



West Chiltington & Thakeham Cricket Club

1st XI Review

2017 Season

Division 5 West SPCL - CHAMPIONS

Part 3: The Tail-enders

Pagham 2nd XI – Away (Match 15)

With the weather report looking positive for the first time in weeks, the Windmills 1st XI headed to the Pagham Peninsula more famous for its Peri-Peri Prawn Platters than its cricket, but we were very aware that complacency leads to disaster. With our dynamic opening duo of Chambers and Gillespie missing we were blessed that the Beach Boys were in town and available to play a game of cricket....



Fortunately, the Beach Boys were in town looking for a match....

With the toss being absolutely null and void nowadays, the umpires said we still had to do it even though Jarvis is only half-way through his “toss-syndrome” therapy. However, every cloud has a silver lining and losing this toss and being inserted on a very low slow wicket was a blessing in disguise as we would have lost 6 points had we won the toss and batted as planned.



Reeves deals with a length ball very maturely.....

147 all out was not our best display of the season, however conditions suggested that this would be more than enough to win the game if we bowled half decently. With us entering the last 4 games of 45 over limited overs cricket in the league many teams struggled with extras and this proved to be the case with Pagham bowling 36 of them which was our top score followed closely by Money scoring 31!



M.o.M Moneydeep the Magician (and that guy in the orange top!)

Hodgson was already mentally in Devon for his Birthday and struggled to replicate his heroics from the previous week and with van Noort lacking penetration it was time for the youngsters to shine. Reuben and Money bowled very tightly with the Pagham batters not sure where the runs were coming from (or which way Money was turning it!) so decided to slog every 3rd ball and the innings turned into a fielding practice for the Windmills. Money following up his 31 with 3/37 off 9 overs and Reuben delivered 7 lovely overs costing only 10 runs and picking up a stick. Ben Lucking replaced Reuben from the "not so long sight screen" end and finished off the match with impressive figures of 4/6 off 5.2 overs however Money probably deserved the M.o.M award for his all-round display!

Our catching was refreshingly brilliant with Hags, Woody, Money, JEM and Jarv taking chances with the highlight being Hags celebrating like we had just won the Ashes! With Broadwater disposing of Worthing there is still only 1 point in it and we look forward to hosting Billingshurst 2nd XI in the shadow of the Windmill next Saturday.

Billingshurst 2nd XI - Home (Match 16)

With Jarvis away being a Big Apple or something JEM won the tossneed I go on!

Well I suppose it was a pretty good day so let's reminisce for a while. Once we managed to get Hugo out of the away changing room trying his "friends" kit on and following a very successful warm-up we could get on with getting 30 points in our account. At the start of play Billingshurst only had 7 players with 3 more arriving soon afterwards, but they completed the game with only 10 players. Chambers managed to pick out one of the 7 fielders and run himself out which included a dive but no call of "IN" which once again proved costly. Hugo looked a million dollars and joined by skipper JEM they looked solid taking the score to 129 before getting out in consecutive balls for 76 and 37 respectively. Hugo strained the relationship with his "friend" hitting him for a straight six off a free hit...won't be going to his house again Hugo! The ruckus from the wickets woke Reuben up, but waiting to bat for 5 hours had taken its toll and he clipped one to a very unorthodox backward short wide long square front leg for 4.



"What's all that ruckus.....and nobody told me these tops had pouches!"

It was then the turn of our very talented imports from Delhi and Arundel to put on a very good 5th wicket partnership of 95 with Money making 73 and Woody 35 not out. 259 for 6 off our 45 overs gave us a very solid platform at the turnaround and things were looking good for the win.



The global attraction of our wonderful club.....



