

Christchurch Sat 1st Match Reports 2010

7th August vs BRANKSOME (Home)

On a fairly wet Saturday at Hurn Bridge, Ben Rayner's Barmy Army continued their topsy-turvy season with a comfortable victory over 2nd placed Branksome. Our resident umpire 'Sarge' asked for the covers to be placed on an abysmal track after the first over due to a downpour but twenty minutes later openers Tony 'Bengal' Robinson and Brett 'Psycho' Spicer got down to work. The two batted well in the drying conditions until Spicer departed to a superb catch at mid wicket for 28 leaving young gun Mikey Kitson to enter the fray with Mr Fruit and Barley himself. Kitson and Robinson put on a decent stand until Kitson was caught for 11 looking to go over the top. The portly Joe Malone entered at four and departed after one ball after being caught in close due to smelling the chips coming from the pavilion kitchen! James 'Bumchin' Dugan one day before his 18th birthday didn't last long either being bowled for 3 leaving Church in an uncomfortable position at drinks. Gareth 'I can wear a pink shirt out after De Zoete' Williams entered at number 6 and together with Robinson put on a stand of 45 before Robinson was caught to end the partnership with a well made 62 shortly followed by Williams for 22. In came Matt 'Gazza is my neighbour' Miller and Scott 'because i'm worth it' Kelly to increase the run rate and give the Badgers a total to defend. The two batted well but Kelly in particular benefited from pace being added to the ball and profited before being bowled for 36 which included three massive straight sixes. The returning Ben 'Barely Legal' Nethersole failed to trouble the scorers and Ben Rayner also went cheaply with his parents watching for the first time since school so it was left to evergreen John 'Teenwolf' Goodchild and Miller to finish off the innings. Unfortunately for Dusty, Fonzi outscored him leaving the Church 207/9 from 45 overs with Miller 4* and Goodchild 6* at the close. After tea, Mikey went to visit the Hurn facilities to bring most of it back up so Spicer and Robinson started the assault for 20 points. A fantastic opening spell accounted for the Branksome top order who after 15 overs were reeling at 26 for 6 after Spicer had ripped through the batsman's defences quicker than the floods could have in Pakistan. Kitson, Kelly and Dugan all entered and claimed valuable wickets with only the number 5 showing any resistance with his mother and aunt watching (Shame our Captain couldn't do the same with the bat!). Spicer claimed the last wicket with the visitors limping to 102 in the 37th over leaving the Church with twenty points and Mr and Mrs Rayner Senior wondering why they really did make the long trip down from Cumbria just to watch their little soldier bat for a few balls.

Gareth

Christchurch: Rayner (Capt), B Spicer, Robinson, Malone, Dugan, Williams, Miller, Kelly, Rayner, Nethersole, Goodchild.

31st July vs COMPTON HOUSE (Away)

The band of brothers continued on their merry way with a convincing win at strugglers Compton House far away on the Somerset/Dorset border. After three very quiet days in the beach resort of Newquay, the Badgers turned up fresh as daisies and ready for the match. Captain Ben 'Serious Drunk' Rayner won the toss and the Church elected to bat on a very small but picturesque

ground. Brett 'you lot didn't stay out long enough for me to pull' Spicer opened up with Tony 'The prowler' Robinson but unfortunately for Church this time Brett 'I didn't stay out long enough for us to get any runs on the board' Spicer departed early for 3 and Robinson LBW for 11 leaving Mikey Kitson and Joe 'Whale watcher' Malone at the crease to build a score for the visitors. Kitson batted extremely well for 58 and Malone continued his fine form from Friday's 4am hotel car park innings of 54* before being out for 45. Enter Captain 'Pepe' Rayner and Dusty 'I love bouncing' Miller who added valuable runs until both were out caught just into double figures. The Badgers were now looking as frail as one of John 'Bus Driver' Goodchild's internet love matches until James 'my dad makes me go to fix toilets when i'm on tour' Dugan and Gareth 'Happy drunk' Williams were at the crease. The two batted well in the latter overs until Dugan was run out even after producing a dive that Malone's new girlfriend 'Shamu' would have been proud of at Seaworld. Enter Scott 'Baldilocks and the three hairs' Kelly and together with Williams produced some extraordinary hitting to get Church into a commanding position and in the process losing 3 match balls into the cattle field next door of the female Trinidadian farmer with huge jugs in a knock of 36 and Williams perfectly placing a giant six onto the score box to Sue's fright ending 21 not out and Jake 'I'm 16 and in one of Newquay finest nightspots' Dear 3 not out at the close leaving Church 232/9.

