

Dunsfold Cricket Club vs Ebernoe away at Ebernoe

12th July 2015

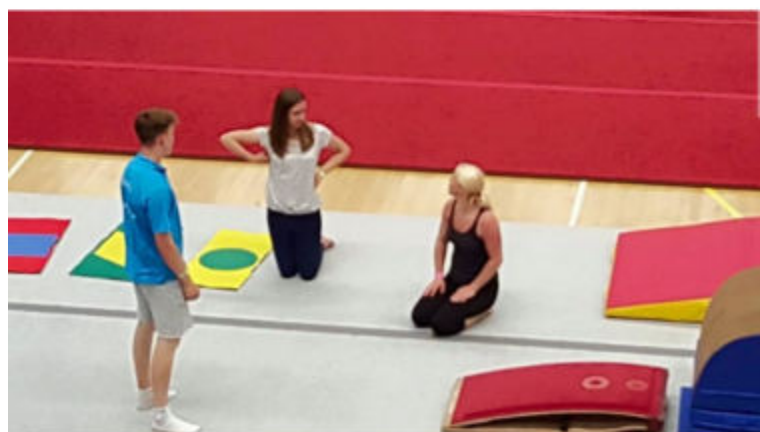
We are short of numbers as I could only manage to find 10 willing souls. Two late notes are submitted, Ed has to drink some pints at the titchborn. Oops I meant " Ed has to pull some pints". Whitney has a great excuse...



Paul Whitney with Mia Whitney

11 Jul 12:17

Mia and Megan warming up for adult gymnastics. Oh gawd. What could possibly go wrong. — with Mia Whitney



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Paul Whitney

15 minutes later and the medic is on hand to look at Mia's knackered knee.



Write a comment...



Get well soon Mia.

Last time I played Ebernoe at Ebernoe it was a mid week scorcher for the "Ebernoe horn fair". This time its a regular friendly, we are greeted by fine drizzle that won't stop us starting. The pavilion is full of the horns of battles past, presented to the best player at the horn fair match.

I lose the toss which is no had thing. Dave Whittington invites me to bat. Dave has featured in the horn hall of fame twice. "the first time was when I was 16". 27 years between drinks! Plenty of experience under his belt, he's one to watch.

Who would like to open then? No Steve or Mike, no Ed, no Whitney. Don't all step back at once. Who would like to open?...

Tumbleweeds...

I start getting my pads out... anyone? "I will if nobody else is going to". Who said that! Ross, your hired! Right mission one Ross is to last two overs. I last first ball which is always encouraging, well it was a wide. Their quick is giving it some welly but a stray one down leg side lets me get off strike. The radar is operating for Ross's first ball a proper screaming yorker that Ross does brilliantly to keep out. We even manage to sneak a couple of singles off him.



Left arm over at the other end holds Ross's attention, but seriously I mean four consecutive dot balls, that is concentration, Ross is taking this opening thing seriously! It's as far as Ross can restrain himself, bosh four!

Two overs, objective one achieved. Need to last five overs now Ross but alas the quick undoes him with the edge finding backward point. Peter joins me and the dots subdue things. The quick has taken an interest in my cap and starts thumping in the bouncers, a relief really he's distracted trying to take my head off and not aiming at the stumps. "I think well just try and see him off Peter". He tries around the wicket hoping to rough up my good side. Only to me mind, can't figure why.

The quick chucks a beamer at Peter, no ball, called by their umpire. Grumble grumble, mutter mutter. Next one is an offside wide called by Dave.



Now he is as mad as a cut snake. When I face him next and it goes down leg side he argues he thought it was a catch. I helpfully suggest I couldn't get anywhere near it. "right then! Around the wicket again". The slips cordon are snickering like schoolboys. I share their laugh, smile still intact.

Peter has been doing s patient job, waiting for the bad ball which he punished well. The left armer is replaced and a few more bad balls are on offer. Local rules dictate that anything that gets past the batsman on leg side invites a warning, second transgression is deemed a wide even if it takes paint of leg stump. Peter doesn't care much for the rule, he would rather see the fielders trying to retrieve the ball from the hedge.

We see off the quick, another objective achieved. But drinks sneaks up on us and we realise its time to up the rate. 1-64 off seventeen it's just under four an over but the ground slopes away and it's hard and uneven making stopping a four that's not straight to the fielder quiet fraught so we need a total to defend, I wont even mention the side with the road on it!

