

Bideford 1st XI vs Cullompton (04/06/2022)

This week saw us travel to Cullompton, a ground many of us hadn't visited before. A very small ground and what looked to be a smart batting pitch. Captain Tom won the toss and elected to field with plenty of cloud cover and the chance of rain. We have heard of some massive 1st innings scores here in the past so we were unsure on what would be a Parr total.

Alex and Steve opened the bowling with superb accuracy and patience before Bondy found the breakthrough and ended his drought in the 4th over. After 10 overs Cully were 48-3 and the big wicket of Parr back in the hutch with Alex finding his outside edge well held by Clayton. Just a couple overs later Bondy had their overseas caught by Brendy trying to launch one on to the railway. Ian Brown bowled an outstanding spell of 9-2-30 in the middle and has proved to be a vital string to Bideford's bow. We thank him for his efforts. Martin had a real spring in his step Saturday and bowled his usual to help himself to a further 2 Devon league wickets. Our new signing James Roe was our most economical bowler (9-1-28), a tidy set of figures from Roey on a ground that often sees scores of 300+. Cully hit their way to 209 all out, a score we believed to be very chaseable should we stick to our batting blueprints.

With the fridge back home revising for his upcoming SATs, Fordy would return to his more familiar spot at the top of the order alongside Brend. A watchful start was required from the iconic duo and after 10 overs had Bideford 41 without loss. These two would see us through to drinks at 104-0, an excellent platform from the lads who looked relatively untroubled. They both went on to pass 50 and looked to have killed the game at 155-1. Fordy was then well caught for 68 requiring just a further 55 for victory. I then went out to join Brend and stuck one on the GWR line before attempting the same and shot and holding out to the fieldsman. Clayton (15) showed his patience before him and Brend (77) fell in quick succession just 20 shy off the total. Excellent to have Brendy back in form with back-to-back 50s away from home. Julian and Roey saw the lads home excellently with a couple of boundaries to wrap up the full 20 points. Another good day for the Judge getting a not out and another faultless day at backward point.

That was our 5th game of the Devon League campaign and continues our run of their being a 100+ run partnership in every game and team totals of 200+. Our batting is coming on leaps and bounds and we will look to do much of the same next week at home to Chudleigh. Big thank you to Jess as ever for scoring and we all wish you the best of luck at your piano finals on Saturday. I'll be organising a social for Saturday chaps so keep an eye out. I'd like to wish Brendy a very enjoyable and well-earned holiday in Somerset this week, please manage yourself accordingly.

Have a good week,

Social Sec Hannam

MOM – Brendy with 77 inc 12 x 4s and 2 catches

Dick of the Day – Greenleaf (dropping a sitter off a free hit) be better James