

## Sunday Captain's Report 2021

Firstly, a thank you for all the people that have made this season possible. It's said each year on these reports but with the added issues due to Covid, there has been a monumental effort behind the scenes to get not just the games on but the club back on track from a difficult few seasons. So, a big shout out to Jim, and those who gave up their time to get wickets prepped, cut, marked, rolled and the million other jobs needed to get the ground ready. The committee who has helped support and provide the structure for us to turn up and, attempt, to hit a ball around a field also deserve praise. The ability to adapt to constant changes and keep the club marching on is impressive considering the number of teams that have folded throughout Wiltshire.

It is with some sadness that this will be my last season as skipper, with that minor inconvenience of parenting, I cannot put the time and effort needed to properly lead a team on a Sunday.

The 2021 season started as well as any season; with Rob beating up yet another hedge after being dismissed first ball by Sean in our inter club warm up for the second year in a row. (And yes Rob, you will be opening against him next season)

I'm not going to recite the whole season, however our first game against Thruxton typified our season. We restricted them to a competitive 144, with a large number of our youth players chipping-in with impressive figures, and held together by some old farts - I mean - seasoned professionals. Unfortunately, our batting didn't live up to our bowling, but a promising start none the less.

There were some notable contributions throughout the season, I've picked out a few that have stood out:

- Jimmy Brett hit his maiden 50 against Inkpen. A distinctly hot day with the majority of the runs scored in twos... Thanks Jimmy.
- Rob hitting a well-played 50 in the President's game.
- Luke bottling a 5-wicket haul against Avon Valley ending with an impressive 4-35.
- Aaron Hitchmough hitting 104\* vs Shrewton.
- 3/19 from 3.3 overs for Ash McGuire vs VFH.
- Paul playing his first game for Collingbourne with a valiant Not Out.
- We did win a game!

In addition to the really impressive efforts from our players on the field, there has also been some... interesting efforts too. Some key moments in the season that I feel need to be recorded for prosperity, although looking at them I've realised a common theme:

- Jimmy Brett deciding to omit using his wicketkeeping gloves and use his teeth instead.
- Mark Brett hiding under, around and beside the bench as Jimmy approached his 50.
- Jimmy Brett hitting a marvellous 100-ball 9... yes 9!
- Mark for conning a poor child out of his wicket after feigning injury.

At the beginning of the season we hit a bad spell of weather and 4 out of our 5 games were cancelled. We moved inside and managed to pull 12 player each time, sometimes with players who were not in the original outdoor team. For me it shows that there is a real love for the club, the game and the friends we have made along the way.

For me, I'm really proud that we have played all our games with the highest spirit possible and everyone has left the field having played a part in the game. Yes, we did suffer a "few" defeats this season, but we were competitive in almost all of them and everyone went to the pub afterwards, and that's Sunday cricket.

Many thanks

Tom