

Gary Doherty Shield

Locksbottom at Home - 2nd May 2021

STILL NO TEAS ALLOWED AT VILLAGE CRICKET

(Dave Holden reporting)

Still no update from Boris as to when traditional cricket teas will be allowed in the pavillion again. Dad (Bob) didn't fancy t'look of t'weather forecast so I had no other option than popping into Mum's on my way past to get her to make me some marmalade sandwiches on my way to the game. There was a bit of rain at lunchtime which was not a promising start to the day for me, having just come out of re-hibernation following "the coldest game of cricket ever" last week.

I don't recall seeing a coin being tossed, but as always, Downe batted first.

Some good bowling from Locksbottom limited Downe to just 136 for 9 of 35overs. Downe debutant Darren Flint (Leigh CC) soaked quite a lot of the early bowling attack but was eventually bowled out by a girl. Only Dave Lineker (36), debutant Ellis Percy (20) and Tom Walker (18) scored more than 11 runs. Ellis treated everyone watching to a first at Downe, I believe, a magnificent reverse sweep for 6 runs.

After a rather nice tea considering the circumstances, the fine athletes of Downe majestically strode onto the field. Despite 3 of their top bowlers being missing they appeared fearless and ready for anything. Just 21 overs later Downe left the field looking despondent, crushed and humiliated.

Except for his first over (which I won't mention here) Ellis bowled well and Tom (El aprendiz del mago) Walker had a great 8 over spell. Debutant Rusty Frampton took the breakthrough (ct D.Flint) wicket of their opener (M.Lather). Parf (Grandad) took the other wicket of their big hitting number 3 (C.Buck). Locksbottom opener (M.Lambourne) carried his bat (as always) with a jug avoiding 46 notout.

The good news was we were able to get The Queen's Head at Downe early to enjoy their fine hospitality. The lovely landlord Nigel laid on a smorgasboard of delights for us and the opposition, including chips, roasted potatoes, sausage rolls, bacon sandwiches, cheese sandwiches. I ate so much so quickly I had to go for a liedown. it was like that time at Jellystone park when everyone left their picnics unattended. Trub provided some entertainment before I left by managing to pay for some drinks with a credit card that appeared to have shaped itself around his gentlemen's area whilst we were playing cricket.