After tea Spicer and Robinson opened the bowling and the Badgers slowly started to collect wickets. Kitson was introduced and bowled some immaculate out swing claiming two quick wickets with Grandad Goodchild claiming one at the other end. Jake 'I'm Ross Kemp and I can commando roll on any terrain' Dear fielded very well at gully and surely the Church took control. Part time off spinner James 'Gingerbeard' Dugan claimed 2 wickets and turned the ball square at times before Scott 'Silent drunk' Kelly finished off the Compton House tail with 4 fast wickets to skittle the home side for 156 inside 30 overs and give the Priory side maximum 20 points for the second consecutive week on top of all the memories from the Completely Duckered Newquay Tour 2010.

A special mention must also go to Joe's new love Hazel for travelling all the way from Northampton and rolling the pitch during the tea interval. We had the choice between the light roller (Joe himself) or the heavy roller (Hazel) who did a wonderful job in flattening the pitch. Thank You Hazel.

Gareth

Christchurch: Rayner (Capt), B Spicer, Robinson, Kitson, Malone, Miller, Dugan, Williams (Wkt), Kelly, Dear, Goodchild

24th July vs Hamworthy Recreation (Home)

On a lovely summers day at Hurn Bridge the match started in familiar fashion with league leaders Hamworthy winning the toss and subjecting the Church to their fifth consecutive run chase knowing that a win was vital after four consecutive defeats chasing a target. Stand in skipper Gareth 'Captain Cymru' Williams handed the gloves to LL Cool Jake Dear so he could concentrate on field placing and bowling changes. His first change was to re-introduce Brett Spicer and James 'Bumchin' Dugan as the opening attack due to Tiger Robinson being injured in a cat fight the previous night.

It was Spicer to make the massive breakthrough as big fish Chris Insall was caught and bowled without troubling Sue and her collection of coloured pens. This gave Church the impetus and more early wickets followed to Hamworthy's disgust with Dugan and Spicer collecting more of their top order for not many runs which was a very unusual situation as the visitors have lost very few wickets throughout the season due to their strong top order. Mikey 'Kit Kat' Kitson, John 'The Fonz' Goodchild and Scott 'Thumper' Kelly were then introduced with Church going in for the kill by placing Tom 'Trampy' Jeans at silly point to stink the batsman out. This worked a treat as more and more middle order batsman came to the crease looking nervous as they had not been needed for most of the season. With this in mind Williams introduced 'The Tramp' and this was rewarded with a stunning swirling catch from Dugan. The Captain also picked up a catch at mid on as did Bambi behind the stumps in a very good fielding display from the Badgers. Spicer took the last wicket in the 43rd over to leave Hamworthy 192 all out with the Church claiming maximum bowling points to the delight of the home support.

After tea a new opening partnership of Brett Spicer and Mikey Kitson aimed to chase down what we thought was a competitive total. Unfortunately for the visitors this was not the case as the Church cruised to the target score with ease and in the process silencing the hostile travelling support as well as some of their players who thought it was going to be a walkover. The only blip was Kitson playing a poor shot to be caught and Williams getting a shocking LBW decision from the Hamworthy umpire. Although this was to be a blessing in disguise as Mike Gatting lookalike Joe Malone entered the fray with Spicer to obliterate the away attack to all parts of Hurn Bridge in a blistering assault the British Army would have been proud of. Spicer departed for an outstanding knock of 79 and Malone 60 leaving the job to Dugan 14* and 'Dusty' Miller to bring the Badgers home and collect 20 points eventually ending on 193/4.

If Carlsberg did cricket matches.....

Gareth

Christchurch: Williams (Capt), B Spicer, Kitson, Malone, Dugan, Miller, Kelly, Robinson, Dear (Wkt), Goodchild, Jeans

17th July vs BLANDFORD (Away)

Another weekend, another toss lost and another run chasing defeat for the Christchurch Badgers. With only pride left to play for this season, Ben Rayner's Church went to Blandford with James 'Bumchin' Dugan replacing Matt 'Jack Sparrow' Miller in the only change.

After losing the toss and being put into the field, the Badgers produced another solid fielding and bowling performance which was set by Tony 'He's greeaaat' Robinson who claimed 2 for 17 off his twelve overs with his first four overs all being maidens. Unfortunately at the other end the spin king John 'Fonzi' Goodchild failed to stamp his mark and did not pick up any wickets. This after our resident umpire 'Sarge' had offered John a big boobed widow to take out on the town. Maybe his mind was elsewhere! Mikey Kitson was introduced into the attack and after being hit for a boundary soon claimed the wicket of their number 3 caught behind by Gareth 'I'm the only gay in the village' Williams. This was then followed up a few overs later in the same way

only this time the catch taken by Ben 'northern monkey' Rayner at gully. Jakey 'Ferret' Dear bowled one over for opening his big mouth at the wrong time and was carted around the ground after thinking he was Curtly Ambrose before Brett 'The Hitman' Spicer soon had the opposition batsman in trouble and bowled a terrific spell claiming a couple of wickets. 'Bob' Dugan cleared up the remains in a brilliant four wicket haul reducing the hosts to 193 all out after 44 overs. The only blip during this period was a 'dodgy' catch decision which was turned down by both umpires when the ball was clearly hit into the air and caught by 'Fat Boy not Slim' Joe Malone.

