



## Dunsfold Cricket Club vs Chelsea Arts Club (H)

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021

On a beautiful, warm day Dunsfold arrived for a 2pm start to find no sign of the opposition. At 1.45 the 10 men of Chelsea Arts Club wandered over from the Sun where they had been since 12pm having mistakenly arrived for an 11.30 start. Advantage Dunsfold!

In a first for as long as most can remember, Dunsfold were fielding a team which was comprised of 6 Dunsfold residents plus a couple more who grew up in the village. The future of the team is looking healthy especially when our “youngsters” are still to return from university / exam pressures.

With Max Richards pulling out on Saturday night having damaged his knee playing for Cranleigh on Saturday, Paul Petersen was drafted in and Paul Whitney took the captains arm band. His first duty was to lose the toss and CAC decided to have a bat.

A solid opening bowling spell from Paul Petersen and Simon Benson who were both accurate with plenty of swing saw CAC move to 44-1 off the first 9 overs with Paul taking the first wicket bowling one of the openers for 3.

Skipper Whitney made a double change bringing on Matthew Richardson and Michael Patterson with the latter trapping the other CAC opener LBW with his first ball. The pair bowled beautifully and when Matthew took 2 wickets in 2 balls followed, a couple of overs later, by Michael doing the same with a third wicket in the over. Patterson's figures of 3 overs, 4 wickets for 3 runs became 5 overs, 5 wickets for 3 runs after a maiden and a wicket maiden and he finished with figures of 5-15 off his 7 overs and CAC had sunk to 55-7 off 15 overs.

Dunsfold are flying.

Chris Balchin replaces Matthew and bowls a tight spell including the 9<sup>th</sup> and final wicket of the 10 men of CAC with the score on 80. After a quick chat with the CAC captain who suggests that wicket keeper Whitney has a bat for Chelsea to get the score up to a competitive total (has he never seen Dunsfold trying to chase down 80!!) it is agreed to let the last man out carry on. The pair then put on a further 28 for the final wicket having already put on 22 for the previous final wicket and Dunsfold are facing a 108-run run chase. It could have been a lot less but for the fact that Dunsfold dropped 6 catches but we do like to give the opposition a chance!

After another self-made tea, Dunsfold start their run chase. Skipper Whitney surveys the waiting players to assess who looks most likely to not get out for not very many!

Opening stalwart Mike Berry is ushered out with young Max Cooke who looked a little surprised when he was asked to open but his Thursday evening net practice has not gone unnoticed and he starts in confident form. When Mike falls cheaply, debutant Baz Anayi strides to the middle and gets of the mark with a glorious straight drive. The cries of “hello, we've found a good 'un here” ring around the boundary. The pair put on 60 before Baz goes for 14 and when Rob Watkins goes for a familiarly frenetic 15, Dunsfold have already passed

the “official” 10 man total of 80! When Max Cooke is finally dismissed for a wonderfully crafted 60, full of cover drives, pulls and the most sumptuous late cuts, Dunsfold need 10 to win. With George White perishing for 4, Simon Benson is sent in to join Michael Patterson with his captain’s instructions of “don’t make me put my whites on again” ringing in his ears.

He needn’t have worried and the pair saw Dunsfold home to their target of 108 with 17 overs to spare!!

A terrific team performance all round was rounded off with a few jugs in the Sun, 2 of which were provided by the batting 50-maker, Max Cooke and the bowling 5-for taker, Michael Patterson.

Well done everyone.

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