

### A final humble-don

After a decidedly autumnal few weeks the sun finally broke out for our final game of the season, away at Hambledon, always a tricky postage stamp of a ground.

Dunsfold batted first and for the first time the season got off to an absolute flier as Ed St Aubyn tucked in to some very average bowling. After a couple of tentative overs Paul Petersen also joined in the run fest. After just 11 overs Dunsfold were 58 without loss. However this was probably the high point of the innings as in the next 9 overs we scored just 19 more runs but also lost 4 wickets as Ed (31), Paul (27), Peter Coveney (6) and Rob Watkins (2) all lost their wickets to some very tame bowling. Mike Berry (11) wasn't far behind them and so it was left to Paul Farris, who clearly enjoyed his debut last week enough to play again(!), and Conrad Watkins to try and restore some order to the innings. The pair played well until Paul's frustration built sufficiently to miss-time a slog. 102 for 6 off 24 overs. As has become customary for Dunsfold in the latter part of the season it was left to the tail end to provide enough runs to bowl against. Fortunately they yet again delivered as Conrad (23), Ollie Bell (16), Max Bell (22\*) and even our trusty number 11 Adam Young (14) fired in with an enormous 6! Dunsfold ended up with a seemingly respectable 171 for 8 in 35 overs.

An extremely lavish tea, rivalling Dunsfold's regular offering, was laid out for the teams, the ham and coleslaw sandwiches were particularly nice!

So into the field Dunsfold go, brimming with confidence that we had a competitive total. That confidence took a severe battering when Ollie Bell's second over was dispatched for 25 runs including a massive six over the houses losing the new ball! It was clear the Hambledon batsmen had only one thing in mind ... the short boundaries! Order was briefly restored when Ollie removed the offending batsman - well caught on the extra cover boundary by Ed St Aubyn. However this was Dunsfold's only success for some time as 2 league-looking batsmen played Dunsfold's bowling attack with relative ease. It wasn't until the 16th over, with the score on 116 that Hambledon lost their next wicket when Ed St Aubyn clips the off stump bail with a quicker delivery. Max Bell then removes the next batsman a few balls later providing Dunsfold with a glimmer of hope. However the number 3 batsman was still going strong and after being dropped 3 times off Ollie Bell's tantalising offspin. As an aside Ollie needed 2 wickets to claim the season's bowling trophy from current leading wicket taker Paul Petersen, so perhaps its no surprise that Paul dropped 2 the catches! Ollie finally removed the number 3 when Ed St Aubyn took another good catch on the mid wicket boundary but the score had moved along to 155 for 4. The remaining batsmen didn't look so good but the damage had been done and when Paul Petersen returns having been taken off after serving up just 2 overs of 'buffet' bowling, his first ball is rightly smacked out of the ground for 6 and that takes Hambledon over the line with 10 overs to spare.

It's been a fun season and I hope these reports have brought the village a little closer to the cricket club. We do a very good job of rehabilitating 'former' players, indeed many of our current team now in their 40's hadn't played since school. We would welcome anyone, of any talent to come along and try - there are lots of children that come along and play on the side lines and we make wives and girlfriends very welcome. We are not a league club and so there are no politics - we play for enjoyment and 90% of our matches are at home. So if you are available and want to play, you are likely to be picked and you will get a chance to bowl or bat and probably both if you want to!

Finally, the club wouldn't thrive without a few dedicating their time more than most. We have to thank Dave Renmant in particular for his tireless work meticulously preparing the ground and umpiring every match. Peter Coveney for a successful first season as captain and Julie Young

who quietly runs everything from behind the scenes! Thank you to all of you and others that make this such a fun club to be part of!

Until next year!