With a change at the top of the order hoping to freshen up a run chase the Badgers opened with LL Cool J Dear and Brett Spicer. This proved a solid if slow partnership as the score reached 60 before Spicer was caught in the 18th over. In strode Kitson at 3 and set about chasing down the target. Kitson batted well for 38 but Church lost wickets at crucial times firstly the endangered species of Tiger Robinson caught and soon after Myfanwy Dafydd Williams for 16. The rest of the Christchurch middle order also departed with what Matt Keech would consider 'sheepishly average shots' with only Rayner unlucky to be run out in another astonishing decision by the home umpire. Still with 40 odd runs to get and overs running out Dugan, Kelly and Malone were all caught leaving Goodchild and Tom 'Trampy' Jeans who had been pushed off his bench by three chavs earlier in the innings but did not sustain a life threatening injury to win the game for Church. Unfortunately, the pair did not last long together in the last few overs and with boundaries being protected by the home skipper, runs were hard to come by. Apart from a classic 'Sir Richard Hadlee' reverse sweep from Goodchild for a single and the odd wide from the off spinner the Badgers innings ended on 153 with Goodchild being the last man caught at long on resulting in another despairing defeat for the Church.

Gareth

Christchurch: Rayner (Capt), B Spicer, Dear, Kitson, Robinson, Williams (Wkt), Kelly, Dugan, Malone, Goodchild, Jeans

10th July SWANAGE (Home)

On a warm day at Hurn Bridge and after last weeks embarrassing defeat to Witchampton a Christchurch team containing just the one forced change of Jake Dear replacing James Dugan entertained Swanage.

Swanage's South African Captain Ian Booth won the toss and chose to bat after obviously reading last weeks match report and both openers batted steadily against an opening attack of Tony 'Tiger' Robinson and John 'Notorious OAP' Goodchild. Wickets were hard to come by on a crumbling pitch but scoring was slow so Church felt they were in with a good shout after 10 overs with Swanage 37 for 0. Gradually wickets started to fall with Goodchild picking up an LBW and a fantastic catch at slip as well as Robinson and Brett 'Sporty Spice' Spicer bowling well and also claiming wickets. The returning Scott Kelly replaced Goodchild and bowled productively with Gareth 'Myfanwy' Williams claiming a sharp stumping for a deserved scalp for Kelly. Mikey 'Hollywood' Kitson was unlucky not to pick up any from three overs with Tom 'Tramp' Jeans getting two important wickets

during the end of the innings with quality catches by Ben Rayner and Joe Malone. The Swanage innings closed on 200 which in the view of the Church players was a very achievable target.

The young guns of Jake 'Snoop Ferret' Dear and Mikey Kitson were sent out to open the innings after the regular Hurn Bridge tea and played well until Kitson was caught behind by Stevie Wonder for 8. Dear continued in defensive mode but hit a few lovely shots which led to boundaries until the 'Dawg' was out for 19. Captain Cumbria was still at the crease and with it the Church's chances looked good until an attacking stroke did not go to plan and Rayner was out caught for 16 and Sailor Boy Matt 'Dusty' Miller bowled for 4. The Tiger emerged from the jungle to take guard and display his prowess with the bat, playing some exciting attacking strokes with Spicer who was given LBW for 4. This brought the 'Welsh Dragon' Williams to the crease and together with Tiger who had had his early morning bowl of frosties set about chasing the score down with overs remaining. The Church looked good value for the run chase with the two batting extremely well and bringing the required run rate down until both departed to good catches in the deep for 29 leaving the Badgers a little nervous. The burly right hander Joe Malone entered the Lions den at number 9 after Scott Kelly was bowled for 12 with Church still needing thirty to win. Malone played some nice shots to the boundary and picked up some not so quick singles bringing the runs required down but Goodchild was bowled for 0 with 5 overs remaining leaving only the Tramp who had been lying on his nice new wooden bench most of the afternoon to finish the game with Malone and Church needing 15 for victory. A few tentative dot balls were played out and with Malone desperate to get on strike for the next over a quick single was needed. Both batsmen looked at each other, called yes and before we had chance to say 'Oh dear not again' the bails had been removed at the strikers end with Jeans clearly run out gifting Swanage the win and subjecting Christchurch to another run chasing defeat and leaving them with a 50% win record for the season.

