

Following last week's victory the team were confident that the momentum found could be maintained especially with the Spanish 'lockdown' meaning they would not be losing El Mago for the August period.

A scorching day, a fast outfield meant batting first was the order of the day, with El Mago opening up with young Zack. It appears that our opening bowler has learnt a few tricks from his father as he claimed to be too injured to bowl but was apparently fit enough to bat. Sadly he departed early caught behind but the run rate was rattling along at 7 as the great man cut and pulled to the boundary. The Bear was number three today and clearly had little intention of running if he could help it and the big shots soon materialised. EIM continued and his fifty soon arrived. The spectators mused about when they'd last experienced such fine stroke play as the runs mounted. Bear had clearly pleased the cricketing gods as he started to pick out fielders with unerring accuracy only for the chances to go down. One poor bowler had three missed by the same fielder at long on.

EIM's ton soon came with another scintillating pull. With a double surely in the mix it was the dreaded Downe bounce that did for him as a short ball suddenly died and adjustment came too late. With 11 overs left it was somewhat surprising that the old nudger and nurdler, Spindles would be sent out whilst an array of swashbuckling talent looked on. With 172 on the scoreboard already this had black and red ink written all over it. Bear continued hitting boundaries and fielders and eventually racked up a total of 8 drops that surely must be a club record as he ended up not out for a fine 78. Somehow Spindles scraped a 50 which I put down to a lack of attention from the scorer as he's never scored that quickly in his life.

A target of 276 is daunting enough without having to face Downe's array of bowling talent. Josh opened up down the hill, looking like a young Hari Krishna and was soon rewarded with an Lbw decision. Due to Zack's injury Tom started his first match in 18 months and sent two beamers straight to the keeper. The fact that Spindles, behind the sticks, caught both was a minor miracle. Tom soon found his length and quickly picked up a couple of wickets and produced a tidy 6 over spell of 2-11.

Parf and Bill provided the spin options next and Parf in particular proved a handful. With stumping and caught behind removed from his armoury, and caught never being a great option, his options were limited. We needn't have worried as 3-7 from 5 overs was the result. Bill sadly missed out on the wickets but there was time for Liam and Trub to pick up 2 and 1 respectively.

The fielding was reasonably good all round with no major lapses. The Bear decided to patrol a metre of the turf and only ventured beyond when it was time to stretch out for a nap.

A resounding victory, celebrated with some jugs at the pub.