

## Christchurch Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Match Reports 2010

### Branksome, 25<sup>th</sup> July. Away

I woke up Sunday morning to what was one of the worst Hangovers I've had since July 1997 when we handed back the Sovereignty of Hong Kong to China.

My memory was a blank with bits of a BBQ, some Pool, Jesus stickers?, a tramp, Super Mario and what seemed to be a game where we lit candles and floated them into the neighbours dry hedges in the middle of a drought. I assume nothing got burnt down, but I must compliment Matt and his lovely partner Dave on the superb quality of their sofa bed.

So I was walking with Dusty from the square to get a quality Juice drink from the local shop when my phone rang. It was Mr. Thomas, probably confirming he was on his way. On his way indeed but unfortunately for me a few of her Majesty's staff decided he would take a look at an area that benefits from some of his taxes. This meant I was one short, but due to maths being my weak subject, my begging of Steve to play the night before meant that I had 12, which with the loss of Gareth meant I now had 11! Great I need not drop anyone!

Anyway Wallisdown Rec was its true radiant self with a firm hard pitch and an outfield smoother than organic Smoothie.

I lost the toss and after a brief pause I was informed that I would be out, standing in the field for the next few hours. Outstanding was not the word I would have used to describe the next 3 hours which took Branksome to 236-4 in their 45 overs with Brett Custard the pick of the bowlers with 12 overs, 1 for 33. John Goodchild toiled away like a witch in a caldron but could have been helped by James Dugan who if he was as Alert as he was Unalert would have had two catches close in.

After tea I sent in Brett Spicer and Jacob Dear to start what seemed like climbing Kilimanjaro with Buttons on your back, however with Brett in devastating Form we had a chance.

Dear(7), Dugan (9) and Miller(4) fell before Custard (29) Dean Spicer (20) provided excellent support but when Brett Spicer fell for an excellent 74 with the score on 167 with that our chance faded.

We were all out for 181 which means we remain 4th with the weaker sides to play.

Next week the Tigers host league leaders Shillingstone but before that we have the little matter of the tour!!

Tiger

### **Winton Sports, 4<sup>th</sup> July. Home.**

With the pressure on the Hurn Barometer dropping to a cool 6.2, Wintons top two batsmen played well until the number 2 was well caught by Gareth Thomas for only 4. Next came a partnership of 182 by J.Beck and B Alam who thankfully were both bowled on 92. I did take a ball on the knee cap at mid on which to the amusement of everyone on the ground, seemed to speed the ball up rather than slow it down, but left me pretty sore for the remainder of the afternoon.

It was hard work getting these two batsmen out but after being 198 for 1 Winton collapsed faster than the Twin towers to be bowled out for 262 with ;

James Dugan 6 overs 4 wickets for 24

Mikey Kitson 5.2 overs 3 for 21

Dean Spicer 9 overs 2 for 49

After an average tea spruced up with the ever present chips Christchurch started well until Jacob Deer chipped one up to midwicket to make it 25 for the first wicket.

Gareth Thomas hit a quick fire 17 and Brett Spicer made 22 before both being undone to an attacking stroke.

Mikey Kitson looked positive in reaching 30 before skying a catch to midwicket.

George Harvey (15) batted with increased maturity and was joined by Tony Robinson (20\*) but The Tigers were all out for 144 in 35 overs ending our 4 match winning streak.

Thanks to all the players who helped pull the game back on what was a very fast and dry outfield.

Next week Poole Town Away on world cup final day

Tiger

### **Ashmore, 20<sup>th</sup> June. Away.**

The Tigers arrived before the opposition on a brilliantly beautiful sunday afternoon at the picturesque village of Ashmore in North Dorset.

We mingled and swapped jokes in the middle and the atmosphere felt to me like the old sunday team. Everyone was relaxed smiling and I wasn't on the phone to John Dugan asking him to bring his whites because we were short!

I won the toss and to the bemusement of their skipper I chose to bat. I opened this week with Gareth Thomas and James Dugan. Unfortunately Gareth skied the 4th ball of the first over and was out for a duck.

This brought in Ben Rayner who was fresh from a 99 not out the day before. Ben carried on where he left off from saturday by smashing 35, before he too

was out chipping to mid off.

As Ashmore were celebrating out strode Brett Spicer who played cautiously with the odd lusty blow into the field that a lonely tractor was cutting for what seemed like the whole afternoon.

Spicer and Mikey Kitson put on a good partnership of 125 before Kitson was run out with the only straight throw that they could manage. This just stirred Spicer on who hit 27 off one over to finish on a fantastic 126.

Christchurch Tigers finishing on 295 for 7 on what was a tricky batting pitch.

Ashmore started thinking that they had a chance of chasing this target but George Harvey (1-30) changed all this getting their opener well caught by Brett Custard for a duck.

