

DEVON DUMPLINGS CRICKET CLUB

PLAYING REPORT 2011

Fixtures 26 Won 15 Lost 5 Drawn 3 Cancelled/Abandoned 3

This is my 32nd. and final annual report on the Club's performances, as I have decided that the time has come for me to retire as Keeper of the Records, a post I took over in 1980 - and what a high note on which to hand over! This season provided the best balance of wins over losses in our history, plus 10, exceeding the plus 9 [12-3] of 1974, a number of thumping wins over strong opponents, and a deal of exciting cricket, especially batting, mostly from quite new young - some very young - members.

This last feature, the new young players, owes a great deal to the enthusiastic recruiting methods of Jeffrey Stanyer and his collaborators at various local clubs, and must augur well for our future, provided these young men stay in Devon as they grow up, which often does not happen. The weather, though by no means good, was reasonably kind, with only one match lost in full to rain and one after 13 overs. We began very shakily, losing four of the first eight matches played, all against schools, but after 7 July we were almost invincible, winning 13 games and losing only one more, including defeating all the strong touring sides we have played for many years : Denstone Wanderers, Incogniti, Sou'westers, Somerset Stragglers, Strollers, South Oxfordshire Amateurs and Frogs, adding up to a fine achievement indeed. A marked feature of the last few years has been the proliferation of limited-overs matches, not long ago unknown in our cricket : this year every afternoon game was thus limited, usually to 40 overs a side, but all the all-day games remain as "proper cricket", with just a finishing time and declarations, and as far as I am concerned long may this remain so.

A notable characteristic of the season was the speed with which we scored our runs, as you will read below: in many games we raced along at a run a ball, and though I have not had time to produce a scoring-rate for the season overall I should not be surprised if we averaged six an over throughout. We recorded six centuries and seven century partnerships, including one double.

Three batsmen, Callum Still, Chris Kelmere and Richard Ashworth, averaged over 50, and the first two were also among the leading bowlers, Still taking 18 wickets at 10.56 and Kelmere 12 at 24.17. Another pleasing feature was the number of mention in match reports of athletic catching and fielding, not skills often attributed to the Dumplings in recent years.

All in all, a golden season, of which I hope my successor as Keeper will inspire a continuation in the years to come, when I shall enjoy relaxing, watching a few games and reading the reports instead of being responsible for compiling them. This task has been much eased in recent years by the admirable reports sent to me by Tony Wragg by e-mail and Jeff Stanyer by snail-mail, to both of whom I am greatly obliged, as the Club is, or should be, to the President, Hon. Secretary, match managers, umpires, scorers, groundsmen, caterers and other unsung heroes who work hard to keep our fine old Club flourishing. Long may all this continue!

Peter Spencer, Keeper of the Records. Shobrooke House, September 2011

MATCH RESULTS 2011

May 4 at Exeter School: D.D. 276/7 [40 overs; C.Still 54, R.Ashworth 48, J.Dowling 47, C.Kelmere 47, S.Bourke 22*] BEAT Exeter School 137 [Bourke 3-14, Still 3-24] by 139 runs

After an early run out, our nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5 all scored effectively and rapidly, at nearly 7 an over, to set a formidable target, which, unsurprisingly, the school were unable to threaten. Their high point was 102 for 5, after which they declined quickly to 137 all out off the first ball of the penultimate over, Bourke and Still taking three cheap wickets each.

May 14 at Blundell's School: D.D. 201/7 [30 overs; G.Lammonby 68, C.Small 58, C.Still 24*] LOST to Blundell's School 202/7 [C.Kelmere 3-50] by 3 wickets

In a match reduced by rain to 30 overs each, we made a disastrous start with 14 for 3, but then Small and Lammonby added 121 for the 4th. wicket and we ended with a very respectable total. The school made a far better start, but then had a bit of a collapse to 102 for 5, which looked healthy for us, but their captain, Bess, stood firm to make 79, and no. 9 settled the matter with 10 balls to spare by striking 23 not out in 10 balls for a well-deserved school victory.

May 25 at Plymouth College: D.D. 179 [R.McPherson 37, H.Kampdampully 27] LOST to Plymouth College 202 [C.Still 3-34] by 23 runs

The school made a prosperous start with 127 for 2, but then went into a decline to be all out for 202, a total that should have been well within reach, but we began poorly with 68 for 5, and, though the lower middle wagged a bit - if a middle can be said to wag - we were all out 23 short, in 36 overs.

