

This week saw local rivals Knockholt and skipper had selected a strong team for the occasion. In fact for unknown reasons the sides were expanded to 12, with all players eligible to bat and bowl, though only 11 would be able to field.

This news was eagerly greeted by the Downe team who are not renowned for their fielding prowess and one could envisage the scenario of players sprinting on the outfield, not normally seen, as they struggled to beat each other to the pavilion.

The news was also noted with trepidation by Hillsy who along with club president Tom Penfold held the club's record 11th wicket partnership. I would like to report that this was a glorious century stand but sadly not as they mustered 4 between them. The record had stood since 1981 on the basis that we have never had a 12 aside game since then !

Downe batted and despite some early runs it looked like it was going to be an interesting wicket for batting. Dave went early bringing Doughnut to the crease. Not sure what's going on with the newlywed but his famine continued as he ended the weekend with a 'double duck'. As you would expect he was not supported by his team mates and merely confronted with a large duck sign. To be fair the pitch played a large part of the dismissal as the ball kept very low.

Trub hit some lusty blows including one 6 into the neighbouring field but departed too soon to a spectacular caught and bowled.

Spindles remained, our rock, mixing defence with surprising signs of aggression including three successive boundaries and a 'top edged' pull for 6. (Short boundary)

Spindles soon reached 50 and runs were flowing though sadly so were the wickets. The Bear was unleashing some mighty blows and all were genuinely sad when he returned to the pavilion. This was nothing to do with the batting but because he smelt like a farm yard, having forgotten to take his new shirt (wet) out of his bag from his recent tour. He was quickly despatched to the furthest corner.

Liam was looking in fine touch and was soon smearing the ball to all corners and a cavalier 50 was soon reached.

A family feud was also to occur as the young Linekers found themselves in direct confrontation. Older brother Dave giving no ground fished one down at young Adam who was not best pleased to see stumps flying first ball.

This all eventually led to the moment feared by Hillsy as Skipper and Bill had the moment of destiny. As you would expect Hillsy was rooting for the bowlers and was appealing more than them. The score inched closer, mainly extras, until Finally another extra put the old codger out of his misery. In the end the record was smashed 11, to reach 214.

A wonderful tea was as always brought to an early conclusion with the team wondering who would have first dibs, for an extended break. The Bear took matters into his own hands and simply disappeared, fag and beer were apparently involved and no doubt a snooze as well.

Sweet and Trub were elected to open and following a couple of quite overs some extraordinary events occurred.

The name Hobbs has a long and distinguished cricketing history and today's events must surely rank among the greatest the world has seen.

The slip cordon at Downe is frankly not renowned for its catching prowess with eligibility seeming to be based on a desire not to run around and being a Chelsea supporter, where they can bore each other and sing 'blue is the colour' to their hearts content. As a bowler you are normally happy if the ball hits one of them and no runs occur. This week all that changed and the lucky recipient was Sweet who must surely be buying a few lottery tickets.

1. A short ball on leg stump, batsmen pulls, and gets a little tickle off the glove. Tom pounces a big left hand, reaches out and ball pouched inches from the floor and the batsmen is walking.
2. Two balls later and the batsmen smashes a short one outside off. The ball flies through the

slips, surely 4, but no Skipper sticks out his right hand and once again it sticks.

3. Sweet unleashes a vicious bouncer (flew off a length) and the ball flies up, straight over the keeper, where Skipper again thrusts out his big right hand.

Three remarkable catches from the Hobbs family, which caused as much surprise from the watching fans as the team.

The bowling was rotated with Trub, Doughnut and Dave each bowling with good line and length and picking up wickets. Doughnut picked up the oppo danger man to break a good partnership and also took the prize wicket of Dave jnr.

Having been greeted with some friendly boos, Adam was literally begging Doughnut to get his brother out. An attacking drive first ball saw Trub take a high catch in the covers to leave Adam delirious and Dave snr contemplating an interesting journey home. Adam was so happy he even patted Dave jnr on the back with a 'see you later mate' !

With the game won, Skipper even found time to risk bringing Spindles into the attack with him picking up the final wicket.

Another enjoyable game and a great victory which was enjoyed by all at the pub.

Last mention must go to Jan, who demonstrated her skills as a 'dog trainer' when young Milo managed to drag her off her feet and around the outfield as she clung to the lead, like some Benny Hill sketch. As you can imagine the team quickly rushed to her aid though I am unsure whether it was for the first aid kit or their mobiles to record the events!