

Dukes Doodlings

Volume 2, Number 1

The return to play edition...

INSIDE...

Welcome back! A cricket season under the fog of COVID-19, and in this edition:

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THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY

Cricket Season is just around the corner...

The Dukes have already put three ‘high intensity’ pre- season sessions together at Mega Courts [*big Club Sponsor*] and spirits are high, as much for the chance to catch up, drink beer, tell lies and then play a game soon enough as the return of cricket season usually lifts the spirit of men and women across the country.

Some of the Payneham troops have returned to the game in superb condition...clearly isolation has worked for them.

Others have been honing their skills. These skills vary.

No injuries are being carried into the season, although Greg Rose has been working hard, and you just get the sense that when the Dog and Duck opens back up for the fabled circuit, there is going to be some carnage, and we hope his ankle holds up.

Some other boys do appear to have spent hours shadow batting, just perhaps unfortunately that the shadow was being cast by the back light in their fridge!

Others had put on some size, and whilst we hope it was rump steak, it may also have been some of those IKEA cushions. Oh well. That is what pre-season is for.

New A grade skipper Josh Farmer has been quietly working his way around the squad, watching, talking, planning, and generally just looking for the players who are set for breakout years. Good shape at the wicket, playing straight lines, arm high at point of delivery, good areas, and shape at batter. He seems most enthused, and at one session was extremely excited, at least until he realised that he had in fact been standing in the wrong nets!

OTHER NEW RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES

Tragically, afternoon tea as we all know and love it is to become a thing of the past!

Many are devastated because this was where they really could Alpha their team-mates and opposition, through offering up a series of rig defying calorie filled snacks. Now the whole process becomes much more esoteric. So, go nuts by all means. Just means you have to eat your own dish.

Same with drinks. No more communal Pimms Number 1 cup on a balmy 40-degree day for the second session drinks break. We hear that some of the Old Scholar sides are even considering playing only until tea, rather than forego their Pimms!

Also, no more will we hear *"I didn't get the ice or the cordial, I didn't know I had to"* which always evolves into *"good blend that"*, featuring tropical or lemon or raspberry cordial to be made and shared. No more Bickford's lime cordial either. Everyone brings their own drinks from here on in. Rosey – that means that bringing a carton to games is going to be ok for games, so some relief.

CRICKET AUSTRALIA UPDATE

Now that Kevin from Marketing has gone, things have returned to relative normality.

However, when standing on the mound at Saints, enjoying a cheeky little Hewitson grenache, this scribe bumped into/tripped over Jack Clarke, former Chair of CA, who said that he had resisted the many calls for his return, and that he was throwing his considerable weight at supporting the Kitching ticket. This campaign is gathering momentum. To vote for Connor to be chair of Cricket Australia, at the November AGM, please go to:

www.cricket.com.au/wecareaboutthegamemostlybutnotenoughtohelpcommunitycricket

And vote for C Kitching. We need our man in Jolimont. Now.

However, in further bad news, the cuts at CA have decimated staffing resources at SACA and we now need to find a volunteer – who can be paid – to run the Junior Blaster's program at Payneham. Contact the Committee if you want to do this and earn some coin! It is an important program for the game and the kids, and jolly puzzling that CA has changed all the rules around junior cricket, pulled funding from community cricket but again expects the volunteers to step up.

Like the Alice said, "curioser and curioser". She should have worked in Marketing!

AGM

Was held this week with the normal raucous bonhomie and volunteerism one expects at such exciting events.

Big news was that 29 people attended, and the Club managed to return a modest profit – great reward for the work of the Club Committee over the last 3 years. Bravo.

New A grade skipper and de facto Club mentor, Josh Farmer spoke about the season ahead and how and what we will all need to do as we work towards restoring the Club to its natural home in A1.

New people on the Committee – Lochie Roberts, Lachie Jennings, Malcolm X, Jess Murray – all put their hand up to help out – well done and good luck all.

With Malcolm joining the Chair quickly passed a motion to purchase a round table because you guessed it – we will need in fact need to be able to set “ring fields” for future meetings.

Scotty was there...in a moon boot...threatening to play...but where was Pudge? More of that later.

Graham Vincent was there to receive the sincere thanks of all those there, and those beyond for the sheer mountain of work he and Heather contributed to the Club. A legend in every statistical sense of our Club. Good to see Tony Foster there as well.

A thank you also to Ash Evans who has stepped down after outstanding service. He has done much, and said he wanted some time ‘just to play, punt and drink’. Noble ambitions. However, Doodlings can tell the real reason is that at a recent training session Ritz turned one, and then another and then another. He sees himself as a community version of Brad Hogg. He is eyeing off a Wasley from the 3rd XI. Watch this space. Thanks Ash.