RT opened from the tennis club end and once again hit his lines and lengths immediately using the blustery cross wind to swing it even more than usual. Picking up 2 wickets in 2 balls in the first over is always going to put the batting team on the back foot but they just kept coming forward. van Noort picked up a few wickets from the other end and coupled with Reubens tight lines Billingshurst limped to 36/5 with no respite on the horizon as Money did his windmill warm-up routine on the boundary. It was also a very proud day for 14-year-old debutant Toby Witham who replaced Reuben up the hill and delivered a very tidy spell of 4 overs with fantastic support from the magic show being delivered by Money at the other end. Crispy then got a go and found out what real first team cricket was all about with RCP refusing to catch any balls that were hit to him off his bowling. The highlight of the day was RCP celebration of his 14th drop catch when he decided to see if he could bury his Oakley's in Jim Gees turf.... don't worry Crispy lots of 1st XI wickets in the future for you! Hugo then miraculously recovered from his bad back (which must be old age or something) to pick up the last couple of wickets and give us a full 30 points. TC had a very tidy game behind the stumps picking up 4 catches and a stumping and it was a very well skippered match by JEM and included some very acrobatic fielding from the ever alert Haggart!

As always, a massive thanks to the unsung heroics of Jim Gee for his umpiring and pitch preparation as well as Peter for scoring and all the effort put into the wonderful teas!

With 1 point still in it at the top of the table our visit the following week to Broadwater would obviously be an interesting and decisive one!

Broadwater 1st XI – Away (Match 17)



Great support throughout the day

Well the big day had finally arrived which was basically a shoot-out for the league, and with the sun shining and the traffic humming the scene was set for a momentous day. With the crowds steadily rolling in and security extremely tight, there was only standing room available, and it was brilliant to see many of our colts and coaches arriving at the ground to support the boys. Winning the toss Jarv had no hesitation in batting and hopefully piling the pressure on with the willow on a wicket that looked slow and low. Our ever-reliable opening duo of Hugo and Chambers got us off to another brilliant start with an opening stand of 93 with TC scoring a run-a-ball 46.....and the platform was laid. The skipper continued the good start with Hugo who was unlucky to avoid his maiden 1st XI ton and ending up on 79, another brilliant knock in a very successful summer for the 12-year-old who would end up averaging an impressive 41 with the stick. Jarv made a positive 40 and then it was over to young Reuben to show his true-class along with JEM battering the Broadwater bowlers to all corners of the green! There were traffic cones flying all over the place as boundaries flowed and the pressure was put into the Broadwater batting line-up's corner! A partnership of almost 100 took the final total to 270/4 off our 45 overs with Reuben's 57 off 28 balls including some of the most elegant cricket shots you will ever see.

With Broadwater needing 6 an over from the off it was always going to be a tough ask on what had become an up-and-down pitch, but an opening stand of 30 provided a solid platform. However, once the openers of O' Sullivan and Waller were dismissed in quick succession Broadwater quickly found themselves at 49/5 and staring down the barrel. Mick bowled 16 wides to try and keep them up with the rate, but once again Reuben and Jake bowled very tidily with Mick also bowling a few straight ones to claim 3 wickets and finish off the oppo. Unfortunately, Broadwater decided to try and avoid being bowled out and blocked their way to 202 off their 45 overs, much to the annoyance of the swollen and lubricated crowd! (Yes Gabe that's you!) However, both games played between these 2 sides were played hard but in very good spirit, and ultimately cricket was the winner.

Crawley – Home (Match 18)

So, to our final game of the season and winning the toss and needing only 200 runs to secure the points for the league Broadwater were clearly hoping for a major disaster from the Windmills. With Crawley missing key man Atif Ali the bowling attack was meek on a good track and our batters set to work. Hugo once again got a start, but it was Chambers who did the early damage with a magnificent 119 including 18 fours and 3 sixes! Jarv made a steady 61 at

the other end, and then fittingly it was JEM who played the innings of his life to take us to the league title, as well as a total of 403 /3 off our 45 overs.



Passing 200 to win the league and then the magic 400 mark!

The chase was always going to be a formality, so a bit of fun was had by all, and Jake and Reuben picked up 3 wickets a piece. Woody turned his arm over picking up his first 1st XI league wicket as did Jarv with a surprisingly legal looking action. Crawley ended up with 173 all out and the league was ours!



What an incredible journey for a group of men part of such a fantastic tribe! This is a season that will be remembered for so many reasons, and we are all a part of the tapestry forever.



#wonitfortimbo