

# Dads Match Special

## STAGS vs SFDWP, T20, Sandridge CC

### As it happened

Reporting by Ben Dirs, BBC Sport

- 17:50 Thursday evening, mid June. A village cricket ground in mid Hertfordshire. The sun is out. Two teams of sportsmen assemble to enter battle in that finest of sporting occasions, the mid-week St Albans Dads' cricket competition. Tonight it is the Dads of St Albans Girls School, STAGS, at home to Sad Fat Dads with Pads. Should be a cracker.
- 17:52 The form book doesn't tell the whole story, STAGS are a keen team and have a formidable record at their Sandridge base. SFDWP started the season with a shocker vs Killigrew, lost their second match against Park St in typical fashion in the last over, but managed that rarest of commodities, a tie, in their last outing vs Gardenfields. Confidence is building, what could go wrong for the Saddoes?
- 17:53 **BREAKING NEWS:** It has emerged that the SFDWP club captain, Peter Church is unable to make the match 'to spend more time with the family'. That old chestnut. What's the best excuse you've heard for missing a cricket match?
- Email us at [dms@bbc.co.uk](mailto:dms@bbc.co.uk), or join the debate at [#bbcdadscricket](https://twitter.com/bbcdadscricket)
- 17:59 SFDWP stand in captain Graham Peel loses the toss, STAGS elect bat on a flat, hardish wicket. They'll be runs here.
- 18:00 Aqal and Jukes walk to the crease, Aqal to take strike. Jukes has been known to play for SFDWP, could be a bit of needle.
- 18:02 Diprose, making his season debut, bowls the first over from the Railway end. Not a bad start, and 5 from the over.
- 18:06 Wilson in next with his deceptively quick action. Jukes and Aqal seem untroubled, knocking a few runs off.



#### Jonathan Agnew, ex England player, not at Sandridge:

"STAGS have got off to a settled start here, helped by the Saddoes only having 10 men in the field. The loss of Church will be keenly felt. There is a rumour around the ground that there has been an emergency call up for Jacob Winfield, however his mum won't let him out until he's finished his tea, including the spinach. Discipline is so important to a young cricketer. "

- 18:15 **STAGS 21-0**  
Diprose and Wilson complete their spells without troubling the batsmen. Aqal and Jukes both look in good nick, and have got the scoreboard ticking over at 5 an over.
- 18:20 Winfield (Senior) comes in from the railway end. A couple of dots but then a boundary and a few ones and twos; Tim's 2 over spell goes for 9 in total.

18:25 But more importantly, has Winfield (Junior) finished his tea? He has! Capt Peel directs him to field a few yards behind silly mid-off, right on the boundary rope.

18:35 **STAGS 52-0**  
Meanwhile Longbottom bowls his two over spell from the Pavillion end. One delivery is an attempted beamer that is so high and wide it would get its clothes from High & Mighty. If it was a person. Which it isn't. The two over spell goes for a respectable 13.

18:43 Email [dms@bbc.co.uk](mailto:dms@bbc.co.uk)

**J Hollerton:** "I once had to miss a match as I was on a week-long monumental p\*ss up in Benidorm. However I covered it up with a story about being 'on business in Madrid' and somehow still got picked the next week."

18:45 Next in to the breach, Simon Knee and Jonno Hook. With a curious action reminiscent of Malinga, Simon is known to undo many a decent batsmen. Jonno meanwhile can just be lethal with his fast left arm inswingers.

18:46 A couple of big hits to the silly point boundary, and both Jukes and Aqal make their 25s and retire. Waddy and Bownes come to the crease.

18:48 **DROPPED CATCH**  
A fierce delivery from Hook is mis-timed by Waddy who skies it. Hook calls the catch, scampering down the wicket with the sun in his eyes, but just misses what would have been a glorious c&b. Capt Peel steps forward two yards to commiserate with Jonno at the scene of disappointment.



**Michael Vaughan, in the Duke of York, St John's Wood:**

"What was Peel playing at? When you keep wicket anything that is within 10 yards of the stumps is yours. End of. When we won the Ashes in 2005..."

