



Dunsfold Cricket Club vs Ancient Mariners 5th June 2022

During the week leading up to the match against Ancient Mariners our groundsman Dave was on holiday but that wasn't a problem because he's been showing me the ropes (and mowers and rollers...) so what could go wrong ?

Having managed to get the roller stranded in the middle of the pitch overnight last time Dave was on holiday (and thanks to Josh for rescuing it) I was confident that everything would be fine this time around.

However, 48 hours later I was on the phone to our friends and sponsors at Wiltshires with a desperate plea for help having just apparently killed the mower used to cut the wicket.

Thankfully Laura and the team sprang into action and someone went around to collect the mower and have a look at repairing it.

The bad news was that the drive shaft had broken and the parts were no longer available for that model. The good news was that the great team at Wiltshires were able to weld and bolt it back together and get me up and running (mowing) before the matches at the weekend.

Thanks to Ben and the team in the workshop for their help.

The weekend arrived amid torrential rain. Surrey girls had hired a pitch on Saturday and managed to squeeze a match in between the showers and then the covers were placed on our wicket with a hope that the wicket would dry out enough to play the following day.

Thankfully, despite more torrential rain overnight, Michael made the call that the pitch was playable and the game was on.

The DCC team looked strong on paper and included Matthew "I'm only here to make up the numbers" Richardson and, in his first appearance of the year Ed St Auybn.

DCC were first to bat, Ed hadn't arrived yet but that's normal so no-one was worried.

Max Cooke and Max Richards opened the batting and with Max R having scored 92 in his previous innings for DCC we were looking forward to more of the same.

Unfortunately within 3 overs both openers were back in the pavilion.

The skipper still wasn't worried as we still had plenty of batting to come and Ed could always be relied on to pull something out of the bag, if only we knew where he was...

By the end of the 15th over the skipper was starting to look concerned, 36 runs for 5 wickets was not in his plan for the day. But he wasn't worried, Ed would save us. "Has anyone seen Ed ?? "

Matthew Richardson was next in to bat and everyone was wondering (or hoping) that he could keep up the record of top-scoring for the team this year and dig us out of the hole we found ourselves in.

The answer to the first part was "yes", Matthew eventually scored 32 runs and having run out of partners found himself at the top of the leader board again this season.

DCC were all out for 97 runs with Michael Paterson being the only other batsman able to make it into double figures.

Ed also maintained his magnificent run (of being late to the match) and produced his finest effort to date when he managed to get to the ground just as the tea break was ending.

After another excellent tea laid on this time by Jill and Kirsten DCC took to the field to defend a low but possible target.

Malick Kudmany and Harry Pite opened the bowling and Malick was able to get one opener caught by Mr Witney behind the stumps fairly quickly but the other opener was looking in worryingly good form.

The 2nd wicket fell quickly and things were looking hopeful at 26 for 2 but the opening batsman proved to be a thorn in our side that we just couldn't remove.

With the scores at 77 for 3 and then 95 for 4 Paul Petersen finally got him out but his score of 54 runs sealed our fate and the Mariners won the match with 5 overs and 5 wickets spare.

At least we got a match in before the rain started again and well done to Matthew for keeping up the record of top scoring.

The next match would be against Chiddingfold.

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