



## Dunsfold Cricket Club vs Cranleigh (H)

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

By: Peter Coveney

*"If we're going to lose then let's not hang about and lose quickly, the pub closes at 6"*

So the 2021 season got underway under grey and occasionally threatening skies, but nothing could deter the enthusiasm of Dunsfold's First XI as we took on local rivals Cranleigh on Sunday afternoon. There was even talk of midweek nets from some of the newer members of the team in the lead up to the season's opener, an idea that was firmly put in its place by some of the older hands. Still, on the basis of Sunday's performance it looks like the whole team could do with a session of naughty boy nets as we were soundly beaten in the time it normally takes to complete one innings.



Olly Bell and Mike Berry open the innings as the new season gets underway

And it all started so promisingly as we welcomed back Mike Patterson and Simon Benson who made their debuts last year and also welcomed two local newcomers in Chris Balchin and Max Cooke. Max in particular caught the Captain's eye as he was wearing his Guildford Grammar School First XI kit and so was promptly told to pad up and get ready to go in at No3 as Dunsfold, batting first, set about setting Cranleigh a target to chase: 35 overs apiece.

Max didn't have to wait long as after a few lusty blows Mike Berry (17) was the first wicket of 2021 to fall. Sadly, numbers 4, 5, 6, 7, 8... (you get the picture...) didn't have long to wait either as a batting collapse followed in true Dunsfold fashion. In the end we managed to muster a paltry 71 all out thanks in the main to 23 from Paul Whitney.

The team clearly took the Captain's stirring tea time talk to heart as Cranleigh raced to their target with plenty of wickets and overs to spare, ensuring that we were able to get to The Sun for a few beers before the cold really set in. A worthy effort on the bowling front from Mike Patterson with two wickets.

Next up are The Saints. Let's hope for some sunshine and a brighter performance on the pitch.

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