

This week cricket was the secondary matter as the fixture was the first since the extremely sad news that John Hill had passed away during the week.

Hillsy, as he will always be known, will leave a large hole in the club which he has graced for many a year. As a player, spectator, cheer leader and elder statesman he will be missed by all at his club.

I am not sure when Hillsy first started playing for the club, or if even Bob's records go back that far, but certainly there were no websites involved. Likely it was before I was born but I am informed that it was Hillsy who set the template for the modern 'Wicket keeper / Batsmen' in which glove work was simply not enough. Hillsy will go down as the club's greatest keeper with his record of 29 catches behind the sticks in 1973, a record still standing to this day, and looking at the 'stable' of keepers currently employed there is little danger of it falling anytime soon. In his prime during the 80's he also picked up the club's batting awards twice, in 1983 & 1985, to highlight his key role within the club.

Those of us unfortunate enough not to have witnessed his sporting prowess will simply picture him sitting in the entrance to the club sharing stories and words of wisdom to all.

Nutfield were the visitors this week with Downe having first use of the wicket. Zack Warne clearly has his father's gift of the gab as he appears to have talked skipper into letting him open with his father. A healthy partnership of 79 ended when Zack followed a 6 with another ambitious shot and was immediately caught. Marcus picked the rate up even further with a quick fire 46, whilst Spindles eyes another red inker. His departure quickly followed by a 'first baller' for the Bear, left the Taylor's to close the innings with much swishing and fast running, before Josh's stumps were scattered.

A moving minutes silence was held prior to the second innings in honour of Hillsy with the bowling opened by Josh and Zack. The opposition played aggressively from the start with boundaries coming at regular intervals. Wickets did flow being shared amongst the team Josh(3) Parth (2) Tom & Jonny (1) though one of the openers remained and was clearly the danger. Unfortunately a doobler of a drop from Liam, off the bowling of Tom, and a lack of the 'review system' off Jonny meant he survived to the close of the innings. A tight finish kept all interested with 1 required off the final two balls though the game finished with a very high leg side wide from Parth. The innings also saw a spectacular catch from the Bear who luckily did not have to move too much when taking one skied at the third attempt.