

## **Dicko week 1**

Stood in my first game here on Sunday just gone. A new "league" has been formed here named the Florida Cricket Conference. Its a "breakaway" from the Central Florida Cricket League and teams are currently playing 20/20 cricket in coloured clothing.

On Sunday I was standing at Poinciana Community Centre where there were two games to take place Poinciana CC v Orlando starting at 1030hrs and Lucas v Metro Masters Starting at 200pm. Fortunately I was with a sprightly 75 year old colleague, so didn't have to stand at both ends.

The first game commenced at 1040hrs due to the wicket not being ready, not unusual in these parts as they have to roll out matting and mark the relevant creases. The home side started with 9 players and eventually the full compliment was reached 65minutes after the start of the game. This player asked if he could bowl immediately and was given the usual pleasant Dixon greeting for his attendance and told he could not bowl due to his tardiness. One of the fielding side then decided that as he had not been allowed to bowl he would take no further part in the game and promptly left the field of play, got in his car and drove out of the ground!!! The 20 overs took 1 hour and 45minutes to bowl with the batting side making 199. The second innings resulted in the batting side being dismissed for 128.

Nothing of interest happened in the 2pm game which started at 2.35pm due to the problems in the first game. I left the ground at 6.10pm and arrived home in the dark.

Temperatures reached 87 degrees come mid-afternoon with not a cloud in the sky. I can tell you that is not a comfortable heat to be standing in and water breaks are greeted with loving attention!!!

The old legs were quite sore after standing for so long but recovered well the following day.

Members of MCUA should be grateful for the excellent facilities that we have in and around the Merseyside area. There are no changing facilities at the grounds but fortunately Poinciana Community Centre does have a "rest room" where facilities are very good. No intervals for tea and no "jugs" at the end of the game.

Cricket only survives here in the USA due to the dedication of those involved as there is no money from governing bodies who tend to look after those in and around the New York and New Jersey Areas.

Basic as it maybe, the game in general is played in good spirits and the players mainly West Indian and Asian do appreciate the fact that you are umpiring their games.