

Firsts - Crabtree, Rothamsted Park, 17 June 2026

- Debuts for Clive and Kevin
- Debut wicketkeeper
- First catches
- Missed First balls
- First aid Kit
- My first time match manager and captaincy

England vs Croatia was apparently the big draw, but this was an event that at least 1 person had turned up to watch. We lost the toss and were asked to take the field. Out stepped the team with Frazer's Jack Russell tribute act behind the stumps; bucket hat and moustachioed, he did a fine job. WG picked up a couple of wickets from catches, Clive grabbed a bowled victim on debut. Kevin claimed to be rusty, but this suggests many of us may be corroded beyond repair. Clampers got a 2 for - his cry of catch-it still no doubt echoing around the field long after the match as Clive dutifully did just that. James N's first ever catch for the club.

Jonesy picked up another victim, bowled, bamboozled by flight, spin and seemingly time itself; 3 in 2 days for him. Winners and Busted kept it tight for the last 4 overs. Busted managed to juggle and drop a high straight drive on the boundary (certainly not a first.)

Excellent bowling from everyone had combined to keep the score to an achievable target of 116. No wides conceded, is that another first? Half time speeches are apparently needed to enhance performance at sporting events. At Crabtree this was delivered metaphorically as I moved the car to prevent the chance of it getting locked in. Opportunities, closing, taking them etc, e

Winners and Busted started after finishing and set a steady platform. With the formers dismissal for 15 we looked forward to seeing if Kevin's efforts with the bat were as good as with the ball.

And we are still waiting....Busted calling him through to be run out without facing a ball.

Clive strode out and smashed a quick 19 to put us ahead of the run rate, including a boundary following the opposition fielder glancing a header over the line. This was his last action as he retired to seek first aid for a nasty gash to just above his nose, his cricket whites soon resembling the Croatia team's colours. The match attendance reduced by one as the spectator left his beer to join the fielding team. Bondy hit 3, before seeing the bowler superbly pluck a fiercely hit drive from the sky and departed. Busted reached his retirement, for a great 26*, and so Frazer and Tucker were the new pair to try and complete the run chase. This was done mainly in singles before your correspondent was bowled through not wanting to run anymore, Jonesy joined the fray

and readily passed the strike and instruction to hit boundaries. Frazer duly obliged to guide the team to victory finishing with a 4 off the first ball of the final over and completing his man of the match performance. 2 debutants introduced, 1 bye conceded and the small matter of 27 unbeaten runs.

A fun game, with a tight finish, played in good spirit, topped off with excellent hospitality supplied by the opposition, pizza , chips and another sporting game at the Marquis of Granby. Our bloodied opponent was ok in the end, just needing a couple of stitches (and presumably catching practise)

Actions: Obtain First aid kit and Easel and canvas for Jack Russell impersonator.

The team finishing in First.

