

# Pirates Sunk by Captain Smith's Green Caps



BURWASH CRICKET CLUB · THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2016 23 Reads

Burwash welcomed the return of Brighton-based Jamaica Inn Pirates for a 35 over game on Bank Holiday Weekend, looking to keep their winning start to the season going. In the absence of early season captain Rupert, Dan Smith took over skipper duties and continued the recent trend of winning the toss. On a sunny afternoon and in very good conditions, Burwash elected to bat first.

Renewing their opening partnership from the season opener at Matfield, Tony and Cameron were first up out in the middle. The Pirates' opening bowlers, D. Sharpe Jr and Sr, endured contrasting fortunes, with Sharpe Jr proving difficult to get away while Sharpe Sr was unable to settle into a rhythm having not bowled for over a year. Tony and Cam made the most of a few dropped catches and played some good cricket shots to keep the scoreboard ticking over until Cameron attempted one big hit too many and found the fielder at deep mid-on, who took the catch and Cameron departed for 30.

Allan was promoted up the order to 3, after a good innings against Streat and Westmeston, and was happy to play the anchor role as he had done against Matfield, allowing Tony to lead the scoring until the club captain was also dismissed. Alex entered the fray at 4 and took the limited overs mentality to heart, scoring freely and quickly. Together with Tony, he took the run rate upwards of 7 an over. However, it proved to be a case of live by the sword, die by the sword and the older Christie brother's highly entertaining innings of 36 was over all too quickly...though not as quickly as Steve's. Burwash's very own Latin Grammy award winner was given a questionable guard of middle stump by the umpire and edged his first ball to slip, afterwards mentioning that he would have definitely managed to play the pull shot for 4 had he been given the guard he was after.

Ricky Martin's departure brought Dan to the crease, with the Green Caps skipper in good batting form. However, this was not to last as he was soon out for 1. Tony soon followed, having made another half-century (though I don't remember him buying a jug...). The loss of these two wickets saw James Rose and 7 year-old George Blaydon together at the crease.

James was playing his usual, enjoyable cameo of boundary, boundary, swing and miss, boundary, while George was content to show off his batting with some good shot selection. James, as with Alex before him, perished in his pursuit of keeping the scoreboard ticking over. This brought Liam into the middle who, after his recent golden duck against Streat, was happy to defer the strike to the 7 year-old senior batsman at the other end until the left-handed George nicked one to slip off the Pirates' off-spinner - a genuine cricket dismissal if ever there was one.

Clayton was next in but he too found himself beaten by the wiles of the spinner and left Liam and Olly to play out the last few overs, Olly doing his best to induce a coronary out of Liam by making him run twos and threes. After the allotted 35 overs, Burwash had posted a competitive total of 202-9.

After tea, the Pirates openers found themselves confronted by Dan Smith opening at the Pavilion end and, of all people, Liam opening at the Burrows end. Bowling the first over, Liam defied his label of "Bowler" in the fantasy cricket listings and certainly gave the Pirates hope of chasing down the total with ease. Delivering his full repertoire of variations, from the terrible to the even worse, his opening spell lasted 3 overs (though, with no-balls included, it amounted to more like 6). Thankfully, at the other end, Dan was bowling very well, mixing up his line and length as well as his pace and restricting the damage that his opening bowling partner was causing the team and helped himself to a couple of wickets, which he was unfortunate to miss out on the previous week.

Tony replaced Liam at the Burrows End and the Pirates batsmen found him much trickier to deal with. The highlight of the spell was undoubtedly a caught and bowled to dismiss the dangerous no.3 who scored a pair of 50s the last time the two sides met. Putting even PMJ to shame, Tony dived at full stretch to pluck a lofted drive out of the air and claim the prized wicket. Meanwhile Dan's excellent spell ended and, after 3 economical overs from Allan which included a catch off a no-ball, he brought Alex on at the Pavilion End. Continuing where his skipper had left off, Alex bowled with excellent pace and was too much for the middle order to handle. Indeed, the opposition players were heard to remark to each other that he was proving unplayable. In response, Burwash players were heard to remark that they were surprised Alex had managed to not bowl a front-foot no-ball yet in the innings...after which he was promptly called for a no-ball.

With Alex more than holding down his end with the ball and Tony having bowled his allotted 7 overs, Olly was brought on to help clean up the tail. Neglecting to bowl a wide in his first over, Olly did was asked of him and combined with Alex to end the visitors' innings 82 runs short of the target. Another win for the Green Caps, built on the back of solid batting, consistent bowling (from 5 of the 6 bowlers, at any rate) and another energetic and tireless display in the field. Everyone is in good form in one or more aspect of the game and it is certainly contributing to positive results on the field. Our next opponents are Eridge Park, so let's take these great displays forward and give a good account of ourselves. Who knows...we might make it 5 out of 5...

**MATCH RESULT:**

**Burwash 202-9**

**Jamaica Inn Pirates 120 All Out**

**Burwash win by 82 runs.**

**Opposition MoM: Tony Hagger**

**Burwash MoM: Alex Christie**