

Dunsfold Cricket Club vs Cranleigh for the Bashes Cup

21st June 2015

I win the toss and having got advice from a proper cricketer I choose to bowl. Rob tries to convince me otherwise! Can you imagine the scene as the camera crews running to catch up on the way back to the long room at Lord's, Alistair: "Go on Clarkey change your mind, are you sure? C'mon man please"



"You want to Bowl!"



...I don't think this one needs a caption

We're bowling boys, oh hang on there's only ten of us? Whose not here, every one of my disciplined athletes knows to turn up on time? I'm spoilt for choice for juniors in full uniform ready to take up the opportunity.

Two left handers are their opening pair. Adam starts us with a maiden, Max with a wide. Adam backs it up bowling their #2. 1-3

Their number three looks the business, their other opener doesn't when he is bowled by Max. 2-11

The Cronk shows us how how to play cross bat shots, cow corner is stacked and a fly slip for good measure. Ooohs greet most of his shots. I'm surprised the burgers he flips for Cranleigh CC stay on the barbie. Adam can't find his woodwork but Ross can who has taken over from Max.

3-36

I've been recruiting out front of the Cranleigh CC on numerous Friday nights. Darren a fellow Aussie has been mulling over playing cricket at Dunsfold for some time. Your debut at Dunsfold wasn't supposed to be for the opposition! He joins their ringer and a partnership builds.

My first ball is pinged back over my head for four, the second for six the next for another four....hmmm their number three has warmed up. He's in pretty good touch then

Ross suffers too at his hands, I pull back a maiden. Ross too tightens the runs but he has his eye in so I start looking for a bowling change. Ross finds a way through with one that jags across and stays low.

Matthew is stood down for the time being. 4-96 after 18 hopefully we won't be chasing 200 with him gone considering he scored 70 of the 96! League Ringers!

We have drinks, Rob you're supposed to put water in with the orange squash! So sweet but by the end of my glass it's tasting bitter, the president has gone and recruited the ringer for his team on presidents day!

Aussie vs Aussie and so far he's winning. I've taken Rob out of first slip to stem the runs, sure enough today it's one of those days all my fielding changes are late, I attack when I should be defending and defend when I should be attacking. I find his edge through the vacant first slip. I finally get him with the last ball of my spell caught by Whitney giving me figures of 1-39 (16 in the first over!) off 7



A healthy crowd is in attendance including a lost Dutch football fan!

That brings Denton into the fray at 5-111 with 12 overs for them to make hay but it's Matthew who does the harvesting first he bowls one in his first over. Coveney takes over the other end with the solitary loose delivery dispatched by Rob, of course it's on the leg side, we've seen him score 50 on the leg side earlier in the season.

Just when we think he might fancy doing it again Matthew bowls him. Baby Cronk is only 11yo but has Jos Butlers swagger and a swishing bat. Peter switches to spin bowling to slow it down

for the junior. He swats it over Peters head, Ross and I converge on it I get a fingertip to it and so does Ross somehow we drop it (Ok I drop it) without actually colliding into each other.

Well probably for the best as he hasn't managed to penetrate the circle till now despite some furious swatting and we don't fancy chasing over 150.

Matthew actually relishes bowling to the junior, I think he might even have started bowling quicker at him. But it's Rob that Matt bowls next. 127-7 off 29.

Max comes back to finish his seven and bowls the youngster second ball, don't worry Max they don't write their ages in the scorebook (although I have seen Conrad on occasion pencilling in an age or two in the margin). Matthew finishes with a maiden and impressive figures of two wickets for five runs off four overs.

Matthew and Peter's sons have been doing a great job fielding for us but now have a test series of their own to finish in the nets. A dishevelled unfortunate soul is seen wandering around the perimeter, has he strayed away from the bar looking for someone to spare him some change? "Hi sorry I'm late guys"!! Who is that? ED? Ed St Aubyn? Long lost prodigal cherub of the club long feared lost in deepest darkest Africa! Fine leg please, oh yeah and the other fine leg next over. Juniors, I mean students, honestly!

"Blind" taste testing after the match. "Beer, yes it definitely tastes like beer" "Help, I cant see my mouth?"



Max bleeds a couple of wides before shocking the postie with a straight one bowling him for a duck. Nine down and the silver haired pair frustrate Max and Adam who are trying to get an early tea. One end who knows how to block and the other end is stealing the odd two. We have to bowl our full complement and they finish on 9-142 off the 35.

Did anybody realise the last time we beat Alfold Ed took four wickets, no me neither! Demands were placed on the skipper that he open the batting and bowling. Now what I should have done was halt the game for an hour till Ed was due to arrive, then wait another hour till he actually did turned up then get him some tea and cake before changing the format to 20-20 so he could in fact open the batting and bowling as requested. Instead I recklessly just got on with my life, but hey Ed why don't you open the batting for us...

