

### **Wethersfield CC, home Sat 26 August**

The weather couldn't have been better for our first home game. Sunny and warm but with a light breeze sufficient to keep both players and spectators fresh. Despite all the rain in the week leading up to the game the wicket looked good and played well, continuing to dry out as the game progressed.

As seems to be our want we took the field first in what was to be a timed game. George Morgan opened with Nick Copper, both bowled tightly, Cooper extracting some bounce, and kept the WCC openers quiet. In the 11th over, with the score on only 29, Morgan struck with an LBW, following some very close preceding shouts, dismissing the No. 1. Nos 2 and 3 batsmen started to build a partnership before Damon Knight, on 1st change, found the leading edge, Graeme Ellis taking a good catch at short cover. Jeremy Toynbee, replacing Cooper, and bowling for the first time in a month following injury, found good line and length, his stock inswinger catching the No. 2 batsman LBW. Knight and Toynbee continued to apply the earlier pressure; despite this the WCC run rate began to creep up. Graeme Ellis, replacing Knight, found good length and turn and was unlucky not to take wickets. Morgan and Copper returned to finish off the innings both bowling well and picking up a wicket each. Fielding was sharpish, there were a few dropped catches and several mistimed shots fell short or lobbed over fielders. WCC, finishing on 167/5 off 42 overs, just had the upper hand.

In front of the, at times boisterous, home support FCC opened their account. Keeper Simon Baker promoted to No. 2 partnered skipper Tim Burbidge. A cautious opening, in the face of disciplined bowling, saw the pair make a steady start, arguably the best start we have had to date, making 38 in 14 overs before Baker was bowled. Andy Roberts, No. 3, failed to trouble the scorers playing across a straight one and falling LBW. Morgan then joined Burbidge and for 4 overs they continued the good work, when Burbidge left a wide off break only to see if spin sharply back to take his wicket. 'Enter Nick Copper', seems to be a stock phrase in these reports, and indeed he batted with his usual mix of careful respect of the good balls and devastating dispatching of the bad. With Morgan sharing the partnership the run rate increased significantly and a sense of anticipation began to build as they put FCC in a strong position. Morgan then too fell to the spin of Howard Wright, bowled. Paul Garrett (No. 6), joining Copper, seemed to loose himself of the self-doubt that has plagued previous innings with two cracking boundaries, again Wright came to WCC's rescue bowling Garrett on 9. Copper looking expansive was unlucky to be sharply stumped on 49. The lower order then disappointed, 3 wickets falling for 6 runs in a few overs. This left Paul Butt, the man of the day groundsman, and Toynbee with the job of blocking out the last 4 overs to rescue a draw. Toynbee blocked out 5 deliveries and signed in relief as the pressure passed to Butt at the other end. Turning a leg-side delivery away for 4 raised his hackles a little and he then drove at a wide one, dragging the ball on to this stumps. All out for 138 from 34 overs.

An excellent game, played in good, at times jocular, spirits. WCC proved gentlemanly opposition and their place in future fixture cards was well cemented. As a first home game I doubt it could have been bettered, excepting us being victorious.

Our scorecard details follow overleaf.

**Wethersfield innings (167 runs for 5 off 42 overs)**

Bowler	Wides	No balls	Balls	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average	Econ.	Strike rate
G. Morgan	NR	NR	72	12	3	36	2	18.00	3.00	36.00
N. Copper	NR	NR	54	9	1	22	1	22.00	2.44	54.00
D. Knight	NR	NR	36	6	-	30	1	30.00	6.00	36.00
J. Toynbee	NR	NR	48	8	2	34	1	34.00	4.25	48.00
G. Ellis	NR	NR	30	5	-	40	-	40.00	-	-

Extras: .no balls 1; wides 8; leg byes 2; byes 2 = 13.

**Finchingfield innings (138 all out off 34 overs)**

Batsman	Balls faced	How out	Bowler	Strike rate	Score
T. Burbidge	61	Bowled	Wright	34.42	21
S. Baker	43	Bowled	Mckensie	23.36	10
A. Roberts	1	LBW	Wright	-	0
G. Morgan	35	Bowled	Wright	60.00	21
N. Copper	47	Stumped	Lawrence	104.26	49
P. Garrett	23	Bowled	Wright	39.13	9
I. Villiers	7	Bowled	Wright	14.29	1
D. Knight	3	Ct	Lawrence	-	0
P. Butt	10	Bowled	Lawrence	60.00	6
G. Ellis	3	Ct	Wright	166.67	5
J. Toynbee	5	Not	Out	-	0

Extras: no balls 1; wides 8; leg byes 1; byes 5 = 15.