

Match Report

JTCC v. The Cuckfield Taverners

On a glorious July summer evening an equally wonderful game of cricket was played by these two teams. Under a shimmering sun the runs soared, wickets tumbled and as dusk set the game came to its tense zenith. There was never a dull moment and each player took away many halcyon memories. We lost but who cares?

For the Jolly Tanners this, like the French House & Ansty games, is as eagerly anticipated as it is enjoyed. Our chances of winning are slim but the challenge and the occasional victory are worth it. So why only one fixture this year?

The Taverners batted first and scored at too healthy a rate as wickets fell to some good catching especially by **Paul Hunter** who held 3 and **Richard Brock** who plucked one out the jaws of the setting sun. The Reids combined to take 2 wickets as captain **Nigel** placed himself expertly to snaffle catches off son **David's** bowling. Even Pat got in on the act with 2 very good takes behind the timbers. Did they really only have 11 players? What about the other 5 catches I remember!

The fielding was of a superior level rarely witnessed by the JTCC. Of particular note was Andrew planting his size **11** in front of a boundary bound ball, over running and returning to collect it only to see Verdi charging off with it. Verdi is a dog and probably the first canine recipient of a Champagne Moment nomination. Perhaps it was a dog day afternoon Whatever that is?

Set 143 to win our innings began steadily with David & **Mark** doing their all to lay bat on ball. Mark invented a new part of the ground called calf corner because he couldn't get the ball to cow corner but as their fielders were set for the latter he soon retired, like Richard, with over 25 runs. Unfortunately 143 runs were just too many. With 40 needed off the last 4 overs the game was anybody's but with failing (by comparison) light and some excellent at the death bowling the Taverners had the upper hand. That we got so close is a testament to all. That one Taverner Mr Campport made the difference scoring 35 runs, bowling the last overs and owning Verdi reinforces how close the game was. On any other day a score of 132 would guarantee victory but not today against such able opposition.

A special mention ought to go to our **fans**. Yes people turned up to watch, cheer, barrack, cajole and commiserate. For once there were more people off the pitch than on it which should not be the novelty it is. But A BIG THANK YOU from the players to all of you. See you Sunday??

Miss Cellany
Cricket Correspondents to the Jolly Tanners

Match Stats

JTCC lost to the Taverners but went down with all guns blazing.

Champagne Moments

That dog.

Richard Brock's catch.

Paul Hunters all round performance.

Phil hitting out.

The Nige & Dave double act.

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Beer Moment

That dropped catch.

**A VERSION OF THIS MAY APPEAR IN COMMON INTERESTS
AN UMPIRE OF THE VANITIES PRODUCTION**

Exchange & Mart

For sale: cricket bat, brand new, played in 9 innings, untouched by the ball.
Sealed bids on the back of £20 notes to Andrew.