

Match Report: Jolly Tanners Cricket Club v. Shortlands G.C. Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

Before the game started Shortlands lived up to their name and arrived short, not in stature or height you understand but of players! After a quick ring round and 'Gay Dave' literally begging me for a game almost on bended knee I said he could play as long as he would play for the opposition. He said that he would be five minutes getting lunch and his kit...fifteen minutes later he turns up just in time to bat. This is because we had decided to forego the toss and let Shortlands bat due to some of their player not being here at the start, (don't tell anybody but if I had won the toss I would have fielded anyway!).

Shortlands went into bat with style and grace that can only be seen on a Golf Course, and like English golf losing 4 wickets in quick succession, one to Nigel and three to bowling hero of the day (with figures of 4.1.9.4) Jonathon Rowland. Then came Shortlands 'ringer' a colonial cousin from South Africa who made short work of our bowling (making the highest score of the day with 35), great stuff to watch if you are a neutral. Stuart soon made short work of him tho' and promptly bowled him off his fourth ball! Well done Stuart. The rest making ones or twos until in comes the Jonah 'Gay Dave' who scored a credible 16 before being bowled out by...yes you've guessed it Stuart! Another Jonah, sorry hero was Doug 'Father of Ian' Cowell, came into bat and showed what he can't seem to do for the Tanners and got into double figures! Shortlands scored a really gettable 109...or is it....?

In went Phil and Brian with Phil getting the first duck of the day for the JT's, early on by a fluke of a catch by the oppo's skipper, Peter, with the ball taking the scenic route to his hand! In went Ian our scorer extraordinaire, only to be out by one of the slowest balls of the day for seven poultry runs!! Then came the second duck of the day for Bill (no pun intended!). Jonathon added a lovely three runs to the total before being bowled by, yes you've guessed it... 'Gay Dave'! Then I came to the crease to perform a Captains innings! The first thing Shortlands did was to put four players right in front of me, including 'Gay Dave', this to supposedly put some pressure on. Me not having any of this, warned 'Gay Dave' to shift, but know, 'Gay Dave' knew better! I then promptly smacked a 5 1/2 oz solid leather cricket ball into his knee! To give him his due, Dave hid the tears and the screams very well, he only put ice on in the pub later, brave boy!! However he did move back somewhat after that!! Unfortunately I then ran Kevin out much to his disgust, sorry Kevin. So in comes our duck specialist Stuart, who after hitting the ball a few times, but not scoring, decided to show everybody why he is such a duck specialist...and promptly went for a duck! Nets practice for Stuart is needed me thinks! Ron went and scored a huge total of one, yes one, before being bowled by Angus 'Son of Ian' Cowell the, by far, the smallest cricketer ever to grace the hallowed turf of Staplefield Common! Josh comes in to gain our fifth, yes boys our FIFTH, duck of the day!!!! The score was too much for us, what with five, yes boys FIVE ducks as we could only manage to get 55 runs on the board!

A great day was had by all and this time we did lose, because Shortlands managed to get us all out!!

Champagne Moment(s): A draw between Ron's face as he was soundly bowled by Angus 'Son of Ian' Cowell and 'Gay Dave's' face as he was soundly hit on the knee by a ball soundly hit by Gary!

The next game is against Cuckfield Taverners, Thursday 2nd July at Cuckfield 18.00 start.

Gary Ireland JTCC Captain