Gareth

Christchurch: Rayner (Capt), Kitson, Dear, Robinson, Miller, Spicer, Williams (Wkt), Kelly, Malone, Goodchild, Jeans

3rd July WITCHAMPTON (Away)

On a lovely summers afternoon Christchurch travelled back in time to the picturesque village of Witchampton. With a strong team out and after last week's huge victory over fellow promotion chasers Bere Regis the camp was in understandably high spirits.

Captain Cumbria Ben Rayner lost another toss and was put into field just like in the corresponding fixture at Hurn Bridge that Christchurch tentatively won. The opening attack of Tony 'Tiger' Robinson and John 'The Fonz' Goodchild bowled superbly well on a firm green pitch due to an overnight spot of drizzle from the Dorset sky and had Witchampton reeling after only 16 overs.

Robinson bowling a delightful spell picking up 5 for 13 of which were the home sides top five batsmen and with Granddad rolling back the years at the other end, both put Church in a very commanding position at drinks. Wickets continued to tumble after the short interval with Brett 'The Hitman' Spicer doing exactly what his nickname suggests by fiercely hitting Witchampton's Dorset youngster continually with the short ball until he had had enough of hopping, diving and stepping on the square leg umpires toes by being clean bowled with middle stump being sent cartwheeling. The hosts were now 58/8 but Christchurch seemed to take their foot of the gas, allowing the tail end to spend time at the crease and pick the score up to something reasonably respectable for the home supporters. Finally the last wicket was achieved in the 41st over with Witchampton ending on a lowly 123 all out.

Confidence was high around the table at tea and with John 'Fonzi' Goodchild and Tom 'Trampy' Jeans polishing off about 8 of the meringues with strawberries and fresh cream because they believed they would not be needed to bat. The Church opened with Mikey 'I play for Dorset' Kitson and James 'I'm a worse fielder than my dad' Dugan. A solid start was needed on a difficult pitch but Dugan left a straight one on 0 and was clean bowled. This is where the day turned bad to worse for the Badgers as wickets were lost at regular intervals for not many runs. Rayner was caught attempting an attacking stroke for 9, Spicer LBW, Kitson caught at long on for a well made 42 and Matt 'Dusty' Miller bowled. These loss of wickets turned the game in Witchampton's favour but with Tiger Robinson and Gareth Williams at the crease victory was still in sight for Church. A good partnership between the pair set about redeeming the failures of previous but when the Church were starting to look comfortable Robinson was stupidly run out and Williams soon followed by playing too early at a shot and was caught at extra cover for 18. The job was still not done but as we keep saying the Church bat right the way down to number eleven. With only 9 runs needed for victory and with 5 wickets remaining victory was nearly upon us. Unfortunately what happened next can only be described as possibly one of the most shambolic and embarrassing moments of most of the Christchurch players careers. Joe Malone, Dean Spicer, John Goodchild and Tom Jeans all lost their wickets for just 4 runs and a dejected Christchurch left the field like a bunch of under 11 schoolboys having collapsed to 118 all out.

Gareth

Christchurch: Rayner (Capt), Dugan, Kitson, B Spicer, Robinson, Miller, Williams (Wkt), Malone, D Spicer, Goodchild, Jeans

26th June BERE REGIS (Home)

The Church were back to winning ways and what a good time to beat one of this season's most fierce rivals. Everything the Badgers did on the day they did to an exceptionally high standard and thoroughly deserved the victory. It was a day when everything clicked and if only these days could happen more frequently on a Saturday then there would be no reason as to why this Christchurch team could not hold their own in the Premier League.

Firstly the day got off to a flyer with Ben Rayner winning the toss (yes you hear me correctly) and out came Mikey Kitson and James Dugan with the sun beating down on them. Fortunately both were wearing helmets as they would have definitely burnt due to their 'ginger' hair and 'pasty' white skin. The runs started to flow with both youngsters having a field day against the Regis opening attack. This continued with the introduction of Captain Cumbria at number 3 who slotted the ball to all parts in an entertaining 42 before getting out. This gave the impetus for 'Tiger' Robinson and 'Boy Blue' Miller to get in on the act. This is exactly what they did. The weather dramatically changed and it started to rain sixes as Miller went on a rampage that even Derrick Bird or Jack the Ripper would have been proud of. 'Dusty' smashed the ball to all parts of Hurn Bridge in a blistering knock of 78 which really knocked the wind out of the Bere Regis sails (hope you like that Dusty, see what I did there!) and was ably supported by Robinson who finished with 75. The Christchurch middle order of Williams, Nethersole and Spicer also joined the party with quick cameos eventually leaving the Church on 277/9 at the halfway stage.

