



Lewisham Interfaith Cricket Event 2016

"This is Lewisham Community Spirit."

"Lewisham Ashes", the much anticipated Fourth Annual Lewisham Interfaith Cricket Tournament played out at the St Dunstan's College Jubilee Ground in Catford on Sunday 28th August 2016.

[Lewisham Islamic Centre](#), reigning ashes holders with back to back victories, faced off yet again against their sporting rivals; eleven assembled from our friends within the local Christian and Jewish communities (C&J). Word was out, there would be no repeat of last year's rout, and to that end the challengers had set out their stall to wrestle the title back from the LIC champs.

A short passing shower soon gave way to clear blue skies and the all-important tinkling of a spinning coin. Winning the toss, LIC's captain Sameel Meer put his team in to bat first. Given the strength of his bowling attack, a good batting performance over 30 overs would make for an "easier" close to see out the game. But the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry, and in double quick time LIC were down 6 wickets and struggling against an impressive and underestimated C&J bowling onslaught. C&J had dispatched LIC's opening order consummately. With the LIC rocking, captain Sameel soon took to the crease. Steadying the ship and taking the wind out of the sails of a buoyant bowling performance by the C&J was crucial, next to adding to a dismal LIC innings total.



With both sets of supporters in good voice, the bowler charged and released, and the LIC captain connected - with nothing - and promptly began the green mile walk back to the pavilion!

With spare overs fast running out, an embattled LIC put on a brave performance, trying to force the game and manufacture runs with ill-advised shots that eventually saw their dismissal all out for 106 runs. The C&J were definitely on top and loving it.

Lunch was a celebrated affair worthy of the occasion, tasty, exciting, and moreish. C&J were positively ebullient at the prospect of getting one over on the LIC.



The restart brought mixed fortunes for the LIC. Chasing a run total of 106, C&J raced to 66 runs for only 3 losses. It was evenly poised and the tension palpable. Could the LIC's steam train fast bowlers force the breakthrough, or would it be their agile spin bowlers? C&J were right on the money with their middle order batsmen and the dangerous Guy, whose solid defences held true again and again and again, all the while finding the gaps to the boundary with a mixture of power and finesse. Eventually caught, he returned to a rousing reception, but not until after taking the C&J close to their target number. It was fitting that the C&J captain Joe, should attain the position as the winning run scorer albeit to a wide bowling delivery. With four wickets in hand, the Christian and Jewish team had finally reclaimed the Lewisham Interfaith Cricket trophy and deservedly so.



The Interfaith Cricket Event only became realised through the longstanding friendship between Iman Shakeel Begg, Father Charles Pickstone and Rabbi David Rome. A friendship engendering mutual understanding, respect, tolerance and cooperation encompassing the Muslim, Christian and Jewish community in the London Borough of Lewisham. This has blossomed into a fellowship expressed annually on the cricket pitch. As always, our warmest thanks to St Laurence Church, the Catford and Bromley Synagogue, the entertaining cricket teams, the wonderful caterers, St Dunstan's College, and everyone who attended to contribute to success of the event.



Finally, we would like to pay special appreciation to Guy, our man of the match, for a wonderfully dogged performance.

With the Lewisham Ashes tied 2 all, it makes for a mouth-watering tie breaker clash next year, God willing.

[Lewisham Islamic Centre](#) would like to thank all who took part.

[**WATCH THE VIDEO HERE!**](#)

[**SEE ALL THE PICTURES HERE!**](#)