

# Dunstable Cricket Club vs Chelsea Arts CC

28th June 2015

The opposition skipper wins the toss and wants to bat, fine by me with overcast skies and a few spits of rain this morning. I've looked up last year's result and we ran out of overs having bowled them out so I'm not keen when he tries to talk me into a 35 over match, Nah we played 40 overs last year, the light will be fine.

Nine of us are ready, whose holding is up. Ollie gets some help getting his whites on. "Aww mum not in front of my mates!" Mummies boy Ed is also late so to ensure punctuality in future neither of them can join Adam opening the bowling. Take your strops back to your mum. Instead Max Richards whose done us proud opening the bowling in the past and turns up on time gets the nod. The fact that he can swing the ball under leaden skies is just a welcome coincidence.

Their openers try their luck with some success sticking Adam back over his head in the early overs. Miss timed shots and edges keep our interest. A few drops (it can still be a drop if you don't make the ground to get the ball in my book) in the field yet they keep chancing it. Adam changes tactics and gets the last laugh bowling the aggressor.

Max is swinging it too much for their liking and they start grumbling about juniors not being allowed to bowl too many overs. Not surprising when he traps the other opener lbw.

Ollie and I have a go without much luck and #3 and #4 settle in, Ollie bowls their number 3 but it might be time for a change of tact. As a result we take the pace off it with Seb reliable as ever.



Ed making his confident return, directing traffic rallying the troops. It's good to have a young spinner showing us how it should be done. Ed can you watch what Sebbie is doing a bit more closely please.

Their number five doesn't convince us he is long for the middle. The surprise is that he falls to a run out calling for a single around the corner to Seb who makes good time getting it in to Whitney who paddles it into the stumps which only provokes more grumbling from the direction of the pavilion.

Fresh meat for Seb is out for a duck with a catch at point to restore Steve's confidence after his all air attempt earlier of Ed's bowling. Ed can't get the big hitter as he can't encourage his fielders to go as far from the bat as possible without crossing the fence. Seb and Ollie's catch combine instead to remove him after his fun. Ed finally claims a scalp at the end of his spell with one turned around the corner to man of the moment Seb who can't stay out of the action.

Peter chips in with a useful couple of overs claiming one, only to complain when he's replaced by Adam for him to finish his spell. They complain when they don't get to open, they complain when

they are asked to bowl or aren't asked to, they whine when they don't get put in the right place in the batting order. Honestly its like playing with a bunch of whinging POMS!

Julie has her own take on the grumbling that's been coming from the opposition camp. "You got to beat them, they've been grumbling about everything"

Adam and Ollie finishes our run into the 40 over mark drying up the runs but without more breakthroughs and they finish on 8-186.

A lovely tea gets us all dreamy and sleepy in the heat of the afternoon resulting in Steve running late. He was having a lovely tea and hasn't been given his personal invitation to open the batting with Mike like he does most weeks. The opposition start a slow hand clap. "No I wouldn't demote you just because Ed has turned up making demands"

Mike starts aggressively but his first shot is a top edge that is dropped or missed, either way it goes for four.

Steve's all a fluster. LBW first ball. You can get your pads off now Steve. No rush, Take your time.

Ed is shoved in at the sharp end and joins Mike. 1-5. On the back of a duck last week he's smarting to end all the sledging, well have go at least. He sprays it for four, well at least he's of the mark. A partnership builds Mike likes the pull shot that goes down the ground Ed shows us his variety. Using his feet to the spinners he's confident enough to come down the pitch to them. He glides them through the covers , he also likes the late cut. His Dilshan "Dilscoop"/"ramp shot" needs a bit of work. If you don't get the scoop bit right you just look like a Dill. Mike gets bowled by their spinner after a handy 18 not quite seeing of the opening bowlers.



One of Ed's late cut just gets just over the man they have positioned there, changes are few. He's finally undone by a yorker after a great display of how his talents have developed... since last week. 3-78



In an unprecedented display the middle order bat sensibly, the regular boundaries have made for plenty of gaps. Peter and Wiggy give them a run out chance but other than that its all along the ground and well calculated picking off the lower order bowlers.

Their skipper has seen enough and is forced to resort to his opening quick before the target is gobbled up. We need 33 of the last 10 overs, what could go wrong. Well the Dunsfold pitch helps, a ball short of a length sneaks under Will's bat bowling him for 37. 4-154

"See if you can last four overs Whitney"

Paul has seen what the pitch has been playing at and decides to go for a helmet for the first time.

Peter has been using his pads to much to the right arm around the wicket. A bowlers chosen position is cause for doubt, just like getting down the pitch to the ball. Neither mean you are guaranteed of surviving an LBW appeal as Peter Andrews shows by raising his finger, have a shower Coveney.



The quick backs up his wicket maiden by trapping bowling Whitney, Quack! "batting in a helmet it's like playing in your hall looking out the letterbox". Well at least he wasn't caught at mid on. 6-158, there we go, "Dunsfold collapse" I was wondering if I was going to have to write the phrase!

Ollie is off the mind to get to the pub and wants to end it quick. Only problem is hitting the ball, never mind the keeper can't touch it either and Ollie gets off the mark and starts scoring quite nicely thanks to Dave forgetting to signal byes.

Max Richards still smarting from his golden duck last week is watchful. An angled bat uses the pace of the ball nicely for a boundary at backward point. He realises the paceman "he's not that quick". Soon Max is sticking him in front of point to the boundary. Keep watching him Ollie you might learn something.



Finally Ollie's air swings finds their range and he finishes it in a flurry of fours. Ollie only manages outscore Max thanks to Dave's non byes.

Dunsfold win by 4 wickets with 16 balls to spare