IS IT THE END OF THE RAIN CARD?

Everyone knows that on a Friday night, players can play the rain card. Some of the so often they must be living in the Amazonian rain forest!

This season however we will be presented with another card that players can play if they have been relaxing too heavily on a Friday night! The CoronaCard!

Card player: “Skipper, sorry mate but I am buggered to play today; woke this morning with a headache, sore and dry throat, and a dry retching cough – think I might have the virus”.

Skipper: “Shit mate. Hell. Who can I get to play at this late notice? Anyway mate, it’s no good. You better stay home and self-isolate, get a test. I’ll let the Club know. At least you weren’t at training over the last few weeks/months/years [circle the correct timeframe], so nobody else in the Club would have caught it.”

Card player: “Ah. Well Skipper. I know I caught up with A, B, C, D and E last night, we were out doing a pre-season catch up, working on filling out our rigs at the Dog and Duck...but I should be ok to make it to the Club for a beer later...”

Same outcome as the rain card but far more impact in these times?

THE BALL

All sorts of changes there. So, listen up men and woman of Payneham.

Polish the ball, Get it to hoop.

Well. It is harder now. No sweat. No. No sweat. Stop spitting. No, you can’t do that either. Do what? Use sweat. Use spit.

No sandpaper of course.

Match ball preparation remains intact. So, all new rocks are to be given to Dollars to store on the dashboard of his ute each Monday so they can be properly roasted in time for a Saturday wetting and use. Not so much ball tampering as preparation.

Bottle tops are probably OK. Getting hit out of the ground and having the ball bounce along the bitumen into a front yard is good. Peter Young is that you? Cody Tucker? Jiggy? Treading on the ball with your spikes is probably OK. Sunscreen? Awaiting advice.

Coughing on the ball is now being considered for 5 penalty runs against the cougher's team and given to the cougher's team.

The use of cloths is also being reviewed because things can be rubbed into cloth, hidden in cloth and some player is bound to blow their nose using the cloth. At least no penalty runs for this crime yet.

Which reminds us, there can be no nasal discharge on the ball either. 5 penalty runs and the general disgust of all other players will be awarded.

THE NEW ROLE OF THE TEAMS PISS TAKERS?

Payneham has plenty. Blokes who take the piss. Good news then because urinating on the ball at the start of play is said to make it hoop around; however, the laws now say that no opening bowler may do the urinating, it simply has to be a designated piss taker. Any piss taking must occur before the start of each innings. In game, piss taking remains the job of the wicket keeper.

A word of warning however, it is unclear if the piss taker will have to be a player, because if not, at home games we will have a rich and vivid selection of likely piss takers. These would range from the barflies to the past players [*maybe we can get a guest past player each week who rather than toss the coin, wees on the ball?*] to the numerous collection of strangely attired generally heavy set men who stalk the boundary line, in a long journey towards fitness to the vast sub continental population that inhabit the playground...

The use of pineapple juice – this was a query sent to us from a J & C & M Edginton, of Crafers West. Well men. Great news. It is permitted. Indeed encouraged. And it makes the kookaburra so sticky that even OD could catch it! So, when you here Pineapple called in a 3rd XI game you will know why.

Biting the ball will be off limits unless done well in advance of play.

Dollars and the Zimbabwean Potato Farmer are exploring how they can get Max Hughes to produce an imprint of a false seam onto a two-piece ball, creating a 4-piece ball look, but that we can use in game also. Science at its most useful.

OTHER RULE CHANGES

LBW. It has been removed from the Laws of the Game as a mode of dismissal for all grades below A grade. All players take note. All Champs also.

PUMPER REX'S CONSPIRACY THEORY

The nets were abuzz that IW Scott was going to attend training, with a view to a return to play following successful surgery on his ankle. However, the great Pudge turned up to training and no Scotty.

"Pumper" Rex suggested he had seen all the Mission Impossible films, and they could do amazing things with latex – he has found a few more incidentally – and that on reflection he had never seen

Pudge and Scotty in the same room, same nets, same team, same bar, same balcony etc.at the same time and maybe they were the same bloke?

Could that be the case? Was Scotty's ankle surgery really a complete body overhaul? Did Pudge only retire because he had to have his ankle fixed?

We will probably have to wait until the first BBQ of the season – and if Pudge turns up to cook and Scotty is not to be seen, there might be some real substance to the Pumper's observations.

NEW SPONSORS



Welcome to Jane and Neil Thompson, who have elected to support the Dukes this season. Check out their website...

www.yellowwig.com.au