

The Hartley Wintney CC Complete Guide to Cricket Teas

Preliminaries

Q: Does this cost me?

A: No – you buy the ingredients and do the work, and your skipper will pay you at the end of the match from the match fees he collects from your team and the tea money he collects from the opposition. The going rate is up to about £35 (summer of 2006). You can provide a belter for that.

Q: how do I sign up to provide a tea?

A: There is a roster on the club notice board – just pick your date and write your name in. Do it early and avoid the rush!

What makes a Tea?

- 4 loaves of sandwiches
- An assortment of “Savouries” - such as pork pie segments, mini sausage rolls, mini scotch eggs, cocktail sausages (probably 2 of such items).
- An assortment of cakes / tarts / sweet items / those chocolate rice crispy things
- Some crisps or tortilla chips (emptied into a bowl or 2)
- Some fruit – bananas, clementines, strawberries (or similar) – usually goes down well
- And of course Tea - and orange squash

You can vary the plot and it generally goes down well:

- Bread or Finger Rolls to do some of the sandwiches.
- Somosas or onion bhajis as savouries
- Scones with jam and butter or cream

Hot savouries like pizza get devoured, but they’re more effort – your call.

Sandwiches can be as simple or complicated as you want. Here are some staple fillings

- Ham
- Cheese
- Tuna Mayo (& sweet corn / cucumber?)
- Egg Mayo
- Coronation Chicken
- Chicken and Chutney
- Corned Beef
- Sausage (good in rolls)
- Beef
- Pate

You can add to any of the above appropriate combo’s such as cucumber, tomato, mustard, pickle, piccalilli, chutney, lettuce...

Sample Shopping List

With a bit of skill and judgement, you can get all of this list, except the veg, at any supermarket. At Iceland, the whole lot comes to just over £30. Even if you're feeding 22 colts AND Dave Gray - you're safe.

There should be tea, sugar, orange squash in the pavilion, but check and add to the list if you need them.

Sarnies	Bread (square sliced loaves best)	4 loaves
	Margarine	1 500g tub
	Cheese	
	Ham	Pack of 20 slices
	Eggs	6 large
	Tomatoes	6 medium
	Cucumber	1
	Hellmann's mayonnaise	Small jar
Other savouries	Sausage rolls - frozen	Pack of 50 / 100
	Cocktail sausages - frozen	2 packs of 40
	Pizzas – thin margherita or pepperoni frozen	2 twin packs
	Doritos or tortilla chips	6 pack
	Mini scotch eggs	1 pack
Cakes 'n' stuff	Bar fruit cakes	2
	Bar lemon cakes	2
	Chocolate Swiss rolls	2 packs of 10
	Jam tarts	2 packs of 12
	Milk	2 pints

You will need

1. A bit of time and space. Sarnies for 22 plus a bit of preparation at home will take up a couple of hours the morning of the match.
2. Enough room in your fridge for five trays of sandwiches and anything else you've bought or made that needs keeping fresh. Enough room in the freezer for the frozen stuff.
3. Clingfilm – seal those sarnies quick for best results
4. Sharp knives – well, if you don't believe me...
5. About 5 sandwich trays (depends how big they are, stupid) – get them from the pavilion kitchen or use your own
6. Tupperware or similar container for the sausage rolls and sausages
7. One car boot

Making Four Loaves of Sandwiches

A few hints: skip this if you know it already!

Get the fillings ready in bowls - grate lots of cheese into a bowl, slice up the other stuff.

To make egg mayonnaise for one loaf: hard boil six large eggs. Cool them, shells them and chop them up. Add a couple of spoonfuls of mayonnaise, salt and pepper and mash it into a light and easily spreadable paste. Don't eat it all.

Work fast: cut sarnies diagonally into quarters. With a sharp knife (does he never stop?) you can do several rounds at once! Stack them in rows on a sandwich tray and when it's full cover it IMMEDIATELY with cling film and stash it in the fridge.