Out into the field and just like the batting everything went to plan. Every catch was taken including an exquisite one hander from Dean Spicer after dropping a complete Tom Hughes style dolly and a direct hit from brother Brett from the fine leg boundary to dismiss a Bere Regis batsman. Wickets were also coming through the flight and guile of John 'Gandalph' Goodchild and pace and accuracy of Robinson and Kitson. Eventually the game was wrapped up with the final Bere Regis batsman cowering near square leg after the pace of Brett Spicer almost made a large brown stain at the back of his white trousers. An easy win for the Church by 86 runs left the promotion chasers still in with a shout of Division One and the confidence to take on and demolish lowly Witchampton next week.

Gareth

Christchurch: Rayner (Capt), Kitson, Dugan, Robinson, B Spicer, Miller, Williams (Wkt), Malone, D Spicer, Nethersole, Goodchild.

19th June DORCHESTER (Away)

A defeat for weakened Christchurch team missing regular first team players such as Tony Robinson and Gareth Williams due to injury and illness but a chance for some of the clubs young superstars like Jake Dear to establish themselves in the first team squad.

Christchurch batting first set Dorchester a decent 211 for 4 with the show being stolen by Captain Fantastic SBJ Rayner with a magnificent 99 not out.

Unfortunately a very strong Dorchester side overcame an unusually weak bowling attack of the Badgers and managed to knock off the mandatory target with the loss of just three wickets.

With players returning to health and form next week the Church will look to bounce back with the visit of high flying rivals Bere Regis at Hurn Bridge.

Gareth

Christchurch: Rayner (Capt), Malone, Dear (Wkt), Dugan, B Spicer, Miller, D Spicer, Goodchild, Nethersole, Jeans, Harvey.

12th June WIMBORNE (Home)

Another saturday and another game at Hurn Bridge for the Christchurch Badgers to inflict serious misery on their opposition. This game will go down as a possible turning point in the Church's season. On a slow but firm pitch Christchurch skipper SBJ Rayner won the toss and again elected to bat first with a strong batting line-up.

Usual pairing Kitson and Robinson entered the arena and soon got into the opening attack until Kitson was out bowled. Robinson and Rayner then set about repairing the innings until both fell for good knocks. Brett Spicer played some lusty shots in a very short period of time at the crease and with positive running between the wickets and some average fielding from the visitors the Church slowly began to take control and look back to their best. Miller was adjudged caught behind very first ball after a wild swipe and Williams was bowled when trying to put a competitive total on the broken Hurn Bridge scoreboard and fairly soon Sue's colouring pens were in full working order with the scorebook looking like a rainbow page from the number of runs and wickets falling at frequent intervals. Eventually the Church ending on 196/7 off their allotted 45 overs.

Going out to field the Badgers responded well to captain Rayner's inspirational team talk and were soon on the front foot with early wickets falling to the dismay of the Wimborne support. Spicer, Goodchild and Robinson all in on the act with the Priory making inroads for another win. Wimborne then suddenly managed to respond to this aggressive bowling and attacking field placing as Christchurch aimed to go in for the kill like one of Tony Robinson's big cat friends. The more the Church attacked to try and kill their prey more runs were being leaked through boundaries and possibly Matt 'Dusty' Miller having his hands on back to front for the day after dollying an easy catch, therefore the introduction of Mikey 'Filmstar' Kitson aimed to stem the flow. Kitson bowled brilliantly in a spell that had every batsman outfoxed and also claimed a couple of important wickets that were now pushing the Badgers close to victory. With 8 overs remaining Wimborne still needed a good knock from one of their lower order to try and get them close. The game was gearing up for a thriller and as some of the seconds and thirds who had started gathering at the bar to watch the final few overs things were still evenly balanced. Another wicket for Church gave them the advantage then a few balls later a massive maximum over the trees swung the game back in favour of the visitors. The last over was nearing and Rayner made the

decision to stick with the so far brilliant all rounder Kitson with Wimborne needing five runs to win. The tail end batsman took a lucky single off the first ball to get the danger man on strike. Four dot balls later and the pressure was back on Wimborne. Kitson needed to bowl the last ball for less than a boundary to win the game. As the tension grew around Hurn Bridge a large flatulent burp reverberated around the ground from a now half cut Joe Malone who had been on the cider most of the day. Kitson then started his run up, bowls the ball just short of a length outside off stump and with both eyes closed and shoulders nearly coming out of their socket due to an almighty swipec, the Wimborne batsman clunks the ball off the outside edge down to third man for four and to win the game by 2 wickets for his team and succumb the Church to a miserly 5 points.

Gareth

Christchurch: Rayner (Capt), Robinson, Kitson, B Spicer, Dugan, Miller, Williams (Wkt), Nethersole, D Spicer, Kelly, Goodchild.

