

Match Report London Colney CC vs SFDWP 5th May 2022

SFDWP 130 for 4

London Colney CC 117 for 7

In a change to our normal match reports, it falls on me, instead, to report on the trial that was held concerning the offences carried out on 5th May 2022 in Shenley during a cricket match between Sad Fat Dads With Pads and London Colney Cricket Club...

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| Clerk: | All rise! Commencement of the trial of Mr Richard Pagett and Mr Tim Pointer. Officiating judge is Lord Hardthrasher |
| Hardthrasher | Please be seated. We are here to try the alleged offences carried out on 5 th May 2022 by one Richard Pagett, also known as "Paggers" and also of his co-defendant Tim Pointer, also known as "Pointers". Mr Pagett, you are accused that, with malice aforethought, you did wantonly prevent Mr Tim Winfield from fulfilling his essential need to propel the runs to a meaningful total at the match at Shenley. How do you plead? |
| Paggers | Not guilty M'lud |
| Hardthrasher | Noted. And that you, Mr Pointer, did also connive in this plan by refusing to let the aforementioned Mr Winfield enter the field of play upon his allotted time arriving. How do <i>you</i> plead? |
| Pointers | Not guilty M'lud |
| Hardthrasher | Also noted. You have both pleaded not guilty to these serious offences, so I invite the lawyer for the prosecution to present his case |
| Prosecutor | Thank you M'lud. I hope to establish, through testimony of persons present at said match, that they are both "guilty as hell". To this end, I call my first witness, the plaintiff, Mr Winfield, or "Winners" as he is known |
| Hardthrasher | Does nobody have a simple, single name they are known as? |
| Prosecutor | No, M'lud. Mr Winfield, please could you relate the events that took place on this day? |
| Winners | Er, yes. Longbottom and Grant started the innings well, keeping the run-rate moving when, unfortunately, Grant was bowled. I had been delayed in getting to the match and so, for some reason, Paggers came in next. |
| Prosecutor | This wasn't a normal situation? |
| Winners | No way! I'm surprised that he didn't have a nosebleed batting that high up the order! That reminds me... when I turned up, I was surprised to see Pointers all padded-up even though he was batting at number 8... strange! Anyway, Longbottom retired having knocked off his required runs, to be replaced by Noble |

and then Busted who spent little time there with just a few quick singles and a 3 that caused Paggers to pull his hamstring.

Prosecutor So he retired hurt?

Winners You might have thought so, but no. He stayed. Fortunately, Tembras came in and wellied the ball around before being caught for a respectable 27. It was getting on in the game but there were a couple of overs left for me to improve the run rate.

Prosecutor So *then* you came in?

Winfield No. I was surprised to see Pointer marching to the square.

Prosecutor And he was supposed to bat after you?

Winfield Yes

Prosecutor Perhaps it was a tactical move because he was likely to score faster than you?

Winfield Puhlease!

Prosecutor Thank you Mr Winfield. I now call WG who was umpire for some of this time.

Hardthrasher WG? As in WG Grace, the great cricketer?

Prosecutor As in WG the ageing scientist and poor batsman who often ends up umpiring the games. WG – please tell me what you observed as you were standing in the square?

WG It was a good start but slowed dramatically once Longbottom had retired.

Prosecutor Did Mr Pagett complain about an injury?

WG Yes. He said that he had tweaked his hamstring and told his batting partner, “no more quick singles”. He also said, “its boundaries only now” before getting none.

Prosecutor Thank you WG. I now call the defendant, Mr Pagett. Mr Pagett, is it true that you continued to bat, even when there were others, more capable than yourself (injury or no injury) waiting to come in to bat?

Paggers It is true but there are extenuating circumstances.

Prosecutor Really? Despite the fact that you were there for 18 of the allotted 20 overs? At least 10 of those with an injury that prevented you from running?

Paggers You’ve got to see it my way. I never get the opportunity to bat this long. I’ve never got a good score and carried my bat through the innings. Sure, Winners would have probably tonked it all over the place, but we’ve seen all that before. It was my time. And I made it count. Anyway, it’s not my fault that he should have been in for the last two overs but wasn’t.

Prosecutor Very well. That brings me to your co-defendant, Mr Pointer. Mr Pointer, let’s make this simple and quick. Did you or did you not usurp Mr Winfield’s rightful batting position by marching onto the pitch before him?

Pointers I was confused.

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| Prosecutor | Confused about what? |
| Pointers | I wanted to be wicket keeper. |
| Prosecutor | I'm sorry, I don't follow? What has "being wicket keeper" got to do with this? |
| Pointers | Well, I thought that if I put the pads on straight away when we arrived, if we were fielding, I would say, "hey guys, I've got the pads on already – I guess I'm the wicky today!" |
| Prosecutor | But you were batting |
| Pointers | So... no point in taking them off then. |
| Prosecutor | And why did this confuse you? |
| Pointers | I had been wearing the pads for so long, I thought that it must be my turn so off I went |
| Prosecutor | Thank you Mr Pointer. I have no further questions and rest my case. |
| Clerk | I call the lawyer for the defence |
| Defence | I see no point in dragging this out. They are both guilty as hell and will suffer the appropriate punishment. However, I do want to mention some facts in mitigation. |
| Hardthrasher | I don't see that there is much that you could say to mitigate against these heinous crimes but off you go... |
| Defence | Thank you M'lud. My clients believed that their actions ensured that they would be "making a match of it", given the level of excellence of the team as a fielding and bowling side. They proved to be right with none of the bowlers going for more than 15 runs in their two overs. The most parsimonious having a mere 7 runs taken off their two overs. They also knew that Mr Winfield would dazzle with the ball, and he indeed took two wickets in the final over and was a whisker away from a hat-trick. Every single bowler showed their mettle and needed that impetus of a tight total to bring out the best in them. Mr Pagett himself, stood aside from bowling duties because he believed that this would help the team. The captain set field positions such that the opposition found it hard to score and the fielding was to the highest standard. Oh, and Mr Pointer took an exceptional catch behind the stumps and also ran someone out. Yes, they admit that their actions could have been seen as improper, but this was all for the greater good. Thank you M'lud. |
| Hardthrasher | Utter bollocks! I find both players guilty as charged and I sentence them to being fined mercilessly at the end of season do. Court dismissed! |



The jury and defendants after the verdict