

220

Students

222 for 7

Staff Innings

J E Anderson	12	not out
D M Rowley	31	not out
W Branford	18	not out
C T Bedford	34	not out
I P Parkin	42	not out

D W Lewis	16	not out
J D Wilton-Ely	15	not out
M Wilson	4	not out

Extras	17b 20w 16nb	48
Total	20 Overs	220

Bowler	O	M	R	W
S Goose	3	0	19	0
O Williamson	2	0	17	0
K Saliq	3	0	36	0
W Bisson	3	0	11	0
P Fowler	2	0	24	0
S Clifford	2	0	28	0
R Binions	3	0	34	0
S King	2	0	22	0

Student Innings

W Bisson	39	not out	
S King	40	not out	
K Saliq	11	b C T Bedford	
R Binions	18	c	b J D Wilton-Ely
S Goose	4	b M Wilson	
O Williamson	17	run out	b J E Anderson
P Norwood	6	b D W Lewis	
J Grace	1	run out	b A S Wills
P Fowler	32	not out	
S Clifford	0	b A S Wills	
A Taroni	25	run out	b I P Parkin

Extras	b4 16w 9nb	29	
Total	20 overs	222	(for 7 wickets)

Bowler	O	M	R	W
I P Parkin	3	0	19	1
W Branford	3	0	51	0
C T Bedford	3	0	39	1
M Wilson	2	0	21	1
J E Anderson	3	0	20	1
J D Wilton-Ely	2	0	26	1
A S Wills	2	0	21	2
D W Lewis	2	0	11	1

Umpires A random selection of unbiased students and staff whose integrity cannot be questioned

Staff

J E Anderson, D M Rowley, W Branford, C T Bedford, I P Parkin, D W Lewis, J D Wilton-Ely, M Wilson, A S Wills, G Hogarth, L Price

Students

W Bisson, S King, K Saliq, R Binions, S Goose, O Williamson, P Norwood, J Grace, P Fowler, S Clifford, A Taroni

Man of the Match S King