

Southwold tour 2026

Southwold vs Hetairoi, Sunday 30th August 2026, on the Common.

It had poured down the day before, which seems to be regular for this fixture in recent years. The covers were on, but rain runs down the hill and under them, so an affected wicket. But it was a lovely day, windy but fairly warm, with the usual glorious views across the common to the sea.

On paper, Hetairoi had a strong bowling side, medium to weak fielding side, and weak batting. Hetairoi bowled first (an agreed toss), which was good on the challenging wicket. 40 overs a side.

Southwold look forward to this game these days and have been getting stronger each year. They had a very decent side.

Sam B-C and Charlie Fryer opened up and Charlie, bowling nicely, achieved a clean bowled second ball. A good start. Sam was bowling fast. They made a good opening pair. But Southwold's opener and number three defended well and slowly accumulated runs. It was a fair tussle.

John Megone took over from Charlie and bowled the number 3 with his first ball. The number 4 looked good but almost immediately tried a drive on the stopping pitch and it went straight to Charlie at extra cover, but fell to the ground. At the other end Matt Vincent came on, but struggled a bit with length and accuracy. So then Mike Price came on, but they played him well. John M was very accurate and restricted runs his end. However at about 87 for 2, Southwold looked as if they might make 200 which would have far exceeded our batting powers.

Then Chris Kennard came on, replacing John M, and bowled beautifully, removing the dangerous number 4 and then later also the opener. He should have had a third, a decent left hander, but a simple catch was put down at short fine leg. That cost us twenty runs.

John Ball was on the pitch but as umpire, after driving 90 miles to Westcott the day before only to be rained off, so none of his wizardry today.

Matt Vincent came back and took a wicket, then Sam came on for a second spell. But Southwold batted doughtily all the way down. Sam took two clean bowleds in an over. At the other end Andrew Wilson bowled the last three overs and was a bit expensive, but Sam B-C took a wonderful running catch at wide long on to give Andrew a wicket. I think they ended up 144 for 9 -- we could not bowl them out.

As well as the dropped catches there had been some sloppy ground fielding from our ageing side, so we should probably have kept them to 120. 144 was a decent score on the wicket.

The game had been interrupted by the arrival of an air ambulance mid-innings, so despite a 12.45 start it was 4.30 when Hetairoi went out to bat.

In all honesty we made a bit of a mess of our batting order. We needed people who had been playing a bit at the top of the order so Chris Kennard should have been at three, with the experience to ensure a solid start without getting too behind the run rate. Then we did have some fire power in our younger players, but needed to give them more chance to show it.

Chris M and John M opened up, and with John playing some nice shots and Chris keeping the good ones out and occasionally putting the bad ball away, they reached 30 for 0 off nine overs. This was a decent start. Then a change of bowling and the first of the county U16s came on, bowling a good pace and line. John played a loose flick to mid-wicket, and the descent began.

Chris M faced the first over of the other county U16 at the other end, a much sterner test than the opening bowler (though he was wilier than he looked, and we had been generous with calling wides). A ball reared sharply and Chris gloved it to the keeper. Ed Ball had come in at three for his first innings of the season. There was a big appeal for caught behind first ball, but the umpire heard nothing in the Southwold gale. However next over Ed was caught. So now we were 31 for 3 after eleven overs.

Mike Price was crucial. He hit three nice fours off loose balls, but then spin came on and he was rather bizarrely lbw to a looping full toss on leg stump which he simply missed.

David F was now joined by Andrew W, and we became becalmed, reaching 64 for 4 after 31 overs. Apart from Mike's three fours, no boundaries in 22 overs, with the main scorer being extras.

When Andrew was out, Chris K came in but called no to a single, found David advancing relentlessly, and in gentlemanly manner set off for a hopeless run to be run out by half the pitch. Clive followed but was soon bowled, and now we were seven down.

Sam B-C came in and hit some lusty blows, but we had left him and Charlie F and Matt V too much to do. David F's long sojourn came to an end, and then Sam was caught well at long off, with the ball again holding up in the wind. Charlie and Matt managed a run a ball for a couple of overs or so, and pushed us over the 100, but then Matt was bowled and a rather painful innings was over, leaving us 40 runs short and Southwold celebrating enthusiastically. It was 7.15 by then and after short socialising with our hosts we could all go and lick our wounds at the Matthews barbecue, which was as wonderful as ever.

CM 3.9.26