

BRCC 2 vs Dinton 3

Saturday 15th June

2s dip into the Well(s) and pull out a win

Wide half tracker proves the way to go

Shaky Shenshatioanally Dropped over Shoshal Media

Dinton 3 130-10 (41.1 overs)

BRCC 132-3 (37 overs)

Ridge win by 7 wickets

With Shaky having put his chances of being fit at 50/50 at best, he was rested until Friday morning when we had a late drop out. At this point we were grateful that he could step in and fill the void, however Taggart managed to secure the services of last week's debutante, Carter Holbrook on Friday night and promptly forgot to tell Shaky until 23.27 on Whatsapp, by which time the Shakster was allegedly in bed.

So when he rounded the clubhouse just 12 ½ hours later, filled with eager anticipation and determination to add to his already considerable runs and wickets total, he was slightly crestfallen to be told, "You were dropped last night! Don't you read your WhatsApp? But it's OK, you can score!"

It had been raining steadily all week and it was something of a miracle that we had a pitch at all (there were at least 15 games cancelled this week and half of those were because it had been impossible to prepare a wicket), but what we did have was the sort of vivid green that would have kept Kermit hidden until he opened his eyes. Sniff therefore had little hesitation in inserting the opposition on winning the toss.

The queue of bowlers wanting to bowl at the top end was stretching back to Radnage, so we summed up the ages of the three younger seamers, added 50% and decided that seemed like the sort of age the bowler coming up the hill should be.

Sufiyan and Taggart started well with a disciplined bowling performance and after 8 overs, Dinton had reached the dizzy heights of 17-0. Having bowled a very consistent length for 4 overs, Sufi then tried the "wide half tracker" option, which the batsman obligingly edged through to the newly installed and 6th wicket keeper in 6 games, Dave Wells. Flush with success from his new mode of delivery, Sufi continued to employ it and despite going for a couple of 4s, extracted another wicket 8 balls later as Taggart, whose 6 overs at the other end had thus far cost 9 runs, looked on with the sense of despair known only to the most miserable of Scots.

Sufi had to make way, having bowled his 7 and was replaced by Carlton. Ever a student of the game, Carlton's observations indicated to him that the WHT was the way to go and whilst his first 5 balls cost him 7, his 6th duly produced a wicket.

Taggart bowled on and finally squeezed out a wicket in his 10th, before making way for the Real Saint after 11. DS, clearly another ardent student of the game figured that the wider you went and shorter you pitched, clearly the better your chance of getting a wicket. Ball one was dispatched under the temporary changing room, never to be seen again, however he persevered and on ball 4 achieved one which barely pitched on the strip and certainly did so closer to the bowler than the batsman. Wilkinson, who had batted quite nicely, if a little sedately for his 13, rather than drop his hands and taking the wide, nearly put his back out trying to reach it and plinked it gently to Sufiyan who took the catch with ease. It had been up just long enough for the batsmen to cross, and so when Singh played an almost identical shot to an almost identical ball and this time found Jovan, Dinton were 77-6 with 2 batsmen at the crease who hadn't faced, and David Saint on the brink of the filthiest hat trick in the history of cricket.

Sadly the excitement caused him to totally lose focus and he bowled a good length ball on off stump which was never going to get a wicket.

Taggart meantime threw his cap on the ground and announced his retirement from all cricket effective immediately.

With Amit Singh having been the only Dinton batter to show any real intent, Carlton was now plugging away at the other end quietly racking up maidens, interspersed with another couple of wickets. DS picked up a caught and bowled to finish with 3-17, causing Honos (Greek god of Justice) to fall off his cloud and Carter and Tom both had a go at the end but it took a smart piece of work in the field from Jovan to finish the innings with a run out and dismiss Dinton for 130. It felt like more than they should have got, but nevertheless very gettable.

It had been a drizzly old day, most of which we had played through, but with one heavy shower which had taken us off for 15 minutes or so and reduced the overs to 43 a side, so we were set 131 to win at a fraction over 3 an over after an excellent tea courtesy of Jovan('s mum)

The Ridge have seen a few father and son combinations batting together, but we opened with what might be our first landlord and lodger team of Dave Wells and Hugo. They batted very sensibly and just about on the rate to put on 36 in 14 before Hugo got bored and played round a straight one for 10. This brought Jovan to the wicket, whose recent innings have tended to consist of some pleasing shots followed by getting out 'stupid'. He declared his intent to bat long and see the game through and then played some pleasing shots and got out 'stupid'.

Rizwan could not duplicate his success of a couple of weeks ago and went cheaply, which brought the Real Saint to the wicket. By this time, we had reached 79 off 26 and DW was starting to find his timing. He didn't so much put his foot down as gently squeeze the accelerator, and with DS providing solid support, we got within 5 runs in the 37th over before Wellsy (71*) decided he'd had enough and plinked one into the field formerly known as Lord Keeping's.

A good solid win and with the 1s skittling Dinton 2s for 79, we had our first 50 point weekend of the season.