

JTCC v. The JTCC

It's taken all season but the Jolly Tanners Cricket Club finally amassed sufficient players to field two complete teams. The Chairman of Selectors was so chuffed that he challenged the Treasurer to be the opposing captain. As the bright among you will realise this is a no-brainer for the Treasurer. He has to let the Selector win or his *raison d'être* will be questioned... And we can't have that. Can we?

Following a quick session of paper, scissors, rock the players were divided into the two teams. The treasurer was pleased that Nigel (his bowling nemesis) was on his side whilst the Selector's cheshire cat grin thinly disguised his glee at the presence of **'Mike'** playing on his.

As for the game itself this reporter is pleased that he will not have to find new synonyms for the predictable batting collapse because for the first, and last, time this year there wasn't one. In fact in scoring a combined total of 304 runs only six wickets fell. Or to put it another way our best bowlers **Nigel, James, Phil** and **Ben** bowled 22 overs between them conceding 110 runs for just 1 wicket. Mad! If only **Stu** had been allowed to bowl more.

The Treasurers team batted first and, with **Jonathon** giving an exemplary display of stroke play, the score rattled along. Unfortunately with his untimely dismissal the scoring rate slowed far too much resulting in a total of only 143.

High lights of the innings were: **Doug** bowling a maiden over (I've waited all year!) as **Joy** watched on; **Andrew**, as umpire, shouting 'Not out' whilst raising the finger; **Fraser** not injuring himself and **David** not injuring himself. Though how we will never know!

At the interval whilst all those around him ate, the treasurer, instead of agonising about an undefendable total decided to do something about it. With all consumed by the food on offer he simply did what many a treacherous treasurer has done before and added 10 runs to the score board. That nobody noticed his actions was testimony to his sleight of hand. That nobody spotted the altered score board shows how little attention was being paid to events in general. Perhaps they were just having too much fun.

Before the Selectors' eleven innings began **Elvis** lead the fielders in a nervous conga. That's the last time the treasurer gives a team talk during the huddle! With the fall of the first wicket the treasurers' eleven threw aside their inhibitions and decided that further wickets would be celebrated with a victory conga. They're still waiting.

The Selectors eleven accumulated the required runs for the loss of just one wicket, **Geoff's**. Mike C, as he was noted in the score book raising queries as to what the selector had done with versions A & B, scored 55 in double quick time and has not been seen since. Nor has he paid his match fee. Which only added to the treasurer's sour grapes.

That this was obviously a batting track can be further demonstrated by the following statistics.

	Match score	Season total (excluding this one)	Highest score before this match.
Jonathan	40	19	13
Fraser	27	3	3
Mike C	55	0	0
Gary	46	12	9
Robbie	22	17	9

In fact they scored such a large portion of the runs that many did not get a bat. Which may lead to some tinkering with the retirement rule.

Those above will be as unhappy as the bowlers are relieved that friendly games do not count towards the years averages. Why? Friendlies are easy meat for the talented among us and a practice ground for the rest. To appease all an additional set of statistics including friendlies will be issued at the Cricket Dinner.

So there you have it. Twenty odd(?) Jolly Tanners and Staplefieldiens having good natured fun on the common. The very thing 'The Management' strives for at every game achieved at the last. So next year let's have that commitment from the beginning.

Eddie Nuff

Cricket Correspondents to the Jolly Tanners