

## Bideford CC Sunday 1st XI 2009 Season Round Up

Well, we managed to maintain our North Devon League Division One status for another year, but only by the skin of our teeth.

Sadly, as I predicted back in March, it would all go down to the last game away to Victoria Park on September 13<sup>th</sup>, as indeed it did; but the fact that we won, and the manner in which victory was gained, is a testament to the spirit and commitment of a team playing together with a common goal. More of that match later.

Firstly, thanks must go to the non-playing team members who week in and week out made our season possible:- to all the ladies who gave up their time and energy to provide us with the best teas on the circuit; to Andy and his volunteers who, despite the awful summer we had, without fail managed to produce decent, true wickets and a superb outfield; and to our scorers – Jeff King, Jenny Williams and Frances Barratt who between them scored the bulk of our games. Thanks to all.

We spent most of the season in the wrong half of the table. Availability issues meant that the same team never took to the field twice. In fact, 26 players played for the team, highlighting the problems we had. We ended up third from bottom and avoided relegation by 0.2 of a point – so you might be forgiven for thinking we had a terrible time of it.

But actually, I believe there were plenty of positives to come out of this season and we did pretty well. In fact we won five of our games, compared to only three in 2008, and that was when Dan Bowser and Mick Warne were playing for us. We were within 4 runs of beating Heathcoat (eventual League winners) and both games against Filleigh (riding high at the top at the time) could have gone our way. And added to this the fact that all of our three cancelled games were against teams we had previously beaten in the first half of the programme, you can see how the season could have been so very different. Maybe next year it will be ...

We started off on April 18<sup>th</sup> against North Devon. Not an ideal first fixture! Chasing 313 was never really on after getting only 71 off the first 20 overs, but Matt Allin (right) helped himself to a well made century and we ended up on 172-3. But there is a lesson to be learned here – batting second you get points depending on how close you get to the other team's score. Two points for 50%, and an extra point for every 10% from then on. At 157 we got 2 points, then 188 would have been 3 – and these extra points can be vital at the end of the season! Players must be more aware when batting second, and set achievable targets throughout the innings.



Matt continued his fine form against Bradninch with 94\* from 157-5 on a wet and sticky day. And after tea all the bowlers found the right spot and dismissed the premiership side for 139 – Jon Weeks taking 3-22 and Dave Smale 2-16. With – on paper – a below strength team, this represented a tremendous effort.

We kind of stuttered our way to 184-8 at home to Victoria Park, Ian Hayter top scoring with 50 and Chris Luxton (47) the only real run-getters. And after tea we were on the receiving end of a Bettiss bat not for the last time that season as we lost by 9 wickets.

Lynton were our next visitors but they arrived with only 8 players. Alec Hodges helped himself to 115\*, Chris Luxton 52 (→) (off 41 balls), Pete Stevens 41 (off 25), Ian Hayter 38\* (off 24) and Will Barratt 37 as we totalled a massive 342-4. In reply they were all out for 167, Martin Barratt taking 2-11 and Josh King 2-30.



We went to Filleigh confident but knew they were riding high. Put in to bat, we were going along steadily at 4 an over when for the last 15 Jack Hockin unleashed hell! Opening the batting, he was out for 99 (nine 4's and three 6's) off the last ball of the innings. Jack's (→) first 50 runs took 89 balls and his next 49 only 16! Alec Hodges scored 54 in support. 233-6 was a great effort against a strong bowling attack and having been 29-1 off the first 10.



We had them in trouble at 146-7 with 12 overs left – young Jake Wood taking 2-16 - and should have won. But we were a bowler or two light and once again were on the receiving end of a batting blitz being smashed for 90 off 10 and losing by 3 wickets.

**Worth a mention** – *Pete Stevens, batting at three, hit a huge six which hit the top of the trees at the road end. I swear it was still on its way up as well!*

Newton Tracey had us in trouble the following week reducing us to 12-2 off six overs. But Alec Hodges (108) (→) and Ali Clements (82) got us out of trouble with a superb partnership of 203 in 32 overs. (This turned out to be the second highest partnership for any wicket in Division One this season.) Alec (ten 4's and a six) timed the ball well and Ali (11 fours) hits the ball hard and far. Together they took us to a winning total of 253-7. Newton got off to a good start reaching 110-0 off 23 but then Ian Hayter (4-49) and Chris Luxton (3-31) took advantage of pressure created by Dave Smale's miserly spell of 0-23 off 9 overs. Newton finished on 230-9.



Away to a strong Heathcoat side we were never really in with a shout. Availability issues once again meant a team probably not best suited to tackling the eventual league winners; having said that we did reduce them to 149-5 but short of experienced bowlers, couldn't press home the advantage. They finished on 234 all out, Jon Weeks taking 3-48.

The pace of their bowlers was probably a bit of a shock – although Jack Hockin (20) and Martin Barratt did well, we then lost 3 wickets in an over leaving us wobbling on 51-4 off 13. Andy Webbe (52\*) and Ian Hayter (26) helped take the score up to 162 before Webby ran out of partners.

