



## **Dunsfold Cricket Club vs Kensington CC 29<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May dawned clear and bright (if a little chilly) and the DCC squad to face Kensington that afternoon breathed a sigh of relief that a game of cricket would take place after a 2 week break.

The previous matches against Grayswood and Chelsea Arts were rained off and cancelled due to the opposition not getting a team together so the team were itching to get back into action.

Competition for places in the team against Kensington is always tough and the selectors were called into action for only the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in my 17 years at DCC as all 11 slots were snapped up a week ahead of the fixture.

Matthew “I’m only here to make up the numbers” Richardson (more of that in next week’s report) graciously stood down to let Max Richards play, and what a wise move that turned out to be.

For those of you who aren’t aware of the background to Kensington and are wondering why they’re so popular there’s just one reason (apart from them being a great bunch and fun to play against) and that is “Whisky” !!

Their team is sponsored by Johnny Walker and the man of the match from the opposition is awarded a bottle of Johnny Walker Gold Label.

And so to battle...

KCC elected to bat and made a slow start with Adam Young and Simon Benson keeping the score down to 14 for 2 wickets off 6 overs with both eventually being replaced after 12 overs with the score on 33.

Lucas Watkins replaced Simon at the “Sun Inn” end and Max Richards replaced Adam at the “Pavilion End” with Max making an immediate impact and taking 2 wickets in his first over (thanks for stepping down Matt R).

Unfortunately (for DCC) this brought the KCC numbers 5 & 6 to the crease and despite some tidy bowling from Lucas and Max the batsmen settled down and started to score runs.

Malick Kudmany and Paul Petersen took over the bowling and were finally able to make a breakthrough with Malick getting the number 5 batsman stumped (after scoring 50) and the number 6 batsman caught (after scoring 38)

Paul and Fred Vorster took a wicket apiece and KCC ended on 175 off the allotted 40 overs.

Jill Andrews kept up the tradition of great DCC teas (thanks Jill) and then the DCC batsmen set about the task of demolishing the KCC score.

Fresh from his 100 runs for Cranleigh the day before and with visions of sipping whisky from his Man of the Match bottle Dan Ward strode (actually it was more like a John Wayne impression as he had been keeping wicket for us in the 1<sup>st</sup> innings) to the middle with Max Richards, and then strode back after having been bowled for 15.

Max propped up one end and was scoring runs steadily (thanks for stepping down Matt ) while the batsman at the other end.....  
....collapsed.

Cooke, Berry, Vorster, Watkins, Kudmany came, and went after having been baffled by the spin bowling of Saurav Sen (8 overs, 4 maidens, 5 wickets for 20 runs) and with 8 runs between them things were starting to look ominous.

Thankfully Max was still there and plugging away and by the time the score was 80 for 5 he was closing in on his 50.

He was joined at the crease by Simon Benson and between them they began to steady the ship. The pair pushed the score to 131 before Max was finally out just 8 runs short of his century (thanks for stepping down Matt).

As the innings drew to a close Simon and Adam were the last pair at the crease needing 20 to win, could they repeat their heroic efforts from the Cranleigh match and steal victory at the end ??

No is the short answer...

Needing 12 to win off the last over Adam was stumped off the last ball trying to make it disappear over the Pavilion and DCC ended up 10 runs short of the total.

To celebrate a great game KCC opened bottles of Cobra beer (their other sponsor) and we reciprocated with beer from our sponsor Firebird Brewery before we retired to the Sun Inn for more drinks.

Man of the match was awarded to Max Richards for his 92 runs.

Honourable mention goes to Matt Richardson for standing down and giving his place to Max who top scored for our team by a country mile. That keeps up Matt's record of top scoring in each match he's played in (sort of).



Kensington are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> year of existence (mere babies compared to DCC) and in recognition of the fact that we are their oldest fixture, set up by Patrick Cooke, they would like to have a return match later in the summer when we'll put on a BBQ and make a fun day of it. Watch out for further updates later.

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