

Match Report: Broomhall CC vs MDCC 3rd XI 28th June 2003

With the two's game at Stenhousemuir called off, it was left to the threes to carry the hopes of the club. The prospect of a large travelling support fell by the wayside with those without a game preferring to watch Heriot's rather than support their own. Understandable, as we all need some humour, but their loss given the excellent hospitality on offer from Broomhall (and afterwards at the waterfront Ship Inn) on a "Scorchio" day in Fife.

The afternoon started well with the Yelland-mobile selling our new shirts from the back of his car... stewards were getting suspicious that he was selling dodgy fake Robbie Williams gear! All Yelly needed was the sheepskin coat, cap and a Cigar and he would be Del boy! Soon we were on our way complete with a travelling support of two... the ever welcome Chris Broon (looking much better... well for Chris that is) and Boyd Junior who seemed to enjoy himself smashing cricket balls at the Broomhal Pavillion.... Perhaps he should have played? Needs to change his football shirt though.... Black 'n' white stripes much better than red!



The compact and bijou away dressing room was full and only Rob F and Frank had entered! Rob was in a good mood.... For the first time ever he had the full kit... whites and a cricket shirt! Of course, new shirts equals team photo.



The newly knicknamed “sexed-up” thirds were really **up** for it as the skip won the toss... was it cos the skip was in Fife that the tossing went well??? Anyway moving on swiftly we elected to field. What a start... the Broomhall top order seemed to be mesmerised by the Tom Wheeler sh*tte ball and promptly hit the ball to a Mufs fielder who rather oddly caught it (1 for Hugh Craig, 1 for Lawrence, 1 for keeper, Frank and 1 for Graeme Tait – also with new whites). Over 8 and Broomhall were 5 down as Lorenzo pockets another catch off another Wheeler full-toss. Much celebration began when suddenly the umpire called “No-ball” for an above waist full toss. Despite explaining to the Umpire the rule about this only being applicable for fast bowlers the Umpire was not for changing his mind. As it turned out Broomhall (new to the East League) play in the Forth Union and in that competition any full-toss over waist height is deemed a no-ball so I believe this was a genuine mistake which they wont make again.

However, this **was** a turning point in the game as the Broomhall batsmen G Holmes and Mike Warren used the short boundaries to good effect to take the score to 58 before Andy tempted Holmes to hole out to Hugh Craig for 26. Our support bowling though generally failed to threaten the capture of any further wickets and even the visibly wilting skip failed to break Warren and M Goodchild racking up a partnership of 82 before Tom bowled a great ball caught by Frank to dismiss Warren and Lorenzo’s 6^h catch of the season ensured Wheeler was getting the jugs in with 5-39 off 12 overs. Skip ended up with 1-30 off 10 and the Butcher only slaughtered the one victim for 35.

Tea was a good effort by the Broomhall guys with plenty of sarnies and cakes and tea with saucers achieved a 7.5 on the Co-op sponsored Andy Piggott tea-rating scale.

With the Fife sunshine baking the arena the Mufs batsmen, inspired by the pictures of Liberty and Webman in the Pink section of the Evening news (didn’t they look “Pretty in Pink”? 1 movie title ha ha!) set off to make a name for themselves. Our sexed-up image soon drooped however, as the “Don” was clean bowled for 5. Skip, obviously suffering from sunstroke promoted himself to number 3. First ball slammed into my big toe and I could feel the blood filling my socks – this must be a good sign for a big innings.... Remember Clive Lloyd bat when he was “injured”? Two runs were gained by skilfully directing the ball through the slips (or edged for short) and then I played all round an inswinging full toss to ensure my day was done. Taity was run out and Tom was out caught soon after.... (Tom’s day = 5 wickets, 5 runs... perfect symmetry.) Hugh followed and 28-5 was the sorry tale on the scoreboard.

The young guns, however, showed the droopers how it should be done. Lawrence top scored with 16 including 2 fours (his highest score for the threes) and Colin batted bravely for 7. Rob suffered our 2^d run-out of the day (disappointing to give away 2 wickets like that guys) and our only target was a batting point and a draw. Sadly we fell 3 runs and 15 balls short of these targets.

However, no-one realised what was to follow after a pleasant couple of cans from the “bar” (fridge) at the club the Ship Inn was the venue of an event surely comparable to the birth of Jesus in the Inn stable all those years ago..... Andy Piggott got the beers in... was it sunstroke... was it the shock of batting for 10 overs... anyway, pretty soon outside news broadcast cameras from Sky, BBC News 24, and CNN descended on the homely Ship Inn and even MDCC’s very own webmeister was on the blower seeking clarification of this momentous occasion.



Unfortunately, given this level of publicity the remaining 3 Mufs had to move on for food and Franky and Jerry's (?) at South Queensferry supplied the goods. Although the waitress didn't seem to be swayed by our new sexed-up image the food was good and shock horror the Butcher paid for this too!

Our entertainment for the night was not over as we drove back to the Alien centre of Broxburn to witness the remnants of "Orange" day.. the scantily clad young Broxburn beauty (sic) waving the hand of Ulster flag in the middle of the road deserved a second viewing so we turned round for another look while Broon commentated on the sights to his "Mrs"... although he was to get an ear-bashing for leaving her on speaker so the car could hear about her day!

Into town for a nightcap turned into a slow affair as we hit the Robbie Williams traffic although a game of "Yes" and "No" helped the time go by, before a verse or two of "Get yer ***s out for the lads" reaped rewards from the occupants of a blue minibus... cheers girls!



A blue minibus yesterday.

Footnote: I umpired the Sunday Forth Union Broomhall – Dunikier game and a very similar Broomhall team bowled out East League Divion 2 Dunikier out for 50 on their way to a 97 run victory. Excellent hospitality from the guys of Limkilns once again and the pub was still buzzing at the Andy Piggott buying the beers story.