

## **Steep –v- Falling Leaves – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

Once again Matt Evans won the toss but, as the opposition only had 7 players at 2pm, elected to field on another hot afternoon at Steep. This gesture was a reflection of the spirit in which this match was played.

Mel Palmer, playing his first competitive game for Steep, and Ray Street opened the bowling and were soon being punished by openers Kemp and Green, the latter in particular seized on any short delivery and Falling Leaves reached 50 without loss very quickly.

A change of bowling reduced the run rate a little although Green did reach his 50, only to be bowled soon afterwards by Dale Collins. Rutter, Metz and Bird continued to build on the opening partnership and despite three wickets from the ever reliable Rudi Antrobus, Falling Leaves finished on 232 for 8.

Steep were without their usual Sunday opening partnership, but Chris Best and Adrian Hill stood in magnificently with an opening stand of over 100. Hill was adjudged LBW before he had scored but the umpire was corrected by several Falling Leaves players who had noticed that Hill had got some of his bat on the ball first. This seemed to settle Hill down and he went on to a marvellous 83, ably assisted by Best with 48.

Mike Dale, on as a sub for skipper Evans, and himself playing with a damaged finger, scored 26 and Dale Collins 27 as Steep sensed that they were in with a chance of reaching the target. A couple of wickets fell with two overs to go however, and that meant that Steep needed 25 off the last over. It was not to be and Steep finished 22 runs short and the match ended in a draw.