



NPL CRICKET CLUB

The Lab Report

Fantasy Sign Up: <https://npl.fantasyclubcricket.co.uk>

20.05.2019

The Story of the Week

- 1st XI make it 2 from 2 with 180-run win over Burnham
- 2nd XI leave Cookham Dean with 20 points
- 3rd XI fell Ickenham in ruthless fashion
- Will Webster with spectacular 5-for, including triple wicket maiden
- 50s for Rowland, Gallyer, & J. Churchman
- Huge fantasy week for Badger's XI
- McIntosh bounces back with 5-wicket haul
- Lucas Pearson the pick of the bowlers in 1st XI league debut

Food, Glorious Food!

Our planet faces an endless quest for modernity and innovation, and for its humble yet ambitious inhabitants, the *status quo* is a thing of the past: cricket is no exception to this. This week Doble Publications' Innovation Lead, Charlie Farrant, sheds some light on the changing nature of the sport known and loved by 2.5 billion globally:

With talk of 'The Hundred' coming in to effect next year, restructuring of counties and franchises, and the change to 45 Overs in the Thames Valley Leagues, only some cricketing bastions remain a constant.

We all know about the staple components that keep the sport recognisable to its longing fans; bails, stumps, nuts of leather, cork & string, umpires, scorers – the list goes on, and these have not and should never be altered. However, that is not to say that cricket trans-

cends revolution. Oh no. Bats now weigh tonnes and whites have been modernised & tightened to reveal the extent of Josh Doble's ribcage – fair play.

Yet here in the Innovation Team, we recognise one momentous gap in the game's development that dwarfs all others and is perhaps part of the reason participation is wilting. The glaring question then:

"Still why can't anybody make a good Cricket Tea?!"

Now we all play cricket for different reasons, some for the competition (c.f. George Bradley getting cleaned up by a 11-year old for 0), some for the banter, others for the post-match pints (Tom Gallyer and Barrie Scott – I'm looking at you), but the majority play for that glorious moment when the 1st innings comes to a close, and shouts of 'Tea' ring around the field of play.

No sooner does our excitement reach fever pitch than Tom Julius shatters it with a simple proclamation: "this has to be one of the worst tea's I've ever seen". He's not often wrong.

The first record of tea being taken was on the 1890-91 tour of Australia in the very early years of The Ashes. It won't be of huge surprise to many of you

that Cricket Teas haven't moved on at all in the 130 years or so since. In fact, TVL rumour has it that Kew's sandwiches are the leftovers from that very Ashes Tour.

So why no change? Why no innovation? This is the million-dollar question that dogs cricket clubs the world over, and I think the Lab could have the solution. Week by week, we will look to identify the crucial elements of a 10/10 Tea, elements such as quantity, hot vs cold beverages, sandwiches – most popular flavours, rogue items – Chiswick and Whitton's onion Bhajis proved a hit last year. The data collected throughout the year will be worked into providing the 'Perfect Tea' menu with help from qualified foodies across the club, to then implement at the Lab for us to be known across the Valley as Gurus of Gastronomy (as well as marvellous cricketers and gents).

Those wishing to provide insight collected in previous seasons, please send through findings to chariefarrant@fatboy.com –

Together, we shall correct Crick-eting Cuisine.



Charlie Farrant



5 wickets each for these two on Saturday, though Toby got hit for way more runs