5th June BRANKSOME (Away)

On Epsom Derby day a full strength Christchurch side filled with a blend of youth and experience arrived at Branksome Recreation ground to realise that possibly our most unintelligent player James 'Sideshow Bob' Dugan had followed the wrong Audi from Hurn Bridge and was now somewhere near Sandbanks rather than in the urban area of Branksome. This kept the good team spirit and banter flowing from the start as Christchurch won the toss and unusually opted to field rather than bat first.

This decision was to be rewarded as wickets were picked up at regular intervals throughout the innings and good fielding pressurising the Branksome batsmen into false shots or poor ones. Mikey 'the team pro' Kitson was first to claim a prize with the snickometer saying yes after a regulation catch for Gareth 'Teflon hands' Williams. More followed with Kitson collecting another and Tiger Robinson, Sideshow Dugan and Brett 'Chicken Tikka' Spicer all accumulating numbers in the wickets column of Sue's outstandingly neat and accurate score book. Not to be outdone the evergreen John Goodchild also got in on the act claiming a few scalps of his own towards the end of the innings. The fielding and bowling was terrific for long periods but a small lapse in concentration let Branksome off the hook and eventually they were able to amass 147 all out which with the pitch playing up a bit looked a target that would need some dedication to achieving.

Regular openers Mikey 'Is there a Sky Sports camera watching me' Kitson and James Dugan set to work. Both played well before getting themselves out for what looked fairly cheaply by their high batting standards and ability. Overseas player Gareth Williams entered the fray at the fall of wicket one and played some nice shots before holing out for a disappointing 13. In came the middle order of Spicer, Robinson and Miller who collected useful runs and brought the runs required down to a match winning total for the Badgers. Unfortunately none managed to carry their bat as the pitch played havoc with shot selection and therefore it was left to Captain and man of the moment Ben

Rayner to steady what Dusty would describe in the job as 'a sinking ship' to steer his men home for another win. Rayner did this magnificently whilst under lots of pressure from a bowling attack that were starting to get on top and with young Dean Spicer finished the job off to give his beloved club another 20 point win ending on 151/8.

Christchurch: Rayner (Capt), Kitson, Dugan, Williams (Wkt), Robinson, B Spicer, Miller, Kelly, Nethersole, D Spicer, Goodchild.

29th May COMPTON HOUSE (Away)

Unfortunately this match was called off due to the Met Office being correct for once as torrential rain swept across Dorset.

Possibly the only toss that Captain Ben Rayner would have won as well.

22nd May HAMWORTHY RECREATION (Away)

On a beautiful day in Dorset, Christchurch travelled the short distance to play table toppers Hamworthy in what was described by one worldwide cricket magazine as 'Clash of the Titans'.

In wonderful surroundings and with a tremendous atmosphere due to there being a wedding inside the clubhouse pavilion with lots of single ladies for Abercrombie and Fitch model Tom Jeans to try to chat up, Christchurch skipper Ben Rayner won the toss and elected to bat, therefore giving Jeano at least 2 and a half hours to try at least get some phone numbers or even better a quickie in the changing rooms.

Mikey Kitson and Tiger Robinson opened for the Badgers against one of Gareth Williams' cricketing disciples from Poole High School young off spinner Jack Satterley. Kitson played some very nice attacking drives early on and was rewarded on a very fast outfield before Satterley took his wicket caught at point by Chris Insall of CJI Cricket. Rayner then came to the crease and with Robinson the pair put together a decent partnership before both falling to poor shot selection after some tight bowling from the hosts. Brett Spicer looked in good touch and confident mood throughout his innings and played some very neat and delicate shots to all parts of the ground in scorching heat. He was joined by Williams during the middle overs with Church aiming to get a good total on the board. Williams played well until he tried repeating consecutive on drives and was bowled for 10 to which a very excited and psyched up bowler gave him the finger and a few pleasantries were exchanged between the two. One commentator described it as a 'massive wicket for Hamworthy' and with that big hitter Scott Kelly came into bat. Kelly made a few lusty blows before being snared. The tail end for Church chipped in with some valuable runs until Tom Jeans who had failed to pull any of the wedding goers was bowled by his uncle at the end of the innings leaving the Badgers 174 all out.

After a pleasant tea interval and some flirting between John 'The Wizard' Goodchild and some of the more 'experienced' wedding party (apparently one lady was born in 1876 which makes her three years younger than John) Christchurch went out to field knowing that only half a job was done. Very first ball Brett Spicer viscosly pitched one back of a length which was gloved by Insall to first slip where 'horny' John just failed to claim the catch after a full length dive. This was as close to claiming the prize wicket as Church could have come and once Insall has settled he took apart some buffet bowling from the Priory side ending not out and seeing his side home for the loss of just one wicket. This wicket coming from a superb catch by James Dugan at third man (it should have been simple but for the fact that James wasn't even facing the field of play when the ball was coming to him as he was too busy looking up some blonde's skirt on the bank at the time) was all Church had to enjoy. Eventually Hamworthy finished on 176 for 1 claiming 20 points and Christchurch just 5.

