

Alvin's All Stars (Chipmunks) v SFDWP Match Report:

16 May 2019 at Verulamium Superdome (VSD)

Alvin's Allstars won by 20 runs

The build up to this match is reminiscent of a scene from Groundhog Day. A couple of days before the game, an email comes in from Mr Stardust "We've had a plethora of last minute cry offs. We are trying to get replacements but so far without success. Will turn up with what we have but is there any chance you have any spare players?" Where have we seen this before....

The Match Manager now had the unenviable task of recruiting 11+ players which is no small feat in SADDOS circles, especially as only 7 SADDOS had made themselves available for the game via doodle poll.

At this stage, we were faring slightly better than the Winter indoor season SADDOS team's recruitment, who in the lead up to many games quite often only had 50% of the side signed up...3 in that case!

Referring back to a pre-season player registration email, players named and shamed with potential excuses still (sort of) holds true:

Last reported crocked / broken / retired:

CRS

Nighters

Jonno

Gary

Church

* Marcos (fingers)

British & South African Expeditionary Force:

Coops

Playing with Balls in Cambridgeshire:

Diprose

Unknown:

Pip

Howeson

So, it was essential to bring in some fresh meat. Que Lord Wilson and Mr Liberal Bridgit Jones...

Earlier in the day, Lord Wilson (of Wilson's Highfield Estate fame) was ambling down to his lower field, when he had found his gardener, Ted, mending a fence. After a few questions about whether there was a Mrs Ted, Lord W cut to the chase and asked if Ted would like to play cricket. Ted said he would....and at the end of his hard day's graft went straight from maintaining Lord W's estate to the SADDOS match.

Lord W had earlier attempted to buy loads of new SADDO stuff from the SADDOS Team Store, but failed to navigate the website – so gave up! Instead he spent the £300 on a new sit down lawn mower for Ted 1. He did however call FairDinkumSmiths to instruct a review of the site functionality. The report was as follows:

- Time to load
- crap search
- crap filters
- when you apply a manufacturer filter, you can't get out of itYou get the pitchure!!!

Mr Liberal on the other hand, whilst canvassing votes for the Local election had managed to persuade 2 U14 Colts girls to join the ranks of the SADDOS – how he managed to do this is still a mystery! I could be wrong but is this the first time members of the fairer sex have firstly been selected to play for the SADDOS but secondly and more importantly, been able to by-pass the rigorous membership selection criteria?? Should we rename the team...any suggestions out there?

Going into this match the SADS (by my reckoning) held a slender head to head (6-5) wins advantage over the Chipmunks. Why don't we have these stats readily available to hand Mr Website Manager? So, there was all to pay for....

This was our first match at the VSD this season. It's worth pointing out that SADDOS home matches have moved to Clarence Park for 2019 -which is a step up for most of us. It will hit the pocket mind! Swaggers Paggers is still reeling from Crabtree Pizza Gate. So, don't expect a platter of saveloy and chips – its 2 wafer thin slices of Papa Johns, if you're lucky, to go with your end of match pint.

Anyway, back to the match. At around 6pm the teams gathered at the VSD Pavilion (or more accurately The Lopped Tree Trunk) for the usual pre-match pleasantries – there were a mix of SADS, Chipmunks, Gardenfields and another team (was it Vocalink?) congregating. There were the beginnings of a tussle for the honour of playing on the VSD Top Pitch (supposedly the jewel of the VSD). It was agreed to spin for the right to play on the Top Pitch – SADS/ Chipmunks were victorious winning the toss and sending Gardenfields et al down the hill to play on the lesser VSD pitch (revenge perhaps?). This was the only spin needed as Alvin hadn't turned up yet and as there were only 6 chipmunks in attendance – it was agreed that they would bat first. By this time, SADS only had 9 players ready to play – although it is possible there were 10, as green fingered Simon's Ted 1 dressed in gardening attires could have already been on the VSD pitch – surely this is a master tactic by our Captain Bridgit Mr Liberal Jones?!?

Alvin's marched out to bat. SADS opened with WG and Channer's. Steady couple of overs and then Alvin is hit plumb LBW by a WG ripper....but doesn't walk! He needs to be ushered off the pitch.... SADS choose this point to bring on Imogen for her first taste of bowling to the veteran Chipmunks. She bowls 2 great overs, showing the SADDOS how to bowl with no pie chucker's and takes 2 wickets, one of these a splendid catch by 'One the On' Peeler who is hanging out in the

boundary bush. Special mention to Steve Chipmunk who scored a great 24 before being bowled by Imogen – terrific ball as well!

The next Chipmunk into bat gets halfway to the wicket and realises that he has had a wardrobe malfunction – he is only wearing 1 pad...err of the cricket variety that is...que lots of laughter and after a delay is back on the pitch ready for action.

Alvin's accumulated at a steady rate – with wickets falling regularly. Sophie was handed her SADDOS debut, bowling very well and unfortunate not to get a debut wicket - she was let down by a fellow Saddo's dropped catch(?). Think SADDOS need some catching practice based on the fielding so far this season.

Green fingered Simon's Ted 1 having not played cricket for 20 years bowled 2 tidy overs, however, was not able to take a wicket.

Alvin's 9 players managed to make a total of 134-6 with Tom Chipmunk (coming back into bat having earlier retired) and amassing a score of 40. A further wicket for WG and a wicket a piece for Peeler and Lord W and it was swap over time...

So, the SADDOS set 134 to win and with only 2 club bats in their armoury (....sort it out Winners!) send out Peeler and Lord W. Both make slow progress before Lord W is bowled trying to slog a beamer. He is given out by Umpire WG for 7, but apparently this should have been given as a no-ball (I haven't checked the rules), but even a late appeal by the SADS is not enough to get him reprieved. WG stands his ground and a disgruntled Lord W has to walk.

Channer's joins Peeler at the crease, a few more runs are scored before Peeler is caught by Alvin (keeper) off a good ball by Gary Chipmunk. He trundles off for 12. The SADS have lost 2 key batsmen with little to show for it.

On comes Busted and plays defensive stuff to ease his way in. The next bowler is Big Jim Chipmunk famous for his barbies at Townsend LTC. He bowls a few pies allowing the SADDOS to up the run rate. Busted retires, which opens the door for the debut innings of Imogen and Sophie. Both have good technique and are able batters, but Alvin's bowlers who promised to ease up on the bowling (tut tut!!) didn't and unfortunately the girls were not able to make inroads into the run chase.

Channers decided to take the match to Alvin's, scoring freely before being caught out in the deep on 24. In came Bridgit Mr Liberal Jones who's job was to Marshall the SADDOS tail. He had a good innings (11no), ably supported by WG (2) and Green Fingers Simon's Ted 1 who's debut score of 6no showed glimpses of a glorious cricketing past. Unfortunately, there was not enough runs in the tank and SADDOS fell short of their target by 20 runs. The 9 players of Alvin's defeat the 10 players of SADS and ensure the head to head score is evened between the teams

So, all down to the 6 Bells, for the usual post-match shenanigans and the platter of saveloy and chips – best so far this season by a long shot!!

Match Stats:

- SADDOS of the Match: Imogen and Sophie
- Best Dressed SAD in town: Simon's Ted 1
- Recommendations to the Committee:
 - New club bats needed ASAP
 - Team Head-Head stats
- SADS v Alvin's Head to Head 6-6