18:50 What's this? A gentle hubbub down at the pavilion end, and about a dozen local ladies start a display of exercise routines outside the boundary at Cow Corner. Longbottom, fielding somewhat finer than long on, seems rather keen to drop back to the rope and head a bit squarer. Too keen in fact, and Peel brings him up to mid-on reminding everyone to 'stay on the one'.

18:53 **WICKET – Waddy run out 4**  
The Breakthrough! In a scene reminiscent of the Chuckle Brothers – to me, to you – Waddy is stranded miles short of his ground and makes the (very) short walk to the team digs having scored 4. Hann next in.

18:55 **WICKET – Bownes run out 1 STAGS 85-2**  
A complete breakdown in communication sees Bownes trying a two when one barely existed. Bails removed, and back into the hutch. Calman next in, promptly despatching a couple to the rope. The run rate is accelerating – STAGS could be on for 160 here, with the weaker bowlers to come.



**M Bond:** "I missed the first two fixtures I was asked to play for a new team; I couldn't be bothered for the first one, and the second I just completely forgot, but I was still asked back next week!"  
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19:00 Making his debut tonight, Matthew Bond. Bond showed promise in the winter nets, will he turn promise into praise?

- 19:02 **WICKET – Calman c Diprose b Bond 24**  
He can! After a couple of loose deliveries from the debutant Bond, duly dispatched for 6, Calman sends one straight to Diprose on the point boundary, who pouches it with aplomb.
- 19:06 Curtis gets the nod from Capt Peel, to come in from the Pavillion end, and the field scatter to the boundary for the expected big hits. Curtis took two wickets on debut, but then went for 12 an over in the next match, living up to his form in the nets. New batsman Kapila must be relishing the chance to improve his average.
- 19:08 **WICKET Kapila c Knee b Curtis 1**  
Unbelievable stuff this. Curtis' first ball is clearly wide, bashed back by Hann for two yet the ump says it was good. Two deliveries later, Kapila cuts a straight one to Knee at point, evidently assuming that the RAF insignia on Knee's T-shirt is some sort of target.
- 19:12 **WICKET Nash b Curtis 0 STAGS 127-5**  
Champagne moment for Curtis as the last ball of his spell is singled out for a big hit by Nash who somehow only connects with his glove. Peel tries to collect the ball for a stumping but also misses. The ball then trickles down, kissing off stump. We would show that in super slo-mo, but you would think the TV was paused. Somehow, Curtis is now the leading wicket taker in the 2014 season for SFDWP.



**Geoffrey Boycott, Yorkshireman:**

"How Curtis got those wickets only he will know. His bowling is rubbish. The ball he bowled for that second wicket was so slow it was overtaken by a passing glacier."

- 19:20 The Saddoes are into the tail now, with Jones and Jacob Winfield assigned the death bowler role. Jones has made his particular brand of spin his own, although the sky may not be dark enough for him tonight. Winfield is a class apart as he actually plays proper cricket for a proper team.
- 19:30 **FOUR WICKETS - STAGS 135 ao**  
What a final spell from Jones and Winfield. Between them conceding a mere 8 runs from their 2 overs each, Jones bowled Howard through the gate for a duck, before then deceiving Jabu with a ball that stopped on him which he skied to Hook for a simple catch at mid off. Jones regains his position as SFDWP leading wicket taker. Meanwhile at the other end, Winfield dishes out a remarkable lesson in quick bowling, giving the returning Jukes no margin for error. Jukes nicks one to Peel diving low to his left, great catch that. A few balls later Aqal is run out, closing the innings with 3 balls remaining.



**Jonathan Agnew, ex England player, not at Sandridge:**

"Remarkably, that is the first time SFDWP have taken 10 wickets in a match for well over a year. STAGS were definitely looking good for 150, maybe even 160 but the collapse was triggered by those wickets from Curtis and Bond. The fading light will be a worry for the Saddoes, not least because their eyesight is not the best."

- 19:35 **SFDWP TARGET 136**  
No time for tea breaks in St Albans Dads' cricket, it reduces drinking time after the match. STAGS take to the field straight away, SFDWP send Capt Peel and Diprose to begin proceedings. Waddy and Wormald open the bowling.