Battle plan – example for Sun 4.30 tea

Important – best to shop the morning of the match. If there is any doubt, immediately before shopping ring the fixture secretary and check the match is still on.

Sometime in advance	Check when tea is likely to happen
Day before or morning	Do the shopping. If match day – as early as possible
Day before or morning	Check the pavilion kitchen for tea, sugar, and orange squash. The tea stuff should be in the top cupboard at the back. The squash lives in the fridge or one of the lower cupboards There should be tea towels, washing up liquid, scourers, dishwasher tabs and rinse agent.
Day before or morning	Retrieve sandwich trays from pavilion – usually in the cupboard next to the dishwasher
Morning	Check for milk – get four pints if none there
Morning	Hard boil the eggs, cool and leave
Morning 10am	Make sandwiches
Morning 11am	Cook sausages and sausage rolls
Before match	Take sausage rolls, sausages, crisps cakes, tools down to club
1 hour before tea	Fill tea urn and switch on. Takes 45 mins or so then it can simmer
1 hour before tea	Cook anything hot in the oven
Half an hour	Cut up cakes Lay out everything Tables round the walls – wipe them down Stacks of small plates at the beginning Make up some orange juice and put it on a table with a few tumblers. Cups and saucers on the worktop in front of the hatch. A supply of teaspoons in a cup Sugar and milk
Ten mins	Brew tea – two pots, about 8/9 bags per pot.
During	Pour tea. Smile. Stop our colts eating everything before the opposition have arrived

<p>Afterwards</p>	<p>It's really important to do this. Not only is it important or good hygiene; we have legal responsibilities to ensure we prepare food safely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Switch the oven and cooker off • Switch off the tea urn and empty it • Clear up all the tea plates, cups, empty platters etc. • Consolidate anything uneaten onto a few trays and cover with Clingfilm. • Take off any tablecloths. Wipe down the tables that had the food on. • Wash up – there is a dishwasher. • Remove all uneaten food and your own tools. • Check there's no food left in the Oven and don't leave any food in the fridge. • Clean the kitchen thoroughly. This means the hob, the sink area, all work surfaces and ideally a quick sweep of the floor. Plus any spills in the fridge. • Empty the waste bin and put the bin bags in the big bins round the back of the pavilion • Empty the dishwasher if possible before you go. • Check the oven and cooker are off • Switch off the lights • Go and have a beer <p>If you can, please wash and return any tea towels and tablecloths you used. If that isn't possible, please leave them so they will dry.</p>
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Gran's Tea Secrets

- Four hands are better than two – one butters, the fills and cuts etc.
- Sandwiches are fiddly: do them at home and tray them. Sausage rolls and sausages need oven space and time and will be wolfed down even if cold or luke-warm: do them in your oven and box them. Shove everything else, like cakes, in a bag and slice it up in the pavilion. Only cook in the pavilion what has to be hot.
- Be prepared to end up with a messy kitchen – leave yourself time to tidy up (if you care, or if it is your kitchen).
- The pavilion fridge isn't that large. If you can lure your partner into the action get her to bring the sarnies down later rather than take them yourself before the match and leave them out.
- Make sure you include at least some vegetarian stuff like cheese sarnies. That way you have catered for everyone.
- Avoid nuts – some people are highly allergic.
- Find out when tea is – easiest way is ask the skipper.
- Take a few spare tea towels, sharp knives and Clingfilm with you.
- Keep the shopping receipt so you can remember how much you spent.

- If you want to make it easier, leave out pizza or things that need cooking in the club oven. You could leave out all the hot stuff and just serve up sarnies, scones etc., but actually throwing things in the oven for 15 minutes is easier than a loaf of sandwiches.
- Just as you are starting to panic, someone is going to rush in at 2.30 and ask you where the drinks are – so make up two jugs of squash and put them in the fridge.
- Stuff happens. If you have to cancel – try and find a replacement yourself. If you can't let the skipper know, and not 24 hours ahead. Remember, would you like an empty plate and a glass of water?