

## MATCH REPORT DOWNE V NEWINGTON 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2017

### DOG DAY AFTERNOON

The return to action for Downe also coincided with the Biggin Hill Air Event, which was obviously too much for many of the Club Members who decided to depart to far flung fields for the day. A swift call to our feeder Club, provided Ben and 'Perry' Mason together with the bonus of a peg leg Umpire. With many of the oppo still missing as the start approach it was feared that we would be forced to field first and not be able to sit back and enjoy the air show. Fortunately at 14.00 hrs everyone was present and normal service was resumed as the MVP was reunited with Trolley Dolly and Parf Snr returned to the ranks. Setting off at a respectable rate of 4.5 an over, all was going well until Trolley Dolly steered a short ball straight down gullies throat. Donut was next up and continued his rich vein of bad luck as he smashed a low skimming return catch back to the bowler who clung onto it; but what happened when he hit the ground is a matter for conjecture. However he walked and Yogi trundled to the crease to accompany MVP, who was set for the duration. Unfortunately peg leg was obviously looking for more entertainment if he was going to do stand there and did not read the script, giving MVP out LBW. MVP's walk back to the pavilion was only matched in speed with his enthusiasm to return to umpiring duties later in the innings. 'Perry' was next up, for his second appearance on the Downe turf, but first for Downe. Unknown to Yogi, Perry is an accomplished middle distance runner, which resulted in some comical singles being taken. It was a tragedy that Perry and Josh did not bat together, it could have been entertaining. Yogi soon departed to be replaced by Parf Snr filling the void left by his sons need to chill 36 hrs before going on holiday. Deciding running was not the order of the day Parf and Perry dealt in boundaries until yet another LBW stopped Perry in his tracks followed by a similar fate for Parf. With the score still not in comfortable territory, Zach gave a glimpse of things to come with assured attacking stroke play but the mighty Ben soon fell and the score was still a little light. Not to fear, out strode Ladyboy to produce a quick fire 32 by smashing the ball to all parts. This so impressed the Skipper that he kick the ball onto his own stumps in his excitement. Even Tom was roused from his slumber to crash a quick boundary to get us up to a respectable score of 190.

Tea brought one of those moments when you had to be there to appreciate it. For dog lovers it was the perfect storm. On an afternoon when there were more dogs than usual adding to the cacophony of sound at the Downe Oval, it was Milo who took centre stage and dispelled the myth of being man's best friend. Milo was playing nicely with his new friend Barney in the far corner of the field when the smell of food reached him and he took off across the hallowed turf making straight for the pavilion. In his path, Bob was settling down to a plate of sandwiches and pork pie tit bits. The sight of Bob and Milo wrestling over the food platter was pure Ealing Comedy for everyone apart from poor Bob whose exclamations drowned out the low flying jets. Hillsy seated next to Bob, remained calm and composed as his pacemaker kick in and out, whilst everyone else headed for the hills. In the circumstances Bob unexpectedly handled the situation with a reserved demeanour, but expect the dog catcher to be in attendance at the next match. Racked by shame for the canine species, Socks later tried to commit suicide by jumping over the pavilion railings whilst attached to his lead only to be saved by Trolley Dolly whose emergency training kicked in, rescuing Socks before putting on his own oxygen mask.

Back to the cricket. After an unexpected solid first over from the Ladyboy, Donut marked out his run and set off to seek revenge for his dubious dismissal. Unfortunately the opening bat had his sights set on finishing the match quickly, a bit like Trub on speed, and three of the first four balls sped to the boundary. With the prospect of a second explosion of the day becoming a reality Donut castled the batsman and all was good in the world again. Ladyboy crowned a fine day by taking the next two

wickets before Donut took care of their danger man, caught assuredly by Tom in the outfield. With the imminent threat removed, the two guests were let loose with Perry taking two wickets and Ben surprisingly only one. With rain threatening, the skipper took off Perry and unleashed Zach. Not only is he looking a fine batting prospect, his bowling was excellent as he moped up the tail and their opening bat who until then had batted through all the carnage around him. Luckily for Spindles, his son ensure the game ended before the rain caused black staining of his shirt collar.

A fine win and plenty of off field action to keep everybody occupied.