Gareth

Christchurch: Rayner (Capt), Robinson, Kitson, B Spicer, Dugan, Williams (Wkt), Kelly, Miller, D Spicer, Goodchild, Jeans.

Blandford 15th May. Home.

The third match of the season brought Ben Rayner a successful toss and the Church went out to bat on a decent looking Hurn track with Tony Robinson and Mikey Kitson. The Blandford opening attack was the best the Church had faced this season and runs were hard to come by in the early stages although both openers rode the storm and battled through picking up singles and the odd boundary until Robinson departed for 21 to Baker's very first ball. In at 3 strode Ben Rayner who failed to continue his good form and departed soon after holing out to long off for 9 as well as losing Kitson caught at slip for a season best 24. With Brett Spicer and James Dugan at the crease the Church were looking to push the score on during the middle overs but unfortunately some poor shot selection and good Blandford fielding led to the downfall of Spicer for 12 and Matt Miller for 10 with Dugan still at the other end. After 33 overs the Church were 126/5 and with the instructions to push the score on Gareth Williams making his first appearance with the bat came to the crease to partner Dugan. Together they took some quick singles and hit the odd boundary off every over and were looking set against the Blandford attack until Dugan skied one and was caught for 29 with the score on 186. Williams and the ever dangerous Scott Kelly continued to punish the bad ball and increased the run rate for Church who were finishing the stronger team. Kelly after hitting a quick fire 30 was bowled by Tallant which brought Ben Nethersole to the middle. First ball was dispatched for a boundary then two balls later Nethersole smashed a huge six towards the Indoor Centre before being caught for 14. Dean Spicer was run out very next ball leaving Williams facing the last ball of the innings with John Goodchild at the non strikers end.

Williams took a single off it ending on 44 not out and Church 223/9 after 45 overs.

Brett Spicer and James Dugan opened the bowling with accuracy and pace but were unlucky not to pick up more than the one wicket which went LBW to Dugan. Changes were made by Captain Rayner who introduced Goodchild and Kelly into the attack and this decision was rewarded with Kelly claiming two wickets in one over, one of which a superb one handed catch at mid wicket by Dean Spicer and Goodchild picking up his customary victim clean bowled. Blandford then took the attack to Church and looked value for victory due to keeping up with the run rate until Robinson and Brett Spicer were introduced with around ten overs remaining. This change of pace seemed to give Church the advantage in a very evenly fought contest as Spicer ripped through the defences of three batsmen and Robinson two leaving Church needing one wicket and Blandford 21 runs off the final over. Very first ball Spicer sent middle stump tumbling, giving Church 20 points and a third consecutive win.

Gareth

Christchurch: Rayner (Capt), Robinson, Kitson, B Spicer, Dugan, Miller, Williams (Wkt), Kelly, Nethersole, D Spicer, Goodchild.

Man of Match: Brett Spicer (4 for 36 and excellent in the field)

Snake Award: Ben Rayner – During the warm up Jake Dear's ferret (it's actually a pheasant) decided to come onto the field. Ben thought he could catch the bird so went to seal the deal. Unfortunately the bird spotted him coming and the two were locked in what could be described as a Wild West standoff until Ben made his move to catch it. The bird ran left so did Ben, the right as did Ben to what looked like an aerobic exercise with no music! And then flew off back to the forest. Hilarious viewing if only we had a video camera!

We were going to give the award to the pheasant but we could not guarantee the Snake's safety until next week so gave it to Ben instead!

Swanage 8th May. Away.

In wet and windy conditions a strong Christchurch team travelled to Swanage for Ben Rayner to probably lose another toss! This was not the case and the Church went into bat with regular pairing Tony Robinson and Mikey Kitson. Robinson looked at ease from the very first ball on a skiddy surface but the same could not be said for Kitson who was bowled by a full ball in the second over without troubling the scorers. In came captain Ben Rayner and with Robinson they steadied the ship whilst keeping the run rate at over 4 an over before Rayner was done LBW by Swanage Captain Booth for a well made 19. This brought Brett Spicer to the crease where he set about some poor bowling and defensive cricket from the home team to race to 38 before holing out to Booth. Church were looking good value to post a big score after 27 overs with 153 on the board. James Dugan joined Robinson at the crease and after a shaky start batted superbly with a well timed innings eventually ending on 65*. The loss of Robinson, unluckily given out LBW for 76 and a short rain delay still proved little in the way of success for the Swanage bowlers as Scott Kelly returned to the crease for the first time this season capable of pushing the

score well over 220. This was the case as he and Dugan set about the bowling with power and accuracy eventually leaving the Church on 272/4 after 45 overs with Kelly 31* and other batsmen Miller, Williams, Dear, Spicer and Goodchild holed up with a cup of Bovril in the pavilion not needed for a second consecutive week.

