

## **Midi open league campaign with a weekend to forget May 2012**

The heady optimism triggered by Midi Cricket Club's victory in a season-opening friendly in early April was cruelly quashed with two emphatic defeats at the hands of Toulouse CC and Noé-Gascogne CC in the first two matches of its league campaign on 5 and 6 May.

Midi failed to amass three figures in total in the two fixtures, going down by 73 runs against Toulouse in a rain-affected match, followed by a 168-run thumping at the hands of Noé at their picturesque ground in L'Isle de Noé.

The signs were ominous even before the trip west with Midi's hopes of breaking with tradition and fielding a full team away from home being dashed when key all-rounder Rob Bowyer cried off at the eleventh hour with RCI (Repetitive Crépé Injury), an affliction that he was unable to brush off.

The 10-man team, which was forced to include scorer "I-always-bring-me-kit" Reg Gratton, was further reduced to nine on the Sunday when Anglo-Frenchman Marc Dalling got the call from François Hollande's office to return to Montblanc to help tip the balance in the presidential polls.

Under blue skies, Toulouse, who chose to bat after Midi skipper John McBurnie lost the toss, steadily compiled a solid total despite impressive bowling spells from former captain Dom George and Alex Lalljee.

George's parsimonious figures of four for 27 in 7.2 overs included the vital wicket of Chris Srikanth who looked well on the way to a half century when George bowled him for 34.

He was well supported by Lalljee whose figures of three for 34, following a tight spell in the season opener against the No Hope XI, have promoted him to a regular choice in McBurnie's bowling line-up.

Midi for once held their catches, exemplified by a brilliant diving dismissal to wrap up the innings from wicketkeeper Steve Field. The heavy thud as body hit turf was recorded by the European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre.

The target set by Toulouse seemed to be an attainable 167 which was reduced to 120 in 29 overs when a heavy thunderstorm at the break reduced the playing time by 45 minutes.

However, the dark clouds persisted over Midi's innings with the top five batsmen back in the pavilion with only 37 runs on the board. More accustomed to a mid-order collapse, Midi never recovered and only Nick Allison was able to stay at the crease, becoming the only batsman to reach double figures with 13.

Captain McBurnie and the tail fell in quick order and Midi went into Sunday's clash against the formidable Noé with their confidence dented after a depressingly dismal score of 47 runs.

McBurnie's team-building exercise around the bars of Toulouse on the Saturday night sadly didn't produce the desired effect, and Noé eased their way to 208 runs for the loss of six wickets, with two batsmen, Anbu and Jyothi, making half centuries, after Midi again lost the toss.

George was once again the pick of the bowlers, recording miserly figures of two for 27 from his allotted eight overs and helping to peg Noé back to only 66 runs for three wickets at the 20-over break.

But Noé stepped up the run rate after the interval and Midi's cheerless weekend was summed up when Paul Rogers pulled a muscle in his seventh over which had to be completed by Gratton, whose anticipated one-ball cameo included a wide.

Unlike the previous day, Midi spilt at least 10 catches with almost every player guilty of putting ball to ground, although Ken Miller atoned for his difficult dropped chance with a brilliant runout from point shortly after the break when he had only one stump in his sights.

Facing the formidable Chougle Bipin, four for 4 wickets assassin in last year's defeat at the Noé ground, Rogers, with a runner, lasted only three balls, once again heralding a top-order collapse which saw five of the team sent back for only 34 runs.

Noé's self-assurance was summed up when Bipin was taken off after only two overs, and six other bowlers were called on to despatch the visitors. Lalljee and McBurnie were the only Midi batsmen to offer any resistance, both compiling nine runs.

An ashen-faced McBurnie was tight-lipped after the match and will have to undertake some serious soul-searching before the next fixture against newcomers Catus CC in Toulouse on 19 May.

