

With each passing week the once green fields of Downe become more straw coloured as the heat wave continues.

Petts Wood were again the opposition and were clearly relishing the thought. Today's game was shortened to 35 overs, at their request, but was soon shortened further after one of their fielders fell over and heard a crack. This resulted in an hours delay for an ambulance but to be honest it didn't effect the run rate of old kipper hands Liam and Dave fresh from the physios couch. When play finally resumed overs were again cut to 30 and wickets came in the form of Lbw to an aggrieved looking Dave and OKH bowled off a long hop which somehow went through the legs.

Doughnut looked in fine touch but to be honest he was no more than third fiddle to Trub. The bowling had now changed with Messers Kipling and Fray Bentos introduced and we all know Trub can tuck away a pie or two. I am not sure how many balls it took to reach 50 but his second took around 14. With some fielders calling for a declaration after 20 overs, some chance, Trub retired from the fray to be replaced by Nev. Doughnut was smartly stumped sending forth the Bear. Not sure what he was doing in the bushes but The Bear was rather red faced and had seemed to tire himself out to such an extent he could barely stand up and slumped over his bat. Five half trackers and a full bungler were then patted back as he 'regained his strength'. Nev however was unleashing a fine array of strokes. An imposing total of 230 was finally set in an over rate that would have shamed a test side !

Excellent teas provided by Mrs Hobbs, with Tom's involvement thankfully kept to a minimum. (I think he carried the bags)

The next 30 overs contained little excitement as the batsmen showed little interest in 'going for it'. We did however get to see Denzil's 'darker side' with a brief rant at the umpire having been harshly no balled for height !

Three wickets fell, shared among the bowlers, whose main interest was in getting through them and down the pub before it shut. A heroic effort saw the innings completed in under 2 hours !

The only other mildly interesting point was the use of three keepers as once again Trub had become restless wanting to run around, which is quite ironic considering the lengths you have to go to get him running with bat in hand!

Needless to say there are two new names that will be used in an emergency before Spindles ever gets ask again !!