June 1 at Torquay: Torquay Old Grammarians v. D.D. CANCELLED by opposition

June 2 at Exeter: D.D. 252/7 dec. [R.Ashworth 84, J.Meredith 52, S.Bourke 50*] DREW with Glamorgan Nomads 141/7 [C.Still 4-24]

We dominated throughout, but were unable to finish off the 10-man opposition. Ashworth anchored our innings with a sound and steady 84, opening, and Meredith and Bourke, whose 50 came in only 21 balls, scored so rapidly that we were able to declare with a satisfying total in only 42 overs. The visitors began poorly with 38 for 3, and never properly recovered; our bowlers were accurate and economical, but apart from Still, who had admirable figures of 12-4-24-4, were unable to penetrate. The Nomads were rather a one-man show, B.Wadlan taking 6 of our 7 wickets that fell and making 50.

June 22 at Tavistock: Kelly College v. D.D. CANCELLED - rain

June 29 at West Buckland: D.D. 89 [C.Still 23] LOST to West Buckland School 91/4 [Still 3-41] by 6 wickets

This very convincing win for the school represents the nadir of our season. We began badly, losing our first three men for 26, and though the next pair doubled this we made no real recovery, and a disastrous 79 for 9 at lunch became 89 all out soon afterwards. We took a long time dying too - 37.2 overs. The boys made an even shakier start with 19 for 3 and 31 for 4, but then the awkward pitch seemed to ease, and they won in 26.4 overs without further loss. Their leading performer was Craig Overton, who has played for Devon, who took 3-16 in 8 overs and made top score of 49 not out.

July 4 at Exeter: D.D. 251/4 [R.Ashworth 127, S.Loud 36, J.Dowling 24] BEAT Wye Rustics 247 [C.Kelmer 3-36] by 6 wickets

A flat pitch and fast outfield produced good batting conditions, of which we made much the better use. The Rustics posted a respectable 142 at lunch, but had lost 5 wickets, and this soon became 174/8. The tail helped no. 7, who made 72, add 73 for the last two wickets to give them a reputable total, but we made light of the task : Ashworth, who went on to a fine and fast century, and Loud put on 104 for the 1st wicket, and everyone else who batted contributed a few towards our victory in just 40 overs, at better than a run a ball.

July 7 at Kilmington: D.D. 215/8 [40 overs; G.Tidball 110, R.E.Pyle 32] LOST to Haberdashers' Aske's School 216/4 by 6 wickets

Tidball batted forcefully and effectively for his 110 in only 118 balls, with 15 boundaries, but he had little support except from Pyle, who helped him double the score from 61 for 3. Even so, he ensured a perfectly reasonable total in our 40 overs, but against rather ineffective bowling the visitors had little trouble in winning with 6 wickets and 3½ overs to spare.

July 8 at Exeter: D.D. 345/4 [40 overs; J.Dollow 161. C.Kelmer 104*, J.Meredith 47] BEAT the Platypods 160 [O.Penrice 4-71, P.Berman 3-39] by 185 runs

These new opponents, based on the masters of Cranleigh School in Surrey, proved rather weak, especially in bowling, and we were able to post a remarkably high total and winning margin for a 40-over game. Our start was unpromising, both openers out for 9, but then Dollow, with 161 in 104 balls, and Kelmer, 104 not out in 59 balls, flayed the bowling in a huge and most aggressive stand of 199 in just 65 minutes. The visitors, unsurprisingly, soon fell behind the very demanding asking rate; only one of them reached 20, and they were all out in 32 overs. The scorer records the appearance of a double rainbow at 6.44 - perhaps a celebration of our impending big victory.

July 12 at Seaton: D.D. 267/9 [C.Grainger 76, C.Kelmer 50, S.Todd 33, J.Meredith 31, G.White 25] DREW with Free Foresters 277/5 dec. [Todd 3-73]

A high-scoring contest culminated in a close finish, the Dumplings falling just 11 runs short of a tough target as the last pair safely negotiated the final three overs. Apart from one opener on each side, all the top order batsmen made some runs, with three fifties for the Foresters and two for us. Grainger laid our foundation, but we began the last 20 overs needing 7 an over, at which Kelmer and Todd made a brave effort to get us so close, in 56 overs against their 62.