### **Midi go down to Toulouse with only one gun blazing May 2012**

Midi CC suffered another crushing defeat as they stretched their beaten record to three in another disappointing start to the league campaign, but took a crumb of comfort from a quick fire half-century from former captain Dom George and a sparkling off-field display by first-aid officer Terry Gratton.

Toulouse, who had beaten Midi by 73 runs at home in the season opener, rubbed salt in the wound with a thumping 182-run victory, rattling up 312 runs for eight wickets after winning the toss and electing to bat at Midi's St. Pons de Mauchiens' ground.

The day had been set fair for Midi, the weather was fine and warm, traiteur Ken Miller was preparing the tea and the home team could boast a full team, two umpires in President Colin Trickett and David Cole, an official scorer and a first-aid officer.

But Toulouse, fielding a vastly different side from the one that had defeated Midi three weeks previously, showed the depth of their strength and ruined the party for the handful of spectators.

Led by their number three Martin Leake, who racked up 103 with nine sixes, and captain Neil Warren, who hit 48, the away side nearly spoilt the home side's enjoyment of Miller's wonderful tea-interval spread. The groaning table rightly

earned fulsome praise from Warren in an after-match email of thanks to captain John McBurnie.

For the home side, only veteran slow bowler David Mickleborough and Alex Lalljee, both with figures of two for 46, made any impression on the away side. Spinner Nick Allison will want to forget the three consecutive sixes in his first over, so please ignore this sentence.

Midi once again rued a plethora of dropped catches, five of them from the bowling of George alone, whose figures of 0 for 49 off his allotted eight overs, did no justice to his usual nagging line and length.

Midi's high point in the Toulouse innings was the quick response of first-aid officer Terry Gratton. Armed with his St. Johns kit, he dressed the nasty chin wound suffered by number eight Amit Singh from a rising McBurnie ball and then took him to a hospital in Pezenas where he received 12 stitches for the injury.

Perhaps weighed down by Miller's gourmet fare, Midi lost two quick wickets in the formidable run chase, with openers Nick Allison (10) and Alex Lalljee (0) both back in the pavilion with the score on 14.

Ben Morgan, supported by captain John McBurnie, eased the score past 50 but Morgan's departure (24) prompted the predictable middle order collapse and the home side slumped to 74 for nine.

It was time for the cavalry in the shape of George, whose was simultaneously running one of his wine tours and had appeared in the Toulouse innings for his bowling spell only to disappear again.

With Midi staring down the barrel of another sub-century score, George appeared in the nick of time like a knight in shining armour in his white-charger mini-bus. After Toulouse graciously took a drinks break to allow him to pad up, out he came to give some respectability to the Midi innings.

George thumped five sixes in a 16-ball half-century and when he departed on 53, Midi's score had almost doubled to 130. Young Frenchman Pierre Zivanovic, playing his first senior game for Midi, was the not out batsman after scoring his first-ever run.

Midi now face another double-header weekend away to newcomers Catus CC in Toulouse on 9 June and then against Armagnac in Seissan the following day. With an overnight stay planned in Toulouse on the Saturday night, McBurnie has already issued a lights-out at 4 am curfew on the team.

### **Midi CC continue losing spree at hands of league newcomers June 2012**

Midi CC gave new meaning to their ritual batting collapse when they lost their last seven wickets for five runs against league newcomers Catus CC in Toulouse on 9 June as they vainly chased 228 for their first victory of the season.

Midi, who have lost all four matches in their 2012 league campaign, sank from 34 for

three to 39 all out but gratefully edged past their lowest score of the season, thanks to a neatly compiled single from official scorer and occasional player Reg Gratton. Midi's exploits away from home have been marked by understrength sides, loss of the toss and improbable victory targets.

And while Captain John McBurnie broke the pattern by winning a brilliant toss, he tempted fate on a dry but slightly overcast day by electing to send the opposition in to bat.

Fate obliged and led by their Australian captain Ken Sutton, who top-scored with 49, Catus feasted on Midi's underdone bowling attack.

