

Alstonefield v Duffield
26th July 2020

Duffield game goes down to the wire.....

Duffield were our guests for game 3 of the season - a more typical Peak District summer day with wind and some squally showers - but Steve King had prepared another excellent strip and the game was well balanced between bat and ball. Our Chairman welcomed 2 new players - Tom Turrell and Nick Pearson - both of whom went on to have fine debuts for Alstonefield. Once again thanks to Brian Stack for the photographs.



Nick Pearson - on his way to a classy 15 not out, including a magnificently struck 6 of the last ball of the Gargoyles innings



Tom Turrell with 9 week old spectator and future Gargoyles fan.....

Duffield chose to field first, and Gargoyles captain Andy Bray continued his fine run of form with an unbeaten 50. Andy and John Curry set off at a blistering pace, with 23 on the board after only 2 overs - 20/20 style batting!



The scoring slowed as Duffield tightened up the bowling, with John Curry and Jordi Duffy undone, before Chris Wilkins, making a welcome return after a 2 year absence, and Tom Turrell combined to take the score to 94 at the halfway mark of 17 overs. Despite a steady fall of wickets Brian Stack, Liam Duffy, Nick Pearson and Tony Guest all contributed to a competitive total of 190 for 6 off the 35 overs.



Family Wilkins nurturing the next generation of Alstonefield cricketers

Duffield had their own family presence, with Clive Bond (89 years old), with son and two grandsons, all having a part to play in the game



Andy Bray and Tony guest opened the bowling in Duffield's reply, and held the visitors to a miserly 12 runs from the first 5 overs. The opening pair of Blenkinsopp and Brown then started to get into their stride and accelerated the run rate to match that of Alstonefield and remained just ahead of the required run rate through the innings. Brown fell to Nick Pearson's fist catch behind the stumps for Gargoyles, off the bowling of Wilkins for 21, but Blenkinsopp was joined by Watson and they took the score to 121 before Watson was caught by Jordi Duffy off Liam Duffy for 40. Blenkinsopp retired 53 not out. Wickets fell regularly, with Liam Duffy ending with figures off 4 for 28 off 6 overs, including a caught and bowled - and it looked as if Alstonefield might get over the line, when the 8th wicket fell with 34 still needed off in the 29th over. However, number 11 Higgins has other ideas and with a quickfire 30 - five 4's and a six - saw Duffield home with an over to spare.



Duffield's star opening bat - Blenkinsopp who set the tone for Duffield's reply

Another excellent afternoons entertainment!