

Match Report: Jolly Tanners Cricket Club v. Staplefield C.C. Sunday 5th August 2007.

This, being the match classed as the David versus Goliath match of the season. Us, the JT's being David of course! The day arrived bright and sunny with the heat expecting to be in the late twenties, early thirties.

I met Christian Threader, the Captain of the day for Staplefield in the middle for the toss. I won! Yes folks I won the toss and elected to bat, I don't think I fancied fielding in the heat!

In went JT's openers Paul and Richard. I did a spot of umpiring. After twenty overs we still hadn't scored over two an over, in fact we had only scored 15! Staplefield's bowling was fantastic, keeping us really pinned down. Tilly Hunter said the score was good as no wickets had gone down, but look at the amount of overs had!! She really knows what she is talking about does our Tilly! That seemed to spur our two heroes on, Richard and Paul scoring a fantastic 70 and 77 respectively. Great batting guys, Nigel went in...and out for 1, followed by Ron who stayed until tea scoring 8 with the duck specialist (Stuart) getting his 6th, yes 6th duck of the season, even after some personal coaching by yours truly. But Stuart, this time it was the pace of the ball that beat you, not you're batting, keep your head up mate. Kevin tried but went LBW soon afterwards. Brian went in to score 6 before tea was declared. There was great bowling and batting all round from both sides respectively. The JT's scoring a season high of.... 190, can you believe that!

Tea was really good, French sticks and quiches, really appreciated all thanks to Sue, chief scorer as well, I don't know where she finds the time!

Staplefield's opening batsmen came in and began build up a good score, this was going to be a close one. Initially the fielding was a bit loose, especially the keeper, quite a few byes went through his legs! Oh dear, that's me lads, sorry. Then the mighty Phil came on to bowl and in his third over, our fifteenth, got one of the openers, caught on the boundary. Great stuff; the score did keep rising though, was this going to be the start of another defeat for the JT's? Not so, our fielding became the best it has been all season; our bowling tightened up and Staplefield's wickets began to tumble! In the mean time, Brian had tried to have a cuddle with Ian in the middle, just like he did at The Witch with me! Not only that, but Ron and myself tried to do the same! I am beginning to think hugging is becoming part of cricket! Try catching the ball boys, not ourselves! Or at least give a call first! Stuart came on to bowl and got the opener out with a blinder of a catch from Brian; absolute peach of a dive from him, catching the ball one handed! Geoff Crosta came on to bowl; and boy, did he bowl. He bowled his heart out, keeping Staplefield really pinned down. I swapped keepers role for a bowlers role and kept supporting Geoff from the other end. Geoff had bowling figures of 7.2.20.1, fantastic Geoff, well done. The Staplefield wicket then began to crumble and with 8 balls to go, they needed just 13 runs to win. Unfortunately neither they nor us could get the runs or wickets we both needed and it ended up being a draw. To be honest, it was a game that was so close perhaps it was the best result, but believe me we have the bragging rights! David nearly, very nearly beat Goliath!! A great effort all round from the team; A big thank you to everybody. THANK YOU.

Champagne Moment: Brian's fantastic one handed catch that would not have looked out of place at Lord's!

The next game is against The Sloop, Sunday 12th August at Staplefield 14.00 start.
Gary Ireland JTCC Captain