

Dunsfold Cricket Club vs Coldharbor

24th July 2016

We are struggling for numbers so we call forth young Sam Thomas on debut for the club. "What do you do Sam?" I enquire... Sam: "I bat and I catch"! Not a typical Dunsfold reply but I kind of like it!

I lose the toss and Coldharbor elect to bat, their opener looks good, with some ominous offside shots that we hang on to claim some dots. Third ball and Adam bowls him, middle and leg. Whew!

1-0

Lots of dots as they try to consolidate. 5 out of the first 8 are maidens. We save three of Adams overs for later. Ed is encouraged beating the outside edge enough to have one more over but can't find the breakthrough.

Matthew Forrester has taken over from Adam and is on the money straight away and troubling them. Ross beats the bat first ball and concedes two in his first two overs for a tidy start. I bolster the slips cordon. Matthew gets another slip, first my thinking is to bolster his confidence then actually he is troubling their number three outside off stump.

Their number two looks more set so I'm jogging back and forth in the field for a two phase field setting. Typical when I forget and find myself out of position a half chance edge goes through vacant second slip. My team mates reassure me "doesn't matter you would have dropped it anyway!"

After a great start Ross slips up with a rank full toss which the opener goes after only to sky it. The ball swirls silently in the grey clouds, all that can be heard are the knocking of Max Richards knees at forward square leg as he awaits it's descent. Well held by Max we have our breakthrough. It was all the good balls which undid him.

2-47

Ed has been chirping away, "number three is also vulnerable on the hook" I'm not so convinced, he has hooked a four and I'm happy with the dots as I just think he's vulnerable and all the air between his bat outside off has to give us an edge sooner or later. The batsman had crossed for catch which means when very next ball when Ross goes short, three goes hard at it trying to hook him and we have an identical result save this ball hit the pitch this time. Well held again by Max Richards. Touché Ed, you do know something about this game.

Hatrick ball and we are struggling to fit enough blokes in the slips cordon. It's tamely blocked back down the pitch. Adam departs the slip cordon, very next ball is edged! Luckily it's to me and not to the vacant third slip. I hold onto it and Ross is routing the middle order. Whew!

4-47

Their old bloke joins us and is surprised at how congested it looks behind the stumps. A gentle push on the offside and he's shows his teammates how to play Ross, off the mark with a single.

Matthew restricts them and finds edges and generally worries the batsman but can't convert it to wickets. Ross continues with three slips and a gully, Mikes in short and young Sam is the only one saving runs on the offside. The field placings says "go on fill your boots". The old fox is too wise to it and is content to push another single.

Max takes over from the tiring Matthew and bags the old boy second ball. Meanwhile back at Ross's end...The old boy's counterpart takes the bait and goes big against Ross next over but doesn't time it. Sam runs to his left and watches it safely into his hands, well held! He said he could catch! Ross continues to gut the middle order like a fish!

6-62

Ross can't get any more in his last over and has to be content with his spell of 7 overs 2 maidens 4 wickets for 8 runs.

Max too is very economical so I have to bowl to give us something to chase. Max bowls their number eight and we have the end in sight. The tail and their number 5 have different ideas. An accounting error from the scorer has tried to rob Adam of an over and give an extra one to Ed. I'm having none of it as my over counting prowess come to the fore. "He's going to bowl his remaining 3" despite protestations from the oppo.

Ed definitely wants his allotment and takes over from my tidy maiden last over to suggestions "two slips?" "Earn it" is my reply. 7 runs later, that will be a "no" to the second slip then.

The oppo haven't been keeping an eye on the scoreboard which is usually a couple of overs out of date. I've got Adam and Ed back on so I know their innings is up. A minutes counting from the scorers and "yes that's the end of the innings" the last pair let their teammates know what they think of not knowing they were in the last over! ;-)

They eek out some respectability in the scorecard getting to 7-113 off their 35.

