

# Dunsfold Cricket Club vs Kensington

14<sup>th</sup> August 2016

Dunsfold overcome the shock of a 13:00 start to turn up in good numbers. I win the toss, the Aussie Roo doing me proud. A nice hard track means we're batting first, now to find some openers, don't all step back at once. Mike and I start us. The #1 opening bowler is getting quite a bit of inswing. Mike gets us going making the most of the pace and the short pavilion side boundary for four off the #2. The runs dry up but byes and a single here and there from Mike keep us ticking over. Mike edges to gully but is relieved when the catch us dropped

A change in the umpires as Whitney hands over to Conrad, "only fifty runs till your fifty Paul", thanks Conrad. Byes and no balls help tick the score along and rotate the strike.

I get bowled going hard at one, but hang on what was Whitney shouting, a no ball gives me a reprieve still on my duck. The number one bowler takes a breather, I'm hoping for some respite but number three is nearly as quick playing some chin music. A high one and I turn it around the corner for four. Next ball I bosh to cow corner for four, that's more like it.

Mike goes hard at a full one off the quick #2, it fizzes like a fire cracker to mid on where it sticks in the fielders hand with a slap caught low down. Mike departs caught for 13 in the twelfth over. The fielder was latter seen running his hand under the tap wishing he hasn't caught it!

More chin music, one off the shoulder of the bat and another off my shoulder means it's time to put Mike's helmet to good use, "you won't be using it anymore today will you Mike ;-)"

Wigmore joins me and gets to experience the paceman. Fourth ball and he tickles a fast riser down leg side. Will and Conrad stare at each other. The finger goes up. Conrad musses "I thought he would have walked" I reply "he was on a duck, maybe that had something to do with it, come to think of it he was on a pair!" Quack, quack!

2-33 in the fourteenth

Sam and I work at punishing the third bowler. I help myself to a six over the short boundary. Any thoughts of getting adventurous against the quick #2 go out the window with those two wickets. We see him off, he finishes with 2-7 off his eight overs, two of those 7 were no balls.

There #4 bowler offers some respite and the runs start to flow Sam helping himself to four to the short offside. I come unstuck by the juicy bad ball caught and bowled for 21 off a full toss.

3-50 off 18

Whitney plays like hes scored 86 in his previous two innings. 2, 1, 3 before hes even faced an overs worth... And then he gets busy! Six down town and the sumo is in full flight. Sam is picking the bad ball well with a nice mix of 1s 2s and fours. Whitney cuts #3s spell short with consecutive boundaries punishing 9 off his seventh over. When Paul faces the new bowler he carries on where he left of, another four. #5 sorts his length out and is troubling Paul with the full deliveries, finally finding a way through his "defences" bowled for a quick 24

4-89 off 25 overs and we have improved it to between 3 to 4 ticks and over. An injection of youth will help with the urgency. Young Sam is joined by younger Lucas Watkins. Lucas soon starts finding his timing and the boundary. Mum and little sis turn up with tea for the interval. Mind your sister Lucas as the ball goes under the gate! A stonking six to Lucas in the same direction, are you trying to hit your sister Lucas!?

A few more flurries from Lucas before #5 bowls his second, Lucas gone for 23.

5-133 off 33

Sam is steadily picking up the boundaries and brings up his fifty with a stylish three in the 34th over. Mathew Forrester is helping out with singles and then helping himself to glorious offside thump down towards the monument for four! He can't repeat it however and is caught for a helpful 6

Conrad can't get any of his first three balls, 6-161 six balls to go and Sam and Conrad seem content to nibble away with singles. They are now using their #8 bowler and Adam is improvising to fit him on a score sheet built for 7 bowlers. The last ball is sent into the bush by Sam for 6! Not out 69 a great knock! Conrad finishes with 2 not out.

Dunstable 6-171 off 40 overs

Lovely tea Lisa! Including a Guinness cake to die for! Novel use of Guinness! I've not heard of that one. I look for a cheeky second helping but the cake is gone quicker than you can say "I met an Aussie Olympian down the Sun Inn after cricket who won a medal at Rio!"

Back to the cricket, Matthew Forrester and Adam start us off. Adam has #2 well caught at first slip for 8 by Sam Bugler but can't make further inroads so holds two overs in reserve. Mathew Forrester hasn't been able to convert half chances and finishes a good spell with 0-29 off 8. Ross takes over from Matthew while Lucas has taken over from Adam.

