

With the Dunsfold ground looking glorious in the sunshine the DCC team members were looking forward to a new season of cricket.



Sports fans eagerly await the legendary rivalries; The Ashes, The Ryder cup, Liverpool vs Manchester United, Celtic vs Rangers and today was no different as Dunsfold welcomed local rivals Cranleigh.

Address books were scoured and favours called in as players were summoned from far and wide (Bournemouth and Gerarrds Cross to name but a few) to get a team together in order to claim this year's bragging rights.

After weeks of sunshine and dry weather the teams assembled under glorious..... rain ! Thankfully the showers died out and we were able to start after only 20 minutes delay.

Cranleigh chose to bat (mainly because 2 of their team weren't going to arrive for another hour or so). The Cranleigh opening pair made a slow start and were restricted to just 27 off the first 10 overs by Young and Benson.

The DCC skipper (Michael Patterson) took over bowling from the Sun Inn end and after two maiden overs he bowled both openers in his 3rd over.

Tidy bowling from the rest of the DCC bowlers meant that Cranleigh looked in danger of being bowled out for less than 100 until the Cranleigh No.10 batsman hit a rapid 30 (including 6 4's) to take the Cranleigh total to 114 off 34.5 overs

Pick of the DCC bowling was Michael Patterson with 3 wickets for 7 runs, Malick Kudmany with 3 wickets for 12 runs & Justin Theobald with 2 wickets for 21 runs.

Steve McCullen made a cameo appearance in the bowling attack and as usual bagged himself a wicket.

During the break for a great tea everyone had a chance to admire the newly painted Pavilion and new kitchen (courtesy of Michael Patterson and Howdens)



After tea Dunsfold set about chasing the Cranleigh total with openers Christy Kulasingam and Joe McCann.

Some tight bowling by the Cranleigh opening bowlers Petersen and White reduced Dunsfold to 36 for 5 off the first 10 overs despite a quick-fire 16 from Patterson.

New boy Malick came and went with the score on 46 and another DCC collapse looked to be on the cards.

Thankfully Matthew Richardson and Simon Benson had other ideas and they set about restoring some sense of calm to the DCC innings.

The pair shared a partnership of 51 before Matt was baffled by the unique bowling action of Stiles and was bowled for 43.

With the score at 98 for 8 and needing 17 runs to win, recently promoted from his usual No.11 slot Adam Young made his way to the wicket.

Debutant Dexter McCullen was quickly getting his pads on as the form book showed that he would probably soon be called into action.

Young hit a 4 off his 2nd ball before settling down into his more usual batting style and the scoreboard slowly ticked over.

27 Overs : 106,

28 Overs : 108,

29 Overs : 108,

30 Overs : 108,

I did say it was slow.

Finally in the 31st over Benson and Young found a way through the fielders and the scores were level until Benson hit the winning runs the next over.

The best of the DCC batsmen were :

Matthew Richardson : 43

Simon Benson : 17 N/O

Michael Patterson : 16

The pick of Cranleigh's bowlers were :

Paul Petersen : 3 wickets for 19 runs

Dave White : 2 wickets for 12 runs.

To celebrate the win and to round off a great start to the season we handed out beers from our new sponsor Firebird Brewery before retiring to the Sun Inn

Next week we face "The Saints" at Dunsfold on Sunday 8th @ 13:30

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