

### **A win from the jaws of defeat?**

After 3 cancelled matches, Dunsfold were finally back in action on Sunday at neighbours Chiddingfold.

The wicket was surprisingly dry having been covered and the outfield in good condition, with a good weather forecast an enjoyable game could take place.

Winning the toss, skipper Peter Coveney elected to field first, fearing his side's month's rest would mean the batting would be very rusty. There was no rustiness about the opening bowling attack as Adam Young fizzes the stumps second ball. A couple of overs later and he repeats the trick Chiddingfold had two back in the pavilion very quickly. After warming up for a few overs Oliver Bell managed a couple at the other end and by the time their spells had ended Chiddingfold seemed in a bit of trouble at 47 for 4 off 14 overs.

It was time for our young spin twins, left armer Lucas Watkins and off-spinner Sebastian Bell. Unfortunately, they were rusty, particularly Seb, both bowling a 'liquorice all sorts' of balls many of which were to the batsmen's liking. Sixes and fours were flying everywhere in this small ground and a number of balls lost as the passing cars seemed to be the target. Lucas manages to get a wicket and then also manages to run one of the batsmen out with a deft pick up and shy at the stumps from mid on. However, Chiddingfold had moved onto 120 for 6 off 22 overs.

Time for a change and former skipper Paul Petersen, currently leading wicket taker steps up and immediately bowls a wide, followed by two wickets in two balls only to bowl a wide for hat trick delivery! Nevertheless Chiddingfold were now 128 for 8 off 24 overs.

Lucas finishes his spell, taking 1 wicket for 39 runs in his 7 overs and is replaced by Matthew Richardson who uses his guile to keep the flow of runs to a minimum. He was then replaced by the returning Seb Bell who had been tasked with bowling medium pace, unfortunately this was dispatched to all corners and Chiddingfold were rattling up the runs at an alarming rate. Paul Petersen at the other end was comparatively tidier but the runs were still flowing. Seb ended up conceding 67 runs in his 6 overs, taking just one wicket. Chiddingfold ended on 192 for 9 off their 35 overs. It had been a bowling display reminiscent of the first match of the season.

With a mammoth task ahead of them Dunsfold set about chasing after tea. Unfortunately, the scoreboard read 0 for 2 off 2 overs after both openers were removed in short order. Captain Peter Coveney followed quickly behind after dragging a ball onto his stumps. 4 for 3. This brought 13 year old Sam Thomas to the crease and his classy and elegant shots along with Conrad's doggedness steadied the ship....until Conrad was caught behind for 12. 21 for 4 things were not looking good.

Fortunately back in-form Paul Whitney was our number 6 and he made a swashbuckling 32 with his customary drives and along with Sam, Dunsfold were finally making some inroads to the target. Paul miss judges one and is caught at long on. Matthew Richardson comes in and the scoreboard ticks on, until Sam is finally bowled for 20. This brings Oliver Bell to the crease who scratches around for a few overs until he runs himself out for 10.

At this point Dunsfold had got themselves to 105 for 8 off 25 overs. It was left to Seb Bell and Lucas Watkins to amount our final challenge. They got off to a good start hitting a few boundaries and running very quick singles...until the 29th over when Seb spoons one up to mid wicket and the score had moved onto 130. In comes our number 11 Adam Young who sees off the final 2 balls of the 29th over.

With the writing on the wall Lucas starts to attack the ball...suddenly the sixes and fours start flying - 15 hit off an over, then again... what was happening? ... surely the unthinkable wasn't possible? 166 off 32 overs, 175 off 33 overs meaning 18 required off the final two overs, unfortunately the penultimate over was tighter and 16 was required off the final over and the opening bowler was brought back on.

Lucas smashes the first ball for 6 back over the bowlers head. The field scatters and Lucas strikes the 3rd ball for 4 which was also a no ball. 5 off 3 required. The singles were turned down to keep Lucas on strike, so 5 still required off the final ball ... but alas only a single is managed, we are left at 189 for 9 off our 35 overs, 3 runs short and with 16 year old Lucas 67 not out walking off to a deserved standing ovation.

We nearly clutched a win from the jaws of of defeat!

Next week we travel to Follies Farm for our annual match in the grounds of the house there.