

# Denton Downpour Doesn't Derail Bright Burwash



BURWASH CRICKET CLUB · TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2016 32 Reads

After the game against Northiam was cancelled, a rejuvenated Burwash side travelled to the south coast to take on Denton. The toss was made and Burwash were to field first. Regular opening bowler Dan Smith, in the first game of his tenure as captain this season, shared the new ball with Alex Christie. Good early pace and uneven bounce off the surface restricted the opening batsman to byes and overthrows (well done Tony). Alex struck early, removing Denton's number 1, with Dan taking a belter of a catch at second slip off what Alex readily admitted was a half-tracker.

The Denton number 3, Perera, proved a tricky customer, playing the late cut and the pull to good effect. Alex attempted to get him out through laughter by tripping over and landing flat on his face during his delivery stride, having gotten his run up wrong and being unable to stop his momentum. The batsman also sent PMJ off into the wilds of the Denton jungle, hunting for a ball he'd cut into an overgrown ditch. The spirit of Dr. Livingstone is alive and well...

With both Burwash openers unable to find a way through the Denton batsmen, Dan turned to Gary Pickles and Dr Livingstone himself and PMJ soon found some drift, turn and a spot on the pitch where the ball hardly bounced, clean bowling Perera for 25. The young Denton number 4 looked to play some shots, including a fine driven boundary before PMJ got him driving one to Liam, of all people, who held onto the catch. Gary struck in the next over, with Lee taking a good catch at fine leg, to remove Milne for 0 and the batsmen did well to limit him to just 1 wicket for the match.

PJ soon accounted for Rudwick, again making the ball not bounce and knocking back the stumps, before he and Gary were replaced by Tony and Mike Severn. The Denton number 7, Jeffs, was playing very much in a stand and deliver style, swinging his bat at everything and, more often than not, connecting and sending the ball to the boundary. After he'd raced to 35, Tony bowled him a good yorker which beat him for pace and clean bowled him. Alex then returned at the other end and took two wickets in the final over to finish with 3-33. Denton

posted a score of 161-8 off 40 overs, with their opener carrying his bat to finish not out on 42.

After an excellent tea, Tony and Mike headed out to open the Burwash reply, with the home team (and indeed some of the rest of the batting order) perhaps worried that they might repeat their feat of 2 years ago and chase down a big target without loss. For a while it seemed to be heading that way, as they took Burwash within 40 runs of victory on their own. Playing on through the cold and the clouds, and then the cold and the drizzle, Mike had just passed 50 when Tony, undoubtedly annoyed that Mike had reached his half century first for a change, played a drive back to the bowler which ricocheted off his hands into the stumps. Mike was well out of his crease and had to depart for a free flowing 53. Perhaps guilt was lingering on Tony's conscience, as he slashed a wide ball straight to backward-point 2 balls later to depart for 46.

Alex and Rupert found themselves together at the crease as the cold and drizzle became cold and rain. Both got off to contrasting starts, with Alex hitting Jeffs for 4,6 and 4 of his first 3 balls while Rupert survived a very close LBW appeal on his very first ball, with DRS ruling it to be Umpire's Call. With only 26 runs still required, the players were determined to see the game through to its conclusion. However, after Alex lost grip of his bat and nearly sent it over the boundary rope, it was decided that conditions were not safe enough to carry on. Both sides waited patiently for an improvement in the weather, which never came, until Denton very sportingly awarded the match to Burwash, with only 26 required from 15 overs.

## **MATCH RESULT**

**Denton: 161-8**

**Burwash: 135-2\***

**\*Match awarded to Burwash by 8 wickets**

**Man of the Match - Alex Christie**