

Match report v Flying Ducksmen – 20th August

By Matt “Spindles” Warne - - - as if you couldn’t guess from the all the praise he gets in the report ?? (Actually he could have been man of the match if it wasn’t for Tom’s bowling.)

A delightful summer’s day welcomed back the Flying Ducksmen to Luxted Road to take on the might of Downe Cricket Club last Sunday. The Downe youngsters were raring to go and skipped out for some fielding practice at least 30 mins before the toss. Practice lasted all of 2 mins when Joe Lambourne decided not to use his hands and took a ball right in the kisser resulting in claret being spilled all over the hallowed Downe turf. Well fielded Joseph!

Parf had prepared a belter of a track and Parf Jnr has no hesitation in batting first in this 35 over match up. Club legend Matt Warne & Adam ‘Mr Tik Tok’ Lineker opened up and put on a very respectable 50 plus opening stand. Adam batted very well no doubt taking a plethora of tips from Warne at the other end until he missed a straight one. Joe marched out at number 3 with the plumpest lips anyone had seen as Matt took a liking to the Ducksmen’s spinners and deposited them all over the garden of England with a mighty six ending up in the boot of one of the oppo’s cars. I think it was a Datsun Cherry if memory serves me correctly. The game then had to stop for 5 mins as all the Ducksmen ran to get their car keys to open their boots recognising that no cars were safe with Downe’s handsome opening bat at the wicket.

With sixty runs in the bank, Matt very generously sacrificed his wicket as he was on tea making duty and with no tea ladies in sight had to give up a sure fire ton to get the sandwich making under way. Marcus then smashed a quick fire 30 and along with a cameo from Parf and a bit of late order biffing from our new recruit Tony (now our 2nd player who actually lives in the village) we reached a competitive 177 for 8 from our 35 overs.

The teas of course were a delight. With the coffee and walnut cake especially a resounding success and we took to the field with full bellies as the Duckmen marched out to bat. The next half an hour was a bit of a blur as Downe produced a bowling and fielding masterclass to leave the opposition gasping at 25 for 7! A sensational runout from Joe and a great inswinging Yorker from Will left them 2 down and then the third Lambourne – Tom – joined the party. Tom was on a hat trick twice! He took wickets with the 3rd, 4th & 6th ball of his third

over and then in his next over he completed his hat trick with the first and 2nd ball. Unbelievable stuff! Stumps were flying everywhere!

At that stage of course we thought the game was done. The men of Downe should know by now that is never the case. Ducksman's No3 had been sitting on his bat while the carnage ensued at the other end he clearly thought he should have a swing. Next ball he popped one up in the air and Marcus clearly thinking it was a smidge too early to go to the pub, then grassed it. The next hour saw their No 3 smashing it to all parts and suddenly the nerves started jangling. Fortunately Marcus realised that in times of crisis there is only man to turn to and with a stunning caught and bowled Matt Warne wrapped up the innings with the Duckmen only 31 runs away from an improbable chase.

We all decamped to the Queen's Head with a spring in our step to find Nigel had excelled again delivering Yorkshire puds, roast potatoes and sausage sarnies. What a feast!

A smashing day, a great win and a lovely evening in our favourite boozer. It was even rumoured someone actually saw Dave Lineker Snr smile as well! – Surely not ?! Next thing we know Lord Lucan will be batting for Downe the week after next!

Only 3 games left now this season so clear the 3rd, 10th & 17th of September and make sure you're all available. May 2024 is a long way away!