



BIDEFORD IIS V DEVON OVER 50s/60s

September 5th 2020 – Friendly

It was a while coming, but worth the wait!!

We welcomed a combined Devon Over 50s/60s team to Westward Ho! to play our young 2s (with seven aged 16 or under) and although the weather tried to stop us, we got the game in thanks to the hard work and commitment of our groundsman Martin. Where would we be without him..?

We struggled a bit on arrival as apparently the pavilion keys had gone missing on Monday, but no one told me. After a couple of frantic phone calls, Andy turned up with the spares so we could set up properly and start on time.

I stuck the visitors in and opened up with John Weeks and Julian, who had bowled so well all season he deserved a chance with the new ball.

After 10 overs Devon were 7 for 2, with just three singles scored off the bat. Sixty balls bowled, fifty-seven dots....Both bowlers were bowling an almost immaculate line and length with just enough swing in the air and movement off the pitch to keep the slips & keeper interested, and both snaffled catches, both openers out for ducks. Julian finished his spell with 1 for 2 off five overs, and John 1 for 7 off 6. Incredible figures.

Jim carried on the good work with two wickets in his first over. Huge late inswing got him an LBW and a bowled, and a catch in the covers by Tom gave Jim 3-10 off five. Not bad after his first ball went for 4! Awesome. They just couldn't play him - outstanding effort, even better than last week 😊

At drinks after 20 overs Devon were 41-5, half way through, and as their batsmen started to work the conditions a bit better, scored slowly but steadily through to the 30th over, almost doubling their total. Ben got the ball to turn, as he always does, and had two catches taken by Olly at square leg, one a real blinder. By now Julian had taken over the wicket-keeping duties, I kind of wish he hadn't, as I then dropped a catch at slip off Ben...*sorry*... 😞

I thought I'd have a couple of overs myself at the end, and thanks to Julian's quick hands, got three wickets, all stumped ...he'll probably want a raise in his pocket money now.. 🤖

That meant though, that we had bowled them out off the last ball of their innings for 119. Fantastic effort from everyone.

We always knew it wouldn't be easy chasing this target against the experience and cunning of Devon's bowlers, and so it proved, at least at the start.

Rob and Jake opened up, and we lost Jake leg before early doors, but not before he had hit two scrumptious cover drives. Fionn and Rob then took the score to 29 off 10 overs before Fionn too was out LBW to the same bowler. When Tom was bowled an over or two later we was wibbly wobbling a wee bit on 33-3, but Julian and Rob steadied the ship and set sail for Victory Island, although it was a long way off on the horizon at that point.

Rob, promoted to open, batted like an opener. (His words, not mine 😊) Dead batted absolutely everything unless he knew he could hit it, facing 106 balls for an excellent match-winning 63*. He hit 10 fours in there, and the pair of them put on 87 together, Julian finishing on 33* off 46. They resisted everything the 50s threw at them, batted sensibly and with a level head. After 20 overs we were 64-3, but by the 30th it was almost all over, such was the way they took control of the match.

An overall super performance. Devon hit just seven boundaries against us, testament once again to how well all our bowlers bowled. Just look at these bowling figures:

FRIENDLY 05 SEPTEMBER 2020 | Bideford, Littleham & Westward Ho! | 📄

W
WON BY 7 WICKETS
L

BOWLER	OVERS	MAIDENS	RUNS	WICKETS	WIDES	NO BALLS	ECON
John Weeks	6	1	7	1	0	0	1.17
Julian Hayter	5	3	2	1	0	0	0.40
Jim Keates	5	0	10	3	0	0	2.00
Luke Twymnan	4	0	20	0	0	0	5.00
Ben Gifford	7	0	21	2	0	0	3.00
Oliver Keates	5	0	16	0	0	0	3.20
Jake Cleave	3	0	20	0	0	0	6.67
Tom Stone	3	0	12	0	0	0	4.00
Ian Hayter	2	0	4	3	0	0	2.00

How much have these guys come on in just eight short weeks since our first game on July 11th?!? Fantastic. They've done so well and fully deserved their first win of the season. I feel like a proud Dad.... 😊

Player of the Match: I'm going to spilt it again. Rob, obviously for his match-winning situation-perfect innings of 63*, but also Julian, whose opening spell was outstanding, followed by 3 stumpings, and then 33* to support his senior partner. Well done both.

Devon Over 50s/60s 119ao (John Weeks 6-1-7-1, Julian Hayter 5-3-2-1, Jim Keates 5-0-10-3, Ben Gifford 7-0-21-2, Ian Hayter 2-0-4-3)

Bideford 120-3 (Rob Hill 63*, Julian Hayter 33*)

Scorecard: <http://blwh.play-cricket.com/website/results/4516554>