

Match Report: Jolly Tanners Cricket Club v. Cuckfield Taverners Thursday 2nd August 2007.

We arrived at the Cuckfield ground full of enthusiasm, so much so that 13 of us turned up. Sorry boys, I obviously overbooked some of you.

We went to start about 18.30 thinking 'will we beat the rain this time?' Cuckfield won the toss and decided to bat. We then were told that we would be playing on the all weather pitch, therefore no studs allowed...cricket studs ladies! We then spent a good 15 minutes or so taking our studs out of our shoes. Thanks for the use of your shoes Ron!

Eventually the game started. We did some reasonably tight bowling with Cuckfield only losing three wickets, but two did get over 25 to retire early, with Howard and Ian ended up with respectable figures of 2.0.9.1. Stuart and Kevin only got one over each, sorry lads. By this time there was a dark cloud beginning to loom on the horizon, but the sun was still shining on Cuckfield C.C. ground, dusk was coming in fast. Cuckfield scored a respectable 120 off there 20 overs.

Now it was our turn. Jonathon and Howard were sent in to the firing line, Howard allowing Ian to go in after scoring 5 runs off his old club! With Jonathon and Ian steadily building up a good score, we thought this was going to be a close one. The clouds and the darkness were getting ever closer. Both lads retired on 32 a piece, well done boys. Phil and I went in to try and get the remaining runs. We started to use the white ball as the rain cloud and the night started to come ever closer. We needed almost a run a ball and with both Phil and I not being the fittest of blokes, tried to hit them out the park, but Cuckfield fielders were just too good at fielding! I cried out for oxygen! It was down to the last over needing 9 to win. By this stage you couldn't see the ball until it bounced in front of you! The bowlers of Cuckfield bowled very well and fell short by 6 runs. A great effort made by the whole team, well done lads.

Again, by the laws of cricket, we lost by 4 runs. But we at the Jolly Tanners put this down as a triumph! We were nearly there lads! 4 runs were all we needed.

Champagne Moment: The Jolly Tanners fielding, it was outstanding!

The next game is against the mighty Staplefield, Sunday 5th August at Staplefield 14.00 start.

Gary Ireland JTCC Captain