

Quaker Cricket

During the 1960s an annual cricket match took place between teams from Croydon and Sutton Meetings. The instigators were John Harper of Croydon and Arthur White of Sutton. There is a record of an early match being held in Beddington Park, which Sutton narrowly lost, but subsequent matches were played on the recreation ground in Sanderstead.

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Published in The Friend, 22 July 1966

Friendly Match

Cricket is a serious business, and I have always deprecated the irreverent approach of those church fete organisers who go in for *comic* cricket matches. Friends know better. They prefer what are called friendly matches, in which an apparently permissive atmosphere barely conceals the serious nature of the conflict in which the opposing factions are engaged.

Any resemblance to a comic cricket match is thus superficial. If the teams' attire shows some signs of improvisation, this merely reflects Friends' distaste for uniformity and outward show. If some of the batsmen's strokes seem a shade eccentric, this is not humour but a deliberate unorthodoxy.

These reflections occurred to me after the annual match between Croydon and Sutton Friends, at Sanderstead last Saturday. They did not occur to me at the time because (a) they are too profound, and (b) I was too busy enjoying the cricket, keeping warm, and trying to work out whether the variations in pace, flight and direction in the deliveries of a well-known bowler were deliberate or something else.

For the Record

After which, having gone so far, I suppose I ought to report the result - that Sutton Friends (captained by Arthur White) won handsomely. The Croydon team (led by John Harper) batted first and scored 87 (S. Watling 28, Maurice Skeet 34), Terry White taking 4 wickets for 24. Sutton replied with 121 for 4 (Robert Horn 30, Gordon Steel 40, Timothy Addey 30 not out) before play was brought to a close by light showers and a spirit of compassion, in the cool of the evening.

These matches have been played for ten years or more now, thanks to the determination of the two chief protagonists that their followers shall not escape this annual exercise. Records of the first matches have been lost, I understand, but last Saturday's at least has been saved for posterity, if only in this garbled form.

C.H.

(Clifford Haig, the editor)