Only former captain Dom George kept the run-rate in check, recording creditable figures of one for 27 with his usual cheeseparing line and length which included three maidens, one a wicket maiden in his second over which sent back the Catus opener and gave Midi false hope that this could be their day.

The two Midi spinners, debutant Gerry Johnson and veteran Dave Mickleborough, both picked up three wickets for 44 but it was the usual catalogue of dropped catches, at least two off George, which invited the opposition to compile a formidable

target.

Midi's cause was not helped by the terrible state of the outfield with a number of the 29 boundaries being conceded through the unpredictable bounce of the ball.

Ken Miller, Midi's American import, provided the highpoint in the field when a thunderous hit off his bowling by Sutton ricocheted off his outstretched hand into the

wicket at the bowler's end to run out opener Ken Keeble for 39.

Wicketkeeper Steve Field's one-over, six-run cameo, without gloves, will also be remembered. Or maybe not.

Midi's run chase opened predictably with Field, Miller and George all back in the pavilion with the score in single figures.

Young French debutant Quentin Saulnier joined McBurnie and, showing courageous and resilient defence, he shored up the Midi innings, helping to take the score to 34 before being bowled for three.

Saulnier's departure was the signal for a collapse of epic proportions. Top-scorer McBurnie departed for eight, followed in quick succession by Mickleborough, Johnson and the French trio of Hmiri, Amoros and Zivanovic with a combined score of two.

The extras column with 12 wides and seven no balls, helped ease the Midi score to 39, one more than the season's lowest score against Noe in early May.

Midi will have a chance to regroup on Saturday 16 June with a friendly on their home ground in St Pons de Mauchiens against Bedouin CC.

Midi's only success in 2012 has been a season-opening friendly against the No Hope XI in early April and McBurnie will be looking to this match to re-ignite his first season as skipper after the string of league defeats.

McBurnie however can take some heart from the exploits of Barrington Cricket Club in Somerset at the weekend.

While Midi were collapsing in Toulouse, Barrington were imploding in Somerset.

Chasing 195 runs by Huish & Langport in the Division Two Somerset Cricket League, they started well and were three for 0 after the first over.

Then came their "Midi moment", 10 wickets falling for three runs. All out for six. One of the players, Steve Redwood, top scorer on two, said after the game that the club was at "rock bottom".

According to informed cricketing sources, Midi are negotiating a friendly against Barrington later in the season.

## **Midi take heart June 2012**

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June was a glorious summer day at St Pons de Mauchiens, the perfect setting for a visit from touring side Bedouins CC from London. Given their recent run of poor league results, made worse by their actual performances, Midi were determined to use this fixture as a turning point in the season. Bedouins rocked up having put in several hard days training at a local campsite bar and missing one of their opening bowlers who had gone AWOL in Bezier the night before. Midi's Ken Miller sportingly offering himself to the opposition to ensure both sides could play with a full team.

Midi fielded a new look side, with caps handed to Griffiths, Du Bois and Lucas. The ever reliable Zivanovic brothers added a youthful feel to the team and with Rogers returning from injury Midi's mood was quietly confident.

Skipper McBurnie started on a positive note by winning the toss and bucked the trend by choosing to bat. Bedouins looked like they would have preferred a few more hours in the shade but took to the field with surprising purpose.

Wanting to look forward, rather than reflect on recent batting collapses, Midi's openers strode out with determination. Minutes later Lalljee (0) was striding in the opposite direction, caught at mid-wicket with a poorly executed pull.

Bedouins opening bowlers toiled admirably in the heat, Brown leading the way with an impressive opening spell offering good pace and bounce. Rogers, looking to bat himself back into form, gave Brown the respect he deserved playing with uncharacteristic watchfulness (for a while).

Griffiths (23) came in at number three, clearly keen to show his mettle on debut by peppering the boundary immediately but eventually caught by Phelan. Next to the crease was George and a 3<sup>rd</sup> wicket partnership of 36 saw the score board ticking over nicely until Rogers (34) top edged a Ken Miller slower ball which was gratefully collected by the wicket keeper.