Having flicked the switch I send the ball into the hayfield, luckily the baling has been done for the season making the ball easier to find. But my luck is up trying to hoick a straight one, "back in the hut" bowled for 28.

Peter has been keeping the rate healthy and is joined by Rob who is keen to get on with it smacking a four and taking a single only to be trapped LBW for 5 "Watto they think of that". Peter brings up the hundred for the team in the 24th. Eleven overs to go we should be able to bank on 166 as a total!? Peter then gets his fifty with a signature four but is bowled for 53 with his foot firmly on the gas!

Max and Ollie know the game plan and after a few sighters start, Max blasts one down towards us in the shed to whoops of delight. He is unlucky to be caught sending one in the other direction. A couple of yards the difference between a six and the walk back to the pavilion. Definitely batting for the team not his average. Caught for 13

A young jack rabbit joins Ollie in the form of Ed and they too carry on in "team batting" vein. The Jack rabbit is haring up and down turning 1s into 2s into 3s! Ollie has a reddish glow forming and finds another use for his bat, holding himself upright! Ollie is definitely of the mind to get the ball to the boundary and prevent any more running. Another tactic to prevent running is employed when he sights a juicy delivery and fairly thumps it at Ed who cant get out of the way as it thuds into his ribs! Wont run so fast now will you Ed, well to be fair it didn't slow him down that much.



He is still trying that dilshan thing this time I think he was using the other side of the bat? His proper shots are peppering the hedge as are Ollies. One of Eds biggest hits only just fails to clear the hedge being relegated to four runs. In the end the pair poach 53 off the last 5 overs to give Ebernoe a target of 193 to win. Ollie and Ed not out 26 and 23. Whitney and Seb have nice warm pads by this stage.



A lovely tea in the Ebernoe clubhouse complete with cream scones is overseen by ram horns from horn fairs of years past. 193 that's five and half an over, good luck with that Ebernoe

Ollie starts us with a maiden and is encouraged by the bounce he is getting. Adam is on target but the openers streak a boundary here and there until Ollie finds the edge to a holler of delight, hang on lets wait till Whitney "Had in" his hands. Oh yes there we go, nice one Whitney! 1-18 off 5. Adam sprays their #3s stumps and sends him back to the hut. #3 out for a duck always an encouraging sign. The other opener has seen enough and fights fire with fire taking 11 off Ollies next over and 8 off Adams

Time for a change after 10 overs 2 for 51 to see if Ebernoe and their opener can ride their luck at this rate (just shy of the asking rate). Peter has to have a go after having so many of his legendary spells with the ball cut prematurely short by negligent bowling changes ;-). Ed joins in the fun promising to bowl properly and not that spin....stuff

Ed causes the ire of skip, bowling a few wides to warm himself up when they are on target they are getting pinged for 4, he concedes 15 off his first two. No you cannot have two slips! All warmed up Ed? Yes I should think so he has #4 caught brilliantly by Ross in the gully and then bowls #5 in the same over, off stump bail clipper, beauty! "Its amazing the energy boost you get from taking a wicket... Not that you would know skip", thanks Ed! Right I cant keep up now but in Eds next 3 overs he dismantles the middle order bowling 3 more and at one point is on a hatrick. Finishing with 5-23 off his 7 including the valuable wicket of their skipper. Somewhere in that lot someone also drops an absolute sitter off his bowling. I'm sure I "had in" my hands till it jumped out. Aussies!



When Peter and Ed finish their stint at the 24 over mark they are now 104-7 leaving an unlikely 89 off 11. Ross and Seb have a go and the tailenders have some fun mainly at the expense of Ross who concedes 24 off his first 3 leaving them 59 to get off the last 6, about similar to what we managed. But they have no Ollie or Ed to finish in a flurry although they try resulting in both Ross and Seb bowling one each Seb taking the last of their danger men #7 who has scored 30. Their number 11 hasn't played cricket before this season and his edges over slips are warmly received in the clubhouse. #9 who I think is Dave Whittington's son wants to farm the strike, this causes no end of opportunity to run them out none of which we can take. Seb at one point scrambling to get the ball on the stumps to no avail.

All this excitement leaves them with 33 to get off the last over, Ross calls a halt to the fun bowling # 11 meaning Dunsfold win by 30 runs



A jug for Peters fifty and another for Eds five wickets makes victory taste all the better. A long time between wins away kind of like... In other cricket news... there is no other cricket news!

