

## **Sunday 2XI 2015 Season Report**

Played: 8    Won: 5    Lost: 3

2015 marked my first season as Sunday 2XI captain, which turned out to be quite successful despite a lack of available players. This however allowed plenty of juniors to make the first step up to senior cricket with all performing well and contributing to the performances throughout the season. The season started brightly with four wins on the bounce but results suffered as players became unavailable which also unfortunately resulted in the cancellation of a couple of fixtures, hopefully we can improve on this next year and field a side every week.

The first game of the season was an early away trip to Middleton almost a warm up game for the sides before the competitive season began. Findon ran out winners chasing 183 with two balls remaining in a tight encounter as Ross Ball hit the winning runs with a boundary from his first ball faced. A quick fire 57 from Cam Young supported by an unbeaten 41 from Harry Metters ensured an impressive victory.

Next up was an encounter with The Greys from Brighton, Findon elected to bat first and posted an unconvincing 124 a.o, which was largely due to the 56 scored by Sunday 2's stalwart and run machine Jon Flower. However, an impressive display with the ball, notably that of debutant Charlie Haines (4-12) who put on an exhibition of swing bowling led to the visiting side being dismissed for 75 and the horses picking up a good win.

Findon then played host to a young East Preston side, again winning the toss we were to bat first and post an impressive 190-7 from our allotted 35 overs. An impressive 71 from Alex Caughlin supported by an unbeaten 48 from Rob Whittington the main contributions. Wickets for Joe Childs (3-18), Charlie Haines (2-17), and the effective part time off spin of captain Carrig Connolly (4-26) completed another strong bowling display as the visitors were bowled out for 151.

Fourth game of the season saw Findon host Boxgrove, again winning the toss and batting first posting 160-8 from their 40 overs with Rob Whittington the only notable scorer with another unbeaten knock, this time of 60. Rob stole the show with the ball as well (3-18) ensuring he got his monies worth for the days play. Sophie Whittington also bowled well (1-16) in her first senior game, however special mention should go to Oli Dengate for bowling the final over of the game picking up a wicket and ensuring Findon won the match as the visitors could only reach 159-6 falling two runs short.

Findon hosted Isfield CC next posting a good 187-7 with the bat, the main contributors being Gun Cup holder Jon Flower hitting a patient 85\* and Sam Dunkley a rather not so patient 32. However the side was not able to defend their total as Isfield reached the target in 25 overs due to an impressive unbeaten 119 from the opening batsman, resulting in the team's first defeat of the season.

Next up was an away fixture at Arundel that saw Findon bowl first with their opponents finishing up on 265-7 from their 40 overs. Both Curtis Howell (3-33) and Carrig Connolly (3-60), the pick of the bowlers on a pitch that could only have been described as a batsmen's paradise. Findon started the chase well with openers Howell and James Henman hitting 80 and 109 respectively, Henman's hundredth run in his maiden century came as he was dropped on the boundary at deep square leg. Harvey Keffert (16\*) and Connolly (27\*) completed the victory with two overs to spare as Findon finished 268-5.

The seventh game of the season saw Findon host Pathfinder with Curtis Howell stepping in to captain in my absence. The horses posted 201-9 from their 40 overs with run shared between Jon Flower (52), Harry Metters (46), James Henman (32) and Howell (21\*). Unfortunately we were unable to defend our total as the opposition finished 202-6 with ten balls left to spare.

The final game of the season at home to Brighton and Hove crescent again saw Howell captain the side to a loss as Findon posted 224-4 from their allotted overs. Again the in form Jon Flower contributing with 69\* supported by performances from James Harrison (65) and James Henman (44). Henman also bowled well (3-10) supported by Harvey Keffert (2-11) as Findon were not able to avoid defeat, the opposition reaching 226-8 with four overs to spare.

All in all it was a fairly successful first season in charge for myself but I could not have done it without the support of many others. Thank you to Paul Judges for helping week in week out to put sides out for

these fixtures, albeit with plenty of struggle! Also to Karen Whittington for scoring whenever possible I'm sure this report would be far less detailed without your assistance! Thank you also to Doug Newens who umpired for the side throughout the season and even provided a spare set of shillings for those of us umpiring at the other end. Thank you to everyone who prepared a tea or helped with any of the tasks on a matchday. Also to Curtis Howell for captaining in my absence and ensuring the team was organised and able to play. And finally thank you to all the players who were able to come along and play each week or even fill in at the last minute, it was a struggle throughout the year but without you none of these games would have gone ahead. Unfortunately I will not be able to carry on captaining the side next season but will still no doubt be attempting to register any score above 0 on every Sunday possible next year. I hope someone is able to take over the captaincy next season and wish whoever that be the best of luck.