John Goodchild (3-17) ripped the top order out but it was James Dugan who stole the show with 5 overs 5 wickets for only three runs. Ashmore were all out for 53 and we were back to catch the end of the 2nds game.

I just need to add that Jake Dear hit his first every 6 in a mens game!

Tiger

### **Bradford Abbas, 13<sup>th</sup> June. Home.**

An Overcast Nitrogen enriched atmosphere emerged as Bradford Abbas entered the Tigers Den that was once Hurn Bridge.

I won the toss ( or rather they lost it) and I chose to bat against what was a very young opposition.

Messers Thomas and Goodchild opened up against a left arm seamer who was like a bag of allsorts on a bad day.

Gareth was out in the 10th over for 39 ( although he missed out on a lot of boundaries because he just didn't know where the next ball would come) which enabled top scorer Spicer to join Goodchild t carry on the thrashing.

Spicer and goodchild soon fell for 21 and 8 respectively which brought in the clubs present season underachiever MIKEY KITSON.

Kitson chose today to blast himself back into form smashing sixes and four's in between jogging singles to get back on strike.

Kitson finally fell on 138 with 19 4's and 2 6's meaning 87 of his runs came in boundaries.

The Tigers clawing their way to 295.

Bradford abbas were soon 3 down thanks to Kitson 7 overs 3 wickets for 8 runs, but he was overshadowed by the king of spin Dean Spicer who bowled only 8 overs but took 6 wickets for 27 but 20 of them were off the 1st two overs.

Bradford abbas all out for 82 so 20 points and the Tigers go pacing on.

Bowlers not used

Brett Spicer  
John Goodchild  
Tony Robinson  
Ian King

### **Shillingstone, 30<sup>th</sup> May. Away**

The second bank holiday weekend of the cricket season saw half my original side drop quicker than a John Terrys pants.

An understreghed but enthusiastic side navigated ourselves to the picturesque village of Shillingstone in Rural Dorsetshire.

Upon losing the toss Shillingstone decided to bowl first and made it very difficult for our top order. Credit to Shillingstones bowlers they knew how to bowl on their pitch.

John Goodchild played an important anchor innings whilst Brett Spicer effortlessly eased himself to 76 before being given out LBW with the score on 88 in th 26th over.

We managed to get up to 160 with D spicer 19, T robinson 15 and extras 13 being the next top scorers.

After a home cooked tea we started well and had shillingstone rocking on 30 - 2 off 18 overs with Robinson and Brett Spicer giving nothing away. Unfortunately the next 15 overs went for 130 so Shillingstone eased home with 4 wickets lost. John goodchild picking up 2 catches.

Many thanks go to Darren Campbell, Ed Dallymore, Steve Donaldson and John Dugan for stepping in at the 11th hour.

Also Neville for scoring and Paul Spicer for umpiring.

Marnhall at home next week

### **Branksome, 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Home**

It was a lovely day at a lovely ground when Vice Captain James Dugan won the toss and chose to bat.

It was about 2:15 with Gareth Thomas already on 40\* when i had realised that we only had 10 players as one of my team hadn't turned up. Luckily as I was pondering through my phone book Gareth continued his way to 71 in 16 overs with the score on 129. Gareth's innings included 11 singles, 1 six and the rest 4's!

James Dugan scored a brisk 50 although I can only compare his innings to when you drive, get to your destination but can't recollect how you got there. He just had 50 but nobody could remember him hitting a ball! A sign of a good player I guess!

On to messers Spicer and Spicer. Brett Smashed the ball everywhere and was caught in the last over for an unlucky 98. Whilst the only thing Dean managed to smash was the ball... but unfortunately for Dean it was straight into his knee. This caused Dean to have to retire hurt. The next batsman in was John Goodchild who managed a Usain Bolt style 22 before Christchurch closed the innings on 309 for 5 with Robinson, Harvey and Saunders not needing to take to the crease.

Tea was nice today as we even had pasties for the second day running!

A bit of bad luck happened when Gareth Thomas tore his hamstring so I had 9 cricketers when Kieran's friend kindly filled in leaving us with 10 fielders on a very fast outfield.

Branksomes innings started well with 5 wides off the first ball and then another wide followed by 4 4's. So 24 off the first over was about 24 more than I had hoped for if I'm being honest which of course, I am.

Branksome looked very good for chasing down our score as they were 220 for 3 off of only 31 overs until I put Dean Spicer onto bowl. Dean took 4 wickets for 28 runs from 9 overs with over half these runs coming in one over.

At the Other end I brought myself on and I finished with 7.3 overs 3 for 25. John Goodchild finished them off with 2 for 23 from 5. We won by 23 runs with nearly 600 runs scored in the day.

next week Shillinstone away.....

T. Robinson