

The penultimate match of the clubs mini season saw regular big hitting foes from across the water arrive to the fields of Downe. Following last week's debacle what skipper really wanted was for 11 sober players and to win the toss. Sadly neither arrived as the Bear was in hibernation and Denzil was no doubt having some prozac to calm the nerves prior to his return.

So on a hot day we were in the field with 9, but at least the youth policy meant there was some mobility. Josh, sober, opened with Tom and both provided reasonable spells. Sadly a looping catch to slip did not result in a wicket as the field had been spread to cover the gaps. The nearest to a wicket came with a very strong Lbw appeal turned down.

Spindles and Jonny were next off the block with boy young gun and old timer finding their mark. Spindles picked up one dragged on whilst Jonny bowled beautifully picking up three. Clearly the penny has sunk in as he decided to cut the fielders out of the loop!

The Bear did arrive eventually just in time for a game of statues and plane spotting, while Denzil provided his trade mark swing picking up one.

This week there were no drops, partly because the fielders managed to avoid getting near the ball. Liam provided the best example when under a high one the ball went straight through him. Clearly new glasses are required. Sweet managed to take a dive, after being hit by a sniper in the outfield, providing further amusement.

Downe's innings started with MVP Spindles being dropped off the first two balls which must be a record. Sweet was less fortunate with Liam triggering him on a half hearted appeal, later apologised by the oppo skipper no less!

The middle order provided some entertainment though no one really stuck around for too long. Spindles luck finally run out being caught in the deep, yes he can hit it that far, and similar approaches led to the Bear and Parf departing as they tried to up the run rate.

It was Jonny and Josh who provided the last meaningful partnership with Jonny scoring a club highest score of 23, with some great shots. He was also polaxed after one found its way straight through to the place you don't want. Josh also hit his straps in some style with some audacious hitting the best being a smear over extra cover for 6. A blistering 40 not out took the team close but not close enough.

Special mentioned to John, who despite being a gooner, provided some superb emergency fielding for the team in our hour of need