

# Burwash Battle to the Wire to Seal Victory against Rottingdean



BURWASH CRICKET CLUB · TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2016 9 Reads

Twelve Burwash players arrived at the picturesque ground of Rottingdean on a glorious Sunday afternoon for what proved to be a nail-biting match that would eventually go down to the Wire.

Captain Dan Smith opened the bowling from the Pavilion End with Alex Christie running down the hill to bowl from the other, as eleven of the Burwash players took to the field. Batsmen Rogers and Chakravartty got quickly into their stride on the hard wicket that was coming on to the bat nicely.

The first break-through came with the home team on 47 when Chakravartty misjudged an in-swing from Christie, which caught him plum on the front pad. Left-hander Zaloumis quickly took up the mantle moving on to 30 before another LBW decision went Burwash's way. This time it was Tony Hagger who had come on for Dan Smith, who was enjoying seeing the ball turn as the wicket began to favour the quicker bowlers less. By this time Paul Morgan-Jones had joined the attack from the other end and had effectively slowed the home side's escalating run-rate.

Opening batsman Rogers saw his total creep steadily on to an impressive 89 before it was Tony Hagger again who claimed the important scalp for the visitors – this time clean bowled. Two balls later and Hagger had claimed a third, as Grantham failed to get off the mark. His successor Shepherd settled in quickly though and soon began to knock the ball about.

Allan Parker-Read took over keeping duties allowing Cameron Christie to deliver five overs of pace coming down the hill. The faster bowlers were now finding it tough to contain the batsmen, but Christie got his reward when Mike Severn took a nice catch to see the end of Shepherd on 30. Moments later and with the last ball of the innings, some tight fielding by Burwash saw Blanchard run out by Alex Christie leaving the home team on an impressive 195 at tea.

After a splendid tea befitting of the impressive facilities at Rottingdean, Tony Hagger and Mike Severn took to the wicket chasing a daunting 196 to win. After a cautious start, the opening pair began to play some shots before Severn failed to keep the ball down, as he pushed it invitingly back to bowler Harris for the first wicket with the score on 37.

Alex Christie's stint saw the tally move on to 58 before he too went for 12 – this time caught behind by Rogers to the awesome spin of Chakravartty. It was the faintest of edges, but Christie nobly walked. Younger brother, Cameron Christie, came to the crease and added 14 from 15 balls during a spell which saw Hagger's total move beyond the 50 mark.

With the score on 92 the wicket of Gary Pickles fell allowing Dan Smith to come to the crease for what eventually proved a crucial partnership of 83 runs. Hagger, who had been there from the start, eventually heard the fateful clatter of bails behind him after 114 balls of controlled cricket, which saw him finish on a top-scoring 70.

With Steve Martin coming to the crease, suddenly, things were looking rather tight. With 3.3 overs to go, six wickets remaining and only 15 runs required, surely the win was within visitors' grasp. Martin notched up an important 9, including two trademark fours from pull-shots to the leg side and even developed a new spoke to his wheel at one point. But it was Dan Smith who struck the winning runs shortly after notching up his own half century with one ball of the innings to spare.

It was a memorable finish to a great game of cricket, but the day hadn't finished for the Burwash players yet, as they were treated to yet more Rottingdean hospitality well into the evening.