

Devon Cricket League A Division
Season 2019
Match No 4. v Budleigh Salterton.

Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose: Lyndon B. Johnson, 36th President of the U.S.A.

I always approach Budleigh Salterton with some apprehension, not only because of the plunge from the main road down to the ground, but rather that it is a ground on which we have been always unlucky – and sometimes outplayed. I well remember the time that Josh Roach caught the overseas star from Budleigh down the leg side – a bog deflection and appealed, knowing he had caught it, but not removing the bails when the batsman was still out of his ground. That was the batsman who had hit 90+ off 3.1 overs at the home fixture. Such, as they say is destiny.

After last weeks, in the end, emphatic defeat of Ivybridge, this was always going to be a difficult encounter, with Budleigh, at the top of the table undefeated, while Bideford were now off the mark.

Michael Lemmings and James Hayter were absent being replaced by Jack Perham (a debut to my eyes) and Steve Bond. It was generally accepted that winning the toss would mean opting to bat, and Paul Heard did so. It was again a difficult start. With such a young side – particularly in the batting – the choices of mixing youth and experience is difficult. The opening partnerships have not worked well and it was decided to make a change with James Ford opening with Tom Brend who is rapidly becoming the dominant force in the batting line up. There was an immediate problem, James Ford failed to keep one of his trademark cover drives/cuts down was well caught at squarish gully, and Jack soon followed him, bowled by their overseas (one) test player. Neither Ben Perry nor captain lasted long either, with the team being on 74-5 That we had that number of runs was entirely due to Tom Brend's 32 with 6 4s. As however with last week, it was to the lower order batsman that we looked for salvation. First Ollie Hannam, who has not looked at ease this season, partnered with Jamie Lathwell was surprisingly bowled just when he seemed to be getting into gear, whilst Ollie contributed 28 and clearly thought he was unlucky to be given out caught on a high pitched ball. As to whether the ball was high enough to constitute a no ball is a matter only the absent television replays could have solved.

At this point, Alex Hannam arrived. Following his 40 last week, he batted with immense strength of purpose and common sense and reached a well deserved 51* off 69 balls with three partnerships with Jack Perham, and Steve Bond and Martin Stewart (respectively) totalling 70 with a final total of 182. That score was clearly something to bowl at, but the general view was that it was not enough.

After tea, Alex Hannam opened with Steve Bond. Alex came back with 4 decent overs after a very difficult first, while Steve Bond took an early wicket via an Ollie Hannam catch. As regards a result, however, that was more or less it. The second wicket partnership put on 99 taking the score to within 50 of the required total, and despite a fine spell of bowling from Jack Perham (6 overs for 10 runs) and some brilliant but unlucky overs from Jamie Lathwell who constantly beat the bat only to see the ball go to the boundary, and a brilliant run-out and two late wickets from Paul Heard which enervated a flagging side, the end came as expected with Budleigh winning by 5 wickets with 4 overs to spare.

So on next week to Barton. As Lyndon B Johnson said it will do no good to look back, either on the thrilling victory against Ivybridge and the commendable effort against the top of the table team but look to the future, in this case a match, away, at Barton, a game I am always pleased to get over.

A wiser head than mine said a couple of weeks ago, we are playing Ivybridge, Budleigh and Barton. We must win two of them. Well, no pressure chaps, but you know what we have to do next week, we cannot recover last week but we can win next week.

The Quill.