

# Burwash Burnout Brings Winning Run to an End



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The Green Caps made the jaunt up to Eridge for the fixture that often proves their toughest challenge of the season. Unusually, Mike Severn had mistakenly booked his holiday to finish before the match and was in the squad for a return to the club he had left for Burwash for the princely transfer fee of 5 shillings and half a Mars bar 3 seasons prior.

On a very warm cloudless day, Rupert finally lost a toss as Burwash captain and Eridge put themselves in to bat. While overhead conditions were good for batting, the pitch appeared to be something of an equaliser for the bowlers and offered some movement and variable bounce. Cameron and Dan opened the bowling for Burwash, with both showing good pace. Cam's consistency was to bring him the wickets as he twice found the sweet spot on the pitch to clean bowl Ellis (10) and Knott(27).

These were to be the only wickets to fall until the last ball of the innings however as the third wicket put on 150-odd with Will Robertshaw hitting 100 exactly before retiring and Eridge's captain Forbes hitting 70, despite looking like getting out to just about every ball Cam bowled to him, before being stumped by Paul off the bowling of Rupert which brought about Eridge's declaration with their score on 222. However, the visiting Green Caps only had themselves to blame with both batsman being dropped twice, Forbes on 0 and about 40 and Robertshaw on 30-ish and about 70. Indeed, at times, the general quality of fielding was night and day from the high standards that had been on display in recent weeks.

After a very good tea, which was interrupted by the team looking for Charlie and finding him asleep under a tree next to his car, Cameron and Tony set about leading the Burwash reply. Tony was content to block and leave and just stay in the middle, which was exactly what was required, while Cameron hit an early 6 and was looking in good touch. However, he was the first to be dismissed, as he played a drive very early and offered a sharp return catch to Ellis and left the score at 24-1. This very soon became 24-2 as Tony, worried that everyone would call him boring if he didn't start scoring some runs, took a big swing at Knott and was clean bowled. Alex quickly followed (26-3) and, after a brief rebuilding job by Rupert and Mike

featuring some moderately briskly jogged singles, Mike's return to Eridge was ended when he skied a catch to point (38-4).

Match captain and club captain then combined for the second highest partnership of the innings with Allan managing to overtake Rupert's score before both fell in quick succession (60-6). Seemingly realising that Plan A was not looking good and a draw was very quickly becoming highly improbable, Dan set about chasing anything worth hitting and plundered several boundaries on his way to the highest score of the innings. He was ably assisted at the other end by Paul Collick, who had not given up hope of salvaging a draw with some very good defensive batting. Dan was eventually out for 18, bowled by the Eridge captain and, after a customary pull shot for 4 and another customary pull shot which nearly decapitated the fielder at short leg, Steve was caught in unfortunate circumstances when he hit a customary pull shot (are you noticing a trend?) onto his toe and into the hands of the same fielder he'd very nearly killed.

Liam then joined Paul out in the middle with about 10 overs left to play. Both players were in one mind to play for the draw. Paul's defence remained solid and Liam did his best to emulate him and both players were absorbing the pressure. 60 balls remaining very rapidly became 36 when disaster struck and Paul was plumb lbw to Robertshaw to end his admirable resistance. That left Rip van Winkle himself, Charlie Jones, to come in at 11 and try to see out the remaining overs to salvage an unlikely draw. 3 balls later, the match was over as Robertshaw knocked back the off-stump to complete a resounding 120-run victory for the hosts.

Sadly the dropped catches proved to be the turning point from which we never recovered against opposition we really had to be at our best against. Another challenging fixture awaits us next week against Northiam for the final game of Rupert's tenure as captain during the regular season.

### **Match Result**

**Eridge: 222-3**

**Burwash 102 All Out**

**Eridge MOM - Cameron Christie**

**Burwash MOM - Dan Smith**