“We always do well against Sandford”, said Matt Allin as the premiership side turned up at Westward Ho! And this season was no different. In a rain reduced match of 37 overs, Sandford stuck us in and much to their dismay we piled up 258-6! Andy Webbe (→), with 15 fours, looked unstoppable until he was run out for 82, Chris Luxton hit 54, Matt Allin 32 and Ian Hayter 27 as the mid Devon side struggled to keep us in check.



Thanks to Josh King's opening six over spell of 1-16, we managed to keep them down to 33 from 10 – and from there it was always uphill for them.

With Andy Webbe (2-42) and Chris Luxton (2-33) taking wickets, Sandford finished 23 runs short.

Away to Newton Tracey next – a wet Sunday where we lost the toss and were put in. It was on-off-on-off as the rain came and went but in our 34 overs we totalled a very competitive 175-4, Matt Allin 63 (seven 4's and a six) and Ian Hayter 42\* (one 4 and two 6's). Unfortunately, that was when the rain came – and stayed.

The return fixture against Filleigh again was close but again we came off second best. Having invited the visitors to bat, we had them struggling at 58-4 but they managed to rally round for 177 all out – wickets shared around with Ian Hayter taking 2-15, Alec Hodges 2-21, Martin Barratt 2-24, Jack Perham 2-25 and Dave Smale 2-27. A good all round bowling performance.

In reply we were looking steady at 46-2, then collapsed to 74-6 when Ian Hayter (43 off 28 balls, 7 x 4's and 2 x 6's) and Martin Barratt (27, 4 x 4's) put on 53. Needing 50 off the last 10 overs proved just a little too much for the lower order though, and we lost by 11.

Heathcoat visited us next and we did well to bowl them out for 175, Mike Wigley taking 4-24 and Dave Smale 2-20. Most of their batsmen got a start but we kept bowling well at them and deserved a result. Seven of the wickets were bowled and with one LBW demonstrates how straight everyone bowled.

Unfortunately our batting let us down again – at 37-5 off 13 the situation was hopeless. But Jake Wood (1 off 33 balls) kept Heathcoat's pacemen at bay and Ian Hayter company for 35 minutes as the scoreboard ticked over, then Matt Bettiss (15) did the same thing and suddenly there was a just a chance we could do it. Ian (80 off 53 balls, 8 x 4's and 3 sixes) and young Tom Farnell (19\*) (→) very nearly took us home but with 18 needed off the last three, Ian got out. And with 10 needed off the last over it just wasn't to be as we finished just four runs shy.



One point worth making here – while I was batting in that innings, I had at least 6 balls bowled at me that went far down the legside – and watched from the other end as the same thing happened ... but none were given as wides. Even their captain and keeper was bemused by the umpiring that day. Had those wides been given, who knows what the result would have been... In almost all other games we played this season, anything legside had been given ... but there you go!

North Devon at home next and having got them 101-7 things were looking good for us – until a huge shout against Aussie Stuart Rhodes was turned down – hit on the full on the toe right in front! Not given – he went on to get 92 and take them to 274 all out – Ian Hayter 3-35, Chris Luxton 2-30. We gave away 36 wides that day – that's 36 extra runs PLUS the extra balls. Not good enough and something all the bowlers have to work on.

After tea – well, the less said about that the better. Only Alec Hodges (20\*) and Chris Luxton (19) looked as if they knew which end of the bat was which as we crumbled to 126 all out. Four other batsmen got to the teens but couldn't go on.

A break of almost a month before our last two games meant an anxious wait and a close eye kept on other results as it became clear we were in a relegation scrap with Lynton, Newton Tracey and Bradninch.

The trip away to Bradninch was a bit of disaster with only Pete Stevens (→) scoring any – his 45 off 24 balls including three 4's and four 6's providing us with some great entertainment – as we limped to 118 all out. They knocked them off without much trouble as we lost by 7 wickets.



And so to our last game – away to Victoria Park. Anything less than a win would see us relegated.

There's a long story behind this fixture which I won't write about here, but if anyone wants to know, I'll happily tell them one day...

We needed a win, simple as that. Again, availability issues left me scrabbling around on the Saturday for two more players but we still managed to field a decent side. Winning the toss and batting first on the grounds that the wicket didn't look like it would get any better throughout the day ...

That afternoon we were treated to the innings of the season. Will Barratt, (→) in his first game for about a month, had not had the best of summers so far but today was his day for sure. He opened the innings, and carried his bat through for 98\* - if anyone deserved a hundred this summer, it was him for this knock. While everyone else failed around him (next highest score was 11), Will remained focussed and in control throughout. He almost single-handedly took us to a competitive total of 176-9 on a difficult wicket.



Vicky Park got off to a flier and for a while it looked like a Bettiss bat was going to stuff us again – but an inspired opening spell by Chris Luxton (3-10 off 9) and the guile of Dave Smale (→) at the other end (4-14) made sure we would stay in Division One next season. Backed up by some superb fielding and catching – Alec Hodges taking a blinder at third slip and another in the covers, and Josh King a superb catch in the outfield – we bowled them out for 99, keeping us up and sending Newton Tracey down.



