

# DUNSFOLD CRICKET MATCH REPORT

## vs Alfold XI for the Alec Bedser bat 2017

Last year had been a comfortable win against a weakened Alfold side so with 6 wins from 6 this season a confident Dunsfold drove down the A281 for the much anticipated 'friendly'. Vice Captain Paul Whitney once again strode out to the middle in the absence of the skipper who once again was travelling back from his weekend Croydon residence, to be met with a first appeal from the opposition that they once again were a little fragile. After a contrived toss was this to be a misjudged leap of faith in the old foe....?



**Opener Paul Petersen flicks a rare switch during a tight first 10 overs**

On what was a dry and fairly rough wicket Dunsfold 'were put into bat'. Paul Petersen opened with the return of Max Bell from his 'revision' and in an effort to avoid last weeks 'collapse' set about reaching double figures from the first 9 overs against some very tight bowling. When the crowd awoke to the sight of drizzle and dark clouds hovering above the 'Dunsfold collapse' had once again struck to find Rob Watkins at the crease on 39 for 5 after 17 overs. Even Paul Whitneys sweet middling of a forward drive found its way back to the bowler who by self defence caught the ball in a flash of lightening. Eagerly joined by Ollie Bell the heavens then opened and we adjourned for an early tea, and a very nice tea it was.

At this point the weather girls joined the WhatsApp chat from the south and east of the Parish with reports of rain, rain and more rain. An hour passed and the game was reduced to 32 overs a side on the basis that the lake in the middle could be dried out and so Alfold successfully took to the task. Play was underway on what was now a very slippery muddy wicket.



**Alfold and their junior groundswoman set to work**

Rob and Ollie battled through low bouncing balls skidding off the surface and taking singles wherever possible to keep the scoreboard moving. From body language alone it appeared Rob didn't take to this strategy as it involved running but then we learn that not only was his rib tickling hit from last week still sore, Rob also doesn't own a pair of spikes..... nevertheless that didn't stop the pair putting on a decent partnership bringing up the 100 with some 4's and 6's to enliven the crowd under heavy skies. Ollie was eventually caught at deep midwicket and Conrad joined Rob for what was clearly going to be a last flash of the bat in the final three overs to boost the score. Two balls later Peter Coveney strode out with a dilemma of facing 10 or so balls to push our total or look to save his average. Seeing out the final overs Rob reached his well deserved 50, Peter protected his average and Dunsfold posted 113 for 7 off 32 overs.



**Peter Coveney left Croydon in sunshine**

A quick turnaround and the returning Adam Young opens the bowling amongst puffs of sawdust but without much luck. Max Bell from the other end started with a flurry of pace and swing and gets his reward of the opener for LBW. In came No. 3 and a few balls later Max finds his edge but our Aussie at 2<sup>nd</sup> slip spills what must be a slippery ball and the 'fragile' Alfold soon set about scoring runs. With a great spell finished for Max, Ollie Bell starts with his traditional loosener for 4 but then settles into a routine of off spin. Seb Bell replaced Adam and favoured the dot balls to keep the run rate down and patience soon ran out with the opener being stumped by Paul Whitney having tried to charge Ollie and left stranded sliding down the wicket. After 17 overs Alfold were on just 40.

With a couple of uncharacteristic loose overs the run rate picked up and Max was brought back into the attack. With the sound of 'catches win matches' ringing in the covers another one was dropped, and then our Aussie at 2<sup>nd</sup> slip still hadn't got the message so Max was left wondering what could have been for such a great effort. At this point a brief skippers conversation in the middle determined that Paul was indeed responsible for the remaining game (and potential loss) so with Alfold edging closer to the target our buffet bowling partnership of Paul Petersen and Conrad Watkins were summoned.

Oh what might have been.... Paul immediately takes 2 wickets and Conrads dot balls seem more interesting than watching the wicket dry out. Alas it was too little too late and Alfold crept over the line to claim the Alec Bedser bat with 2 overs to spare.



**A first sighting of the Bell BBQ in action**

By now the sun was shining, clouds cleared and weather girls reporting a fine evening. Despite an amazing 15 game winning streak coming to an end against the friendly but once again competitive Alfold the team headed to the Bells for a superb BBQ and swim.