

# Dunstable Cricket Club vs Follies

31<sup>st</sup> July 2016

A rare away fixture in the Dunstable calendar sees us pack up our swag and trek to foreign climates, but not quite as far as Chiddingfold. Another fixture at Follies farm sees us try to break the deadlock of one win a piece in the modern era of Dunstable Follies matches.



*Are you sure you typed the postcode in right? It should be around here somewhere?*

Max (Richards) you can open the bowling. Sam (Bulger) are you ok in slips? "Sure". "Of course he is", endorses Whitney, "don't you remember his great catch the other week?" I missed that game. Two balls later and Sam juggles and drops the opener. Kiss of death from Whitney. Next over, same ball, same batsman, same shot. Sam redeems himself with a good slips catch.

Max troubles them while I can only manage five tidy balls an over. I entice their other opener to go big and he miss hits it to the waiting hands of Max Richards to claim the second wicket. One of my untidy balls gets deposited in the local pond for a good soak while a broom is found to retrieve the new ball or what's left of it. We have six overs a piece before handing over to Lucas and Ed. Oh there you are Ed? Big night? Turn up on time and you get to bowl with a hard dry new ball!

Lucas is tying them down nicely before bowling their number three, 3-51

Ed thinks he has worked out their number four and demands a second slip. I'll give Ed enough rope... the covers open up with the field change to entice some shots. Ed puts it in short ball and gets pulled for four! See what Ed did there, nearly fooled the batsman into thinking the ball would be full and drivable. Fooled the slips cordon too! Ed gets back on the right length but can only find fresh air between bat and ball. His game plan nearly works when he does find the edge but it's barely a half chance to Rob in the gully.

Ed has to content himself bowling their number 5. Lucas finishes his tidy spell also unlucky to only claim one scalp.

Ed 8 overs 1 maiden 31 runs 1 wicket

Lucas 8 overs 2 maidens 19 runs 1 wicket

Conrad and Sam have a go as the lower order try to smack it about. Conrad waits till the last ball of his spell to claim number 6 bowled.

Conrad 4 overs 26 runs 1 wicket. Sam 4 overs 24 runs no luck

Max and I come back on to finish off the last four of the 40 overs. I get smacked first ball but have the last laugh claiming their top scorer going down town caught by Conrad. "That wasn't easy" says Conrad who has managed to lose a contact at some point.

6-160

Max Richards finishes his spell and the penultimate over with a maiden, no mean feat at this stage of the game. 8 overs 1 maiden 24 runs 1 wicket

I start the last over, oops no hang on, "Sam back 10 yards". I start the last over claiming another scalp, well held by the repositioned Sam at mid-wicket (no not deep midwicket!). Hang on I didn't spot that during the game!! I was on a hat trick, but the hatrick ball goes for a single. Next ball is edged through vacant first slip, four runs, "there's no justice" sympathises the umpire. Next ball I bowl the "lucky" batsman "sometimes there's a bit of justice" is my reply to umps.



There number 11 is young... 12...10 years? I look ruefully at Conrad... Just when I need a junior specialist! Those two balls were probably the most stressful of my spell... Two dots will do me nicely and I finish with 8 overs 1 maiden 37 runs 4 wickets. I was stressing about having to buy a jug if I got 5 😊

10 man Follies finish on 8-165 off 40 overs.

Dunsfold innings

Mike gets going first over finding the boundary. Dan Wigmore can't survive the second falling lbw 0. Ed is in ominous form, two boundaries gives him eight off the first three balls before the bowlers regain their composure.

Mike gets caught behind for 7 in the forth over as bowler number two claims his second scalp. Not bad considering he has a two-step run up.

Ed and Rob steady the ship and tick us along without too much concern at the required run rate until Ed is undone charging a full toss only to slap it back into the hands of the bowler. Caught and bowled for 18.

Will joins Rob and has a good look before over balancing during an lbw shout. His attention diverted by the shout he is momentarily out of his ground. That is all the keeper needs and the bails are off and Alan Richards at square leg has no choice but to send Will on his way.

Max Richards has a go stopping the rot but gets caught for two.

Sam Bugler fairs better. Four first ball, a six off his third ball, he is motoring. Rob plays the holding role moving in for his fifty while Sam barely draws breath challenging Ed in the stylish shot stakes. He sends the cherry towards the pond but can't manage to lose it.

Rob is denied his fifty caught for 45. 6-105. Sam draws breath while Whitney takes the sumo and tries to catch Sam up. Four dot four. Paul is really motoring when Sam gets caught 7-134 and the end is in sight in more ways than one. Lucas comes to assist Whitney including a spanking four however he falls victim to the quick gloves of the keeper being stumped for 5. 7-141, 25 runs to win. The dozen overs to go don't really come into it, it's all about the wickets. Paul might even have factored this into the equation as he paused for consecutive dot balls for the first time in his innings.



One contact Conrad is content to get going with a brace of twos. But then he is undone by the straight one bowled for 4. If only he had both contacts in?! It must be around here somewhere? 9-159, 7 runs or one wicket will decide the match. Rob gives his customary advice he always gives me as I head into bat. "Flick the switch" which loosely translates to smash the leather of it... Hang on, did I miss hear that? He actually said "nurdling is fine, don't get out!" Odd thing to say when I could finish it in two shots!? I take his advice and put my faith in the sumo, two dot balls and the strike returns to Whitney's end.

Whitney: "I'm really struggling to see it in the glary conditions" with the tallest bloke in the game bowling with the sun behind him, 6 to tie what would you do? Who cares because it's what Whitney did that counts, he tries to spank him straight back over the bowlers head, very straight mid-off/on has stayed a few feet in from the rope, he back pedals and misses the catch! I thought it was a six but somehow it goes down as a four which is even more embarrassing for the fielder.

The sumo swings again this time getting some angle on it and we have two through the offside to draw level with the opposition total. The sumo again swings, those two consecutive dot balls a distant memory! Paul blasts a safe four down to the cheering clubhouse to bring up victory and Paul's 50 in one go!

Let's just be clear "sumo" refers to the oversized brand of bat that young Paul Whitney uses. Any other interpretations are purely coincidental... if a little funny ;-)

Dunsfold win by one wicket with a bucket full of balls to go! 2-1 in the modern era to Dunsfold!

Ed bids us farewell for two months in South Africa quicker than you can say "have you paid your match fee!" Well that's the end of his season.

I fleece my team for a tenner each. Then get robbed £110 for that is the price of a match at Follies farm. In some parts Down under you could get the whole cricket ground for that price! At least the price included victory!