

Village cricket

Match report Ebernoe v's Loxwood

On a cloudless, warm autumn afternoon Ebernoe hosted Loxwood at their picturesque and quirky ground. Loxwood were put in on a greenish wicket, and were soon in trouble. Hawkes bowled with a good degree of vim, using his height and late in-swing to good effect. At the other end, Rose bowled skiddy away swing and between them they had soon reduced Loxwood to a desultory 30 for 5. Not for the first time this season, Loxwood's batting depth came to the rescue. On this occasion, Matt Russell managed to leave his new lady friend long enough to share in a partnership of 80 with Ollie Melcio. Russell was first out for an aggressive 40 and Melcio followed soon after for a well played 50. Dudman and Brunning have proved more than useful at the end of the innings this season, and on this occasion they used up the remaining overs before tea to add a valuable 40 more runs, taking the total to 168 all out. For Ebernoe, Hawkes finished with 3/30 off 10 overs, Rose took 2 for 15 from 6 overs and Boxall's accuracy earned him 2/34 off 9 overs.

After tea, Ebernoe were soon in trouble. Steve Brunning tested Ebernoe's forward defence for 8 precision overs that cost a mere 15 runs and yielded two wickets. At the other end Ben Dean was a revelation. In a tea-fuelled frenzy he bowled with pace and accuracy to finish with 5/25 in 8 overs - his best figures in many years. Jefferies finished off the tail with 2/5 to provide Loxwood with an 88 run victory. For Ebernoe, Clark batted with resolution to score 31, and Hawkes looked briefly threatening in compiling his 15.

A few pints at the Stag's Head rounded off a great last day of the season for both teams. Ben Dean forgot to buy a jug. Nevermind, we'll get him next time – roll on 2015.

Loxwood welcomes new players – call Adrian Dudman 07772079352.