

**Fudge Cup III – 26<sup>th</sup> August 2007****Match type: Pro 40****Venue: Horspath 1<sup>st</sup> XI pitch****Weather: Sunny**

The players and spectators who had gathered at Horspath knew that the victorious team at the end of the day's play would carry a 2-1 lead, therefore the bragging rights, for much of 2008. Small led Milne out to the wicket to make the toss. After a couple of dribbled attempts at a conversation about the previous evening, the 50 pence piece was flipped into the clear blue sky, and landed on heads. **The Dynamos won the Toss and elected to field first.** For the third consecutive year the Spitfires would be defending a total, and with two Fudge Cup rookies in Ian Francis and Mark Small striding out to the wicket, the Dynamos were in confident mood.

**Innings of the Spitfires:** Opening from top of the hill was Matt Johnston who was extremely fast and economical, only allowing 12 runs off his first spell of five overs. Opening from the factory end was Mark Carroll; he too was quick and accurate (despite running in up a small hill) only conceding 2 runs off his first three overs before a tired fourth allowed Mark Small to start making some shots – consecutive cuts through the covers for 4. Great stuff from the Spitfires; time for a rest for Rando.

Milne was next into the attack quickly putting the tentative Ian Francis under pressure. After an opening maiden, Smally Jnr put the spinner firmly in his place with a sweet lofted off-drive for a two bounce 4. Lovely. Pressure started to ease on the opening pair as the runs started to accumulate, and this was the perfect time to fire up Jimmy 'The Douglas Express' Fargher. In he came, lolloping downhill camel-like and testing the Spitfire openers with intelligent variation line and length. Jimmy kept it tight thanks in no small part to excellent stops from fielder of the season Daf Howells and re-born shot stopper Simon Weaver – who seemed to be fielding in 3 positions at the same time!

Ian was then hit on the toe from a quicker ball from Milne and umpire Nick Cudahy simply couldn't resist and raised his finger. There were a few umpiring decisions that sparked controversy in this year's Fudge Cup, but this was not one of them. Francis departed for a cautious 3 off 13 overs, plumb LBW. In marched Andy Kemp who set about regaining some momentum for the Spitfire's – this he did dispatching Fargher and Milne to the boundary in consecutive overs.

It had taken a while for Fargher to find his line and the Dynamos even had Matt Johnston in at leg slip for a few overs trying to find the breakthrough, and eventually it came. Just when the Spitfire's looked to be getting a strangle hold of the match Fargher uprooted Mark Small's off stump. M Small bowled for 28.

The Spitfires were now 49-2 and the match was evenly poised. In trotted the Spitfire's Captain, keen to steady the ship. Smally had just enjoyed the best batting season of his career with tons here, double centuries there – quick fifty then in for tea he may well have thought...

**But Fudge Cup pressure is something a little different – everyone knows that...**

Fargher was finding that off stump now forcing some good leaves from Andy Kemp and some cautiousness from Small. There was one short one that Small hooked for 4, but it was generally fairly tidy by the first change pair.

Milne decided to come round the wicket to Small and it seemed to be working as Andy looked far from comfortable prodding defensively at a few pitched on the stumps. The next ball pitched outside leg stump and Small (who had tried to sweep) was clean bowled round his legs. Milne was clearly overcome by emotion, as off came his shirt as quickly as Small departed for 9. The Dynamos went spastic, and celebrations were rapturous. Milne's shirtless torso (burning in the August sun) celebrated on its own. Exciting stuff 58-3.

It was all looking a little too familiar for the Dynamos, as well it might with the Kemp twins at the crease. M. Kemp was watchful for Milne's remaining two overs, and they went for just a single. Into the attack was Tom Rae a Fudge Cup debutant and his flighty off-spinners quickly dislodged Andy Kemp for 21, caught by Fargher at mid-wicket. Jimmy was keen for that one – his 'mine' call was blood-curdling.

Dave Jeffrey was next in at no.6 and he looked pretty comfortable from the off. He and Kemp (who was still plugging away at the other end) went about their business calmly; they rarely troubled the boundary rope but kept the singles going with smart running and good shot selection. Guy Barrett bowled well down the hill with good pace and but something special was needed to break this partnership.

