

Crabtree v SADS - Rothamstead Park 2020-08-04

Crabtree Win by 14 runs

Crabtree usually edge this fixture and in the early August Rothamstead twilight the SADS came up short once again, this time by a mere 14 runs.

Given SADS strength in numbers it was surprisingly difficult to get a full team available for this one, so we had to cast the net wide and blood two debutants, the rookie Junior Bottom and veteran Anthony Rowland. There was also an emergency callout to Mini (not so mini) Churchie.

Crabtree won the toss and elected to bat.

Jonesy, the SADS captain asked Churchie Jr & Sr to open the bowling. Tidy bowling from Churchie Jr, keeping it tight and putting the openers under pressure with figures of 2-1-6-0. At the pavilion end Sr takes the first wicket, Robbo gathering a straightforward catch at midwicket. Next up is debutant Junior Bottom, partnering Bondi, bowling good line and length with decent figures of 2-0-7-0. Bondi, comes on and off again (?) with his second over replaced with Churchie Sr. Crabtree, frontloaded their top order with some strong batsmen and peppered the boundary. The match ball went AWOL and as there was no spare (?) had to be replaced with a sorry looking practice ball.

Nighters and Anthony Rowland (the other debutant) are the next SADS bowling partnership. Nighters takes a wicket first ball, Churchie Sr taking the catch this time.....but the boundary fielders are still seeing plenty of action. I'm not sure if Anthony Rowland is related to Kevin of Dexy's fame, but there is plenty of running going on in his allotted 2 overs. In fact, some comedy fielding worthy of a seasoned SAD is also very much in evidence.....he slips to the left he slips to the right..... Anthony don't forget your cricket boots next time!!!

The double act of Jonesy and CRS are next up. Both take a wicket, Robbo taking a classic diving catch on the boundary from CRS. Jonesy is now one away from a half century of SADS wickets...he will have to wait though! Robbo is unlucky not to get a hat trick of catches as he spills a difficult chance from just inside the boundary. CRS is also no balled (believe it or not!) when he takes an excellent caught & bowled. Sometime during the 14-16th over, the sorry looking practice ball is retired when the original match ball is eventually found in the hedgerow.

The final bowling pair of Robbo and Busted take two wickets each and a there are a couple of run outs in Robbos over to bowl out Crabtree for a total of 144.

SADS chasing 144, send out specialist opener Bottom Sr chaperoning the young Churchie Jr, with the former advising his partner on the way to the crease to protect his wicket and only play the loose balls. Bottom Sr, goes large on the first ball hitting a magnificent four, the next ball he attempts a six, but doesn't get enough scoop on it and it falls just short to the waiting boundary fielder and he is agonisingly caught ...a case of do what I say, not what I do Churchie.



Figure 1 Robbo didn't have to wait LONG to bat.

Churchie Jr, doesn't take Bottom's advice either and proceeds to hit Crabtree around the park including two sixes on his way to retiring on 25 - a great innings.



Figure 2 Churchie and Busted discussing batting strategy

Robbo and Busted revive their partnership but this time with the bat, they struggle to hit the middle early doors, taking singles when they can.



Figure 3 Robbo driving on his way to 8

With the pressure mounting to up the run rate, Robbo is caught at long midwicket for 8.



Figure 4 Robbo heads back to the pavilion... caught for 8

Churchie Sr comes in at number 5. The runs are still trickling along, and they need to do something to up the run rate...and as if by magic they both start to find the middle of the bat, hitting a flurry of fours and sixes.



Figure 5 Busted with a pull shot on his way to 28

Both retire, Churchie Sr with 32 and Busted 28. There are now 3 in the hutch whilst the required run rate is scaling at around 8 or 9 an over!!



Figure 6 Bondi and Jonesy waiting to bat

Bondi and Jonesy (at #7 again.... 😊) take to the crease, Jonesy is out for an LBW duck and Bondi plays some nice shots for 7, before giving his wicket away taking a kamikaze 2nd run.



Figure 7 Bondi demonstrates great technique hitting the cover off the ball

Nighters and Dexy are the last men in, with 20 or so required off the last 2 overs. Nighters plays some nice shots including a 6, Dexy unfortunately doesn't face a ball on his debut and both follow in the mould of Bondi and are run out chasing the elusive 145 runs target set to win. The SADS fall 14 short.

Game was played in great spirits. All down to Bennet's for afters.



Figure 8 Busted's esky (take note Glenno)

Credits

Thanks to CRS for the photos

