

In a summer of sport full of possibilities, for hopes to be realised and heroes to be made, we have seen England win an opening World Cup match in which Harry Kane scored twice including one in injury time. We have also witnessed Australia get absolutely spanked by England in the one day series including a world (WORLD) record score of 481 which is Australia's worst ever loss! So with the background set we look to Rothampsted Park where Sad Fat Dads With Pads looked to triumph against Crabtree who have an annoying habit of just beating us.

Longbottom selected the team and duly grabbed the chance to captain the assembled squad so that he would not get told off by the official skipper for amending his field. The toss was won and Longbottom opted to field and let Crabtree set the target.

With three wicket keepers the gloves went to Williams who revealed that the walk to the square might be the limit of his physical capabilities. Longbottom and Pip therefore looked forward to the opportunity to remind the team why they don't bowl.

WG and Curtis opened the bowling with WG putting a tidy couple of overs together with only five runs being scored. Curtis first over was also tidy with only one wide and a boundary, sadly the second over went for twice as many (18). But 23 off the first 4 was not a bad start.

Next up Wilson and Jan, a wicket maiden for Wilson and Jan meant SADs were revelling in their bowling prowess as the score remained at 23 but now for two wickets off six overs! Jan's wicket was a fantastic full ball that the batsmen (a small child) missed completely though this might be because Jan had hit him with a full toss the ball before #intimidation #bodyline! Wilson full of confidence then bowled a very different second over in which 5 of the 6 ball got spanked, the first fortunately was caught by a fielder but the following four all flew to the boundary. 16-2 was still a very good effort. Meanwhile Jan had a quieter second over as there were no children to bully and finished with figures of 5-1.

Busted and Shed were then given the unenviable task of bowling at Crabtrees best batsmen (Ben). Busted bowled some great balls but also went for a few (17) but Rupert did a great job only going for 7 off his two overs.

Bond and Longbottom next up, with Commander Bond doing a great job of picking up two wickets with a great catch from Jan for one of them, the oppo were starting to slog and so runs were still scored off the bad balls (15-2). Speaking of bad balls Longbottom served up and platter of pies which accelerated the opposition scoring with 26 being scored his 12 balls.

The final pair of Pip and Tembras was feast and famine for the opposition. Pip providing his version of pies at one end that resulted in 23 runs being scored (note Longbottom is now reinstated as the SFDWP official keeper as the worst bowler in the group). Tembras however was too quick for the tailenders and his first ball bouncer was a treat as the square leg umpire began to complain that it was bad light for such a fast bowler. A couple of wickets including another small child who might have left a puddle at the crease seeing the ball whizz past his nose (11-2). 147 to win seemed to be a few more than it should have been but always likely when you let the oppo have some 50 runs from 4 overs of wicket keeper pies.

Jan and Bondy took to the crease to start the chase. Jan obviously had not heard about "the chase" as he took a look at all six balls bowled by a small child in the first over getting only one bye. Bondy realised he must be the big hitter out of the pair and got the first boundary of the innings in the next over with a lovely shot off his legs. Jan saw off another over from the small child with just a single taken. Yawn! Jan had obviously not read the intro about a summer of heroes but at least he had his

eye in and runs would surely flow... They did flow but from the bat of Bondy who played some more great shots off his legs to the boundary. Jan sensing the need to get on with it (from the heckling of his team mates) tried to open his arms and tried to cut the next delivery but only bottom edged to the keeper. Heckling team mates kept very quiet and left Jan (3) on his own for a while to recalculate his average.

Pip to the crease, newly constructed helmet for protection, but sadly a straight ball hit his pads plumb in front, even WG as umpire appealed so he had no choice but to raise his finger (0). Longbottom in with the score on 23 in the sixth over with two wickets down so there was a growing need to get on with it. Bondy and Longy obliged with some hard running and big hitting getting to 48 by the end of the eighth over, sadly the last ball of the over saw the end of Bondy getting bowled leg stump stepping across his wicket and missing the leg side hoick.

Enter Busted who loves a situation which requires big hitting as that's basically his only way of playing. Longbottom retired on 26 at the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> over with the score now 72 so at half way we were just about back on target and Tembras joined a flowing Busted at the crease. This pair piled on the runs for the next five overs before Busted had to retire on 30. So with 5 overs to go and now only 37 runs to get it was left to Curtis and Tembras to keep the SADs on target. A nervy five off the 16<sup>th</sup> over left 32 runs from 24 but the new bowler for the 17<sup>th</sup> brought some buffet bowling and we added 10 valuable runs, with Curtis getting bat to ball with good effect.

Eight runs off the next over left 14 off 12 balls, Tembras struggling with a hamstring strain, Curtis struggling to contain his personal happiness at smashing runs. The buffet bowler managed a couple wides before being taken off injured so an over of six runs. Eight off the last over, Tembras facing, a slogged edge and it flew into space and they managed to run three. Five from five, surely a time for heroes but SADs had recently ballsed up a similar situation so everything was in the balance. Dot ball to Curtis, pressure back on, a single off the next, 4 from 3. Tembras a big heave and caught, batsmen cross, 4 from 2, Curtis facing. Williams to the non-strikers end but as he's an invalid so he needs a runner, who is Tembras, who has pulled his hamstring – genius!

Curtis realised that running was not going to work and seeking personal glory dispatched the next ball to the boundary! SADs win with one ball to spare!! A great game and the SADs did fantastic to chase down 147. Mentions to Jan for calling for every catch no matter his locality to the ball, Tembras and Curtis for all round performance with bat and ball, batting Busted and Longbottom (making up for his miserable bowling) and Jan, Rupert and WG for some tight bowling. Overall though a great team performance and fitting with the summer of sport.