

MATCH REPORT
SFDWP v Scratchers
Clarence Park
23/07/2024

Saddoes won by 36 runs

Just when I thought I'd successfully dodged the Match Manager bullet, Crabtree's last-minute cancellation of an away fixture in June had me breathing easy. But, lo and behold, our fiendish fixtures secretary gleefully informed me that the random MM chooser had bestowed upon me the delightful duty of managing a home game.

As if that wasn't enough, we were slated to play against some sketchy banjo-playing redneck team that seemed to have crawled out of the depths of Deliverance.

A quick peek at the app revealed nine SADS available. As usual, a bit of cat herding was required to coax the Johnny-come-latelys out of hiding. Noble finally confirmed his availability and up stepped Prath to replace the ever-unpredictable Tembras.

After some frantic gnashing of teeth, the kit bags were finally located, and a trip to The Coddess was made to negotiate sausages and chips. Arriving early at CP, we found the Scratchers already out on the field, stretching and limbering up. Skippers Pip and Chenner did a bit of tossing, and it was agreed that the Saddoes would bat first. Opening for SADS were Granty and Roffers.



Sporting a blue neckerchief (the red one being too soiled and crusty) and a pink bandana, Pip led his excitable troops onto the field. In a slight twist to the rules, it was agreed to retire batsmen on 20 runs. *Pip wins the toss*

Scratchers got off to a flyer, with Tucker opening with two dot balls. The third delivery produced an edge, but it was dramatically dropped behind the stumps by Pip Cowen. Narrowly avoiding a third-ball duck, Granty nurdled his way to a respectable 19 before Skipper Chenner 'retired' him prematurely. Before departing, Granty was involved in a controversial run-out of Roffers, who confirmed the incident in colourful language of his own. Next in were Noble and Clampers, who pushed the score along at a snail's pace. Skipper Chenner, unimpressed with this dawdling, lost patience and retired both at 14 runs apiece. WG and CRS were dispatched to the crease with strict instructions to dismantle the already shoddy bowling. CRS managed to score 2 before being bowled. WG was removed from the crease for 3 (reason unknown as the scorebook doesn't say why) before Pointer added another 10 runs, including two lusty boundaries. We welcomed back Sgt Wilson for a season debut, but he was cruelly run out for 1 by Pointer. The last few deliveries were seen off by Williams and Prath, bringing the total to 133. A big shout-out to extras for scoring 43 (if the scorebook is to be believed).

After much faffing around, Scratchers set about chasing down a target of 134. Chenner's tactic was to open with the comedy bowling duo of Roffers and Clampers, hoping the batsmen would be overwhelmed by pies. Both bowled well, with Roffers dismissing Pip LBW with a rare straight delivery. Prath delivered two overs of high-class pace, finishing with

figures of 1-1. Granty kept the batsmen quiet at the other end, with help from Chenners, who dropped a sitter in the covers.

Enter crusty old fart WG, whose first over yielded one wicket for 6 runs. The second over produced another three wickets, finishing with figures of 4-7. A season record?

So, after 12 overs and the score at 28 for 6, victory seemed nigh-on impossible. With the light still good and 8 overs remaining (and to kill 45 minutes until the sausages arrived), Chenners told the Scratchers to keep sending batsmen in, even those previously 'out.' Batsmen continued to fall thanks to some helpful umpiring except for one plum LBW where the umpire explained his decision 'I haven't the foggiest what I'm doing, but the ball struck the batsman above the penis'.

Noble, Williams, and CRS bowled the usual dross and got spanked a fair bit. Winners steadied the ship with a wicket.

Anyway, as match manager, I had to bugger off early to collect the sausage and chips. The scorebook records that Scratchers limped to a very wet 98 for 17 wickets off their 20 overs, during which Chenners dropped another catch. We tried drinking the bar dry but failed miserably, and it turned out the sausages were battered.

SADS MoTM: - WG, for taking four wickets for 7 runs.

Scratchers MoTM: - Sharpie, who turned out to support on his birthday and was sent out to bat. Score unknown.

