

## Dunsfold Cricket Club vs Tabard Pilgrims - 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020 by Alex Andrews

Hot on the heels of last week's famous first victory of the season against The Butterflies, Dunsfold took to the field at the earlier time of 1 p.m. - well 1.40 actually as only four Tabard Pilgrims had turned up by the agreed time with the rest either in a traffic jam, or in the pub looking for those lost in the traffic jam.

Captain Max proved what a tosser he could be by winning it for the second consecutive week and put us into bat. The first thing to notice was that, compared with our unusual team names - two Maximilians (one 'I'), a Sebastian and an Alexander, the opposition names seemed quite routine - Jugs, Washbag, Kommander, Rhino, Cameo and Xero.

Jugs and Washbag opened the bowling with Max and Max clubbing the ball to various parts of the ground. When Max B. was caught behind for 46, Dunsfold were 76-1, a run total which previous Dunsfold sides have struggled to achieve on several occasions. Max R. and Ed put on a partnership of 56 with Ed continuing his dubious but successful approach of closing his eyes and swinging until he was stumped for 35. I'm not suggesting that Ed was a long way out of his crease, but I simply note that the keeper was able to juggle the ball, drop it, do a little jig and still make the stumping.



So 132-2 after 22 overs, building into an impregnable score. Oh, wait a minute! What about Dunsfold's renowned ability to implode: 132-3; 132-4; 133-5; 134-6; 142-7; 144-8; which brought 'yours truly' to join Seb at the crease. "Just stay in and I'll do the rest" said Seb before promptly spooning a juicy catch to an eager field. The last wicket stand of 11 runs between Alex and Adam took the final total to 160 and unexpectedly stood us in good shape for the tense finale - more of which later.

Before moving on to our fielding performance, a special mention should be made of Roo who delighted the crowd with his batting display. Having destroyed his own wicket with a wild flail of his bat for a potential golden duck, he then squandered the umpire's "no-ball" reprieve by being clean-bowled on the second. Roo took some considerable pride in being out twice in two balls - a Club record that may stand for some time to come.

Dunsfold took to the field with Adam and Roo opening the bowling, but Roo managed only one over before withdrawing with a malfunctioning leg which did not however prevent his return later with a pacey two further overs. When Max B. (3-33) and your storyteller (3-27) came together, wickets began to fall regularly, and at 83-6 it all seemed plain sailing - a

tricky 80 runs needed by Tabards and an easy 4 wickets for Dunsfold to win. But that did not take into account Pilgrim N. Hoare who apparently is recorded in Wisden as having scored 200 runs in a 20-20 match for Exeter who clearly saw a path to victory. At 144-6 with only 17 runs needed, his ambition seemed far too attainable, despite his cataclysmic hangover.

And now we come to the final over of the match, just 8 runs needed for a Tabard victory and Pilgrim Wisden on strike with 62 runs already in his pouch. It looks all over for Dunsfold. But Captain Max has no intention of losing his 100% record as Captain (one out of one) and takes the ball for a Captain's over. Dot ball - good; dot ball - excellent. Now Pilgrim is frustrated, swings wildly at the third ball which takes off like an Apollo space craft, hovers tantalisingly in the air for several minutes before plummeting to earth - well not earth actually, but the large wicketkeeper's gloves filled by Paul's safe hands. They still need 8 runs and there is only one wicket left and three balls to go. Kommander at the crease. He is



no mug with the bat apparently and is only batting down the order through injury. Dot ball - Fantastic. Two balls to go, 8 runs still needed. Fifth ball and Max makes a mess of Kommander's stumps for victory in one of the tensest and most exciting games we have seen for quite a while. So Dunsfold's last wicket stand of 11 runs turned out to be crucial in our 7 runs victory.

And finally a word on our fielding. I won't mention Max B. and myself colliding after forgetting the rudimentary rule drummed into us in the Juniors all those years ago - who's calling for the catch? Apart from that we saw some fine fielding displays and particularly Harry and Steve who both demonstrated excellent fielding skills, but with a marked difference in grace and elegance. Oh, and Adam took a catch.

And then, of course, to The Sun for a well-deserved celebration with Captain Max - 100% record intact - well done all, such an enjoyable game.

For more information about the club please visit [www.dunsfoldcricket.com](http://www.dunsfoldcricket.com)

