

Clavering CC vs Manuden CC 15th May 2022

Under leaden skies and accompanied by warm and humid conditions, Manuden Cricket Club arrived at Clavering CC, for their third match of the season.

Clavering soon won the toss and the home side promptly inserted themselves in to bat first. It was a young Clavering team, interspersed with familiar, experienced faces, as opening batsmen Pluck and Morgan strode to the crease. Angus Holmes opened the bowling for Manuden, and quickly tested the defensive technique of the Clavering duo, striking one of the pair on the upper torso with a snorter of a delivery and showed that there was good level of bounce available in this wicket. Joe Davey followed immediately afterwards with a good first over of spin – however not too long afterwards the skies opened up and the first droplets of rain began to fall – which, within minutes, soon became heavier and heavier. This worsening precipitation marked a familiar pattern – which continued throughout Manuden's fielding innings.

As the rain continued to fall fielding and bowling became harder and harder; conversely Clavering proceeded to cash in and benefitted from seven (or so) dropped catches from the Manuden team – who struggled to grip the match ball and keep a firm footing in the incredibly slippery conditions. On countless occasions, the match ball disappeared into the Clavering countryside with powerful boundary hitting from Pluck, Morgan and Bertie - dispatching the match ball for six runs with painful regularity and with the ball being substituted on a number of occasions after disappearing into hedgerow, field and village garden. Pleasingly Manuden showed spirit and battled on, despite the conditions and, after a time, Pluck was the first Clavering batsman out - for 39 (bowled Des Curlewis, caught by Holmes). Carrol was the next out for one run (bowled by MacDonald). However the next wicket to fall was Morgan, who took some time to be prised from the dampening wicket and was out for 96 - with some very aggressive shot play; he was accompanied by Bertie – who also spent time at the crease, scoring 101 and then promptly retiring himself. Both Carter brothers completed the innings – with one scoring 15 (not out) and the other losing his wicket to the final match ball (bowled by Joe Davey, who ended up with the most wickets for his team). All in all, it was a tough day to bowl and field and Clavering's 289 would be a stiff total for Manuden to chase.

After a short break for tea, and some portable nibbles, Manuden's batsman walked out to the crease, Jim Tatchell and Hugo Chisendale-Marsh being the first to take guard. The rain clouds were now shifting away from the Clavering locality and mischievous rays of sunshine were starting to peak through. Pacey bowling proceeded to challenge both openers, with Hugo Chisendale-Marsh unfortunately facing an extremely challenging delivery from one of the Goldstone brothers in the second over and was out for the first ball that he faced. Tatchell, however, scored positively, before he was also out - scoring 10 from 26 deliveries – off the bowling of Southcott. Match Captain, Chris Holt, was the next Batsman in, at number 3, scoring a couple of boundaries before being out by the bowling of M Goldstone for 12 (which would, incidentally, end up being the highest total for the Manuden side).

In the next hour a steady stream of wickets continued to fall; Adam Pulfer scored a brisk 9 (off 15 balls), before being out lbw to Chris. Des Curlewis scored 6 runs off the 8 balls he faced, before offering a sharp chance to second slip – which was initially juggled and then gratefully pouched at the second attempt. Dan Hawkrige entered the field of play as Manuden's number 6 and stayed at the crease for 21 balls, scoring 8 runs but being caught at Mid-on off of the bowling of Carter. Mac MacDonald came in at number 7 and scored 6 before being bowled on his 10th delivery. Vaughan Edwards was Manuden's 8th batsman and Angus Holmes Manuden's 9th, the former scoring 10 from his 22 deliveries before being bowled by Carroll,

Holmes also succumbing to the same bowler for a sprightly 8 off 7 deliveries. Manuden's last two batsman, Chris Jarman and Joe Davey, then attempted to frustrate the Clavering bowling attack with a Geoffrey Boycottish-type innings, and faced a combined 57 deliveries, Davey bravely facing some sharp bouncers in the last two overs. The match was brought to an end with the final delivery of the match, with Davey bowled by Carter from his 21st ball. Manuden scored 88 in response to Clavering's imposing total.

Well done to both teams. Next up for Manuden would be on the following Sunday, with a home match against Woodcutters.