P.Zivanovic came and went without troubling the scorers and Amoros (10) followed shortly afterwards, stroking a couple of fine boundaries before being bowled by Miller. This brought in Mcburnie with the score on a wobbly 103-5. Skippers old and new played carefully, punishing the bad ball and putting paid to what has almost become the obligatory batting collapse. The partnership was edging towards a half century when George (54) was bowled by Shelley.

Next up was Du Bois who showed his attacking intent from the outset by slapping his first delivery back past the bowler and dealing almost exclusively in boundaries. Having survived a couple of dropped catches Du Bois then benefited from a dramatic error of judgement in the field. He lofted a drive to long-on. The fielder held on to the catch... and carried it backwards over the rope for a six! Du Bois (25) and McBurnie (44) eventually fell late on trying to force matters but Midi finished on a

creditable 220 for 8 and were feeling optimistic as they tucked in to an excellent tea, including a memorable banana cake.

The sun had taken its toll on Bedouins, but they looked fresher following the interval and came out with guns blazing, Phelan hitting the first delivery of the innings for four.

Skipper McBurnie began with the new opening duo of Du Bois and Lucas who stuck to their task as Bedouins made their intentions clear. Phelan (19), determined to give the newcomers a testing taste of cricket in the Herault, eventually falling to a sharp catch by Lalljee at mid-wicket. Williams followed soon after and Midi's tails were up, looking to get stuck into the Bedouins' middle order.

Holliday and Sherrington came together with the score on 49 for 2. A combination of well judged leaves and lusty blows moved the score on in good time and at the half way point Bedouins were half way there at 110 without further loss. However they had the distinct advantage of 8 wickets in hand.

Showing more aggression on the resumption, Sherrington (54) swatted anything with a hint of width to the boundary until being brilliantly caught by Lalljee with a diving catch in the deep. But the 3<sup>rd</sup> wicket stand of 103 had done for Midi. Whilst Holliday (76) went late on to Griffiths, Harrison and Gillam saw them home with 4 overs to spare.

George (20-0) carried the most threat for Midi, consistently probing a 4<sup>th</sup> stump line to a heavy off-side field and was unfortunate not to pick up a wicket. The debutants performed well and Midi will be happy with the performance in the field, a few of chances going down but an otherwise energetic display.

Has a corner been turned? The upcoming visit of Noe Gascogne will provide another stern test.

Our thanks to the Bedouins who proved excellent guests and provided an enjoyable day of competitive cricket played in good spirit. We'd like to offer Phelan our congratulations on his upcoming nuptials and hope he gets back to the UK in one piece. We hope to see the Bedouins again next year.

Note from the club: a big thanks to Reg Gratton for his efforts this season covering match reports, scoring and the occasional outing in white. We wish him well during his time covering the Olympics and hope the rain stays away.

## **Midi CC v Noe Gacogne CC**

**June 2012**

On a hot June afternoon Noe Gascogne took the much travelled route to St Pons de Mauchiens with only 7 players. More than double the numbers that the former Rangers FC have, but still a fantastic effort from them. No other team in the league would do that, and their courage and commitment to the sport we all love must be commended.

Under the watchful eyes of the umpires Noe's captain won the toss and decided to field. With Bipin, one of France's best bowlers in their ranks, Noe's strategy was to wait for the inevitable Midi batting collapse and try to go on to win the game early.

However, the inevitable did not happen. After a frustrating season with the bat, Midi finally showed that they have some talent in their ranks when it comes to gripping the cane rod.

Fully recovered after a series of niggling injuries, Paul Rogers opened the batting. He was joined by the Ying to his Yang, Nick Allison, whose car situation has recovered after a series of niggling breakdowns. They looked their old selves, finding the boundary with aplomb, before both getting out a bit too early to good balls. Allison on 8 and Rogers on 12.

