

New Skipper comes up trumps !

With Skipper absent and Trub away being fitted for his shackles in Italy the question was who would step up. Well frankly there was little interest as the opposition skipper forlornly looked for someone prepared to toss. Sweet took up the mantle and duly won electing to bat. He also secured a 35 over match, which had been the cause of much debate as frankly with Spindles opening we need as much time as possible.

Snooze before the storm !

The side started at a blistering pace though matters soon fell back to normality after Sweet was held by a smart catch in the slips. Dave, on day release from Paula, settled in for the long haul while Spindles as always poked around like a blind man in a darkened room. The run rate soon sank to around 2 and many pondered whether we'd reach three figures. Dave's departure let loose the Bear who soon followed for a second duck in succession. For those who suspected he played 'by numbers' confirmation was provided as he indicated that ball was the one to be sent into the woods long before it had been delivered. Liam was next in line and provided a little more support for Spindles who had finally remembered what his bat was for, especially after the introduction of some part time spin.

Exuberance of youth.

The departure of Liam was the beginning of the youthful lower order with Elliott marking his debut with some powerful blows. Spindles was next to depart as he was bamboozled by the opposition's Young Lady who took a smart caught and bowled. Parf demonstrated that Marcus was not the only Parfett capable of smashing a ball and Josh likewise hit the ball hard with a lovely 6 to midwicket. Zac, who fortunately has inherited none of his father's shots, attacked the bowling. Of particular note were successive sixes, over long on, off the opposition captain who had opened the bowling. Jonny fell in the final over push leaving Tom to hit his first ball of the season for 4 to take the total to over 200.

New Keeper Shines

With Trub celebrating his marriage, congratulations, the question was which of Downe's stable would step up.

Spindles ? Frankly no chance, clowns not required.

Bear ? All that movement, no thanks, bend down when i can play statues and do some plane spotting.

Liam? Lets be honest he could use some gloves to help him these days.

Surprisingly it went to a man who has apparently kept 12 times for the club in over 40 years, Parf.

Well to say we were pleasantly surprised is an understatement as the ball was caught with ease, something we've not witnessed for a while. The only trait of worry was where he simply ignored balls he thought would hit the stumps, especially off Zac who had the batsmen playing and missing most balls !!

Young Attack.

Never before has Downe sported such a young bowling attack, with the first four bowlers having a combined age of 73 . It was only the introduction of the Bear that brought the age level up. As expected with a youthful attack there was lots of pace but also a fair bit of control as all put in some good spells.

Who'd be a Spinner

It is some time since anyone can remember such an impressive spell of spin bowling. Jonny found bounce and turn and often the edge but sadly the fielding was of a different level. It seemed like he would never take a wicket though it finally came in the final over.

Comedy in the field.

Oh dear. There have been many dubious fielding displays but this took some beating. Whilst the ground fielding was exemplary the catching was not. There were that many it's probably easier to mention those who didn't drop one !

Could do better - Josh running backwards at mid on , tricky but you'd expect better. Deservedly sent to fine leg as a result.

- Tom, another C&B chance, should have snaffled.

- Jonny, considering the one's off his bowling, easily forgiven for this one at square leg.

Doubler - Spindles, as expected this simple chance at mid off hit the deck.

Double Doobler - Zac "I've never dropped a catch" Warne will long be reminded of this howler as the simplest of catches was dropped off his own bowling, though apparently it didn't count as off his own bowling!

Double Doobler - Elliott had clearly got the memo in his first match, fitting in with his colleagues as he dropped a howler at point !

Specsavers Super Dooooobler - after much debate, this special from Liam took the 'award'. Finding turn and bounce Jonny found the top edge with the ball slowly looping to our specialist slip. He appeared to have caught it with ease yet somehow it found the floor.

There may have been others but if there were i have forgotten them.

There were two run outs (Elliott & Zac) which demonstrated things were not all bad.

A fine victory was secured which meant Sweet stands as the clubs most successful

skipper with a 100 % win ratio



For those of you who missed this fine display, video highlights will be available from the opposition skipper. These will include the wicket of Spindles whose young daughter had him on a string !!!