

Match Day 3 and already the season's second piece of silver ware was up for grabs to be contested this year in Leigh, with a bumper home crowd enjoying the sun and a can or two.

Sweet and Spindles resumed their opening partnership though the later seems to have lost his lucky charms as he went playing on early in the second over to be replaced by his son. Zack clearly had no intention of hanging around and was playing his shots, which when connected were hit with tremendous power. The pitch was offering plenty of movement with the ball zipping around. With the openers beginning to tire Zack indicated he would see the over out and then proceeded to drive it straight to mid off !

Marcus as always was warmly greeted by his Saturday team and promptly hit his third ball straight up in the air to be caught for a duck. His demise had nothing to do with shot selection or timing but simply due to his new bat and that he hadn't a chance to practice with it. Matt, guesting from Leigh, came and went in quick fashion before the Bear came out declaring he wouldn't be able to run as he had a poorly foot. It seems he's had a 'poorly foot' for around 15 years. In any case it was soon hurting more after he smashed a full toss straight into it, with bat flung away and he performed a weird dance around the wicket to great amusement.

Sweet then went leg before, and Jonny joined the Bear with a partnership being developed. Bear was in full swing mode now and but after a few connections was cleaned up. Tom and Jonny now put in some quick running before Tom was caught. Dave hiding down the order departed after one glorious boundary, and Part going the same way as his son, to leave the last rights to New and Jonny who carried his bat unbeaten on 32.

The total of 159 was never going to be enough and could have been much worse without the 50 extras. The pitch was still offering something and Zack produced an extremely tidy 4 overs for 6 though with little luck on wickets. Tom was a little luckier if not as tidy, as a wide delivery was edged to Marcus behind the stump. With a fast outfield and a short boundary to one side controlling runs was not going to be easy and so it proved. Matt (guest) and Parf both received some harsh treatment though both picked up wickets. Matt was even on a hat trick before bowling the worst hat trick ball you are likely to see with a head high full toss. The only reason it wasn't called a no ball was that both umpires were waiting to see if their captain would be caught and whose loss would have provided much amusement.

Jonny was the other bowler used and like his batting performed admirably getting the batsmen to play and miss on countless occasions. His one wicket was leg before but he could have had a few more with a little more luck. The fielding was the usual mix bag though no notable calamities to report.

On the plus front there was no danger in Leigh using their overs up and the engraving bills will once again not be required in the yearly accounts !