

ABBOTSKERSWELL v BIDEFORD
AWAY
10TH AUGUST 2019.

**When (~~Constabulary~~) cricket scoring duties are to be done, to be done
A (~~Policeman's~~) scorer's lot is not a happy one, happy one.
Sir W. S. Gilbert - Pirates of Penzance as amended**

For those of you who read these occasional ramblings you will realise somewhat formulaic basis, starting at the beginning of the game and either plodding to a mournful full stop or else gallop to a glorious victory. (No-one scoring for Bideford can say that any match is ever boring). I thought just for once I would start on the trials and tribulations of the hard working scorers.

At the arrival at the ground it was clear that it was going to be a messy afternoon with the large probability of those three dreaded words 'Duckworth Lewis Stern). As soon as I arrived I discovered that it was not the effervescent Nigel who would be my companion but the Club's respected and helpful Chairman (You didn't realise that I lived in high company did you. The first innings was interrupted either twice or three times. How can that be, you ask. Well we went off for a rain break which cost one over per side then the rain came down again - another three overs lost. The Umpires so instructed the scorers and went out, However before play could commence rain came again and another 5 overs were chopped off. Question - where there three breaks 1,3, and 5, or were there two 1, and 8. Who knows? Does it make a difference, who cares, does or matter? Well I do because it might only be why at the close of the innings the scorers' computers, same programmes, everything agreed came up with two different scores (6 runs apart). (At tea, and what a tea, the Captains and umpires agreed sensibly to split the difference - Bideford needing 227 to win in 41 overs). All this duly put into the computer, so why did the play cricket site still show that Bideford needed 206 runs in 50 overs, no-one knows, and why (and if he was watching would have surprised to see) that the Computer in the middle of our innings decide that it wasn't Steve Bond playing, but Fergus Bradbeer. Who knows - perhaps this is a sign from the Good Lord(s) that my shelf life is up.

However forgive me for the transgression some things you have to get out of your system. With rain threatening Paul Heard won the toss with Martin Stewart and Steve Bond back for the injured (or absent injured) Alex H. and James Greenleaf. Paul heard and Steve Bond opened with Alex insured. The openers made their intentions clear and throughout the innings kept up a scoring rate of over 5 runs. Paul Heard picked up 2 -43 off 8, Chris Luxton 1-29 off 8 (the most economical bowler) there was a smart run out of Abbots captain (or else a suicidal run depending on which side of the fence you stand). The only other wicket was for Jack ford, but even he couldn't maintain his normal meanness with runs. Total 221 off 41 with (an agreed DLS improved score as before of 227)

I thought that Tom Brend hurt his hand a bit in fielding (the catching was not up to standard to be honest - a few went down which should have been taken) so James Ford opened with Ben Perry. Alas neither looked at ease, Ben, who has had such a good run recently did not look comfortable and both were back in the pavilion for 9. Paul at 3 and Tom and 4 put on a good stand of 62 before Paul was bowled 'by a beauty' for 39. Such a shame, he looked in such good form and while he was there the chances of victory seemed much greater.

Jack Ford joined Tom and they put on 60, with Tom looking in fine form - he has not been at his best recently and when he was caught on the boundary going for a second successive 6 for 46. and despite the best intentions of Jack Ford, 25, Jamie Lathwell 14, and Ollie Hannam 26 overs were running out with the game subsiding at 189-8. Abbots 18 points Bideford 5. Both Barton and Ivybridge lost as well but Barton picked up 3 points on us, but we picked up three points on Ivybridge. Abbots hauled themselves above us.

However there are some interesting results yesterday Plympton (away for us next week) were trashed by Tavistock, our last game away, while Hatherleigh beat Cornwood - and we play Hatherleigh at home as our penultimate fixture. Abbots have Budleigh and Bradninch - so what a few weeks we are in for.

Will rain play a part - or will the intriguing last fixture of Barton v Ivybridge be pivotal. Its very strange, Ivybridge always seem t be 'the other team in out travails.

So there we are, off to Plympton next Saturday for another nail bitter - pass me the Librium someone, but lets be hones most of the time a scorer's lot is a very good one

The Quill.