July 15 at Bradninch: D.D. 314/3 [C.Kelmere 106*, H.Kampdampully 94*, S.Novak 50, J.Luffman 41] BEAT Denstone Wanderers 313 [40 overs] by 4 wickets

A strange match: each team was reduced by withdrawals to 8 men, and the shortage of fielders and the short boundaries suggested a batsmen's game, as indeed it transpired. Despite the early loss of an opener, the visitors scored rapidly, thanks largely to a 3rd wicket stand of 198, reaching 200 for 2 in 27 overs. They then lost 5 wickets cheaply, and were all out - 7 down - in their 40th and final over. When our turn came we were even more destructive: Novak and Luffman put on 84 in 41 balls for the first wicket, and then Kelmere and Kampdampully saw us home in only 26.5 overs with a splendid aggressive partnership of 207, batting for just 76 and 51 balls respectively, so that in total 627 runs were amassed in only 66.3 overs, at an average of 9.43 runs an over.

July 20 at Sidmouth: D.D. 245 [J.Meredith 79, C.Grainger 43, J.Dollow 34, M.Gilmour 29] BEAT Warwickshire Imps 131 [S.Stein 5-33, S.Todd 3-40] by 114 runs

The Dumplings, put in, scored steadily at nearly a run a ball, led by a well-crafted 79 from Meredith, and although our tail fell away abruptly from 208 for 5, excellent bowling by first Todd and then Stein, the latter returning our best figures of the season with 7.4-0-33-5, proved that our total was more than ample as the visitors were all out in their 33rd over, with 16 left.

July 22 at Shobrooke Park: B.U.S.A Wanderers 15/2 v. D.D. ABANDONED - RAIN

There was time only for our opening bowlers to send down 6 economical overs each and take a wicket each before the rain began at 3 o'clock and quickly swamped the ground, the game being abandoned at 3.45.

July 26 at Blundell's School: D.D. 126/1 [J.Lyman 67*, R.E.Pyle 43*] BEAT Old Blundellians 125 [A.Mead 3-14, C.Kelmere 3-24] by 9 wickets

Normally a tough battle, this game produced an overwhelming victory in short order, the Dumplings dominating in all aspects. An excellent opening spell of 6-3-14-3 by Mead reduced the OBs to 24 for 3 and Kelmere removed their middle order. Four of them reached 20, but nobody went on, and though the tail wagged a little they were all out in 40 overs. We lost an early wicket, but then a forceful and confident stand by Lyman and Pyle put on an unbroken 116 to see us to victory soon after tea, in just 20 overs.

July 28 at Queen's College, Oxford: D.D. 287/6 dec. [C.Kelmere 58, C.Still 55, R.Ashworth 54, P.Hensor 44*, D.Jolliffe 26*, L.Cawthron 20] BEAT Incogniti 90 [B.Wilson 3-10] by 197 runs

A new venture for the Dumplings, travelling to Oxford, where old opponents the Incogs were celebrating their 150th anniversary, having toured Australia, with a week's festival, in which we were honoured to be included alongside the Royal Navy, MCC and Cross Arrows. For what was expected to be a tough fixture Jeff Stanyer had

assembled a strong XI, accompanied by the President and a dozen supporters, and they did us proud. Six of the eight Dumplings who batted made significant contributions to a formidable total, in 59 overs, the declaration hastened by 75 in the last 10 overs by Jolliffe and Hensor, the latter hitting the last five balls for 19, and when the Incogs' turn came we rolled them over with surprising ease in 31 overs for just 90 runs, Hensor, D.Jolliffe and Bourke taking two wickets each, and Wilson returning the exceptional figures of 8-5-10-3. The hospitality was most cordial, and the whole expedition a great success. This was the 83rd. match between the two clubs.

July 29 at Plymouth College: D.D. 195/5 [C.Still 50*, A.Giles 48, B.Ferrao 25*] BEAT Old Plymouthians 194 [A.Beaven 3-35] by 5 wickets

We inserted the home side and, in what was supposed to be a 40-over match, bowled them out in 38, Beaven taking three wickets and Still and Kelmere two each as they collapsed in nine overs from 164 for 5 to 194 all out. We lost an early wicket, but Giles made his 48 in 51 balls, and then Still, with 50 in 46 balls, and Ferrao, 25 in 15, saw us home in the 30th. over, with 10 overs in hand, for another convincing victory.

