

Catches win matches

We played our penultimate match and last home match of the season on Sunday against The Downside Wanderers, a match where historically cricket is not the winner!

It started as an overcast day and after a lot of rain the wicket and ground was soggy. Winning the toss skipper Peter Coveney inserts Downside with a big smile on his face. Max Bell and Paul Petersen open the attack. It becomes clear that anything other than a mighty blow is not going to reach the boundary as the combination of grass and dew apply the brakes to any ball that is hit. This is particularly helpful to Paul's bowling figures! Max Bell clatters one of the open batsman on the chest and then the helmet which is enough for him to start backing away from all further deliveries and having been dropped 3 times is eventually bowled by Max. Both bowlers bowl their full allotment of 7 overs and both claim 2 wickets. After 14 overs Downside were 38 for 4.

Ollie Bell and Seb Bell replace them and carry on the good work with Ollie bowling 3 maidens in his 5 overs. Seb bowls equally well spinning the ball past the bat interspersed by the occasional 6 as he drops in a short ball. Seb claims a wicket with his penultimate ball, bowling the charging batsman with a quicker delivery. After 28 overs Downside were 77 for 5.

Captain Coveney and Rob Denton come into the attack and Rob removes a dangerous looking batsman with a long hop! Captain Coveney bowls opposing skipper Greg Bell and we see out their innings keeping them down to 112 for 7 off 35 overs. What I have overlooked is that we dropped 9 catches in all and could well have had Downside out for a lot less!

A delightful tea was held in which the combined forces of Emma Watkins, Julie Young and Mia Whitney yielded a distinctive selection of sandwiches and cakes. I understand Paul Whitney's favourite this week was Julie's courgette cake!

Play resumes and the sun is out and Dunsfold fielded an unusual batting line up. Seb Bell opens with Mike Berry and unfortunately Mike is out caught before Mr Whitney has finished his third slice of that cake!

Paul Farris making his debut is Dunsfold's number 3 and looking to make an impression on the pudding track having not played for 3 years. He does well and shows that class is permanent and his temporary form is also good! He cuts and pulls himself to a very handy 21 and he and Rob Watkins provide the backbone of the Dunsfold innings once Seb Bell has chipped one to be out for caught for 9.

When Paul is out Dunsfold are 41 for 3 off 13 overs. Rob Denton enters and punishes his first ball for 4 which sets the tone for his short but aggressive innings only interrupted when he makes a meal out of a full toss which hits him on the head. He's bowled for 16. With the score on 74 for 4 off 19 overs Dunsfold were looking comfortable. This however starts the customary Dunsfold collapse with just Paul Whitney (14) and Max Bell (10*) able to score any meaningful runs in this low scoring match. Peter Coveney and Ollie Bell came and went leaving Max and our final man Paul Petersen to play out some tense final overs and managed to creep us over the line with successive byes fittingly bringing us the winning runs with 8 balls of the match left. Dunsfold 113 for 8 off 33.4 overs.