

**September 10<sup>th</sup> 2011 Two Counties Division 5 Kelvedon & Feering 2nds v Bury St Edmunds 3rds- Rye Mill Lane Feering.**

Bury St Edmunds get the Shorty treatment.

*League and club record fall as 16 year old boy mountain comes of age.*

On paper it didn't appear that this late season game would amount to a great deal, both teams were safe in division 5 of the Two Counties for another season and the weather had an early Autumnal feel to it. The events that followed went to prove just what an unpredictable game cricket can be and that in this game you should never assume anything!

Kelvedon batted first on a wicket that was in good shape given the recent weather and the game got off to a quiet and uneventful start. After 10 overs Kelvedon had reached 41-2 with Mick Warner and Ross Burt both falling to Gupta's medium pace. At this point 16 year old Will Shortridge joined veteran number 3 Mal Wilde at the wicket and the game took on an entirely different complexion as Will started to employ the full range of his shots and by 20 overs the total had reached 117-2 a good score but it still didn't signal what was about to follow. Things could have been very different if a catch offered up by Will had been taken when he was on 9, in hindsight all those watching were very glad it wasn't.

With the veteran Wilde playing a typical sheet anchor roll, the last 25 overs went as something of a blur as Shortridge, who had now played himself in looked to up the scoring rate, his first 6 came when he was on 41 and was quickly followed by 2 more as the ball started to fly to all corners of the ground and onto and over the railway line. Will reached his hundred in the 32nd over having faced 72 balls, two overs later he had 130 at which point it felt that every ball would reach the boundary.

The 44<sup>th</sup> over came and went and the statistics spoke for themselves, Will would face the final over starting on 199 not out, the dependable Wilde who had quietly accumulated was at the non-strikers end 99 not out a lot of milestones were in reach. Thankfully the final over bowled by Stennett didn't disappoint as the first ball cleared the boundary to take Shortridge to 205 a two and a single followed and the ever watchful Wilde secured the single needed for his century, another 6 was to follow for Shortridge and the innings closed with the Kelvedon score at 387-2.

The statistics tell the story, Shortridge faced 123 balls for his 213 not out, hitting 13 sixes and 17 fours and now holds all the clubs batting records.

Wilde's 100 not out came from 101 balls and in total the pair batted together for 158 minutes.

The partnership was an undefeated 346 which looking at the records appears to be the highest partnership for any wicket in the history of the Two counties league.

The 387 total achieved by Kelvedon is the highest total achieved in division 5 and unsurprisingly Will's 213 is the highest individual score ever in the division.

Bury St Edmunds, we're game in the pursuit of the mammoth score with captain Kevin Dobson going down for fast paced 84 out of an all out total of 142. But the game was over long before that - uneventful it wasn't!