

Village cricket

Match report Loxwood v's Kirdford

Loxwood batted first against a depleted Kirdford and in a continuous light drizzle contrived to throw away wickets with gay abandon. Of the top order, only Holmes managed to bat with any composure (28) as Loxwood collapsed to 81/8. However, Loxwood's batting extends right down the order and skipper Dudman (63*) and Brunning (51) played themselves in before accelerating to a club record 9th wicket partnership of 134 and a total of 215/9. For Kirdford, the architects of the early collapse were Thomas (4/47) and Upton (2/8). Sheppard ended with 2/73 after the tail tucked in.

After a glorious tea, a depleted Kirdford line up began an exercise in survival. Gravenstede and Fletcher resisted early on, before skipper Bryder (21) and Sheppard (47*) absorbed the pressure and steered Kirdford towards a draw. John Upton won't mind being described as a proper tailender, but he frustrated Loxwood by keeping out two very probing overs from Brunning, who finished a fine all round performance with 4/27. The nine men of Kirdford had held off the might of Loxwood, finishing on 119/7.

Loxwood welcomes new players – call Adrian Dudman 07772079352.