

## Bledlow Ridge 2s v Didcot 4s

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2019

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### 2s Bludgeon Didcot in Fairly Uneventful Afternoon Wellsy's new money making scheme looking destined to failure

Didcot 85-10

BRCC 87-2

Won by 8 wickets

The most competitive aspect of this game turned out to be Dave Wells new cricket ponsey scheme. The deal was that if you take a catch, DW shells out £5, but if you drop one you have to pay him. This might have looked like a high risk gamble last week in the 1s, but on hearing that he was playing in the 2s this week, there was a rush of investment offers coming in from financial centres all around the world.

We were playing on a 'fresh' pitch, but at first glance this one looked positively forthright. Sniff therefore did not need asking twice on winning the toss and inserted Didcot to bat.

Shaun struck early, so early in fact that the wickets section of the scoreboard was the first to kick into action. There then followed a pretty dull 10 overs that managed nothing more exciting than 17 runs. Sufi eventually induced an edge which DW snaffled up before the openers gave way to Hilarious and Taggart. At this point Didcot had James Casson join Viraj Perera and the 2 of them batted without much alarm but also without much urgency. At drinks they had reached 61-2.

Despite having looked in little trouble, a couple of overs after drinks Taggart got one to leap at Casson and his leading edge looped up towards mid off. The spectre of a free fiver loomed in front of Carlton and Sufi as they both converged on the anticipated landing point. The calling went, "mine", "Carlton's", "Sufiyan", "NO ... CARLTON". The final call was combined with a hand off an All Black flanker would have been proud of and it was indeed Carlton who pouched the catch ... and the cash.

Hilarious accounted for the new batsman before he could bother the scorers and a couple of overs later Taggart got a very full ball to shape a little and trapped Perera plumb in front. The score was now 73-5 and 2 balls later it became 73-6.

Shaun had harboured thoughts at the beginning of the day about becoming the top wicket taker in the 2s, so watched on with increasing gloom as Taggart whipped out the last 4 for 1 run. The unluckiest man on the pitch however was Taj, who was warming up furiously to come on at the top end to replace Carlton (who the batters had struggled to put a bat on), only to watch the last 2 wickets fall at the other end in one over.

In cricketing terms, it had been a triumph, but fiscally speaking, not so much, at least for Wellsy. Carlton, Hilarious and Chesh had all bagged catches with only one drop to mitigate his losses. The drop unfortunately had been DW himself and his hoard of investors declared him sub prime and went to see if there were any opportunities for investment in South American cartels.

To cheer him up, Sniff sent him out to open with Chesh, who got one that did a bit early and was back in the hutch counting his pounds, which amounted to 5 more than his runs. David Saint lasted twice as long, got a run, but didn't have the consolation of £5 to keep him warm.

Having seen his hopes of topping the wicket table cruelly snatched from him, Shaun decided that the best he could do was get the game over in plenty of time for Taggart to buy him multiple jugs, so as DW settled back into a support role (35\*), Shaun blasted a 33 ball 45 not out which included a pleasing mix of big shots, good shots, a six over cover point and most encouragingly of all a lot of very sensible cricket.

So at 5pm, and after just 16 overs of the second innings, it was all done and dusted and some proper drinking got underway.

With Tiddington having gathered 24 points less than expected against Kimble, the top 4 are spread across just 34 points. We are bottom of that particular group, but play all three of the others in the next 3 weeks.

However it all pans out, our fate is on our own hands and you can't ask for much more than that.

*David Maunder is away on a remedial spelling course*