From here John McBurnie and Dominic George took on the reigns and kept the scorebook ticking over taking Midi to 62 for 2 after 11 overs. McBurnie was then out for 20 trying to work a ball that was not to be worked and George followed shortly after. Deciding attack to be the best form of attack, Midi's best player so far this season was caught in the deep.

The third wicket down saw Alex Lalljee enter the fray. Lower down than usual, Lalljee played the innings of his Midi career. A chanceless 54 Not Out was a pleasure to watch. An innings built on a solid foundation, Lalljee's stroke play elicited many oohs and aahs from the crowd. In particular, a beautifully timed on-drive will remain in the collective memory of Midi CC for generations.

Lalljee had several partners on this day, but his most enjoyable would have been the brutish Ken Miller. Miller took to the Noe attack like a Metropolitan policeman to an innocent newspaper seller. His unique style saw all comers bludgeoned. Eventually Miller had to throw away his wicket for 19 after suffering a nasty foot injury that put an end to his day. For all his fans out there don't worry, he can cook. He just can't stand up long enough to wash the dishes.

Midi finished all out in the 40<sup>th</sup> over with a respectable 189. Noe's pick of the bowlers were the awkward Akash (3-46) and the parsimonious Anbu, who finished with 2-22.

After the worst tea of the season, Midi took to the field with a sense of determination, despite the loss of Miller. Who by this point was at home apologizing profusely to his wife for putting their livelihoods at risk.

George and McBurnie took the new ball and tried to put the wind up their opponents. The dependable George was miserly, only falling foul to some over aggressive batting from the Noe openers. For what McBurnie made up for in hostility he let his team mates down with in accuracy, especially early in his spell. An early wicket for McBurnie was scant reward for the pair as they desperately tried to bowl out the 7 man Noe.

These were frustrations that the other bowlers would feel too. On a hot day Noe's batting was just too clever for Midi, Noe eventually scoring 193 for 4 after 37 overs.

All 6 batsmen got into double figures with the opener Indrayush's aggressive 36 the most enjoyable to watch. As in the previous fixture Anbu constructed a classy 28, his running between the wickets the key to his success.

The pick of the change bowlers were Patrick Dubois (1-18) and Dave Mickelborough (1-23) at times stingy and at times aggressive both were unlucky not to unlock the door to a Midi victory.

Midi should not be disheartened. This game saw their most complete performance of the year, only two catches were dropped and only one player seriously injured. One significant highlight was the debut of David Amoros behind the stumps. He was quite simply, excellent.

Midi have been forced into this change after the retirement of glove man and club stalwart Steve Field. Steve will be missed greatly by everyone involved in the club, and we wish him all the very best for the future.

July sees Midi in cup action away to either Noe or Toulouse. This will be a chance for the youth academy graduates to step up and test their mettle in some competitive cricket.

### **Noe Gacogne CC v Midi CC**

**July 2012**

Noe 229-7 (35 overs) beat Midi 53-8 (22.2 overs) by 176 runs

It was the first away day trip for around half of the nine-man Midi Cricket Club team and it couldn't have come at a nicer ground in L'Isle de Noe and on a grass pitch.

But Noe were in no mood to let the opposition, who had just travelled for nearly four hours, rest on their laurels as they elected to bat in this 35-overs per side match.

Midi took to the field enthusiastically in reasonable temperatures and kept it fairly tight early on as Rogers (0-30) bowled his seven overs straight up.

However, Noe soon began to make home advantage and the lack of Midi's two extra fielders count as they reached 71-0 before the first wicket fell.

It was a moment of inspiration from the skipper just before drinks, one tight single too many of Mickelborough's (0-45) bowling and McBurnie dived full length Jonty Rhodes-esque to throw down the stumps and ensure the Noe opener went back to the pavilion for 26.

