

## **Bledlow Ridge v West Wycombe (Home)**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

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**Captain Sniff Guides Ridge to Victory in Timed Game Shock**

### **James “Jonesy” Dow in Seven-For Heaven**

**Another Boring Fifty for Lloyd of Lloyd Swines Wine Co**

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#### Timed game:

BRCC: 225-6 dec

WWCC: 193 all out

**Result:** BRCC won by 32 runs. Find full scoresheets [here](#).

The second in a summer-long test series featuring The Ridge and West Wycombe started Gingerly and ended in a Dow-Fest.

Sadly, the name “Dow” does not easily lend itself to wordplay but after 4 year-old Hinge the Ginge had again announced his arrival as the new Gingerbread man of 2021 with a jug-avoiding innings of 49, the day unDowtedley ended up belonging to the family that may have originated in New Zealand, Scotland, Ireland and who knows where else, but has settled in Spleen, or Speen as it is sometimes known.

After The RidgeBears set a total of 225-6 dec, the Dow Twins, Duncan and James took nine wickets between them to snatch victory from defeat, courtesy of a last wicket front foot LBW decision from Umpire McTaggart.

Shock Horror: this was a Timed Cricket Match, now known by most as “win/lose/draw”. Secretive Sniff revealed this news to his team threequarters of the way through The Ridge innings when he switched his own innings from block to blast, and got out for a whirlwind 26.

James’ Dow had made 10 after Hinge’s opening partnership with Chesh had been broken. By the time James was second out with the score at 90, Chesh was about 1 not out at the other end, but accelerated to 44 and was in long enough to see Mids sacrificed to the ready umpire’s finger of Sufi who knows a good LBW shout for a sweep shot, when he sees one.

A potential non-compliance at a sanitising break nearly brought about sanctions as Umpire Taggart threatened to involve the ECB, the EU and probably Nicola Sturgeon’s SNP for enforcement. The ECB’s Chris Rowley, playing for WW, *washed his hands* of the whole thing, the crisis blew over and Taggart sent a Royal Navy Destroyer to West Wycombe.

Chesh then hit the ball hard to the best fielder, David Jones and decided to run and then run back, but not quickly enough in either direction really.

There was a bowling change, and the call from the boundary of “bowler’s name please” prompted from Taggart a very loud response like that of a man clearing his throat with a

megaphone: "McLoccchhhhhlin". For good effect he repeated it quite unnecessarily: "The bowler's name is McLocccccchhhhhhhlinn".

It is with some disappointment therefore that I must record that according to the scorebook the bowler's name is spelled (or spelt?) McCloglin with neither a "c" or an "h" in sight (actually there is an "h" in sight, but that's not the point). Umpire McTaggart had assumed Nick McCloglin was a kindred spirit and had slipped into another dialect accordingly.

Anyway, next, Simon Bird, *flown* in specially for this match (geddit?), proved that you can be an S Bird and not annoy everyone all the time and feasted on a few pies for his 27. It was then RolfeDog's turn to bat: "Fasten your seatbelts everyone" said another S Bird, "we're in for a ride". And so RolfeDog walked to the safety of the wicket where he met Lloyd who was either playing for WW or was confused.

"I'm going to have a 'go' ", said Sniff before he accelerated his innings, "as I want to get Carlton in" and when Sniff was caught by Lloyd (who was fairly certain by this time, that he was playing for WW) in walked someone looking rather like Duncan Dow, so RolfeDog decided to book a visit to SpecSavers.

Duncan's innings of 18no contained as many defensive shots as Jovan's had the previous week and with the score on 225-6 and RolfeDog on 29no at the other end, Captain Sniff declared the innings closed, a concept largely lost on cricketers nowadays....

...As it is late and I started this report four days ago, here is a brief synopsis of the WW innings:

Duncan appealed a lot from first slip; it is suspected he might be quite competitive. Chesh was a mirage of blue behind the stumps. Taj, who had been driven half a mile to the ground at 200mph by his brother, bowled very accurately from the top end without luck for his 7 overs 0-21 which only goes to show, and he later cycled home.

Andrew Biffa played circumspectly until he played on to Sufi for 13. What a *waste*. If we play WW too often I will have to start *recycling* jokes about his dismissal... or *skip* writing about his batting altogether.

This brought in Simon Boring Lloyd to join Ryan Parrett who batted promisingly in Parrett-fashion but whose stay was curtailed when 5 year-old James Dow bowled him for 34.

At 162-2 WW were odds on winners with David Jones, once of our parish, on 27. This being a timed match The Ridge needed another eight wickets to win. 'Throw the ball up ... take a risk ... keep the leggie on ... make the batting side think they can win'.

Yes indeedy! James won an LBW decision against David Jones (27) and after a while Chris Rowley hit one in the air off his dad (James' dad that is, not Chris') to Schniff.

Sniphh made a sound like a drowning man, opened his mouth wide and swallowed the catch, if not the ball. Duncan was now in the act. James, bowling from the top end, struck back with the wicket of Farooq but Duncan made it 3-2 when one of his appeals was finally answered (Lord help us) and Ramzan made the long walk back.

Was this going to be a win, a lose or an exciting draw? It all depended on Boring Lloyd who for the third time this season passed 50. James became the first bowler to get him out this

year with one that turned, or didn't turn. Anyway, Lloyd missed it and was bowled and went off to open the first of a few bottles of wine that night.

The Mighty Schniff caught a diving catch from Michael Hoyle off James with no time to make drowning man noises. West Wycombe crumbled with a few ducks until all that was left between The Ridge and victory was the wicket of No11 Nick McCloglin. 180-3 had become 190-9. Nick was facing a double act of James the Leggie and Umpire McTaggart and became the first No11 to be dismissed to a front foot LBW decision since Pete Hollingsworth of Beaconsfield was similarly adjudged when playing against High Wycombe on a Sunday in 1975, off a hat-trick ball from the late, great Alan Huntley\*.

One suspects that Taggart had looked at the scorebook at tea, decided that as McCloglin was not a McLochlin, but a McCloglin, he had to go, guilty as charged of being some kind of imposter.

James had seven wickets and later, almost an entire jug of beer. He had never taken seven wickets before, or nearly drunk a jug of beer for that matter. He celebrated wildly while his dad quietly complained and reflected – despite his own miserly 5-1-15-2 - on how briefly you stay at the top before the next generation comes along.

Leggies need to bowl and bowl when they have good rhythm, moreover we had had to bowl a team out to win a cricket match. James' 9 overs (9-1^39-7) could never have happened in a win/lose match where bowling is rationed. Sniff, the master-captain of Sunday cricket is back. Glory be!

*Boris Johnson is currently aboard a frigate off the coast of Guernsey and therefore unavailable for comment*

\*Alan Huntley was a fine allrounder and occasionally bowled in tandem with Jim Palmer. Older readers will understand that this could really take the biscuit

^ There was no mass celebration when a leggie bowled a maiden on Sunday, in the way there had been the day before when a similar event took place at Princes Risborough