19:45 **SFDWP 25-0**  
Super cricket from Peel and Diprose with some great shot selection. Diprose clatters one to (extremely) deep square leg, scoring what must surely be the longest boundary ever seen in St Albans Dads' cricket. But it's not all the stuff for the highlight reel, there is excellent calling for the ones and twos also. Score ticking over nicely.

19:55 In a moment of mild controversy, Wormald steps forward to take the ball for a third over. Whilst not against the rules of St Albans Dads' cricket, it is a shock to the watching crowd. Mutterings abound.

20:02 **SFDWP 62-0**  
The bowling controversy is far removed from the minds of Peel and Diprose who accelerate the scoring against bowlers Kapila and Nash, Peel starts the 7<sup>th</sup> over on 23, and swings the bat with a couple of glorious boundaries. He retires, not out, on 36. A fine knock. Longbottom strides in; but in the next over Diprose also retires unbeaten having made 30.

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**Colin McKinnon:** I'm not surprised SFDWP are scoring well, this is by far the best pitch the Saddoes have played on this year. A good mixture of ryegrass and perennial fine leaved varieties. Tended to by lawnrestore.co.uk, free quotes available, no job too small ... (remainder of email cut as the BBC does not permit advertising)

20:05 In the first ever example of a nightwatchman being employed without a wicket falling, Curtis walks to the wicket, taking his guard at the dizzying heights of 4. Normally batting just above the extras, this promotion up the order will be some experience for him, as his first ball is the first of a spell bowled by the usually quick Jukes.

20:10 **SFDWP 108-0**  
Boom! Longbottom goes to town with some two powerful straight hits for 6. Curtis joins the party with a boundary at long on. Longbottom soon retires with 30 having been at the crease for little more than a couple of overs and being dropped twice. Curtis knocks a couple of singles to move up to 9. Winfield (Senior) enters the fray. SFDWP are well ahead of the required run rate. Can they complete the task without loss? Can Curtis make double figures?

20:11 **WICKET Curtis c? b Jukes 9 (SFDWP 108-1)**  
Well of course they can't, and of course he doesn't. Curtis edges one high to point. Two clubs lower and it would have sailed over the short point boundary, but this is cricket not golf.



**Phil Tuffnell, ex England player, in a bar somewhere:**

"That was my sort of shot. Get out quickly, leaves more time for beer, fags and Question of Sport."

20:14 **WICKET Bond b Hann 0 (SFDWP 113-2)**  
Winfield gets a boundary and a single, then Bond takes guard for his first innings as a Saddo. Three balls later and he is taking the longest walk, having missed a straight one that kept low. Bad luck. Jones next, with his well deserved reputation for anchoring an innings and proving difficult to dislodge.

20:15 **WICKET Jones lbw b Hann 0 (SFDWP 113-3)**

Oh dear. Jones is trapped by a straightforward delivery from Hann, Umpire Peel has no hesitation in raising the finger. Not that finger, the other one. Jones is adamant he got bat on ball. Peel is adamant that his batting average will remain the best in the team for at least another week. This brings Winfields Senior and Junior to the crease together, surely the best father son combination since, err, Chris and Stuart Broad (is this right?)

20:25     **SFDWP 135-3**

The pressure of the run chase does not seem to affect the Winfields. There is some grumbling from Jacob that his father is not attempting to switch hit, but this is a team game. Just one to go...

20:30     **SFDWP WIN BY 7 WICKETS 139-3 (17.4 overs)**

Hold the front page; break into East Enders; shout it from the rooftops:

**SFDWP have won a match!!**

A final swish of the willow from Winfield sees the ball down to the deep square leg boundary for 4, sealing the win with more than 3 overs to spare – no need to worry about the fading light, and in plenty of time to catch the opening match of the 2014 World Cup.

A comprehensive win for the Saddoes against strong opposition. Happily the winning strike was witnessed by Club Captain Peter Church who reported that his wife was on the mend following a brief illness.

So, will the history books of the future record this date as the start of a golden age for the men in maroon piping, or was it an inexplicable upwards blip in form? There's not long to wait, with the next match being SFDWP vs Alvins Allstars on Mon 16 June. See you there.