



Dunsfold Cricket Club vs Ancient Mariners (H)

Sunday 6th June 2021

by Peter Coveney

Sunday saw the return of the Ancient Mariners for one of the club's longest standing fixtures dating back to the 1930s and the return of vice captain Max Richards to see if he could carry on from last year's record of four wins out of four.

Max, clearly not having read any of this season's match reports and the team's struggles to post a score over 100, then proceeded to win the toss and chose to bat first! However, on returning to the pavilion and finding out that two of the Mariners were going to be an hour late Max gallantly decided to allow the Mariner's to bat first. And so we took to the field with Adam and Simon opening the bowling. Simon kept it tight at one end and Adam produced a great spell of swing bowling from the other, including a ripper that castled one of the openers so that after 15 overs the Mariners were 29 for 2, with Paul Peterson picking up a wicket in his first over after replacing Simon. Chris Balchin then took over from Adam and with some steady bowling and regular wickets we continued to contain the Mariners batsmen. Chris



finishing up with the day's best figures of 3 for 22 and Paul with 2 for 21. At this point Max decided to get in on the act picking up a couple of wickets and after some deliberation handed George White his first chance to bowl for the club. George has clearly been watching Dunsfold's regular opener, Ollie Bell, as his first delivery made straight for first slip! After George's cameo and a few more overs from Simon, the Mariners reached 113 for 9 off their 35 overs.

Sadly, still no match teas were on offer, but the players and families enjoyed a well earned break in the sun.



Newcomer Paddy Calvert and your's truly then opened the batting for Dunsfold and made a half decent job of it for the first time this season and with both players scoring at a good rate Dunsfold reached 58 without loss after 14 overs before I holed out. Rob Watkins joined Paddy and proceeded to keep the scoreboard ticking over with

Paddy looking pretty solid for a well batted and top score of 35 whilst Rob, clearly aiming to run as little as he had to (how he claims to be a hockey player I'll never understand), was dealing in boundaries and singles before being caught for 15. Mike then hit a 6 off his first ball before departing for a rapid 18 and after another cameo from George, this time with the bat, it was left to Paul Whitney to bring us home on 14 not out. Dunsfold victorious with 11 overs and 5 wickets to spare and Max preserving his 100% win record, making it five out of five.



To the victors go the spoils! (except that no-one had told The Sun that as we were left waiting for ½ hour before getting our first pint).

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