Ed bats with Mike eyeing a juicy full toss which he dispatches... Straight into the covers to be caught for a duck! Stop Ed my sides are splitting

Peter is I looking in good touch and looking to build on his fifty against Cranleigh in the first game until he goes after a wide one spraying it to Denton at point caught for 5. 2-24



Mike is in good touch helping himself to ones, twos, fours, a five (thanks to an overthrow, your right he wouldn't have run them) and even a six. No threes Mike? The six comes at the expense of Aussie Darren who has to retire hurt mid over. Nothing to do with being hit for six "apparently". Queenslanders! Rob helps him out with a couple of boundaries before being caught for 10.

Ed takes over as umpire doing a wonderful job and spending well over five minutes on the field for the first time during the match.

Wigmore joins Mike building a useful innings, they both look comfortable. Wiggy doing it in singles, oh no hang on he's even hitting boundaries. This could be a game changing partnership. Still smarting from his run out in the first BAshe's match earlier in the year Rob Denton had been spending all his pocket money down at the coconut shy. Wiggy pushes for a single, Rob swoops, well swoop may be a bit of an exaggeration for a man of his..., takes aim side on to the stumps and takes out Will with a direct hit even before Will has started to run his bat in.

3-82 becomes 4-82 becomes 7-86! Whoa slow down what happened there!

Let's go through it slowly, try to keep up.

Mike gets stumped for a splendid 38. 5-82

Whitney not taking the hint when he gets a life, his shot came through the trees near the nets making Denton's attempt more difficult resulting in a four. Next ball is lofted to deep mid-on for a spectacular one handed catch. 6-86. Paul "caught at deep mid-on" Whitney heads for the pavilion, that name might stick.



Max Richards bowled first ball 7-86

Great I get to face the hat trick ball in a full blown Dunsfold collapse. And it's my nemesis, no not Dento, the ringer who took my opening over apart. Half a foot outside off stump so I shove my hoof at it and get the bat well out of the way not letting the ball show its spin to Dave. There as excited as a bunch league players on Red Bull, Dave stands still.

"They put a guy up there at mid-on to catch me, most extraordinary, I was caught unaware you could say"

Next one I get caught off the forearm but they jump around like I've gloved it. Two balls but I'm still there I think surviving is the name of the game. We have 15 overs to score 57 runs. Let Matthew do the scoring which he does when we aren't waiting for their genuine spinner to finish his spell. The hundred comes up in the 25th over...111 after 27...122 after 29. All the time baby Cronk is giving it plenty in the sledging department, "he's pretty worried boys, more dots than a Dalmatian!" Love it!

Maybe it's the realisation that their spinner has finished his seven, maybe its watching Matthew play those glorious offside shots but a rush of blood and my cut shot is edged too the juggling Cronk. I've blown it! Time for a shower. Half an hour batting for 5 runs well I'd prefer to look at it being the equal largest partnership with 36 runs matching the Berry-Wigmore heroics. Well if you wrote the report... Good luck Adam and Ross! 21 to get.

Adam has no plans to give it up lightly holding out stubbornly, seeing out the over with five dots. Next over Matt and Adam feast nine runs off their little used seventh bowler, he won't bowl again after that.

Matt pops one up to mid-off only to be dropped, Matt is running for the single but they hesitate when the catch is dropped. Adam retreats making his ground due to a fumble. The ball is then thrown to the keeper as Matt is only returning from half way down the wicket. The keeper misses it letting Matt make his ground. In baseballs equivalent they would just have fumbled a triple play and change of innings.

24 balls... 12 runs or 2 wickets from victory depending whose side you are on. 18 balls ...10 runs. 12 balls...9 runs. Adams 20 minute stint is ended being bowled for 4 leaving 6 balls for Matt and Ross to get the 8 runs.

Matt takes a single of the first

7 off 5 balls

Feel free to object Ross but I think that is 6 more than you have scored all season??

Dot ball...

Next delivery the ball arcs in the bright late afternoon sun, Ross steps forward, (ok maybe a slight exaggeration of his footwork) and cleanly spanks it towards the tree that marks cow corner at the pavilion end, maybe ten yards in from the boundary the fielder takes an easy catch... Ohh no hang on that didn't happen because there was nobody at deep mid-wicket! The ball instead rolls into the long grass for a four.

A discussion between bowler and Rob goes something like this.

Rob "So why didn't you ask for a deep mid-wicket?"

Bowler "you're the skipper, they two hits away from winning and there is a number 11 on strike!!? Where do you think he is going to hit it? Can I have a deep mid-wicket please?!"

Well I made that bit up but you get the drift.

4 balls, 2 runs to tie, 3 to win

Again the ball traces a similar arc towards Ross, again the almighty swoosh of his bat... and it gets tickled behind and

takes the bail off ... Dunsfold loose by 2 runs



Peter picks up Batsman of the series (you have to play in both matches) a bottle of French fizz imported by Rob himself

The bowling award goes Adam Young

In a rare act of agreement we decide to share the Bashes Cup and make plans for a decider in late September

Poor Matthew all set for a winning innings left stranded by the tail.

7	M. Richardson	6.05	121212211414	4111111111				4
8	M. Richardson	6.15	6.15	11				31

"31 NOT OUT" Note to self: more pencils less pens for the scorers

But Rob forgets the cup at the pub so I enact the ancient right of "Finders Keepers", I also "picked up" the bowling award, woo hoo!