### **Scandal**

This came from Umpire Paul Barrow, who lifted his finger (without hesitation) to Jeffrey from a straight-ish delivery from Tom Rae. Paul had got his scalp, and Jeffrey departed for 15, LBW - 85-5. Nick Cudahy, not famous for his batting sauntered in at No. 7. After a few nurdles and a hooked boundary, Cudahy edged behind to Race and Carroll had got a very much deserved wicket.

Now it was Matt Correal's turn to face the rested Matt Johnston (back on to clear up the tail), and he looked confident – moving his feet well and solid in defence. After Matt had dealt with the next ball, he forgot to return to his ground and was run out by Race by 2 feet. Paul Barrow (who was now umpiring at square leg) wasn't even looking, but reacted to the ferocity of the Dynamo's appeal and belatedly raised the finger of death.

Matt didn't leave quietly and the giant plastic duck that was waiting for him by the boundary flew 40 yards (against its will) and ricocheted off the pavilion steps. The Spitfire's were now well into their tail, and apart from a little resilience from Jensen, were soon 8 wickets down. Jensen was run out for the 23<sup>rd</sup> time in his career, for a possibly crucial 9. Silverwood was then run out, and there was no time for Wakeham to make an impact as the 40 overs were up. Mark Kemp 33 not out – a fine knock. Final total: **146 for 9.**

Batsman	How out	Bowler	Total
1. I. Francis	LBW	Milne	3
2. M. Small	Bowled	Fargher	28
3. A. Kemp	Caught (Fargher)	Ray	21
4. A. Small	Bowled	Milne	9
5. M. Kemp	Not	Out	33
6. D. Jeffrey	LBW	Ray	15
7. N. Cudahy	Caught (Race)	Carroll	7
8. M. Correal	Run Out (Race)		0
9. K. Jensen	Run Out (Barrett)		9
10. Silverwood	Run Out (Race)		1
11. Wakeham	Not	Out	0
		<b>Extras</b>	<b>20</b>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>

Bowlers	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts
M. Johnston	8	0	22	0
M. Carroll	7	2	25	1
A. Milne	8	3	16	2
J. Fargher	8	0	29	1
T. Ray	5	0	26	2
G. Barrett	4	0	24	0

**Innings of the Dynamos:** Tom Rae and Dafydd Howells were the two batsmen charged with making a positive start for the Dynamos. After two tight opening overs from both Mark Kemp and some impostor masquerading as Nick Wakeham, Howells was the first to go, attempting to whack a full bunger through mid-wicket – bowled middle stump for 1. Out walked Matt Johnston, then in walked Matt Johnston. Plumb LBW first ball to Kemp, again attempting to play a straight one across the line. Study at the Howells school for batting at you peril, Matty J!

Mark Carroll looked to attack from the off and took a huge swipe at a wide ball outside off-stump and edged it behind. It was too hot for Small to handle, and he could only parry it onto Ian Francis' left cheek. Great stop – boundary saved - Francis off to the pavilion for some ice and a little TLC. Soon after Tom Rae was out LBW for 2 to Wakeham (with Paul Umpiring) and the Dynamos were suffering their annual customary top order batting collapse. 11 for 3 off 6 overs - not the best of starts! Carroll was joined by Milne out in the middle, and the two attempted to stop the rot over the next few overs. Wakeham was bowling well up hill – and was perhaps the pick of the Spitfire bowlers, now that Kemp had been taken off for a rest. Jensen was struggling to find his line down the hill and a number of wides accompanied by a couple of Carroll boundaries helped the Dynamos get back into the game. The Spitfire fielders were looking after their bowlers well with some great boundary fielding from Ant Silverwood and sharp close stops by Andy Kemp.

Jeffrey replaced a tired Wakeham up the hill and he brought with him a mixed bag of deliveries ranging from high-wide full tosses to vicious in swinging yorkers. Milne hooked one of the former to the boundary and edged behind the next one, but it eluded wicket-keeper Small, who was standing up to the fast-medium bowler. Jensen from the other end had begun to find his line and he set up Carroll's wicket with several great deliveries out-side off stump – the next one was a yard quicker and removed Mark's off-stump, he departed for a positively played 19. Dynamos 49 for 4.

