

DCC vs Follies Farm 2nd August 2020

The annual away game was last weekend to Follies Farm in Chiddingfold. A lovely pitch and pavilion and always a good and tough game! Dunsfold had four new players playing for them, Josh Pike, Simon Benson, Rob Pidgen and Henry St Aubyn. Tradition runs in the family for the St Aubyns, both boys late and without any kit!

Strolling out looking at the pitch, Captain Max Richards knew in the back of his mind that the 100% winning record for this season so far was at stake. The formidable opposition of Follies Farm stood in his way. The coin went up, tails was the call (Tails NEVER Fails) and Dunsfold won the toss (again for the 3rd successive time) and wanted to bat first.

Josh Pike and Max Bell opened the batting. A very promising partnership – countless hours practicing in the cricket nets at Cranleigh School should have prepared them for some young adult bowling. But how wrong we were. First over ticked through and we all believed that the two batsmen were going to settle in and bat all day; the instructions were to bat till drinks (20 overs). However, first ball of the second over, Josh's first ball for Dunsfold, he wants to hit a six and spoons a ball straight into the air and is caught for a golden duck. The bowler was "too slow", apparently. Two balls later Max picks out another fielder. Currently Dunsfold were 1 run for 2 wickets; it was not looking promising.

Dan Ward and Harry Pite walked to the crease – a common Dunsfold collapse was looming. Harry was looking good but sadly his fate was decided when he hit the ball straight to another fielder in the air. A recurring theme.

Mike Berry was up next, his first game since last season. Having got asked to open the batting – his response was a shocked "I think it would be best if a youngster does that instead of me and hide me around 4/5/6" – that clearly didn't work out. Dan and Mike were steadying the ship very nicely – having got Dunsfold to 38 runs for 3 wickets off 16 overs. A low scoring game was looking likely. Credit where credit is due, Dan battled well and sadly was clean bowled for 23 by the 'ball of the day'.

Next up was Captain Max. A big innings was needed and as predicted that did not occur. A very quick 14 runs before seeing my stumps scattered.

The St Aubyn brothers both batted together for the first time. And in typical St Aubyn fashion, the defensive shot was not used once. There seemed to be a game going on as to who could run out the other first. Thankfully, that did not happen. Some would say getting dropped by a fielder is lucky. I think Ed would say tactical placement, even if it happened three times! Ed ended the innings for Dunsfold with a six on the final ball, to bring him to 49 not out and Dunsfold to 161. Great ending with a defendable score – every captain's dream.

Teas of hog roast, apple sauce sandwiches and cake always go down well, even when Max Bell decides he has earned 4 slices of cake after his 0 runs; the athlete's diet of dreams.

The opening bowling partnership of Simon and Rob was very promising. Both bowling to very good batsmen but Rob struck first taking an early wicket. This brought to the crease a rather useful batsman. Mr Borwick had scored 8 runs less in a season than his school mate, Andrew Strauss for Radleigh. Yet that information was not discovered till after he smashed the ball over the pitch for a solid 51 runs. He did have a near scare when he whacked the ball straight to Max Bell (who was bowling) who stuck a hand out and sadly it didn't stick. "Surprised you didn't break your hand" was

the batsman's response. It still goes down as a dropped catch, Maxi. A few runs later, Borwick hits the ball to Henry St Aubyn who lets the ball hit his chest, juggles it around a few times before catching it between his arms and his chest. He's clearly a full time circus juggler and part time cricket phenomenon.

Quick fire wickets occurred thanks to Seb Bell, Max Bell and Ed St Aubyn. With one wicket to go, Captain Max gave himself an over and with his very first ball took the 10th wicket. We thought we had won with 25 runs to go. However, a spectator got roped in to batting at 11 for Follies Farm because the team only had 10 players all day. Ed quickly finished them off and Dunsfold won by 18 runs! Fantastic victory.

That's 3 on the trot for Dunsfold this season – tails clearly never fails or beginner's luck?

We are at home next week on the 9th of August against the Flemish Giants, Start time 2pm.

For more information about the club please visit www.dunsfoldcricket.com