So – the end of the season. We stay up by the skin of our teeth.

**Next season** ... will be just as tough, especially as Braunton are promoted; but our promising and talented colts will all be a year older, a year bigger and a year uglier. Experienced gained this season will stand them in good stead for next. And with a couple of shrewd signings over the winter, I expect us to more than hold our own.

Whoever is captain, please give them your full support – both on and off the field. Reply to their phone messages, texts or emails about your availability as soon as you can – don't leave it to them to chase you up.

My thanks once again to the non-playing club members who prepared the wickets, the teas, kept the fridge full of beer and generally make this a family friendly fun club to be involved with. And apologies if I've forgotten to thank anyone or forgotten to mention someone who did something special in one of the matches.

## Sunday 1st XI 2009 Awards

### Batting: Ian Hayter

As Captain and a possible candidate for this award, I felt it would have been inappropriate for me to make a judgement on this occasion as the top three batsman all finished with very similar averages - only 0.6 of a run separating them. Matt, Alec and myself all averaged around 40. Therefore I asked seven members of the Club Committee - including players and ex players - to vote for a winner.

The majority decision and comments of the ad hoc awards committee who voted was that the award should go to Ian for his consistency throughout the season .

### Bowling: Dave Smale

Four bowlers took more than 10 wickets this season - Josh, Ian, Dave and Chris. Chris had the best average (19.18) but took fewer wickets than Ian or Dave, but his opening spell against Victoria Park was instrumental in us bowling them out and avoiding relegation. However, the bowling award this year goes to the bowler who took the most wickets (14 @ 21.29), had the best economy rate (3.77), and throughout the season bowled with skill, guile and accuracy and regularly tied the opposition batsmen up in knots: Dave Smale

### Fielding: Josh King

In general this season the standard of fielding and catching has been very good - we've had our off days as all teams do - but in general we've been good. Pete and his Tuesday night fielding drills must take credit for this. In particular our catching against Victoria Park last Sunday was outstanding and along with Will's batting, and Chris' and Dave's bowling has kept us in Division 1 for another season.



For me two young fielders have stood out this year: Tom Farnell and Josh King. Both can run like the wind, never give up on a chase and have throws that can reach the keeper from even the longest boundary. I'd already lost count of how many runs they saved us in the field by mid-June. But the award this year goes to Josh King who, with 9 excellent catches to his name, was second in the league's overall list for top fielders.

Sunday 1st XI 2009 Averages:

**Batting: (6 innings + 200 runs)**

	<b>INNS</b>	<b>OUT</b>	<b>N.O.</b>	<b>RUNS</b>	<b>AVE</b>	<b>HS</b>
<b>Alec Hodges</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>40.11</b>	<b>115*</b>
<b>Ian Hayter</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>39.75</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Matt Allin</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>39.50</b>	<b>109*</b>
<b>Chris Luxton</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>25.38</b>	<b>54</b>
<b><u>Also Batted</u></b>						
Will Barratt	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>32.33</b>	<b>98*</b>
Barry Sumption	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32.00</b>	<b>32</b>
Andy Webbe	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>30.75</b>	<b>82*</b>
Jack Hockin	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>25.17</b>	<b>99</b>
Ali Clements	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>23.75</b>	<b>82</b>
Pete Stevens	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>21.60</b>	<b>45</b>
Matt Bettiss	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15.00</b>	<b>15</b>
Darren Hart	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14.00</b>	<b>14</b>
Jack Perham	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>7</b>
Martin Barratt	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>27</b>
John Weeks	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>7.75</b>	<b>18</b>
Josh King	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>7.14</b>	<b>12</b>
Tom Farnell	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>6.75</b>	<b>19*</b>
Dave Smale	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>4*</b>

**Bowling: (50 overs + 10 wickets)**

	<b>OVERS</b>	<b>MDNS</b>	<b>RUNS</b>	<b>WKTS</b>	<b>AVE</b>
<b>Chris Luxton</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19.18</b>
<b>Dave Smale</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21.29</b>
<b>Ian Hayter</b>	<b>56.0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>23.83</b>
<b>Josh King</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>33.09</b>
<b><u>Also Bowled</u></b>					
Dave Staddon	7.0	0	39	3	13.00
Mike Wigley	12.4	2	74	5	14.80
Martin Barratt	13.3	0	89	6	14.83
Jake Wood	9.0	0	61	3	20.33
John Weeks	28.5	0	147	7	21.00
Jack Perham	12.0	1	79	3	26.33
Andy Webbe	12.4	0	82	3	27.33
Ahmet Mutlu	5.0	0	28	1	28.00
Jack Hockin	16.0	2	101	3	33.67
Alec Hodges	55.2	2	296	8	37.00
Martin Stewart	9.0	0	42	1	42.00
Pete Waterman	8.0	1	51	1	51.00
Matt Bettiss	8.0	0	51	1	51.00
Tom Farnell	27.2	0	176	3	58.67