

## Village cricket

### Match report Loxwood v's Southwater

Home side Loxwood lost the toss and fielded first against Southwater in a 35 over match. At this time of year uncovered village pitches are at their best, and the Loxwood groundsmen are to be congratulated on a real belter that had pace and carry. The batsmen enjoyed playing the ball coming onto the bat, and the bowlers salivated at the odd one that in true village style leapt alarmingly off a good length.

Jefferies, who bowled with accuracy and pace, beat the bat regularly. He was rewarded twice with the spectacle of flattened stumps and finished with 2 for 18 off 7 excellent overs. Young and Drew put together a well measured partnership, but shortly after seeing off Jefferies, Young (32) finally lost his discipline and lofted one to the newly installed deep midwicket. Drew kept the innings going with a well played 63 and G. Jones hit a quickfire 20 at the end. Dudman got a wicket whilst yielding only 2 runs in his 4 overs, Melcio took 3/18, Barr 2/29 and Clark's delight could be heard in Ifold when he took his two wickets.

Southwater's total of 166 all out looked a little light on a fast outfield, and so it proved. Lane and Holmes put on 40 in 8 overs before Child deceived Lane with a slower one. Tom Holmes is a much improved batsman over the last few seasons, and his match winning partnership with Mark Jones took the total 149 before he was out for 52 to a remarkable reflex catch by Tillier in the gully. Jones finished not out for a very well played 70. Nick Baker's express pace is at home in much higher grades of cricket (with covered pitches and sight screens), and he is to be commended for the judgement shown on a lively pitch. He finished with 2/10 from 5 overs before Loxwood crossed the winning line to win by 7 wickets with overs to spare.

Loxwood welcomes new players – call Adrian Dudman 07772079352.