

As the teams gathered there were two burning questions on everyone's minds.

1. What sort of batting order would skipper come up with
2. Would skipper break with all instincts and bowl first.

With 'holiday season' upon us a rather depleted team gathered with a combined seasons batting average of just over 100, half of which belonged to Dave, dragged from the physios couch.

For a variety of reasons virtually the whole top order were missing.

Spindles - apparently on a family holiday but the truth is he's having his yearly spa retreat, sorting out those wrinkles and a top up of jet black hair dye.

The Brothers Grim - Back up north, for a dose of smog, chips and lard.

Trub - another BBQ, frankly I think he is auditioning for an episode of 'man versus food', surely he's eaten enough by now.

Doughnut or as we now call him Poppadom - injured again. Poor Danielle, when she agreed to 'sickness and in health' I am sure she thought she would get a few years out of him first.

Liam - Old Kipper hands was pushing his trolley, bashing into people's ankles no doubt.

Well on a day made for bowling Skipper won the toss and elected to bowl, which meant the game would at least reach tea. Sweet was back in tow with Josh who became the first 'lady-boy' to play for the club following his year out in Thailand. With unlimited overs per bowler Sweet settled in for the long haul with neither batsmen looking to attack. Josh showed glimpses of his old brilliance mixed with some comedy balls. The fielding was rather genteel and epitomised by Stretch who was doing a human statue routine which I think I may have seen him performing for tourists at weekends.

After 20 overs the score sat on 51-1. Ben was settled in from the top end whilst Skipper rotated from the pavilion end first with Tom and then Parf. Things were kept reasonably in check though boundaries were coming more regularly. Tom was unlucky twice when a couple went down to the chant of 'are you Spindles in disguise'. Ben was picking up wickets ending up with five whilst Parf took a brace. One moment of particular amusement occurred when the batsmen attempted to smash Ben and ended up falling over and somehow contorting his body to avoid hitting his wicket. The innings ended on 157 which seemed rather daunting.

Following a superb tea most of the team settled in for an afternoon of snooze and beer until Skipper reminded them that they needed to pad up.

Emergency opener Sweet and key man Dave set out and two overs had past before Dave was frantically called in, following an emergency with Dave jnr. Dave was then seen driving from the ground pads and gloves still on, and our best wishes go to all the Linekers.

With the score on 0 The Bear strode out and the two batsmen pondered what approach to adopt. Sound defence mixed with pinch hitting was decided upon, with running banned. Such was the approach that it wasn't until the 14th over that they changed ends. Bear in particular hit some mighty blows and things were looking up. In fact at the 20 over mark things were very rosy at 91-0. Sweet was the first to go with the score on 100, stumped going for one over the top, the Bear not long after for a wonderful 50 bowled by one that kept low.

This meant much relied on 'oppo guest batsmen' subbing for Dave and Parf who could surely muster the three an over required. Well Parf lasted one ball bringing Ben to the crease. The bowlers were now on top and runs flowed like a creek through the Sahara. Our guest went bringing in Bill at number six. I'm not sure if he was suffering from vertigo that high up the order but he looked a little worried as the opener steamed in. Sadly he became the second golden of the innings and another chance for a hatrick emerged. Josh survived but not for long before Tom became the openers fifth wicket. Stretch hit a superb 'late cut' through the slips and Ben gave his all but sadly it was to no avail as Downe finished 21 short as the second 20 overs went for 45-7 which was an admiral collapse.

Lastly the results of the MVP vote have been counted with the overwhelming winner

Most Vain Player!