Noe's number three looked to be playing himself in for the long haul before a Dubois (2-40) ripper caught him off guard and he could only fend it away. But still McBurnie's leap would have qualified him for the London Olympics pole vault as he clung on to send the batsmen trudging off for just three.

Soon after persistent bowling from Dubois again paid off with a vociferous LBW appeal, which the umpire thought long and hard about, being sending a player that had terrorised Midi in the last game, packing for just seven and leaving Noe in slight trouble on 112-3.

Then came the fireworks – maybe on another day as Lalljee (0-34) found to his cost, one of the slogs would have gone up in the air and been taken – but sometimes you have to take your hat off and say good batting as it rained fours and sixes and Noe piled on the runs.

Finally, after making his half-century, one did go a little wrong and Lalljee took it safely to give Verdaasdonk (2-49) his first wicket with the score on 197-4.

But if you thought that had knocked the stuffing out of Midi, think again, as despite the immovable object of Noe's number two batsman (who finished on a superb 104 not out) the away side kept chipping away at the other end.

Verdaasdonk knocked the stumps flying after Noe's number 6 had made just one run to leave the score on 206-5. McBurnie (2-25) then brought his earlier fielding heroics to his bowling as he removed two Noe batsmen for 5 and 0 respectively to see the total end on 229-7.

There were a few half-chance run outs missed and one catch dropped, but in fairness the ball came down with snow on it! Overall, it was an impressive fielding display and a good example of teamwork.

230 off 35 overs was a tall order, especially for nine men but Midi started to build a platform despite losing Rogers for two with the score on 12.

McBurnie followed for 13 after a useful 21-run partnership and at drinks Midi were only two down with plenty to play for.

However, sometimes you feel fate isn't on your side after Lalljee, the top run scorer with 15, could only watch in horror as the ball trickled onto the stumps and dislodged a bail with the score on 47-3. Midi got the wobbles.

Dubois, Verdaasdonk, Zivanovic and Mickelborough all fell for 0 in a devastatingly spell of bowling from Dawood of 7 overs 4 maidens, 5 wickets for 6 runs – eat you heart out Dale Steyn!

Whitworth (2 not out) and Amoros, who was the last man out for three, took the score past 50 but at 53-8 it was all over thanks to some spot on death bowling.

A fun day out was had by all (/most!) and certainly positives to take from a game played in good spirits throughout and areas to work on aplenty ahead of a break before the next game for Midi.

## **Midi CC vs Armagnac CC Sept 2012**

One of the handful of casual observers of this match was asked of his opinion of this debacle, which was a succinct, but rather abstract, "It was very nice."???? An adjective not commonly used when commenting on a sporting atrocity such as what was witnessed in St. Pons this fair Sunday afternoon. If there were any more spectators at this match they'd be chanting "What a load of rubbish", as the Midi Cricket Club conspired with the obscure God of Ineptitude to chalk up one of the worst, neigh, most embarrassing defeats in the clubs long and proud annals of terrible defeats.

It all looked so promising as midi, well, Dom George, reduced Armagnac to a fragile looking 70-odd for 6. Posting remarkable figures of 6 wickets for 6 runs off his 8 over spell. The advance over enemy territory was swift, but Midi were to face up to Stalingrad-style resistance from the Armagnac, so-called, 'Lower order'. As captain Tony Hands(60),Extras (57), amongst others pummelled the woeful Midi second string into retreat with a ruthless counter-attack. Chalking up an impressive double nelson (222) all out; sending Midi back to their bunker, to feast on the splendid array of nosh, also supplied by man of the day Dom George!