In walked James Race who was looking to cap a fine wicket-keeping display with some useful runs and he immediately started the attack - getting off the mark with a fine square cut for four off bowler Jensen. Jeffrey continued uphill and after a great off drive that was

well stopped on the boundary by Correal, he went aerial and was caught well by Ian Francis (now with the use of only one eye) at deep mid-wicket. The Dynamos were finding the going tough and seemed to be struggling on 60 for 5, Race departing for a wild 6.

### **Controversy**

Jimmy Fargher joined Milne at the crease and looked determined and a little intimidated by the Spitfire's intensity. Kemp replaced Jensen down the hill and Jimmy was soon off the mark with a dab down to fine leg. The next ball was a full toss outside off-stump that Milne drove at and edged. Small collected it behind the stumps and a colossal cheer went up – the Spitfires thought he'd be caught, and so did the umpire. Milne was adamant that he'd been had by a bump ball having toed the full banger into the ground, and the Spitfire's captain graciously suggested he stay put if he wasn't out.

Milne hastily accepted the invitation and nervously prodded around the remainder of the over before the drinks break. Fargher was now struggling to see as the Vaseline smeared over his brow to combat his profuse sweating was now dribbling into his eyes. This made little difference to his excellent batting though, as he smacked Jeffrey back over his head with a premeditated slog that Dimitiri Mascheranous would have been proud of.

The Dynamos batsmen scurried around for another few overs before Andrew tickled a leg glance straight into the hands of wicket-keeper Small. No doubt about that one and a great catch, Milne walked without delay having scored a tired looking 26. Dynamos - 92 runs with 6 wickets gone. The fight back was still very much on as Andrew Gyton strode purposefully out to the wicket and looked extremely solid, and played some lovely straight drives through the covers. Jimmy and Liv put on another 10 runs before the stubborn Fargher was bowled by the excellent Mark Kemp for a battling 17.

Gyton was eventually bowled by Small for 3, a resilient knock, and next it was the turn of Simon Weaver to feel the wrath of the Spitfire attack. Nick Cudahy the Spitfire's premier bowler from the previous year was nursing savagely blistered heels and was only fit enough to bowl a single over – during which he skittled Weaver's stumps with his second ball.

Chrissie Jambo was next in – having finally arrived for the match 3 hours late – and looked solid, smacking new bowler Correal for a couple of boundaries. It was now up to Guy Barrett and James to attempt to steer the Dynamos ship home, but in the 31<sup>st</sup> over Barrett was trapped at the crease by a Small doosra, and was out LBW for 3, James stranded on 10 at the other end – **The Dynamos 125 all out**

## **Spitfires win by 21 runs**

Andrew's *Dynamos*

vs

*Smally's Spitfires*

A great tightly fought match was followed by an excellent Hog roast at the Railway pub and match debriefings went long into the night. Was Correal in, was Milne out? The dust has now settled and we can look forward to a great 2008 and The Fudge Cup IV!

Batsman	How out	Bowler	Total
1. T. Ray	LBW	Wakeham	2
2. D. Howells	Bowled	Kemp	1
3. M. Johnston	LBW	Kemp	0
4. M. Carroll	Bowled	Jensen	19
5. A. Milne	Caught (Small)	Jeffrey	26
6. J. Race	Caught (Francis)	Jeffrey	6
7. J. Fargher	Bowled	Kemp	17
8. A. Gyton	Bowled	Small	3
9. S. Weaver	Bowled	Cudahy	0
10. C. James	Not	Out	10
11. G. Barrett	LBW	Small	3
		<b>Extras</b>	<b>38</b>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>

Bowlers	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts
M. Kemp	7	2	14	3
N. Wakeham	5	0	17	1
K. Jensen	6	1	34	1
D. Jeffrey	5	0	18	2
A. Small	3.2	0	10	2
N. Cudahy	1	0	1	1
M. Correal	2	0	12	0

**Man of the Match:**  
**Mark Kemp with 33 not out and 3 for 14**

**SPITFIRES 2**

**DYNAMOS 1**



**See you all next year!!!**