

Dunstable Cricket Club vs Saints Match Report

14th September 2014

The pitch is dry and hard, it "could" be worth batting first on a track like this. I lose the toss and were bowling.

Ross and Peter get us going and their openers make a steady start. 2s are the order of the day with the pitch nearly as close to the pavilion as it can get. Neither can find a way through so after 8 overs it's time for a change.

Ollie takes over from Ross at the pub end, "Two slips and two gullies please" and is on target with a tidy maiden. Seb has a big cow corner to play with from the pavilion end so can afford to bowl nice and straight. Last ball of his first over he makes the breakthrough bowling an opener.

The next batsman is slight of stature, Ahhh its Lucas whom we have gifted to the oppo as a result of confusion over the team sheet. Great 2 over spell Ollie, take a blow. We turn to our trusty junior specialist, Conrad to bowl now his son has arrived. A single brings Lucas on strike, he defends his first ball. His second ball is the ball of the day, jaggging back a foot of a good length to clip the off stump bail. Lucas is dumbfounded and Conrad has his head in his hands. You're not playing on the bitumen road of your cul-de-sac now.

Not content with that Conrad finishes his over by bowling the other opener, we have turned 0-51 into 3-53. Two overs later and Conrad has another who puts it down Ollie's throat at mid-on. After a blemish of Sebs bowling earlier Ollie retorts "I don't normally drop any". Coughs and chortles indicate opinion is divided. "Yes ok there were 3 this season but that's all", yet more coughs. Hmmm

Seb continues on his economical way and they are looking for singles in the gaps. One quick single too often sees them undone by some quick work between Ross and Whitney running out #6. Ok no more juniors in sight so take a rest Conrad. You can have another go now Ollie, especially now your ears are glowing. His second over is where the fun starts, #4 has been trying to pull Ollie's good length deliveries. He comes a cropper when Peter gets under the high ball at square leg, so calmly done Peter, it's like you had a practise go at that.

Two balls later and Ollie knocks over the castle and a full scale route is afoot. The next ball sears off a length and entices a firm drive. Defying the laws of physics the ball accelerates off the edge of the bat and sails cleanly through where third slip would have been. Faster than a possum up a gum tree the right paw of one Will Wigmore is flung into the gap behind where third slip should have been to pluck the unsuspecting 6 stitcher from the air. Catch of the day, Catch of the year?

I must check back to see how many times I've written the phase, "Ollies on a hatrick". But alas the result is the same as their #10 survives. They are reduced to 8-89 which soon becomes 9-89 when Seb traps #8 LBW, their player who is umpiring considers for an age how not to give him out but runs out of options and sends him to the pavilion. Ross takes over from Ollie and just when I'm warming up to take over from Seb, Ross finishes it with his fifth ball bowling their #11. All out for 92 from 25 of the 35 overs.



Well tea came around rather too soon, not from my captaincy point of view but from the fact that I was

Rolling them for less than a hundred was child's play...in the end

down to do the teas and I forgot the milk! Black tea anyone? I think we saw a few converts and I haven't had too many reports of food poisoning so I might have got away with tea duty for another year. Big thanks to Julie who dashed out to get the emergency milk supplies. With the extra time for tea everyone could afford to relax and take their time.

Now I know Matthew doesn't mind where he bats and Steve is happy to be plunged in the deep end so I have some openers. They set about the job with a swift pace. Matthew takes 12 and a wide off the first over. Steve plays the supporting role, maiden over to start. 10 more to Matthew in the third over. Soon enough they are changing their attack to try to make inroads. Lucas is brought into the attack but with a pair of maidens from his 3 overs he can't make the breakthrough. Matthew is cruising with his usual array of cut shots. Square leg is also kept busy, and fine leg give Matthew a life on his way to 50.

I'm on umpiring duties and when Matthew receives his applause Steve turns to me with 58 on the board. "So I must have 8 runs then". "Dream on Steve, there's been a few wides and byes".

Matthew is finally bowled for 58 which leaves us 33 to win with 9 wickets in hand and 20 overs is not really worth mentioning. The Dunsfold line up can nearly taste the beer which clearly affects their temperament. Steve is run out for 10.

Rob tries to finish it in the over only to be bowled for 4, similar haste clearly affects Whitney caught for 3 skying one that should have gone all the way down the ground. Myself bowled for 1, Ollie caught for 0. Only Wigmore and Peter resist their beer taste buds and accumulate 13 not out and 2 not out to help us over the line with 11 overs to spare.



Quick before the pub shuts

Dunsfold win by 4 wickets.

Bowler	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
Ross	4.5	-	17	1
Peter	5	-	26	-
Ollie	4	1	10	3
Seb	7	-	29	2
Conrad	4	-	11	3

Batter	How out	Runs
Matthew	Bowled	58
Steve	Run Out	10
Rob	Bowled	4
Will	NOT OUT	13
Paul Whitney	Caught	3
Me	Bowled	1
Ollie	Caught	0
Peter	NOT OUT	2



Ahhh that's better