Defeatism in the air, Midi sent out the shock(ed) troops to commit suicide; and they didn't let us down. First to treat the cricket ball like a cyanide capsule, was the normally stoic Alex Lalljee. Handling his bat like an executioners axe, he sliced off a gentle looping dolly catch to an eager fielder, who accepted this gift gratefully. Then came Captain McBurnie, who mistook his trade description with that of the sea variety, and insisted on going down with his ship for a duck. Next, D.George, surely he'd score some runs after his earlier heroics with the tea? Whoops!....i'm afraid he received a grass cutter, or in this case, a plastic polisher; and got bowled for a superbly compiled 4. Allison was still there with 12, though no-one remembers how he scored them, including himself; .....you guessed it, LBW. And it gets worse from here, all-out for a lamentable 38. Incredibly, NOT, the lowest score in the MCC record books; but probably the worst for complete lack of application, and /or batting ability.

But on the positive side, Midi did catch ALL their chances, including three splendid efforts from Alex "the cat" Lalljee (so named because he buries his own droppings), and the match ended without fatalities. So not all doom and gloom after all eh? Can't wait for the next thrilling instalment, "Titanic 2: Midi vs Anyone C.C."

## **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

### **Shapwick Occasionals (260 for 6) beat Midi CC (195-8) by 65 runs**

Midi CC had hoped to end their terrible run of form this year when taking on a touring team of West Country gentlemen otherwise known as the Shapwick Occasionals in a weekend double header.

Fourth choice captain Nick Allison, lost the toss, and Shapwick elected to bat. Racing to 50 off 5 over's, the writing was on the wall for Midi's depleted bowling line up; that is, lacking one Dom George. The Shapwick opener, R. Edwards, reached his

maiden half century by the eighth over, albeit hardly what you would call a chanceless innings. A poor catching performance from Midi ensured that the only way he would avoid getting his first century would be if he got bowled, which he did on 88 by debutant David Rycroft. Captain Allison defied expectation by producing a miserly bowling performance of 7 over's 1 for 19, to limit the damage, ably supported by Ken Miller (0-36). Regrettably, all this was in vain as the opposition racked up a formidable 260 from their 35 over's.

Step up VP Marc Dalling and traditional French 'Talisman', David Amoros. Although Monsieur Amoros is now rapidly losing his talismanic status as he sliced his second ball into the air to be safely pouched by one of the opposing fielders; showing Midi that the ball wasn't a wet fish after all. Next in was Alex Lalljee (28), confidently pulling and driving boundary after boundary, looking good, then one took an edge, and Shapwick treated us to another catch. Du Bois and Allison, that famous comedy duo, provided more catching practice, both departing for zero, not looking good; but wait, Dalling was still there! Did we dare to believe? Staunchly supported by the classic defensive stylings of new boy Rycroft (45), Dalling carved four after four as he completed his first fifty in six years. Dalling toiled in the sun edging towards a deserved century, but eventually succumbing to tiredness he finally fell to a weary swing and miss, to be stumped on 94! Running out of over's Midi finished well short of the target, a near 100% record of defeats in 2012 remained unchallenged again!

To sum up, this was a game played with the accepted spirit that a friendly cricket fixture should be played, competitive but civilised, and above all, Fun.

Match Report by Nick Allison

## **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

### **Midi CC (213-9) beat Shapwick Occasionals (193AO) by 20 runs**

Midi fielded a slightly different team than yesterday at St Pons de Mauchiens with George, McBurnie, Verdaasdonk and Luca coming into the team for the second 35-over match of the weekend.

The home side won the toss and elected to bat first, electing to open with Alex Lalljee and Joe Whitworth. After a decent start, Whitworth tried a cross bat swot only to find his stumps uprooted for nine, bringing Patrick Dubois to the crease who needed runs after Saturday's duck.

With a mixture of aggression and good running the score was moved onto 66-1 before Lalljee edged behind to the Occasionals keeper for 32.

Dubois was really starting to time the ball and pick his spots when he was stopped in his tracks for 37 from an LBW decision with Midi on 93-3.

George was also looking good for 17 before he was too early on a short ball and when Eddy fell for seven, McBurnie for six and Rachid for three, the home side were in a spot of trouble and looked like losing the early momentum on 130-7.