A troublesome partnership has been building but it's finally broken when their remaining opener blasts Ross over Mathews head and starts off for two or three runs. Only problem for the batsman is Mathew Forrester takes a couple of paces and launches himself skyward one arm aloft. At the apex of his hang time his mit is at full stretch and the ball slots neatly in like a well made dovetail joint! Easily my catch of

the year so far! It takes a couple more paces for the batsman to realise what has happened, his contribution of 32 has dented the target but that is a big moment, did it change the course of the match.

Lucas meanwhile is only succeeding in restricting the run rate. The requirement is getting up towards six an over.

We aren't out of the woods, their number 3 didn't have the swagger of your typical number three but he is still there and quite likes gliding the ball out through the covers.

Ross hasn't quite got his usual rhythm due to a rock pooling foot injury but he is coping admirably. Whitney and I are discussing field placings, should I be in gully? Ross finds a top edge from their #4 which I would have had to catch if Whitney hadn't come over and claimed keepers rights. #4 added 16. Next ball is a low hint of a chance to my right. We agree, yes gully is needed.

Their number three is getting more adventurous and is looking to go at the required run rate. He blasts Ross down towards the road, Wiggy runs to it from deep mid off, gives it a juggle and holds onto it sending him on his way for a damaging 63.

Conrad comes on when they are needing about seven an over off their last 12. The field is getting pushed further out as they search for boundaries. I take over from Ross who finishes with 3-44 off 8 a great contribution considering his foot has been glued together a few days earlier.

Four overs of buffet from me, one more for Conrad and a couple from Adam and well find out who the winner is. I manage to give them some trouble getting bat on it. They give Conrad some stick and he finishes with 0-27 off 4 overs.

#5 gets hold of one of my next deliveries but can only give it straight back to me at ankle height, he goes caught and bowled for 17. It's nearly 10 an over required but we are amongst the tail so so knows which way it will fall. #6 tries to improvise something on the leg side but just ends up trapped in front lbw for 11 for my second.

They are swishing at everything pretty much now but collecting more air than ball. Adam bowls #8 to set up a final over needing 14 to win. Adam finishes a great spell with 2-24 off his 8 overs.

Final over. A single starts the over. I'm on leg stump next ball and #7 walked across and tries to send it to the clubhouse. It clips his pad and I'm still in shock that it hasn't bowled him that I haven't appealed. I turn around to glares from Dave, I figure it's a big late to appeal as your walking past the umpire.

They are swinging at everything now with reckless abandon, would they be expecting a slower ball now?. Let's pick up the commentary from Paul Whitney after the match. "so I see Petersen slapping the ball from hand to hand which means this is possibly the slow ripper ball and I'm thinking 'oh here we go'.

It comes out as a rank slow full toss and is dispatched for six accordingly". A single from a sensible delivery brings #9 on strike. He tries to send it over the trees but instead I bowl him.

Adam is checking the score, one ball to go "one legal delivery and they can't beat us, no pressure Paul". Yes but they can tie the match. Anybody had a close look at the framed scorecard of the tied match, Dunsfold vs Kensington from years gone by? Worth a look. "should I try the slower ball on the new batsman guys!?" A chorus of "NO". Just joking ;-)

I park the fielders right on the boundary. I'm not going to die wondering like the Follies skipper. "touch a leaf of the tree please Sam". Another scan of the field, if for no other reason than to make the batsman wait a bit longer. A good length delivery outside off stump, an almighty heave, contact and the batsman don't even bother running... It's gone down to Mike at point and they don't even bother claiming the single.

Dunsfold win by 6 runs. Kensington 8-165 off forty overs. I finish with 3-10 off 4 overs, not bad for buffet. Rewind a moment if you will to Sam dispatching the last ball of our innings. Sam hit it for the winning margin of 6! :-)

As is there tradition Kensington crack open the cobra and generously donate a bottle of scotch to the club and leave it with me for safe keeping. Sam picks up Dunsfold player of the match and has a bottle of scotch that he can keep to his eighteenth birthday party. We give their player of the match to their number three with 63 runs to his name and a good bowling spell.

Another great game in the tradition of Dunsfold v Kensington! Right off to the pub, wonder whose there?

