

Dunsfold Cricket Club vs The Blues

19^h July 2015



The members have to queue from sun up to get their favourite seat

A gorgeous summer's day greets us for a match against the wandering side "The Blues" who we have to thank for our very own Ollie Bell who was poached from their ranks in years gone by.

I lose the toss and they want a bat. "I would have called heads and I would have batted" my team mates aren't convinced.

The players take the field and Ollie gets us under way with a wide. C'mon Harmison aim at the one with the bat.

Lots of dots from Ollie and from Max Richards gives for a steady start. They both however stray down leg side a bit

more than they would like. Ollie can't take a hard caught and bowled



The crowd struggled to get to their seats for the first ball

Max isn't conceding a lot of runs but the scorer is struggling to fit all those wide symbols in the box. Ed your up let's see if you can follow up last week's five for.

The slips and the batsman's chin are given a work out but Ed can't get our man. He's earnt the slips and a fly slip this week! If only he wouldn't bowl those wide's that hit the edge and go through the slips. A polite inquiry to the opposing batsman and a new umpire is arranged, you know the sort that knows wide's don't hit the bat.

Then after three overs where the fielders have struggled nearly as much as the batsmen Ed decides to bowl around the wicket!?. Wide's and as many runs as he conceded in the previous three overs convince me the experiment is vindication of the philosophy "if it ain't broke...". Ed takes jeering from the slips and his "last" request from skip to convince him the experiment has to be abandoned.

A wicket maiden follows, well bowled Ed and well held Max Richards at backward point to break the opening stand.

Coveney had joined Ed toiling against this pair of Aussie openers and the total is 68 with the more dangerous of the openers still patiently waiting for the bad ball.

Their number three doesn't look long for the middle but he has bought a bag full of luck with him and he spends it well. Then he asks for a runner, "a What!" Now the use of runners has been abolished... in one day internationals, despite there being at least three continents being represented in the two teams I don't think that this match qualifies as an ODI. There were plenty of quoting of law 2.1a "a nominated player has been injured or become ill since the nomination of the players". He wasn't injured since coming on to play in other words. I didn't want to interject with paragraph 2.1b "The umpires shall have discretion to allow, for other wholly acceptable reasons, a substitute fielder or a runner to act for a nominated player, at the start of the match, or at any subsequent time." Since it would make me sound like some sort of know it all. Besides they asked nicely and you never know what you get if you ask nicely.

Coveney grasses a caught and bowled opportunity. Statistically the fielding position most drops come from is the bowler, little consolation and no wonder, your running at the time. Less excuses for our other drops. Their number three reaches into his bag full of luck and picks out a heave to cow corner straight out of the middle of his bat for six as if to rub salt into the wounds of Coveney's luckless spell.

Ed's labours are rewarded when he clean bowls the remaining opener to finish with two valuable wickets and countless chances. Whew with those dangerous looking batsmen out of the way I can afford to bowl while Sebbie gets the pavilion end.

There number three has run out of luck and I bowl him in my first over. I snag another caught by Max Richards at backward point. Seb chimes in with a caught behind well held by Whitney. I bowl another before I'm done.

Ollie comes on to finish his seven and has the radar on to snag one for himself. A hard track and some aggressive hitting has given them a total of 193! One more than we managed last week.

Mikes fan club are in the crowd... Bowled for one! Leave the premeditated shots to the lower order please Mike. Max Bell and Ed make full use of the fast outfield with threes and fours till Max is trapped LBW by their proper opening bowler for 12 in the fifth over.



The crowd are in fine spirits but are always wary to be caught out by the paparazzi ...
<http://tinyurl.com/q8rwws8>



Ed and Rob get things moving, Rob quite content to stand and watch the balls run to the boundary rather than all this running up and down that Ed it's quite keen on. The spectators get plenty of balls to field before Rob skies one for 22, just the two singles in amongst the fours. 3-79 off 14.

Peter picks up where Rob left off with a couple of fours in the first over he faces. They turn to their opening bowler who helps them with lots of dots. His final offer and Ed tries to interrupt the dots but is bowled for his troubles, another bucket of runs for Ed, 46.

Whitney is sniffing and complaining of a bad case of man flu wanting only boundaries but instead he's running most of them, run it off Paul! He gets the sumo working now that he's warmed up for a pair of fours but he's cut short caught for 16. 5-143 means 51 off 42 balls.

Peters' timing is suffering so he's working the singles. Ollie does similar till he finds his range and the boundary, it's looking promising. 34 runs off 30 balls is the equation becomes 29 off 24 as the tension mounts. 23 off 18, start of the 33rd over and Ollie looks for another boundary but is bowled by the less potent opening bowler, for 12. Conrad fresh from not playing much cricket has a sighter but is bowled second ball, quack. After consulting some opinions I've decided to bump the juniors down to 10 & 11. 23 off 15 balls. I manage to find the boundary a couple of times 15 off 12. Peter struggles to find the boundary but twos and threes give us seven from the over. 8 runs 6 balls. Peter calls for a scampered single, 7 off five. I can't get the next one off the square and Peter calls me for a suicidal single, run out for 8.



Run out, like that! Ya Goose!

I don't mind so long as Peter knuckles down and does the job. Bowled next ball! 45 valuable runs but he's back in the hutch. The run out brought in Max Richards. Bowling Peter has bought Sebbie Bell onto strike. Two balls to get 7 runs. Two boundaries needed, it's not looking good the fielders are scattered to the fence. "He doesn't have the strength to go in front of the wicket, he should try and glance it fine and use the pace of the ball" and that sage of wisdom is from his dad!

Anything less than two would leave us needing a six on the final ball. The bowler runs in and gives Sebbie a juicy full toss which he middles in the air towards the nets, don't need strength if you middle it like that. It's big but the fielder is closing in on it but just can't get under it, one bounce into the nets. Whoo hoo!! We weren't expecting that! Keep your head we need three for an unlikely victory, I can't see Seb being offered low hanging fruit two balls in a row.

In he comes it's a good one, Sebbie hits it and they are off! The ball comes in to the keeper and he holds it next to the bails with Max stood next to him, but Seb is not stationary he is haring back for a second, Max can't be run out unless he leaves his ground, which he doesn't, instead he spends his time politely asking the wicketkeeper "can I have another single, please?"

Put off by this and seeing Sebbie closing in on him the keeper underarms it towards the bowlers end. Max is after it in a flash and when there is a fumble and the dust settles they have made two runs, Who How What!?? It's amazing what you get if you ask nicely!!

It's not three, it's two it's not a win. It's not a loss or a draw it's the other one, It's a tie!! Really, I mean really!



The Blues scratch their heads and start the post mortem. Seabass, Drinkwater, Mullet! Its like a seafood hamper! Ollie regales us with tales of when he used to catch the ball...

