

Match Report

BRCC 2 vs Dinton 3

Sat 29th May

Sniff nobly steps aside in the interests of youth development

Birdie's umpiring class gets him a stumping

Loxton in new tactical approach to hat-trick ball

BRCC 258-8 (45 overs)

Dinton 174-10 (44.4 overs)

BRCC win by 84 runs [Scorecard here](#)

After the car crash that was the availability roster last week, we were back to just enough as the 1s headed to somewhere that wasn't where it said it was and the 2s were set to entertain Dinton 3. The absence of thus far ever-present opener Ginge, provided an opportunity to blood some new potential talent at the top of the order and so a player with few runs to his name this season who had struggled to make the team in week 1 was given the chance to go and learn a bit about opening. He was of course going out with the batting maestro that is the Chesh, current League average as of 1.00pm 144.

As daunting as it was to have the glow of greatness radiating from the Chesh in his eyes, Mids seemed to take it all in his stride and set about righting a few wrongs. The ever reliable Pete Baker bowled a solid spell from the bottom end but the wide fest from the other, combined with Mids gradual emergence from the DTs, pushed the score along to 55-0 after 10. PB was withdrawn and replaced by Kish Jeyanathan who bowled a very impressive 9 overs for just 19 runs, but even this did not help much from Dinton's point of view as the fledgling opening partnership took it up to 118-0 at the 20 over mark.

It was the drink that finally did for Mids, well the drinks break to be more precise as he departed for an excellent 70 in the over following resumption. Fats played some lovely shots for nothing, and then some less lovely ones to move onto 22 before Dinton turned to bowler number 7, Jesse Horgan, who accounted for Chesh for a well made 45, Junaid, who tried to smash him over mid-wicket, and would have succeeded if the fielder had managed to get his hands out of the way quick enough, and then Fats for 22. With jovan not troubling the scorer after a bit of a grubber and Birdie falling leg before after a couple of nice shots, our 130-0 was now a rather crestfallen 203-6.

This however brought together Shaun, playing his first game of the season and Big Al, back after a wife-imposed week off, with just 7 overs to go. Al bullied the bowlers and Shaun brutalised them

with the pair adding 55 off just 40 balls before Shaun popped one up for 36 off the penultimate ball. Having ceded his no. 8 slot to Al, Sniff then decided that in the interests of youth development, he should further cede and let Taj go in for one ball. Taj dutifully tried to spank it out of the ground but sadly missed it and was castled for a golden. Way to encourage the kids skip!

258 however was a pretty imposing total. So imposing in fact that Shaun felt it was too much so opened up with 4 wides to reduce it somewhat. Taj at the other end tried to match it but could only manage 2 in his first over. Shaun then completely foxed the batsman by bowling a straight one in his second over and bowled him, bringing Amit Singh to the crease. The new batsman made his intentions clear from the outset with the bat flying through the line and several players were seen to be shuffling after the ball mumbling "You don't know. You weren't there man" as their PTSD from the Tetsworth match resurfaced. It was about this time that Dinton sent a youngster out to do the square leg umpiring duties (they didn't have an umpire and DS was doing both ends).

On taking up his position, Birdie, making a welcome return behind the stumps, stopped the bowler and politely pointed out to the young lad that he was stood in the wrong place.

"You need to be standing where you can look down the line of the popping crease, that's this one here. You need to watch the batsman's back foot and if it is over the crease when I take the bails off, you give him out"

A couple of balls later, Taggart threw one a bit wider of the off stump that brought the batsman down the wicket. It popped, Birdie gathered and over went the timbers accompanied by a top quality appeal to the new SQL ump. A look of panic appeared on the young lad's face until Birdie helpfully added, "Like I told you" and somewhat hesitantly, the finger went up. In fairness, the batsman knew he was done and was halfway to the pavilion before he was actually given.

The other opener, Paul Reynolds, had been playing more conventionally and was gradually accumulating a few that included a couple of arial shots around the mid-wicket/mid-on area that Taggart had now packed with 4 fielders. PR obligingly plinked another one into this area and it floated gently into Chesh's hands, and then equally gently out of them again and onto the turf. Our normally cheerful and happy Scotsman was even less amused to hear the words, "Good spell, take a blow there" and wandered off to fine leg mumbling a Celtic curse on all the houses of the English.

Fats and Al were now in bowling partnership and predictably runs were no easier to get. Fats returned the compliment to Jesse Horgan by disturbing the furniture and then induced another arial shot from Reynolds, offering a much more difficult catch to Taj, who held it with comparative ease. The second innings was now 28 overs young and with the score on 108-5, the match was over as a contest, but there was still work to be done. Cue Al Loxton. A straight one to Baker definitely hit pad and bat, but the order in which it did depended on which side you were on. The umpire went with the bowler. Jeyanathan, who had bowled so responsibly, flayed at his first ball which went skyward, and while it was up there, swirled a lot. Taj, who was underneath it, swirled with it and all the smart money was being loaded on the catch not being taken, and it was all lost as Taj held a brilliant grab. Al was now on a hat-trick, and the skipper obligingly put everyone around the bat. Al calculated that with 147 required to win, 3 wickets remaining and 15 overs to go, the 4'6" 14 year old batsman would undoubtedly give him the charge and so threw it a yard outside the off stump.

To no-one else's surprise, he stayed absolutely still and the umpire duly signalled the wide. Next ball Al went to Plan B, knocked over the stumps and asked if it still counted as a hat-trick given that the 3rd ball was not a legitimate one. Nice try.

After a bit of entertainment from Jovan at the top end (2-18 (2 overs that is)), Taj came back and raised Shaun's 4 wides in an over with a 5, before having their no.10 adjudged in front. Dinton were now 131-9 and the only thing that should be said about the remaining 11 overs is how determinedly the two youngsters Biyani and Gallagher batted to take the final total up to 174. Shaun returned and couldn't quite re-raise Taj on the wides, and in fact got the penultimate ball of the innings so wrong, that it hit the stumps and we did in fact finish having bowled them out. The recurrence of the "straight ball hits stumps" phenomenon gave him pause to wonder as he walked off the pitch if there might be something in this bowling straight idea.

We had looked the likely winners of this game from perhaps as early as the 1st innings drinks break, but the match was played in excellent spirit and it was particularly nice to have a few of the Dinton boys hang around for a beer and a chat after the game.

Four weeks gone, still top of the League. Maybe there's something in this 'winning games' idea.