

Dunsfold Cricket Club vs The Follies

2nd August 2015 at Follies Farm

Well I'm not going to make the same mistake as last year. I've repeated the 1:30 start time countless times in emails and a final text an hour before the game what could go wrong? Half the team being involved in junior matches in Guildford, that's what! I get my whites on before the toss for the first time in living memory to show willing, their full eleven are whited up and out inspecting the pitch. Ok they've had enough waiting, "You can bat". Does that mean I won the toss?

Mike and Alan open the account with three wides. Then Mike helps himself to proper runs. Alan holds out his end for a couple of maidens but first ball of the seventh over, Alan Richards lbw quack. I join Mike safe in the knowledge that most of my batting line-up have turned up.



Mikes two boundaries in the sixth means the bowler is out for revenge, Mike Berry caught 19 in the eighth over.

Whitney has a sighter before upper cutting a four down the hill, someone wildly suggests it was an edge. "Nah it was out of the middle!" With a bat as thick as it is wide what does it matter ;-)

Paul gets some proper contact finding other ways to find the boundary prompting Dave to ask, "What's wrong with Whitney?" How's that Dave, "well he's hitting it along the ground!"

I get caught edging to gully 2 so it's for Ross to show if his net session can pay dividends. He even defends! Both openers are off now so they make hay, it's down to Ross to choose the aerial route which he does to good effect riding his luck till he skies one, caught for 19. A wicket maiden the next over has Whitney caught for 28



Were in trouble at 5-74 in the fourteenth over, 26! overs to go!

Were in need of an even temperament a straight bat, a watchful eye and good technique, lucky Ollie is watching how his son Max is batting because he follows his lead. They carve out some boundaries and with the field spreading they work the singles. Their partnership builds and the oppo call for their fifth and sixth bowlers to try their luck.

The three amigos of Max, Max and Seb have lost one of their number while he's batting but lost none of their incessant chit chat. How many is Max on? How many has this bowler bowled? I should have opened in this morning's match! No you shouldn't. I would have got a hundred! No you wouldn't!...

Finally some sensible conversation...
 Hi Paul
 How are you Felicity?
 Good, but cricket is boring!
 Is horse riding boring?
 No!
 Do you like horse riding?
 Sure!
 Well that does make the difference doesn't it?

"Hey Ed now your here, your batting last" continue the two amigos. "Only if you want lose, why am I batting last skip?"

Hi Ed good to see you too! Get your whites on please.

After a game changing partnership of 51 Ollie is bowled for 26. It wasn't one of those deliveries that swung both ways and did a bit off the pitch was it?

6-125 with 14 overs to go, now that's a bit more like it! Ed gets going soon enough and goes about ruining perfectly good bowling figures with the likes of 1-14 off 5 and turning them into 1-45 off 8. Max is happy to chip in closing in on the score Dad achieved. Ed has surpassed that and is heading for a half ton. Alas he succumbs to the high aggression at the end of the innings Ed bowled for 47, jug avoidance!



Max Richards has been shouting advice to Max Bell to smash it as the overs tick down. Now its Max Richards turn to struggle against the opening bowlers, it's always easier on the boundary. They scamper a few singles and we finish with exactly 200. Max Richards not out 2

Max Bell not out 31 having held down his end for 25 undefeated overs steering our score from 75 onto 200 through the pick of their bowlers.

Dunsfold 8-200 off 40 overs

A pig went to a good cause! The ham sandwiches were generous, over which a plan is hatched to sure up the fielding being down to 10 players. Enter the sherminator! Ian Bell no less, he's forgotten his whites but never fear I have a spare set in my tardis kit bag.

We get going and Ollie bowls the opener at the base of the stumps second ball, basically he missed a straight full toss!

Ed can't find a way through and we can't find the ball when his leg side ball is pinged over the fence. Seb manages to find it near the deadly gunnera plant, crazy English flora! I don't know how you survive in the bush over here, nettles, brambles, triffids and now this



It's a generation thing... (Grampa is the one in the middle!)

gunnera thing. To be fair gunnera is native to Tasmania which as you should know is close to Australia.

Ollie and Ed are economical but luckless so Ross and I have a go. Ross is punished in his opening over with the boundaries but makes up for it giving away only 7 in his next 4 overs.

Ollie takes a good catch for me despite the angle of the sun to get our second scalp. Ross gets a high top edge and Ollie is looking for his second catch "Mine!" Ross only has eyes and "ears" for the ball and they converge under the ball... Somehow Ross emerges with a great caught and bowled without a collision, still not sure how?? 3-71 after 16



Ross gets punished in his sixth over conceding 14 to take us to the half way point and drinks where I warm Max Richards up to the idea of taking over from Ross. Ross pleads for another chance with promises of not bowling so full, I back him and he repays me with two overs for 4 runs and a wicket to boot. I follow his lead with a pair of maidens. This leaves them needing 92 off 15 with 6 wickets in hand.

Max Richards and Seb take over bowling duties. Seb has to bowl in his sunnies, Ashley Giles style due to the sun, not because he want to look cool. Seb gets success in his first over, and his second, and his third. But he doesn't claim a single wicket in his fourth, instead he claims two! One of the quickest five wicket hauls for the club I can remember! He has a breather and doesn't get any more to finish with 5 overs 5 wickets 28 runs!

It got pretty busy during that spell, there was a run out attempt by Ed where the batsman clearly had his bat in the air "Ben stokes style", only to be given not out, how? Oh! Don't loiter in front of the umpire Mike, he can't see!

Whitney got a good stumping and Mike isn't in the way this time ;-) Mike redeems himself taking a good catch under the high ball. I think I got most of how their middle order tried to over egg the run rate.

Max has done well under pressure as they really looked to up the scoring rate, once Seb is done the equation stands at 31 runs off 30 balls with one wicket to get. Max Richards gets punished for 11 so it may be time to close it out. "I'll only bowl if needed" cheers Ollie, not sure which scoreboard your looking at? 20 needed off 24 balls, Max Bell has a go. 12 off 18. Ed needs no second invitation. 9 off 15 before Ed pulls it back with a couple of dots 9 off 13. He then bowls an under cutter flipper out of the back of his hand which goes dead straight and bowls him!

Dunsfold win by eight runs!



Back Row: Max Bell, Mike Berry, Alan Richards, Ian Bell, Max Richards, Seb Bell
Front Row: John Redman (President), Oliver Bell (Chairman), Paul Whitney (Fixture Secretary), Ed St Aubyn, Paul Petersen (Captain), Ross Manton, Dave Remnant (Groundsman/Umpire)

I reckon gramps Sherminator must have saved about a dozen runs in the field so is our fielder of the match! (sorry Mike I know you are feeling robbed) Seb wins the match ball which little big bro Max won last year while he has to be content with second top score but crucially undefeated. Dad has to buy a "jug" of cobra in Seb's honour and does a great job driving them home where they arrive on time.

Get mended soon Max Bell we need you back out on the pitch!