

Downe Lose in Run Fest

With the scheduled opposition withdrawing, Downe accepted an invitation from Eynsford CC to fill the gap in the fixture list.

This was the first time Downe had played as Eynsford, and hopefully it will not be the last at such a picturesque location, with willow trees protecting the stream on one side of picture postcard village cricket ground.

Downe won the toss again, and elected to bat in a 35 overs a side match.

Perhaps mesmerised by having to face a teenager open the bowling (age estimates range between 12 and 14), Matt "Narcissus" Warne and Taylor Snr started slowly. However, having avoided the embarrassment of being bowled by a child, they eventually opened their shoulders and began to pick up regular boundaries. Liam was stumped for 42 trying to push the run rate up, which bought Parfett Jnr to the crease in his supposedly jinxed batting position of number three. Matt went slogging shortly afterwards (83), but Marcus rose to the challenge, hitting a rapid half century including seven sixes before being dismissed for 70. Downe dawdled through the last few overs to post a seemingly competitive 238-5.

It had not gone unnoticed during the Downe innings that there was a particularly short boundary on one side of the ground, and Eynsford were ruthless in targeting it in their reply. Despite "Denzil" Sandford pick up two wickets in his first over, the ball flew to all parts. A few chances did go to Downe's international class slip cordon, but once again they confirmed that the international side they modelled themselves on was England. Matt Warne was given a rare bowl amidst the mayhem and managed to slow down Eynsford's progress with a couple of wickets. The result though was never in doubt and another long hop from Denzil was smashed to the boundary to seal victory for the home side with five overs to spare.