August 1 at Exeter: D.D. 255 [D.L.N.Tuohey 59, R.Ashworth 58, J.Hughes 33, K.Barlow 28] BEAT Sou'westers 192 [Tuohey 4-39] by 63 runs

The first six Dumplings all reached double figures, Ashworth and Tuohey going on to sound fifties, and though the lower order wobbled a bit, from 185/3, we achieved a solid total, all out in 55 overs at just about the time when we would have declared. Only three of the visitors made double figures, an opener the only substantial contributor with 62; they declined to 99 for 5, Tuohey also starring with the ball, and only our gift of 37 byes gave them a respectable total, all out with just one of the last 20 overs left.

August 4 at Instow: D.D. 312/5 dec. [J.Kalsi 173*, G.Tidball 43, K.Barlow 27, J.Ashmore 26, J.Ruffman 21] DREW with U.C.S. Old Boys 178/9 [R.Mutch 3-32]

Our innings was dominated by a splendid knock from Kalsi, who stayed for nearly three hours to score 173 not out in only 149 balls. Tidball helped him in an opening stand of 114, and everyone else who got in made a few quickly, so we were able to declare with a formidable total in only 47 overs. Only one of the visitors reached 20, their no. 3 with 75, and we worked our way steadily through them, but three interruptions for rain limited their innings to 41 overs, and the last pair held out for a draw in a game we should certainly have won had it not been for the rain. An interesting feature was that two women played for us: neither batted, but they fielded keenly and both bowled, 11 overs between them, both taking wickets.

August 5 at Shobrooke Park: D.D. 202/8 [R.E.Pyle 46, G.White 41, A.Mead 36*, A.Hearn 22] BEAT Somerset Stragglers 201/7 [40 overs] by 2 wickets

A seesaw of a match right to the last ball. The Stragglers declined to 118 for 6, with an opener retired hurt too, but they then added 83 for the loss of one more wicket to give them a challenging total on a pitch which, unusually for Shobrooke, after a wet day before, favoured the bowlers. Our innings followed a very similar pattern, 115 for 6, and behind the clock, being raised to 175 by aggressive batting by captain Pyle and

Mead, but then a couple of wickets, including a run out, seemed to have done for us, but Mead sneaked us to an exciting win off the very last ball.

August 8 at Exeter: D.D. 217 [C.Still 85, K.Barlow 25, S.Bourke 22, G.Lammonby 21] BEAT Strollers 165 [Still 4-28, Q.Waters 3-49] by 52 runs

Our innings was built round Still's admirable 85 in 92 balls, with useful help from four others, but after 157 for 3 we were all out for only 60 more, in the 49th over, sooner than the captain would have wished. This left the visitors a possible 56 overs, and at 141 for 3 in 33 it looked a doddle for them, but a brilliant run out of an opener who had made 87 in 61 balls precipitated an even worse collapse than ours, their seven remaining wickets tumbling for a mere 24 more runs, mostly to Still, and we coasted home with 15 of the final 20 overs left.

August 12 at Bradninch: D.D. 254/5 dec. [C.Kelmere 78, J.Meredith 54, H.Bennett 50, C.Grainger 28, M.Taylor 23*] LOST to Old Honitonians 255/5 by 5 wickets

We had to play a man short, with another leaving early, and batted first by agreement. Bennett, Meredith and Kelmere all made attractive fifties at close to a run a ball, on a fast-scoring ground with short boundaries, and our declaration was judged by some to be rather generous, leaving the OHs 58 overs as against our 50. They batted well too, led by 65 not out by Phil Tuck, also a Dumpling; our fielding was uncharacteristically sloppy and the bowling erratic, except for a tight spell of 10-5-19-0 by S. Phillips before he had to leave and they won in the 53rd. over. As the scores show, it was in fact a very level contest.

August 17 at Instow: D.D. 280/4 [45 overs; J.Ashmore 80, G.Tidball 79*, M.Curtice 50, J.Ford 36, J.King 23] BEAT North Devon 240 [Tidball 3-15, Curtice 2-4] by 40 runs

Ford and Ashmore set us up with an opening stand of 91 at better than a run a ball. Tidball and Curtice carried on the good work most effectively, adding 83. Nobody was out for fewer than 23, and we rattled up a big score in our 45 overs, at 6.22 an over. North Devon started much less well, with 69 for 4, but then nos. 5 and 6 both made fifties. Tidball then took three cheap wickets, and at 161 for 8 they seemed done for, but no. 10 stood firm to help add 71 till finally Curtice came on to clean up the last two wickets, and they were all out in the 43rd. over, to give us another good win.

