

Dunsfold Cricket Club vs Hambledon

28st September 2014

Two years ago we suffered a 200 run defeat at the hands of Hambledon. Last year, even with the help of Debasis, Sachin and Kaizad we went down by four wickets which ended our 14 game winning streak.



When I arrive at the ground there is quite a crowd already, good the boys have read their email and turned up for the early 1:30 start. Nah just kidding we have the time wrong and Hambledon have been waiting around after turning up for a 1:00 start!! Whitney!

Ben the young Hambledon skipper joins me in the middle for his first outing as captain. "Nobody else wants to be skipper".....Ben said that. I win a toss for a change and with memories of a Dunsfold collapse fresh in my mind...guess what, were bowling despite the blistering late September heat and the dry track.

I rummage for an age through the cupboard. I can't find a new ball Dave? "That's alright I've got one here in the umpires coat." ☺

Ross and Max start us and dots are order of the day. Hambledon are the only team I remember scoring 300 against us, sure it was on their torn postage stamp of a ground but there are surely run machines amongst them. When Ross finally gets a chance at the elder of the openers he traps him LBW first ball.

Their #1 and #3 pairing look to get aggressive but Ross continues with a controlled line forcing their #3 to manufacture something out of nothing only to find the edge sending it spiralling towards cover. "Pauls" is the early call from Peter. Oooh that's mine then I guess and we have them two down less than twenty.

I mistake their #4 for a kiwi what with the silver fern and all. But just as I'm thinking of some sheep jokes I'm informed it's also the Farncombe emblem.



Farncombe Cricket Club

Besides he can bat properly so I'm left confused over his nationality.

Seb takes over from the luckless Max (something about a junior only bowling 5 overs) and the scoreboard is applying pressure on them with 12 overs gone. They look to get after Seb but loose deliveries are hard to find.

When Ross finishes his allotted 7 Ollie is called upon to see if he can mess with their middle order. It takes Seb to finally dislodge their stubborn opener by bowling him. This is the opening Ollie has been looking for and he bowls #5.

Their skipper joins us looking to turn things around. The fun stops for a time and they begin to make progress despite having to leave alone many of Ollie's deliveries. One such delivery sees their skipper decide to get his bat out of the way but he is too slow and the ball too quick. He tickles it to Rob who gladly snuffles it.

When Ollie bowls the faux Kiwi the grins are wide, wider still when he traps #7 LBW. Perhaps a little too wide for this stage of the game, "Does anyone remember the last time we beat Hambledon?"

They have been targeting Seb since they aren't too keen to score against Ollie. Peter and I have been patrolling the leg side boundary and with a roll of the arm I indicate to Peter I'm looking for a bowler. His reply is a flick of his hand, guess he thinks he's a batsman, good luck with that.

Next ball and I'm on the move after a lofted pull but I drop it denying Seb a second wicket. Next over Steve is returned to the slips cordon after I pushed him out of first slip. This gives him a good view of me dropping another catch at first slip off Ollie. Rob: "Steve would have caught it". Doh! I remember Ollie has been counting his wickets for the season with a target in mind. What have I dropped!?

Now I have to backup and bowl. When their only left handed tries to hoick it off middle stump I bowl him, am I further denying Ollie his target with now only two wickets on offer for the season? A whoop of excitement from Ollie is not his normal reaction when he bowls someone older than his dad who was holding the bat sideways, might have something to do with claiming 50 wickets for the season and 5 for the day. Well done!

I trap the last of them LBW and we have done half the job restricting them to 76.

The sarnies have been quickly removed from the fridge as we finish 8 overs early. I'm sure someone can think of a better use for a fridge.

The usual suspects Steve and Mike want to break up the dots that lined up from last week which they do when Mike takes 6 from the first over.





I'm in the process of explaining how Steve got out last week..."He stuck one straight up in the air, see like he's just done again now!"

Rob heads out in the fifth over to assemble a sensible partnership with Mike.

A double bowling change slows things up to start with before claiming Mike. Sudhi takes over with 46 required for victory. He works it to unguarded areas of the field ticking it along nicely inviting comment from the crowd. He accumulates nine more than Ollie got last week before being trapped LBW.

This gives Peter an opportunity to show us what that flick of his hand meant. It means he's going to flick it off his pads and offer it up to mid-wicket for a premature departure.

Rob isn't in a departing mood patiently waiting for the bad balls to accumulate his boundaries including one over the fence.



I join Rob with the finish line in sight. A new bowler eyes my Aussie cap and wants to take it off, my bat gets to it and they have to climb the fence again to retrieve it.

Rob finishes it in style spanking a four past the bowler.



Bowler	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
Ross	7	1	12	2
Max	5	1	16	-
Seb	6	1	27	1
Ollie	7	-	10	5
Me	2.1	-	4	2

Batter	How out	Runs
Mike	Bowled	15
Steve	Caught	4
Rob	NOT OUT	35
Sudhakar	LBW	9
Peter	Caught	5
Me	NOT OUT	10

Finally a victory over Hambledon for the boys to celebrate. Worthy of the front page



THE AGE \$2.30 Wednesday, December 18, 2013

THE ALLEN

SPECIAL EDITION

We got 'em back!

Dunsfold win by 6 wickets. Rob top scores with 35no. Ollie bags 5 on the day and 50 for the season!

Some kind words from JR and I can get my hands on the Allen cup.



I swear it had those dents in it when I got it.

Sudhakar has thought of something better than sandwiches to stick in the fridge and we can toast our victory with a couple of slabs of Peroni.



He turns up on time, he plays with a smile on his face and he brings cold beer. Now that's a proper cricketer!



Is it really over for another year?



Cheers,

Paul

Our thoughts go out to Peter, Jill and Alex at this time for your loss.

With love from Dunsfold Cricket Club