

SFDWP v FCC – Greenwood Park - 2 July 2025

Match Report

A Man of Many Talents

On Wednesday 2 July, the Saddoes descended on Greenwood Park for an away fixture against Final Cricket Club.

My evening started, as it often does, with an uncertain interaction with a man in a car park. As I wandered over to the familiar sight of flashing lights and a disrobing man, I momentarily forgot why I was there. But I quickly recovered myself and put things away, when I saw it was Robbo, our very own "man of many talents". Having offered me a closer inspection of his injured groin, from which I demurred, I hastily moved to inspect the wicket.

A straw-coloured outfield with a devilish slope to a short boundary awaited, tight line and length would be required to restrict scoring. The earlier grey clouds had departed to leave blue skies and a gentle breeze. Robbo, took the opportunity to demonstrate his love of Cerne Abbas – sadly running out of boundary rope to draw anything other than a large knob.

As the Saddoes emerged from their mid-week hibernation, Captain Chenners tossed – Saddoes to bat. As Chenners strategized, Robbo unfurled an impressive array of stretches and warming up manoeuvres and offered closer inspection of his groin which resulted in some comforting oohs and aahs.

Chenners strategizing complete, James N and regular opener Frazer "sprinted" to the middle, providing a solid opening partnership. 36-0 after 5 overs. RR 7.2. However, neither opener survived much longer with - James N out for 17, Frazer for 8.

In strode Granty at first wicket down, followed by Clampers – who soothed Saddoes nerves by commenting that he wouldn't be long. He wasn't, a dolly caught and bowled was dropped but as Clampers charged up the wicket, Granty held still – and Clampers was run out by a few yards.

Having warmed up sufficiently, next up was Robbo, but returned sooner than expected after being given out LBW. A question: What was Robbo's reaction?:-

- a. "Ah well, that's why we play cricket"

b. "I am going to take this as a fantastic learning experience"

c. "Cunts, you'll all cunts"

Happy to flee the scene, next up Lacey to join the ever-reliable Granty. After 10 overs 58-4 RR 5.8. An acceleration was needed, and acceleration was delivered as Lacey tucked into some edible offering from FCC's young leggy dispatching consecutive 6s, and 16 in total off 4 balls - making the most of the short boundary.

Both Grant and Lacey retired, which allowed your correspondent to score 17 - running himself out in the hope of quick runs. CRS and Winners were in and out swiftly, with Tucks and Captain Chenners smiting some final boundaries.

We closed on 153, a decent score given a mid-innings wobble.

As we approached our turn in the fielding. No Williams, Longbottom or Lewis not even a Pagett or Pointer. (Actually not sure the last 2 were mentioned but to make them feel better, lets pretend they were). Step forward our 6th choice Keeper – non other than that man of many talents – Robbo.

At this point I should not that with a wicket lined up East – West, our opening 10 overs were to be bowled into a rapidly setting sun.

Winners stepped up, but was not on his usual line and length, Lacey also suffered at the hands of some hard-hitting from the FCC opener. At this point, Winners as a senior Saddo told Captain that he was bowling from the wrong end and would like to bowl later when the batters might not be so good and could someone else have a go. Up step James N to bowl with some zip and bring a first wicket, Granty (or Ron as the scorebook has him) followed. After 4 overs FCC were 47-1, RR 11.75, RRR a meagre 6.7.

Time to keep things tight. Fraser was prowling the infield like a cat, swooping to the ball whenever it came his way. Fraser keen to keep the pressure up, asked his Captain "how deep do you want me?", Captain Chenners with a deep intake of breath – "That's enough".

Ron, (Reagan, Burgundy, Corbett, Jeremy? – I'm not sure), nabbed a second wicket. Captain Chenners expertly marshalled his armoury of bowlers – Tucker, CRS, and your correspondent) keeping the score down. After 11 overs the score 83-2.

Robbo was continuing to confound medical experts, leaping like a Gazelle (Admittedly a recently gnawed arthritic Gazelle), but numerous byes were prevented - the scorebooks reveals only 5(?) conceded. But he was not done.

Clampers produced an excellent spell, conceding 8 of his 2 overs – and producing a stumping from our man of many talents.

It was left to Captain Chenners and Winners (bowling from the right end), to close out the innings. Chenners picked up 3 quick wickets, Winners 1 – with only 21 scored off the last 4 overs, thanks to some high-quality bowling.

SFDWP win by 13 runs.

Man of the match: Chenners

Tour organiser, BBQer, Wicketkeeper, Groin displayer, Most frequent use of the "C" word, Most vigorous warm up – Man of many talents: Robbo.