

Dunsfold Cricket Club vs Grayswood

17th May 2015

Steve confesses to me, "I scored a triple century for a county side". Clearly there are trust issues between us. Your dropped Steve! Step forward one Max Richards, are you sure you have done all your revision?

I have had a look at last year's result and with a six wicket win then unless they have radically altered their side ... I hatch a few alternative plans to the usual script. When I meet their skipper Tom he tells me they only have eight due to last minute injuries. I talk him out of a forty over match and opt for thirty five. "Well you only have eight", he agrees. He wins the toss and wants a bat, I quite fancied a bat too, honest!

Adam and Max Richards get us underway with some very tidy bowling. Max clatters the woodwork in his third over to claim the scalp of the skipper who played down the wrong line, or should it read "it swung both ways before moving off the pitch".

The new bat has the unique experience of trying to take guard only to be sledged by the umpire. "no it's still not middle because you haven't moved your bat!". That's how we roll at Dunsfold, nice one Dave.

Max is unlucky in his next not to have another, the slips corden looking at each other accusingly. It is customary to unfold your arms when in the slips no matter how grumpy you are at not opening the bowling.



Another chance goes begging on the covers to leave Max unlucky to finish with only one wicket from his spell. Adam has been unlucky too but the economy has been great the first 10 costing us 29 runs. ALL Change!

Ross and I both struggle for rhythm conceding 20 each off our first 4 each. "Buffet" is the call from grumpy who has been dragged out of the slips. You saw where it went, go fetch it! So after 18 overs they are 1-69, hmmm is this the same team we got all out for 80 odd last year? Should I stick with plan B or revert to our more typical plan A?

There number 3 is keen for some more but holes out to Max Richards at mid-on. Take care when feasting on the buffet, I have my first scalp for the year. Ross hits his stride too and delivers the type of maiden we are more accustomed to.

I bowl the new bat off his pads and then clatter another two balls later. Ok this is the same team as last year that Ollie feasted on with a five wicket haul...last year. No wonder he is grumpy stuck out at mid-wicket.

The next batsman is taller than the stumps but only just. For an 11 year old I turn to spin and I'm thankful for a bye to get him off strike. Right I look around for someone to bowl at the junior. Conrad? Dang! Where is my junior specialist when I need him? Matthew is chomping at the bit, so he can take over from me.

Ross has been working on his leg spin so is happy to get some match experience with it. He causes them trouble, when I say "them" I'm including Whitney in that. A bye brings junior onto strike. He top edges his cut over Mike only for Mike to go full stretch to drag it back one handed towards the stumps, he then goes full stretch the other direction one handed and drags it away again, flinging it much further than it would have ever travelled letting the nipper get off the mark. A good snicker at Mike's expense, but he's used to that.

Matthew is his undoing next over as he entices a lofted drive to Adam at mid-on who makes no mistake.

Ok Mr Bell fancy some spin? Yes he does. 13 balls two wickets without conceding a run. If that doesn't help then have some birthday cake and cheer up. Happy birthday to Felicity Bell! Give the old man a piece of caterpillar cake, he will have to unfold his arms for that.



Well that is seven and that's all we need, all out for eighty. Yes that's the same Grayswood as last year.

Julie has been busy raiding the veggie patch for her pistasc-zuccu-cuccu-lettuce cake. Whitney knocks it back quicker than a beer, it's had no side effects, has it...?



This lot have obviously been sampling some cake too...

What exactly was in that cake Julie?!

So with my two leading run scorers either absent or victim of trust issues who can I rely on at the top of the order? Well Adam Young of course, he has the next highest average this year. There quick looks the business, Adam steals a single of the last ball of the first over to keep the strike, carefully placed a foot over the slips.



If we thought their first quick was good their second is better and Adam is cleaned up first ball middle stump. That will get his average back down where it should be! Two balls later and the same happens to new boy Olly Gregson. 2-3 Ok then??!

Rob fresh from last week's misery is keen to make amends but is swinging at air. He is watchful of the ones on the stumps which nip about a bit. Maidens pass the time. When Rob finally does connect Mike walks the first so that when the ball pulls up a



yard inside the long grass there is only a single to show for it. Mike too can't find the boundary either with a similar shot, funny how he runs the first one hard when it was his shot.

Mike is watchful but does manage to find the boundary. Rob then gets one that nips back viciously and rears up at throat level and tickles his bat as he is trying to tuck it out of the way. 3-13. Enter Peter, who lets one rap him on the pads, lucky for him it's left arm over and the doubt in my mind about it pitching outside leg stump saves him... just!



It starts to look like the opening bowlers are going to be bowled through their allotted seven overs so survival is the name of the game. Peter bides his time with singles while Mike awaits the bad ball finding the odd boundary. With eleven deliveries to the enforced bowling change Mike's patience runs out and he tries to stick one down the ground only for it to nip in on him and take his castle.

Never mind Whitney is here with his oak plank to park it in front of...first slip when it should have been in front of middle stump!! Five balls till the bowling change. 5-29 with still fifty runs to get.



Matthew sees the last off the quicks spell and is rewarded by "slow stuff that didn't turn" as Peter describes it later. Then in an extraordinary twist to the game that I didn't see coming...



Dunstable bat sensibly and win the match!! Well done Peter and Matthew, at least some care about their averages!

Thanks to new boy Olly Gregson, Max Richards and Max Coveney for doing a stint in the field for the opposition.

Dunstable win by five wickets!

Don't forget to vote for Australia in the Eurovision song contest this Saturday!! Yeah I know, doesn't sound right does it?

