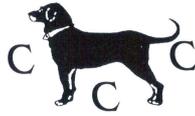


CHILMARK CRICKET CLUB
Affiliated to the Wiltshire Cricket Board



Dinton v CCC – Sunday 27th August, 2017

Chilmark's late season run of victories came to an end on Sunday, with a tight loss at the hands of cultured rivals Dinton.

Losing the toss Chilmark were given first use of the ball, with captain Ben Fowles turning to Ben Eastmond and Jake Taylor to get things under way. The early going was cautious by the hosts, with just four runs coming from the first three overs. Then Eastmond struck in the fifth, caught at cover by Jack Stearman.

The big boundaries made fast scoring difficult, but the home side were bubbling along nicely before Felix Woodroffe got involved. The youngster was generating troubling pace on the hard Dinton wicket, taking extra pleasure in dropping it short every now and then so send one past the batsman's chin. But it was a pitched-up ball that got the wicket, with a thick edge taken by 'keeper Jason Stearman leaving Dinton 43-2 in the 13th over.

A solid partnership saw the hosts move towards the hundred mark, before Sam Packer enticed a mishit that landed in Jack Stearman's hands once again. It was then 108-4 when the Stearmans combined, Jack bowling and Jason throwing the stumps down when the batsman wandered out of his crease after swinging and missing the ball.

Things were looking good for Chilmark, though not for long. Dinton's number five bat was a few levels better than village standard, and started teeing off. Jake Taylor had an over go for 14, while Sam Packer saw boundaries and sixes cracked off deliveries that would usually get wickets. Ben Eastmond, meanwhile, benefitted from bowling at the other end where the far less capable batsman was usually on strike. After six overs his figures were 1-8. Then a single was scored off the last ball of the previous over and he had the aggressive batsman on strike. 18 runs came from the over.

Chilmark did themselves no favours in the field though. Catches were dropped by Gareth Simmonds (who tried to take it as if marking a rugby ball), Darren Lee, Ben Fowles and Jack Stearman. However solid fielding by Guy Woodroffe in particular, prevented numerous boundaries.

As the overs ran out, Sam Packer ran through the middle order, bowling three batsmen in quick succession to bring the game back to Chilmark. When the 35 overs were done, Dinton had accumulated a competitive 185-7.

Dinton's tea was mostly cupcakes, crisps and fun size chocolates.

Chilmark's chase got underway with Sam Packer and Jack Stearman at the crease. By the end of the fourth over they were causing at 31 without loss, thanks mostly to a bowler for whom the front foot no ball law was a loose suggestion.

Stearman (11) was looking good, but then tried to loft a ball out of the ground, only to find the mid-on fielder. This brought the Packer brothers together, with Will swiftly the more aggressive as he plundered boundaries around the ground. The pair put on a quick fire 29, before Sam was caught at backward point for 23.

Ben Eastmond joined the fray, edged a single, and was then bowled, before Gareth Simmonds disproved any claims he had about being an allrounder, as he was bowled for a duck.

At 72-4 in the 16th over Chilmark needed a solid, reliable batsman to help Will Packer continue the chase. Unfortunately Ben Fowles was down to come in next. Out of form, under bowled and struggling in the heat, the prospects weren't good. However Frog Lane's eighth best cricketer was up for the fight (just as long as it didn't require much running between wickets) and was soon finding the middle of the bat.

The pair were moving along at a reasonable pace - keeping the required run rate within reach - when Packer bought up his half century with a drive down the ground. Unfortunately the very next ball he was clean bowled and Chilmark were 121-6 in the 26th over.

Guy Woodroffe joined Fowles and quickly gathered a couple of singles, however his brief innings ended when he was found short of his ground coming back for what seemed like a gettable second run. When Fowles (20) was caught at mid-off shortly after, Chilmark had their backs against the wall, needing 58 from seven overs, with three wickets remaining.

Darren Lee and Jason Steadman weren't going to die wondering, throwing the bat at everything as they tried desperately to find the boundaries that would bring the total closer. However Dinton knew their large field well, and the pair were rewarded with singles where they would usually get fours at Cleves Farm.

Despite this they chipped away, and when the boundaries did occasionally come, the tension grew. With four overs to go 46 runs were needed, then a few hefty hits rendered the equation 26 off two, and finally 19 off the last over.

Lee was the perfect man for the job, having briefly held the Chilmark record for most runs scored off an over (26), earlier this season. However the situation was different on this occasion, with the larger field and the slower bowler not suiting Lee's strengths. He gave it a good shake though, finding the boundary at mid-wicket and running a few singles, before 11 runs were required off the last two balls. On the first of those Lee was bowled. Jake Taylor then faced the final delivery, and hit it for four.

Chilmark thus came up a little short, but gave a good account of themselves, unlike Dinton's attempt at a decent tea.

Dinton CC 185-7 (S Packer 4-36; Jack Stearman 1-23) defeated Chilmark CC 177-7 (W Packer 50; S Packer 23)