



BRAUNTON II S V BIDEFORD IIS

July 25th 2020 – North 2 (Tier 7)

Cold, wet and depressing.... but enough about me! 😊

Arrived at Braunton for the first of our 'mini' league matches, with a very youthful team. Seven players aged 16 or younger, I won the toss and stuck the hosts in. And then the heavens opened...

A while later, we took to the field, no overs lost, 35 a side. Keates the Elder and Keates the Younger opened up, and in the 4th over Pops lured the batsman out of his crease for a straightforward stumping, 12-1 off 4. Great start! Things kind of went downhill after that, as the batsmen eased to 118-1 at the half way stage. Loose and rusty bowling with a generous helping of wides thrown in. Oh well, early season still!

Something had to change, or we were going to be chasing 300. But change it did, as Julian Hayter came on for his first bowl of the season and immediately found a good line and length, and just enough movement off the seam to keep the batsmen honest. He finished with figures of 5-1-13-1 and along with Ben Gifford, whose off-spin bowling continues to impress, slowed Braunton up considerably.

John Weeks had the last laugh though, and the best figures of 4-17, coming on and nipping out 4 batsmen in no time at all as they tried to up the run rate. Olly took another one, courtesy of an amazing boundary catch by Julian (seriously, it was mental!!) and two run outs (one by Dan, one by Olly) gave us maximum bowling points. After drinks, the bowling and fielding was amazing - the final 10 overs of their innings we kept them down to 60 for 8, giving them a final total of 194ao.

After tea, Tom and Weeksy opened up, but John was unable to carry on his form from last week. Fionn (14) and Tom (also 14) then put on 30, but were bogged down by some steady bowling and defensive fields. After 20 overs we were 56-4 needing almost 10 an over off the last 15. Big ask. To cut a short story even shorter, it didn't happen. I perished in the final over looking for a few more runs to give us an extra batting point, but we didn't quite get it. Still, we came away with 7 points, and we were not bowled out.

Things we all need to work on: Bowling: we bowled 35 wides..... that's 35 extra runs, and almost 6 extra overs we bowled to them.... Batting: - rotating the strike ... not getting bogged downfinding ways to score off decent bowling ... These things can only be learnt by spending time in the middle....

Player of the Match: I'm going to spilt it again. John, obviously for his 4 wickets, but also Julian, whose miserly spell put the brakes on, and for his catch - proper champagne moment. Well done both.

Braunton 194 ao (John Weeks 4-17, Olly Keates 2-36, Julian Hayter 1-13)

Bideford 101-8 (Ian Hayter 26, Tom Stone 14, Fionn Toland 14)

Scorecard: <http://blwh.play-cricket.com/website/results/4475393>