

Extracts from BBC Test Match commentary 19.5.08

19 May 2008

14:28

"Mark, I need a England miracle today to rejuvenate my intrest in cricket, my team got blasted to all parts yesterday by ex-West Indies star Collis King, now aged 57! An innings which included an incredible behind the back stroke. He bats with a 4'5 bat! Travelling two hours to chase leather in the freezing cold from a man three years off his bus pass... great"

Jonathan Evans, Alfreton, in the TMS inbox

"Re Jonathan (1117). I once turned up for a Sunday club game to find a familiar face in the opposition... the aforementioned Mr Collis King... who proceeded to batter our bowlers to every part of North Wales. A frightening batsmen to be stood at short leg to, I can tell you!"

Colin, St Albans, in the TMS inbox

"Please reassure Jonathan Evans (1117) that I know how he feels. When playing for Brighton a couple of years ago against a Ditchling XI we were knocked all over the park by some sprightly pensioners, including Jamie Theakston's grandfather and a man who couldn't actually run at all, but took guard halfway down the wicket with a bat like a piece of four-by-two. To compound the embarrassment, I forgot my whites and had to play in purple shorts"

Richard Forshaw, Hereford, in the TMS inbox

"I turned up for a Sunday League friendly and Roger Telemachus [*ex-South Africa paceman*] opened the batting for them! He hit a neat 70 but then edged one down to a horrified me at first slip who somehow took his maiden one-handed-diving slip catch!"

Suss in the TMS inbox

Charlie: "I once had the pleasure of playing with the said Collis King. I was playing for an invitational team I played for in Yorkshire and he joined our side for a knockabout. It might not surprise you to know he battered the bowling on that day too (retired on 100) with what can only be described as the most enormous piece of willow I have ever seen - it may as well have had roots! Best thing about the man is he was a true gent!"



Daniel Murphy: "We played his Dunnington side first game of the season and removed him for a rather measly four. Although in reference to his 4lb5 bat, it's actually made of two pieces of willow and can stand on its own unsupported. Rumours he can breathe fire are unconfirmed"

Paul Wilkie: "Jonathan Evans, I know how you feel... I have experienced, first hand, six sixes from Collis King in the first six deliveries of a six-a-side final. He went on to make 50 in nine balls... long live the King!"

Graham: "On the mention of Mr C King, he has a history of smashing amateur cricketers to all parts of the ground. He was the professional at Colne in the Lancashire League for a few years and the attached link shows his batting stats for 1982"

[Internet link: Collis King's 1982 batting stats](#)

"I remember seeing Collis King twice during the 1976 season - firstly on a school day out when he made 163 against Northants and deposited a number of deliveries onto the pavilion roof and later in the fifth Test at The Oval when he took Bob Willis apart in the final over before tea on day two as they piled up 687-8 declared. Fantastic stuff!"



BBC Sport website assistant editor Paul Grunill, not in the TMS inbox but sat at a nearby desk

1415 - NZ 122-4

Panesar can now bowl over the wicket, into the rough at two left-handers. Oram turns a single to leg. While Sidey is warming up in the deep, Monty gets a bit of turn against Flynn, who defends his stumps. And we have a Collis King picture!



"On the subject of playing against ex-Test cricketers - my touring team turned up at Torquay CC after a liquid lunch to see Fanie DeVilliers (ex South Africa) marking his run-up out from the sightsscreen!"

Nigel Prideaux in the TMS inbox

"I remember playing in a North Staffs testimonial match for West Indian Vince Lindo - I spent most of the afternoon at first slip either lying down or chatting to him while the outfielders slowly trudged through the neighbouring fields looking for the ball that had been sent into orbit via his SS Jumbo amid cries of 'hit it on the up!' I was only glad that he was too old to bowl!"

Phil Dale, Stoke, in the TMS inbox

"I am currently playing in the same Dunnington side as Collis King. A couple of years ago he hit a league record 212 in a 50 over match, smashing a number of balls well out of the ground. As for his bats, he has three, each with a different 'thickness', depending on what kind of mood he is in"



Robert Chipps in the TMS inbox

"I was playing cricket in Solihull yesterday, and who should roll up? None other than former Warwickshire scallywag-in-chief, Paul Smith. He may not be a former Test player, but he was unlucky not to play international cricket - according to err... Paul Smith"

Will S, Birmingham, in the TMS inbox

[Paul Smith interview \(June 2007\): From Brum to bum and back](#)

"A few years ago (2001 I think), New Zealand batsman Matthew Sinclair turned out to play for Cleethorpes in the Yorkshire League. He majestically stroked exactly 100 before we (Barnsley) got him giving him an average of 499 (having got 199no and 200no in the first two games). He went on to score 1,100+ in half a season (about 12 games), falling 14 runs short of David Byas' then league runs in a season record. Some player, and not a false shot"

Andrew in the TMS inbox