

Downe Triumph in Unexpected Tournament !

Following last weeks break the team assembled with Skipper eagerly awaiting the return of 'star man' Sweet back from the annual mid season sabbatical to Barca. Once again Sweet or El Mago, as he is known on the continent, had beaten Europes finest and frankly looked in tip top condition which is more than can be said for the rest of the team.

Strange things were a foot however as more and more cars arrived unloading eager looking players. It soon became apparent that either Downe were that feared that the oppo were fielding 22 players or someone had 'ballsed up'!

It appeared that the booked oppo Ightham had been joined by Brasted. The confusion was partially lifted when the Bear's name was mentioned who had apparently confirmed an unconfirmed fixture for some unknown reason.

With a variety of options discussed, the situation required a careful diplomatic response, step forward Skipper and a new 15-15 tournament was proposed.

The first match saw Ightham take on Brasted and frankly I paid little attention as we enjoyed some early drinking time and peace as Spindles had volunteered to umpire. The panic of an extra team for tea meant extra supplies were needed. Trub sensing an opportunity volunteered meaning he could divert to the cafe to continue his Man v's Food training returning with a huge sub containing pretty much everything the cafe owned.

In a close affair Brasted triumphed chasing 118.

Downe were now playing Ightham with Trub opening the batting with Spindles. The oppo gave the first over to one of their juniors and no sympathy granted as Trub smashed the first two balls for 4 and 6. The approach did not continue as he was caught three balls later returning sheepishly to the pavilion. Whilst Doughnut flung the bat Spindles spluttered for a 13 ball 6☹️. His departure brought in one of Spindles elusive friends who swung the bat in reasonable fashion. Doughnut having smashed a couple of sixes got a low one. Stretch's son was next in and happily he seems to have inherited none of his dad's cricketing abilities and the score was taken to 106.

Confusion then occurred as an initial three team tea was abandoned and Downe took to the field, though some members tried to hide among the crowd, tea and cakes in hand. Tight bowling from Sweet and Josh gave Downe a good start with a couple of wickets taken including a nonchalant one handed caught and bowled. Big Ben and Doughnut continued the good work with wickets falling and runs kept reasonable in check and the game was won.

The last fixture was reduced further as the drizzle had set in and the gloom descended. With only ten overs Skipper went to the big guns of the Bear and Trub with carnage to follow as both set about reducing the clubs stock of balls. Trub was now show boating with Reverse sweeps and even a Ramp shot being displayed. The Bear did depart, and Trub tried to retire but frankly everyone was enjoying tea too much to bat in the rain and he was told to get on with it which is what he did as he finished on 99 not out with a total of 133.

Brasted soon realised the game was up despite some comical keeping by the Bear who needs to remember that the fielders throw the ball to him and it helps to look at them. One attempted stumping was the moment of the day as he almost fell on the stumps.

Well an enjoyable day was hand in the end with a possible new tournament for next year.

Quote of the day from Brady - 'I remember when I used to tell Marcus to give me the strike and don't worry'.

The fixture also provided a new club record as the 135 off ten overs is surely the highest innings run rate the club have ever scored !