August 19 at Exeter: D.D. 240/3 [R.J.Holman 82, J.Dollow 64*, G.White 32] BEAT South Oxfordshire Amateurs 236/9 dec. [N.Tobias 4-50] by 7 wickets

The visitors made sedate progress to lunch at 107 for 3, and with four of their first seven men scoring between 36 and 63 they declared at the fall of the 9th wicket in the 58th over, the pick of our bowlers Tobias, with two good spells. We were left only 43 overs, but with Holman, Dollow and White all batting forcefully this proved more than enough, and we won, easing up, with seven wickets and six overs to spare.

August 30 at Exeter: D.D. 244/6 dec. [H.Bennett 64, G.White 64, J.Meredith 29, C.Kelmere 28] BEAT Frogs 133 [Y.Sachdev 5-40, Bennett 3-28] by 111 runs

On a very dry dusty County Ground pitch the Frogs put us in, a decision which rebounded on them, for we batted soundly for 52 overs, including an admirable 2nd wicket stand of 101 by our two top scorers, Bennett and White, followed by the rapid fall of wickets from 200 for 2 in anticipation of the declaration. This left us a potential 53 overs to dismiss the opposition, but we needed only 44 of these. The Frogs reached 60 for 1 before the introduction of spin led to a regular fall of wickets, the last nine for only 73 more runs. Sachdev broke the back of the innings with 16-4-40-5, all in one excellent spell, and Bennett cleaned up the last three wickets to give us another conclusive victory. The report mentions a “brilliant” slip catch by White, and an “amazing” one in the gully by Meredith.

September 1 at Sidmouth: D.D. 242/6 [40 overs; A.Bosomworth 87, C.Still 77, H.Bennett 30, G.White 25] BEAT Old Broxfordians 180 [Bennett 4-20, Still 3-2, J.Meredith 2-4] by 62 runs

This new fixture, against the Old Boys of a now-defunct prep. school in Derbyshire, was taken on at the request of Sidmouth. We batted first, and our first four batsmen, especially Bosomworth and Still, produced a solid if unspectacular performance at our now usual run a ball. The opposition made an excellent start with an opening stand of 127, but only one other man reached double figures as they lost all their wickets for just 53 more runs in 14 overs to the fifth, sixth and seventh bowlers we tried, Still, Bennett and Meredith, to be all out in 37 overs.

AVERAGES and STATISTICS 2011

BATTING Innings Not out Runs Highest Average

C. Still	9	2	399	85	57.00
C. Kelmere	13	3	548	106*	54.80
R. Ashworth	7	0	366	127	52.29
G.White	13	1	231	64	19.25

BOWLING Overs Maidens Runs Wickets Average

C. Still	52.3	7	190	18	10.56
C. Kelmere	63	10	290	12	24.17

CENTURIES [6]

173* J.Kalsi v. U.C.S. Old Boys

161 J.Dollow v. Platypods

127 R.Ashworth v. Wye Rustics

110 G.Tidball v. Haberdashers' Aske's

106* C.Kelmer v. Denstone Wanderers

104* C.Kelmer v. Platypods

CENTURY PARTNERSHIPS [7]

1st. wicket

114 J.Kalsi 173* & G.Tidball 43 v. U.C.S. Old Boys

104 R.Ashworth 127 & S.Loud 36 v. Wye Rustics

2nd. wicket

116* J.Lyman 67 & R.E.Pyle 43* v. Old Blundellians

101 H.Bennett 64 & G.White 64 v. Frogs

4th. wicket

207* C.Kelmer 106* & H.Kampdampully 94* v. Denstone Wanderers

199 J.Dollow 161 & C.Kelmer 106* v. Platypods

121 C.Small 58 & G.Lammonby 68 v. Blundell's School

BEST BOWLING

5-33 S.Stein v. Warwickshire Imps

5-40 Y. Sachdev v. Frogs

CATCHES

6 C.Grainger C.Kelmer ; 4 S.Easterbrook ;3 G.White

APPEARANCES

13 C.Kelmer G.White ; 9 C.Still ; 8 J.Stanyer; 7 R.Ashworth