Julie has been experimenting with "Pims cake" a concoction topped with orange and assorted other bits. The stack is so high it is of risk of overbalancing into your brew, where, if left to marinate for a minute tastes strangely and exactly like orange covered in tea!

Now how to get this runs. I strong arm Mike back into the front seat and he has Max Richards.

Mike caught 22

Max goes a few runs later bowled 13

Whitney bowled 3



Ed has brought his extended fan base including "the unmarried one!!" and parked them all down in Bay 13 where they start assembling a beer snake. Ed slaps two runs out towards his fans, they whoop and holler. The guys in florescent are looking a bit nervous, this might kick off! He carves a four in the same direction which is the undoing of the beer shake as all the hands go in the air and foot stomping creates a deafening din.



Mayhem in Bay 13 mean security may have to be improved for future matches

The old timer has been lobbing Ed grenades. Ed drives viciously, the ball strikes the foot of the bowler and ricochets up from his foot to mid-on who juggles it and takes the catch. The groan from the crowd is palpable. Ed is gone for 7

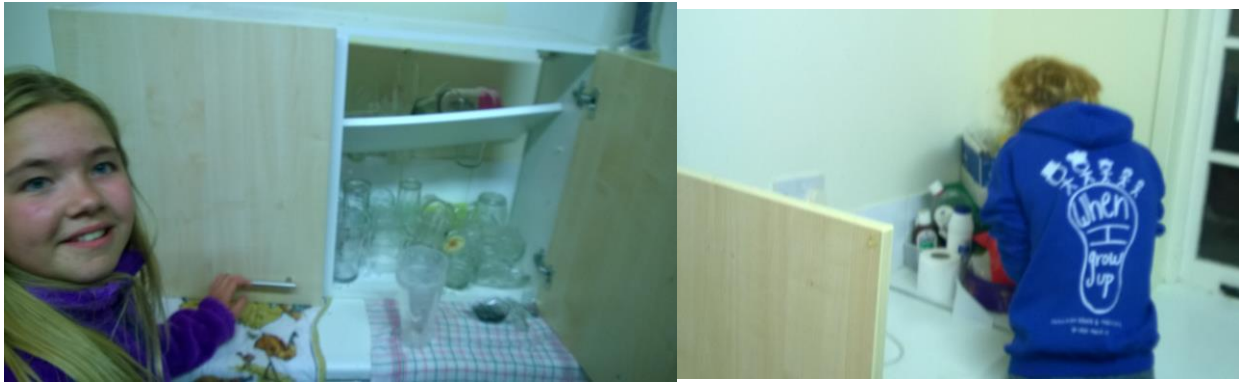
Sam Thomas looks the business, where did that boy get coached? Can't seem to find a way through the offside with his salacious cut shots. Pull shots pay more dividends to howls of delight from bay 13 who are reassembling the beer snake before he is undone caught behind for 4 runs.



That feeling never changes. You just try to drag your bat less as you get older

5-65 and we are in trouble. What we need is for Rob to calmly go about picking off the singles and twos and punishing the bad ball. Matthew Forrester plays a mature innings which belies his 14 years. Maybe he doesn't realise the tenuous nature of hunting down 50 runs when the best partnership from the top order was 35, distantly followed by a partnership of 11! The three of us left in the hutch do however realise the predicament as ever run is ticked off. Twenty to go and Rob goes airborne but doesn't time it, the fielder runs in but spills it into the square. Whew!!

A stonking straight drive from Rob brings us within spitting distance. A bye pushes over the target and Dunsfold win by 5 wickets on paper, 4 in reality as we were a man down.



The Whitney girls celebrate the win by trashing the kitchen, PARTY!! Word to the wise, when your kitchen cupboard next decides to make a bid for freedom, don't try to catch it, because you will get hurt. Let it go, if it loves you, it will come back!

Our victory is the toast of the village...



Nice pair of jugs Yvonne!