

Following a spate of cancellations it was nice to get back on the pitch, with unknown opponents for a change.

Having spent 3 hours of dull driving down the m6, word was that the game had been changed to 20-20 due to the threat of rain. I was therefore surprised on arrival to see the Downe batsmen blocking out a number of deliveries and not much on the board.

Thankfully the opposition had turned down the suggestion and opted for a 35 over fixture. The opening overs were as interesting as the drive, and it didn't get any more exciting close up whilst umpiring.

Dave appeared to be doing a John Denton tribute act, dealing solely in the occasional single. Spindles was unleashing the odd shot from his locker though it took a nice leg stump full toss to get the juices going. That over went for 20 and the score was progressing at last.

The opposition didn't help themselves by dropping Spindles three times but you just ride your luck. Spindles eventually went for 86 and Dave a Dentonesk 14. Marcus thrashed and burned as did Zack whilst Sweet ran himself out in the the final overs thrash.

New boy 'Lambo' was unlucky to be stumped after the keeper kneed the stumps down whilst the ball was apparently somewhere between his legs. No one was convinced except the umpire Spindles who clearly proved what we have long suspected in that he hasn't a clue when it comes to the laws of the game.

John White smashed his first boundary for the club whilst Tom hit his first ball for a huge six over square leg to set a competitive total.

Tom and Jonny opened up with Jonny the tidier of the two. Some dodgy high wides from Tom have now officially been recorded as a side effect of the Covid vaccine on the NHS website.

Jonny picked up the first wicket before Zack came to the party finally bowling with some pace. He was to pick up a very tidy 'five for' scattering the stumps and also including two excellent catches from Lambo. The first plucked above his head the second a low diving catch the like of which is unlikely to be seen again at Downe

Marcus chopped his bowlers around with Spindles and Parf each picking up wickets, the later from a top catch behind the stumps by Sweet acting as substitute keeper as Marcus had a poorly pinky.

As the drizzle fell the final hours saw a run rate of around 6 and Marcus elected to bowl himself. And what a decision it proved as he took the final two wickets, the last caught on the boundary by Zack though the full toss was suspiciously high.

A good win and an enjoyable pint in the pub, including a first jug from Zack.