



PIE PANDEMONIUM!

Portly player pummelled by pastry projectile in Clarence Park carnage!

Witnesses described the moment as “part Bake Off, part battlefield” as the airborne snack struck with such force that the thud echoed across the outfield. “It was like a meat-filled missile!” gasped overseas club legend Glenno, still wiping gravy off his sunglasses.

St Albans, July 22, 2025 — Cricket was the name of the game, but chaos was the flavour of the day as a rogue pie turned a memorial match into pastry-powered pandemonium.

The Sad Fat Dads with Pads (SFDWP) took to Clarence Park for a heartfelt tribute to Peter Church, beloved teammate and father of the St Albans XI captain, Jamie Church. But what began as a gentle knockabout quickly spiralled into a saga of soaring scores, suspect fielding, and one airborne snack with a vendetta.

With no coin toss (fearing the SFDWP might collapse faster than a soufflé), the teams agreed to a gentleman's start. The St Albans openers came out swinging like they were auditioning for a role in the new Zorro movie, sending the scoreboard into overdrive.

It wasn't until the 18th over and with 137 runs on the board, that the SFDWP's swinging king, Granty, broke through, luring a lofted shot that Frazer took with surprising ease on the boundary.

Not to be outdone, Jonesey — the team's newly slimmed-down spinner — struck in the next over. His recent Mounjaro-fuelled weight loss has improved his bowling but, according to teammates, also triggered “delusions of grandeur and a sudden obsession with quinoa.”

Granty struck again with a clean bowled beauty, and Noble chipped in with a tidy wicket. Clampers, never one to shy away from drama, secured an LBW with an appeal so aggressive it registered on the Richter scale.

Dan Lewis (the Saddoes' number one wicketkeeper) was sharp behind the stumps — much to the envy of Williams and Paggers.

Despite the fightback, the St Albans XI posted a daunting 266, with Jamie Church playing a captain's knock that included several stylish shots and a straight drive down the ground that his dad would've been proud of.

After a short break, the Saddoes sent out their only two recognised batsmen: Granty and Peelers. Eyebrows were raised when they survived the first over without losing a wicket, finishing on 0-10 — still being checked as a potential Saddoes record.

Granty continued his golden run, smashing his way to a half-century before retiring. Unfortunately, no one could see it, as the scoreboard had malfunctioned. The root cause? A lack of batteries for the remote control. Apparently, the local Lib Dem-run council had redirected the “battery budget” to the Nigerian, non-binary, vegan Padel society (run by Marcos Tembras)

Peelers was solid until his hip popped out like a champagne cork, retiring hurt on 23.

Enter Patch Lewis — the younger, more talented Lewis brother — who looked like he was wielding a child's size 3 bat. After a few air swings and some girly grunting from bowler Jacob Winfield, Patchy found his rhythm, smashing an unconventional six and two fours before retiring.

With Frazer dismissed and the result no longer in doubt, the St Albans bowlers became increasingly generous. What followed was a buffet of boundaries as Kneesers, Winners, Noblers, and Williamsers all filled their boots and topped up their averages.

Then came the moment that will go down in Saddoes folklore. With Williams bowled by Church Junior, Dan Lewis strode to the crease.

Known more for his glove work than his batting — and even less for his spatial awareness — Dan faced the penultimate delivery of the match. Jamie Church launched a delivery so high it briefly left Earth's atmosphere. As it plummeted back down, Dan — in a moment of either bravery or confusion — decided to defend it with his **HEAD**. The ball struck him squarely on the bonce with a thwack that echoed across Clarence Park. Spectators gasped. Birds scattered. A small child dropped his ice cream.

Despite the impact, Dan insisted on facing the final ball, which he middled down the ground for a heroic single before staggering off for a concussion check and a pint.

The match ended in true Saddoes spirit — with laughter, sledging, and a few pulled muscles.

A short trophy presentation followed, along with team photos and a generous spread of beers and chicken tikka rolls, courtesy of Manny and the team at Tavah (tavah.co.uk)

