



ECB Yorkshire South Premier League

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Chairman's blog – 9 May

After the advance party for our 'old farts' trip to the *Goodmanham Arms* last Wednesday arrived to find the pub closed due to a bereavement, disaster was averted by the discovery of the newly-reopened *Bay Horse* in Market Weighton. This hostelry served an excellent pint of Youngs *London Gold* (a verdict endorsed after several pints) and some excellent fish and chips. Happily, the following day's visit to the *Lamb & Flag* in Leeds resulted in no such drama – just a very pleasant evening with members of my old work team!

After the usual culinary fortifications, Kirsty and I set forth for Treeton on Saturday. The warm



Grey skies over Treeton

sunny weather that has previously accompanied our visits there was sadly missing, to be replaced with grey skies and a cold wind, but we got our usual warm welcome from Treeton chairman, Keith Haynes. Keith introduced us to the club's groundsman, Alan Wray, who is a reader of this blog, and mischievously commented on its balance between cricket and real ale coverage. In response, think I must quote the late John Arlott; "what do they of life know, that only cricket know?" Keith and Alan proudly showed us the impressive array of toys they keep stored away for use on the ground. I have to admit that I would not know one end of most of them from the other, or what to do with them. But Keith and his committee are committed to improving the standard of the playing area, and assure me that no self-respecting groundsman can be without them if his pitch and outfield are to be up to the required standard.

I made a phone call to Abbeydale, where I spoke to our esteemed secretary Steve Ward, thankfully safely restored to his seat of duty in the scoreboard after his brief sojourn in Benidorm. I did not question him on the latter, merely enquiring about his health, and was told that he had a headache – 'due to the cold!' I understand that he subsequently told Kirsty that he had 'seen some sights' and that 'his eyes had been opened.' There also being some mention of 'inflatable objects in broad daylight,' I felt it wise not to ask further questions.

On the field, Appleby Frodingham, who had been 137-7 when we arrived, recovered to reach 201, largely through the efforts of skipper Matt Fowler, who made 67. When Treeton were 64-2 in response, there was a glimmer of hope for the visitors, but Steve Foster's fine 52, supported by Muhammed Waheed's unbeaten 50, took the game away from them. The home side won with six wickets and five overs to spare. Keith was so flushed with the euphoria of victory that he bought me a pint of Chantry *Full Moon* – and excellent it was too!

Elsewhere, one team or the other seemed to be comfortably on top in most of the games, the exception being at Barnsley, where a shock appeared to be on the cards. Of course TCS, which seems to me somewhat erratic, started to play up, and the scores 'froze' at the vital moment. It was not until we were in the bar that we were given the news that Barnsley had recorded a memorable win in a close finish.

The visitors had brought their usual small contingent of hardy followers, and it was good to see and chat to their former master scorer Dennis Wadd, who continues to belie his years, and our former committee man, Ian Armiger. Ian was enjoying a busman's holiday following his well-earned retirement from cricket duties. Whilst these stalwarts enjoyed their team's resurgence last season, and look forward to this one, their feet remain firmly rooted in reality.



Steve Foster hits out

atmosphere and cuisine there make it an ideal place for special occasions – not to mention the well-kept real ales....

Tomorrow there is a League committee meeting, and I spent some time yesterday doing preparation work for that; in particular, preparing the accounts summary. I also worked on a few things that I am dealing with in my capacity as the Hull Kingston Rovers club historian.

Next Saturday, weather permitting, we will be at Wickersley for the visit of one of our two unbeaten teams, Whitley Hall – the other being Sheffield Collegiate, of course. It should be a very good game at Northfield Lane, and I very much look forward to it.

Till next week,

Roger

After the game, we had the usual pint with the umpires, this time Dave Goodlad and Simon Widdup – I think that a hot toddy might have been more appropriate for them after being stood outside for six hours! It had been a hard fought game, and they had handled it well.

Finally, after a few words with home skipper Chris Cobb and my old friend Matt Morland, we said our goodbyes and headed home for some light refreshment – and the wine carafe!

Today is our wedding anniversary, and we shall be marking it with a visit to one of my favourite hostelrys, the *Pipe & Glass* at South Dalton. The