



After having had a more autumnal kind of summer so far this year, the sun was out, the clouds were nowhere to be seen and the sun cream was heavily applied! It was a scorcher. The stage was set for Dunsfold CC vs The President's XI – a highpoint in our calendar..



The Dunsfold Presidents XI was selected by our president Larry Westland with the help of his son Matt and captained by Andy Muggleton. They took on a strong Dunsfold side captained by Max Richards.

As per Dunsfold's tradition of starting on time, the match was meant to start at '1pm', but started at 1:30 with the Presidents XI winning the toss and decided to bat first with both sides playing 12 a side rather than the normal 11 a side.

As usual, Adam Young and Simon Benson opened the bowling keeping the President's XI at bay. Simon clean bowled their opening batter who seemed very keen to get on with the game and get to the pub! It seemed like a low total was going to be in order, but we were going to be proved wrong

After 8 overs, the bowlers were desperate for a water break, so the youth of Max Bell and Sam Thomas stepped up. Sam, struggling to control the ball at one end, kept the batsmen on edge for Max at the other end to clean bowl their other opening batsman and batsmen No 3. These were two brilliant wickets.

This however brought to the crease their captain, Andy (close friend of one of our own, Michael Pattison). Andy settled in slowly, using a couple of lives when the balls whistled passed the stumps at shin height. I gave the opportunity to Michael to bowl to his friend, and I believe the personal battle was won by Andy on this occasion (Andy scored a large chunk of his runs off Michael's final over). Andy scored a very impressive 71 but had to retire injured - much to our delight we no longer had to hop the fence into the woods to fetch the ball.

Special mention to Steve McCullen, Justin Theobald and Lucas Watkins (3 Dunsfold players who were selected to play for the President XI) and both had opportunities to bat and did well respectively.

President XI scored a very impressive 160, a total very rarely scored at Dunsfold and even more rarely chased down.

Now, the highlight of the day was the infamous match teas prepared by players from both teams and their families! From sandwiches to cakes to brownies, the President's Day tea is something that everyone in the village must experience if they haven't had the opportunity to already! And many did come to watch the match (and eat the teas). A big thanks to our spectators who helped make the day so memorable.



Dunsfold opened the batting with Dan Ward (on the back of scoring 70 last week) and Max Bell. Dan Ward made light work of the openers scoring very rapidly whereas Max Bell scored 10 before being caught and bowled by Lucas.



Next brought Max R to the crease, and having failed to score all year, took a very quick single to settle nerves but quickly fell a few balls later for 9 by a very good catch by their wicket keeper!

Next brought Mike Berry to the crease. Him and Dan ward steered the ship on course very nicely with Dan hitting a quick 50. He got out soon after for 53 - a very good effort. Next in was Sam Thomas who looked solid with Mike but both got out quite soon after each other, Sam for 7 and Mike for a very energetic 30. Chris Balchin and Michael P looked steady till Chris got out for 2 to a very good piece of fielding and Michael for 9 (caught by his friend Andy).

Seb bell and Paul Whitney were at the crease, with Paul chasing the remaining 21 runs to retain first place on the batting award but sadly fell for 10. Harry Pite and Seb finished the match off resulting in Dunsfold XI winning against the President XI for the first time in a couple of years!



I would like to say thanks again to Larry Westland our president, the President's XI, friends and family who provided the teas and the Dunsfold XI for another brilliant Presidents day. See you in 2022.



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