

2019 PRE SEASON CHAT

To everything turn, turn, turn
There is a season turn, turn, turn
And a time to every purpose
Under heaven

(Folk/rock song by Bob Dylan made a hit in the 60s by The Byrds- an American Folk/Rock group that morphed eventually into Crosby Stills Nash – more information on request).

Well, here we are in 2019 about to renew our campaign in A division. There certainly is a season for Cricket and the fates consider that that season commences in April. However it would appear that nature has not necessarily accepted this view for the season confronting us at Braunton for the first friendly was more midwinter – the season's had certainly turned. There was a howling gale in the score box which seemed to find every nook and cranny to attack us from. The whole scoring experience (my scoring friend tells me) was chilling – made none the easier by the fact that one needs about a mile of cable to get electricity to the score box and then the usual Braunton gremlin kicked in and communications went down. Whether this is due to some high frequency message from the Marine Base at Chivenor – or a local taxi network I have no idea. However the match did eventually get on line.

The second match at Kentisbeare was a tale of the turning rapidly to mid summer – so hot people were in danger of dehydration. There was no live scoring available. There is an updated scoring system this year and it decided 10 minutes before the start to throw a wobbly. The match was put up on line in the evening.

As to the final proposed friendly at home v Barnstaple, the wind was so strong it was almost impossible to stand, and the match was, sensibly cancelled. The only time that springs to mind of such powerful wind was at a Bideford Rugby match when the Bideford No. 10 restarted the match with a drop kick which crossed the opponents 10 yard line and was then blown backwards and landed inside Bideford's 22.

However enough of an old man's reminiscences. We start this season with a new face from Australia, Ben Perry. He is very welcome and will undoubtedly bolster the batting and, I understand, a useful performer with the ball.

We have of course lost two of our regulars – Fred King and Josh Atkinson, both to North Devon. We wish them well and hope they achieve what they aspire to – but they will always be welcome back at the home club. The bowlers amongst the Club will have to step up to the plate, which I am sure they will.

As to the two friendlies, at Braunton we batted first Tom Brend 26, Jack Fiord 28, James Hayter 59 Marten Stanbury 39 and Paul heard 31 in a total of 225 off 40. It is good to see younger names in this list in the bowling Paul Heard -p miserly again – took 1-6 off 5 overs, Michael Lemmings 4-6 off 6.3 overs, 2 for Cameron Atkinson and one each for Jack Ford and Ian Hayter. Braunton all out for 123.

At Kentisbeare the following week, Paul asked James Ford to captain for the day. Kentisbeare were all out for 139 – Steve Bond opening the bowling with Paul H took 3-31 in * while Paul again miserly with 7 runs off 6 overs John Weeks had astonishing figures of 2.3 – 1 – 2 – 2. Jamie Lathwell also took 2, and there were wickets for Tom Stone Martin Stewart and Tom Brend.

James Ford decided that 139 was nowhere near a large enough score to chase and decided that we would chase 250.

Michael Lemmings opening took 26 off 25 balls, Ollie Hannam a robust 36 off 16, James Ford a more gentlemanly 43 off 46 and Jamie Lathwell 30 off 25. Wickets kept falling consistently and it looked for a while

So what have the friendlies told us. A great deal about the British weather no doubt, and also that all the players on show have potential great potential indeed but this will only surface in Division A.

As was mentioned earlier, there is a new scoring system and we have new scoreboard – with DLS on show (assuming my old friend the scorer can understand it).

So on Saturday a large crowd hopefully will see the season launch.

The Quill