After a short tea interval and with weather and light deteriorating, Duckworth-Lewis came into play with Swanage chasing a revised score of 261 for victory. Opening bowlers Robinson and Brett Spicer set about the task in hand bowling with good rhythm and accuracy without taking any wickets before being replaced by Dugan and Kitson. Dugan was able to collect the wicket of danger man Booth for 16 and from there on victory was in sight with Swanage shutting up shop. Dean Spicer replaced Kitson and did not take a wicket with a very slippery ball and Kelly bowling tightly at the opposite end finishing with figures of 9.0.30.2. Into the attack returned 'The Fonz' as he has now been christened by our resident Umpire. John Goodchild cleaning up the Swanage tail with some wizardry claiming 5 wickets for 26 runs in 5.2 overs leaving Swanage 86 runs behind and giving Church maximum 20 points. Next week the Church entertain Blandford at Hurn Bridge where, with more returning players and hopefully better weather conditions we will look to achieve maximum points. **Gareth**

Christchurch: Rayner (Capt), Robinson, Kitson, B Spicer, Dugan, Kelly, Miller, Williams, Dear (Wkt), D Spicer, Goodchild

Man of Match: John 'The Fonz' Goodchild

The 'New' Snake Award: *Dean Spicer* – In wet and windy conditions, young Dean made the sensible decision to put on a raincoat, unfortunately he put his 'Faux' Leather jacket on upside down to which Dusty commented – mate it might be easier if you had it on the right way up then it will keep you dry!

Witchampton 1st May. Home.

First game of the season and the first toss lost by Ben Rayner (some things never change) we were put into the field. James Dugan opened the innings, bowling sharp and finding extra bounce leaving their opening batsman on the floor after ball three before getting his man shortly after. Debutant Brett Spicer worked in tandem with Dugan and eased into his spell after a nervy start. Spicer picked up three wickets and Dugan two before Tony Robinson and Mikey Kitson were introduced. Robinson claimed two wickets and Kitson unlucky not to collect any with a tight few overs leaving the batsmen in constant trouble. Spin was introduced in the form of Dean Spicer who bowled well to claim two wickets and the wily old fox John Goodchild at the other end unusually failing to pick up any. Wickets were falling at constant intervals so Ben Nethersole was introduced to the attack, unfortunately five no balls and nineteen runs later the Witchampton batsman lost patience with Nevers and skied one to Ben Rayner for a simple catch. The innings was wrapped up with a good catch from Matt Miller in his first game for the club leaving Witchampton 156 all out.

Regular pairing Tony Robinson and Mikey Kitson opened the batting and raced to 21 in two overs before Robinson mistimed his shot and departed for 18. Ben Rayner deputising at number three batted extremely well in poor light for 32 and Kitson doing well holding up an end before being caught for 5. Brett

Spicer and James Dugan steadied the innings and brought the runs required down into double figures before both playing uncharacteristic shots and getting out. This left the middle order of Ben Nethersole and Matt Miller to chase a relatively simple target. Nevers gave a few lusty blows before being given out LBW but Miller playing a steady innings was left to finish the job with firstly Jake Dear and then Dean Spicer. Spicer hitting the winning runs with a boundary and Miller ending up 20 not out and claiming the man of the match award leaving Christchurch 157/7 at the close of play and leaving tail enders Gareth Williams and John Goodchild not needed to bat.

Overall the standards throughout the team were very high all through the day in all aspects and this must continue for the rest of the season. We now have a squad capable of achieving great things but we must not rest on our laurels and work extremely hard to obtain success in Division 2 starting with next week's game away at Swanage.

Gareth

Christchurch: Rayner (Capt), Robinson, Kitson, B Spicer, Dugan, Nethersole, Miller, Dear (Wkt), D Spicer, Williams, Goodchild

Man of Match: Matt Miller

Badger Award: *John Goodchild* – Claiming a catch at slip off Mikey's bowling, and then shouting 'I don't drop them, hands like buckets you see', running off to celebrate and still not realising it was a No Ball even though everyone else at Hurn Bridge heard the Umpire's call.

Paul Spicer – Going to retrieve a ball that had rolled down the bank next to the cricket centre, slipping on the wet grass and going front first down the bank and ending up lying next to the ball.