

## DCC Vs Flemish Giants – 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020 – Max Bell

Flemish giants were next up for so the far invincible Dunsfold as they were looking for make it four from four in Captain Richards' last outing before he left us for uni. Another debut as well, to follow a handful last week, for George white and the return after 2 years for Matt Forrester. The opposition looked very youthful with just a handful of old boys which in the past would have created some nerves but not for this revitalised Dunsfold side. It was set to be a hot one causing cries of 'we better bat first' heard, typical of the British not being able to cope with such weather. And yet again Captain Richards' tossing ability was exceptional as he made it four from four winning the toss and putting them in the field to the delight of his teammates.

Dan ward was set to open with the familiar face of yours truly who was looking down the barrel at a potential 3<sup>rd</sup> duck in 4 innings, not what the reigning batting comp champion (for the last 2 years I may add) was wanting as he sets his sights on a hatrick of them. With the sun beaming down on the pitch all week, it looked a batsman's paradise, hard and not a hint of green.



To the delight of the crowd yours truly was able to make it off the mark with lovely slip drive that flew away to the fence. The opening bowler didn't seem too pleased with this as his follow through had been inspired from our own Roo Slater as they both seemed to have a thing about getting up close and personal with the batsmen. Some good ball striking at the other end from Dan meant that Dunsfold we off to a flyer on a Dunsfold pitch that seemed to be a reincarnation of a trampoline. 34-0 off 8. At this point the heat must have got the fielders especially a rather vocal youthful keeper who seemed to notice I was struggling a little bit. This seemed to have hit the right place though as in order to assert himself as an alpha male the next two balls flew over the rope not to the delight of the keeper but his best bits are yet to come. Some more exquisite ball striking from Dan in particular meant that after 20 overs Dunsfold were 113-0. Unbelievable. I was soon fall for 55 after the call from the captain to hit big meaning a 121 opening partnership fell, a change from the usual Dunsfold innings. This brought Sam Thomas to the crease with only 12 overs to but he quickly settled in with some powerful striking. Dan was later to fall for 60 in similar fashion but Dunsfold looked set here for a 200+ score. Debutant George White strode to the crease as he embarked on cricket for the first time since school and looked in good order for his brief cameo of 7, 173-3 off 31. Captain Richards was next in and straight away the 'gobby' keeper was in to his work noticing a Cranleigh badge. An exchange words between the two started with some classic sledging before embarrassingly swiftly moving it on the conversation to how many GCSEs he had. Very interesting. I think however the only thing that needed to be examined were his eyes as 15 byes and plenty of dropped catches. This meant that after some ramps from Sam Thomas and a six that wasn't a six but Dave said it

was so it was and a beautiful cover drive from Richards which he managed to let everyone know when he came off that it was him allowed Dunsfold to end up on 212-3 off 35 overs with Sam Thomas and Captain Richards finishing off with 46\* and 17\* respectively. WOW.

Tea was yet again a plethora of picnics as a record crowd for the season turned up in full force cheering Dunsfold on so many thanks to them for coming out in their numbers to watch some great cricket. Well, hopefully for the cricket as ever since the word has got out that a more youthful team was around, the crowds have been gathering.... Anyway on to the fielding.

This week Simon's opening partner was a returning Matt Forrester who not long ago taking 5fers on this pitch, so could he rediscover his touch. It's safe to say he was a bit rusty as Paul Witney's hands took a battering, looking light on his feet, I must add, diving left and right. But even with a very tidy opening spell from Simon at the other end Flemish Giants were 59-0 off 10. Seb Bell and Harry Pite were soon called upon to bowl as they set about trying to steady the flow of runs. Harry after telling the captains on numerous occasions that he doesn't bowl kept it very tight bowling with good pace. However at the other end my brother decided it was cash in time for the batsmen as he served up some juicy half trackers to keep the giants on top of the run rate. As this point some nerves were kicking in for captain Richards as it was crossing his mind that his 100% record was in danger. Therefore yours truly was brought onto bowl to try and get the breakthrough. His hopes were dashed as I joined my brother in the buffet and served up a few fat full tosses that were rightfully dealt with.



With Richards hands quaking and the giants 118-0 off 20, Seb found some rhythm and dismissed their number 1 for a very well made 45. At the other end, after a questionable spell from myself, Sam Thomas was brought on and straight away had the bit between his teeth. Their number 2 batsmen who we all labelled as someone who couldn't bat, currently sitting on 52, was bounced out with some serious pace for Sam and was caught at gully by Dan, who seemed to be still feeling his tea as he reacted quite late but ended up clinging on. 118-0 turned to 118-2 in an instant with both openers back in the shed. It could have been even better as very next ball they could have been 3 down as Sam found the edge again but in typical Richards style the chance was comfortably grassed and the batsman survived. This was soon to change however as Seb's spell had finished with respectable figures of 1-36, including the key breakthrough, meaning that Captain Fantastic decided to bring himself on.

This was an inspired change as the person he had just dropped was soon on his way after a magnificent catch by myself at first slip. 122-3 off 23.



The nerves were settled then as Dunsfold felt as if the giants batting line up was finished. This complacency was soon gone as their number 3 decided enough was enough dispatched a pretty good ball from Sam Thomas over extra cover for a one bounce 4. This game was far from over. Overs ticked by and the giants seemed to be on track with the run rate required staying at around 8 an over. Richards with ball still

in hand gave Dunsfold a chance as the ball spooned up to long on. The catch was dropped but a quick recovery allowed for a run out. A few balls later another chance. The number 3 top edging one to fine leg where Harry was ready and waiting lucky calling for it as I came steaming in. 169-5 off 31. A big momentum shift. But next in stood the wicket keeper. There is no simple way to describe his batting display. He took guard 5 meters outside of his crease then as Sam was steaming recited his own ballet performance for the crowd to enjoy before spooning it to Harry Pite at square leg taking a very good running catch. Thanks for coming, happy travels. Sam and Richards finished off their spells with Richards finishing with 2-24 and Sam with figures that don't quite show how well he bowled of 1-33. Two matching winning spells. This left the final over to be bowled. The ball was thrown to me. Surely I couldn't screw this up. Well if you saw my first spell you would think otherwise however my mojo was found as the stumps were rattled before run out by Mr Witney leaving the opposition 179-9 off their 35 overs.

4/4! Who would have believed it. Another fantastic game of cricket that was very enjoyable to be a part of. Many thanks to Dave for the pitch and umpiring along with Peter Andrews who also scored and also to all the crowd that turned up. It was great to play in front of such great support who really got behind us. Special mention to Ed St Aubyn who got the weekend off but still turned up to support and still managed to forget his stuff leaving cigarettes off his brother. Some things never change. 5/5? Next Sunday Vs Cranleigh.



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