

Plympton away 7th July

To Everything (Turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)
And a time for every purpose (turn, turn, turn).

Pete Segar and The Byrds from Ecclesiastes (The Bible)

First things first.

I must apologise for the delay in this report. But it is the cricket season and events at Taunton, and then Werrington (Cornwall v Devon) required the Quill's attention. That in itself is an interesting point, because, ancient though the Quill is, it came to his attention that another sports event with 22 highly paid individuals running around, seemed to be demanding attention away from the cricket. I was delighted that thoughts of trying to fit our very important game around that were not considered and our match took, properly, pride of place.

This away match was the change of the season - in other words the start of the second half of the 2028 season. The first half started with such hope after a the first match win against Plympton at home followed shortly by the second win against Ivybridge away gave such hope that the results of the following matches came as a great disappointment to all. However as the season turned so the players must turn and renew their energies and ambitions.

I must admit - and you must accept that nothing in this report should be considered as a criticism, rather a critical review with the blessed benefit of hindsight - that when I heard that Paul Heard had won the toss and elected to bat I was not surprised. Paul has said that if we bat 50 overs we will win. Alas we would not find out whether that would have been true against Plympton.

However, despite Jack Ford showing everyone how to bat the week before, I am far from certain that having him open with Tom Brend was a not a change too far. Also I am not certain that Paul batting at 6 is the best answer - but of course that may be injury related - I have not caught up with Paul over his progress recently. To have the old warhorse, James F straining at the girth - or whatever the appropriate horse term would be - to go in at 5 struck me as odd especially as the opening partnership of James (TOW) and Tom Brend has been the most consistently successful pairing this season. Again I stress this is with the knowledge of hindsight . I can readily see that the proposal might have been to stem the propensity of the middle order to collapse. If that was the plan, then partly it was successful - unfortunately on this occasion the collapse came at the top of the innings. Tom B. Ollie Hannam, Alex Hannam and James (TOW) all back for 48 - 5 and with Jamie Lathwell not showing the batting prowess we know he is capable of also back, the score of 46-6 looked (to put it mildly) not encouraging. Someone who thinks they know about cricket suggested to me at the end of the match that on a pitch like this 9and I suspect a lot of baked pitches around) a technique using soft hands rather than a lunging defensive shot would pay dividends. Whether this is right I have no idea I merely pass it on for what it is worth.

In fairness, Alex Hannam played some nice shots in his 18 and seems to be getting back some more enthusiasm for the game. (He has had a better record than most over the past few weeks).

This brought Paul H and Fred King together. Paul we know is a solid hard hitting batsman with a sound defence. He scored a very pleasing 35 before inexplicably getting out. he shared a stand of 68 with Fred. Fred we all know can bat as well as anyone, but of late, enthusiasm perhaps, has got the better of him. Today he batted superbly and with 5 4s and 2 6s (the second of which brought up his half century and the teams third batting point), and got us at least to a score that the bowlers

could at least have a shot at. I cannot recall Fred playing an innings like this, or as important as the one's I saw against Stoke Gabriel and Ivybridge some years ago now. However the fact remain that we did not bat our 50 overs and whilst 150 was a score it didn't really look a defendable one, short of a major batting collapse.

There followed a tea - extremely difficult to get at due to a large number of imbibers shouting the television set and then off we went.

Fred again opened with hostile pace and was rewarded with an early bowled, and returned figures of 1-19 off 5. Alex H opened at the other end - presumably Paul's injury still preventing him from bowling - and again showed some pace. Alex must curb his ability to bowl no balls! Josh Atkinson bowled 3 tidy over - but I think a bit of damp in the air ow wicket would help his style of bowling. Martin Stewart took one wicket but didn't honestly look the threat he can be, nor did Jack F who bowled 6 tidy overs while Marin got one wicket.

James Lathwell did look more on form. having got their number 3 out caught behind, he proceeded in the next over to get two clean bowled in 2 balls (including my co-scorer's son first ball) and finished with 2-23. That however was that and Plympton were home by 5 wickets with 15 overs to spare.

So were do we go from here. Well the easy answer is to Westward Ho! to entertain Paignton who we could so easily have beaten beside the steam railway. A very good start by James (TOW) and Tom B was lost by some very experienced seam bowling by their very experienced seamers. A more long term answer is, however I think this. We have some very talented players all of whom at one time or another have played well. We know that they can play well. They just have to do it all together in one match. Looking forward further, and at the division generally I think it has to be acknowledged that Torquay and Cornwood are a different class but I can remember when Exeter City Beat Manchester Utd in the FA cup which shows that the impossible can happen. All the other teams in the division have shown the same frailties as we have from time to time. It may be that one or two have to have the techniques tightened up a bit, but with concentration and control I see no reason why success cannot follow - lick has been against us, but that will turn, and Paul H will be able to open the bowling again.

So let every season turn, turn and the results may well turn

The Quill.