Step up Verdaasdonk (45 not out) and Pierre (24) who played calmly but kept the scoreboard ticking over before Pierre finally departed attempting to push the scoring rate up in the final few overs.

Luca got a jaffa from the visitor's best bowler, Gardner (6-2-19-5) before David Amoros smashed a quick-fire 12 not out to take the score to 213-9.

After a promising start, came the typical Midi wobbles and most of the crowd on the sidelines agreed, more than 200 was a defensible score but the fact that most of the top batsman got in and then got out without making potentially-telling contributions was noted.

Determined to avenge yesterday's defeat and frankly, poor, fielding performance the home side took to the field with plenty of enthusiasm to make it tough for their opponents. George (2-35), as ever, was first to make the breakthrough with help from a stunning low catch from Lalljee at slip.

Dubois (3-30) then took over and had Shapwick's number three caught by that man Lalljee for six before an athletic diving stop from Whitworth at mid-off, typifying Midi's superb fielding all day, allowed Dubois to run out Gardiner for just six and leave the away side on 40-3.

The fielding continued to impress as Verdaasdonk (1-22) bowled what he later admitted wasn't his best ball only for Eddie, who had to wait for the ball to come down for about 10 minutes, to catch a blinder and dismiss the dangerous Watts for 23 and the score on 82-4.

Whitworth (1-17) then took his first Midi CC wicket on this sunny Sunday, again not a classic but they all count, as Gray gloved behind to Amoros for just six on 112-5.

A partnership was blossoming for Shapwick before Dubois dismissed the dangerous Warnliss for 67 with a sharp caught and bowled and Lalljee (3-33) removed Seal for 17 thanks to a McBurnie catch.

George came back to combine with Rachid, as Midi took another catch, this one seeing Rachid run backwards and judge it perfectly, to leave the away side on 165-8.

When Lalljee took advantage of some tight bowling at the other end by McBurnie (0-38) to dismiss the number nine for just one run, it looked as if Midi had the game sealed. But as more than one person put it as the number 11 smashed two boundaries: "Midi know how to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory."

But after such a top class fielding performance (I could list good stops from everyone but won't for everyone's sanity, I realise this is getting a little wordy) it was justice when Lalljee finished his LBW appeal at the other end of the pitch and the umpire eventually agreed to dismiss the visitors for 193.

It was a valiant effort from the away side and, of course I am biased, but Midi deserved this win. The bowling and fielding and the grit shown by Verdaasdonk and Pierre when the batting was in a spot of bother was a sign of a team on the up.

I am sure if you looked hard enough there are mistakes to be highlighted and things to work on, there always are, but this was a day when two competitive teams played a thrilling game of cricket in the right spirit and it came down to the last few overs – a first class advert for the game.

Match report by Joe Whitworth

## **Midi CC Presidents Day 2012**

Midi Cricket club held their annual President's Day on Sunday September the 2nd. The morning saw a well attended kids cricket session overseen by youth coach Marc Dalling.

For those out of short trousers a fiercely contested petanque tournament took part at the same time. After some champagne boules, the overall trophy (A Nick Allison original) was won by club stalwart David Cole.

Following the morning's excitement, seniors and juniors alike were in need of refreshment. Fortunately Ken Miller and his trusty tongs were on hand to serve up a marvelous bbq. For those wishing to wash down their burgers with something special, Domaine la Clapiere offered a delightful wine tasting.



After digesting and taking in the works of local artist Andy Bridge 30 brave men, women and children took their places on the cricket pitch for a fun game of 15 a side 20 over cricket.

6s flew, wickets tumbled and much laughter was heard across St Pons. Brendon Andrews stood out as a wicket keeper batsman and went home with the Man of the Match tournament.



Colin Trickett, club President said: "It has been another very successful President's Day, helped by the glorious weather. We'd like to thank everyone who took part and helped on the day. I'd particularly like to thank Wendy Cartwright who contributed all the proceeds of their book sale to the club. We are looking forward to our upcoming social events and next year's President's Day!"