

Village cricket

Match report Loxwood v's Abinger Hammer

It's a real treat playing at idyllic Abinger Hammer on a sweltering Sunday afternoon. Hoards of children splashed happily in the brook at the North end of the sloping ground whilst parents enjoyed a post picnic snooze. Loxwood's openers hardly interrupted their own Sunday afternoon snooze and were both back in the pavilion before the second over was complete. Fortunately, batting depth proved handy and the recovery was achieved through a series of fifty partnerships. Macdonald (22), Russell (54) and Jefferies (49) all batted with composure before Wiltshire (33) and Dudman (21*) accelerated to a tea time total of 215 for 8 declared. For Abinger, Torode got the recipe right and finished with 3 for 53. Hughes' tidy first spell of 2/33 in 9 overs was somewhat spoiled by a final two overs that left him with 2/60. The Aylings and Smith shared the remaining wickets.

After tea Abinger found the going tough as Loxwood bowled and fielded tightly. Jones (20), Dunn (34*) and Van Pelt (35) all batted well, mixing defence with occasional lusty blows. Of the Loxwood bowlers, Brunning made the most of the humid conditions and hard pitch, taking 4/27 in 12 parsimonious overs bowled in a single stint up the hill. Despite trying 10 different bowlers, Loxwood couldn't breach the remaining defences, and Abinger finished on 148/5. Lane was unlucky to finish with only 1/4 off 3 overs. An enjoyable and competitive match was rounded off with a welcome glass of something cold. Loxwood welcomes new players – call Adrian Dudman 07772079352.