



BIDEFORD IIS V FILLEIGH

August 22ND 2020 – North 2 (Tier 7)

Ike's Odyssey – The Long and Winding Road to Filleigh!

As an ex-teacher, a dad of two teenage boys, and a long-suffering (not really!) husband of some 20 years, I am perfectly accustomed to no one ever listening to me. Not a word. At all. Ever. Zilch. Zip. Nada. Zero.

But I hoped that when our well-seasoned umpire, Ike, not knowing where Filleigh's ground was, asked me how to get there, he might take notice... I gave him exact directions, down to the last inch, and suggested he follow me from Northam to further reduce the risk of him getting lost...

I'm going to leave the story there for now. But I will happily re-tell it in the socially-distanced bar soon, over a couple of Thatchers, to anyone who wants to hear..... 😊

Anyhoo, by some miracle we were able to play and started on time. The awful weather we'd had in the few days leading up to Saturday meant that obviously the ground was soft, the pitch a bit of a pudding, and it was as windy at Filleigh as it ever is at Westward Ho! But well done to the Filleigh team for being able to prepare a pitch and get everything ready.

Once again, I won the toss. Getting pretty bored of this now. Six out of six. Anyway, thought we should bowl first, which we did, and were rewarded with a wicket in the first over, a neat catch taken in the covers by Tom off Dan.

Olly, opening from the trees end, was unable to continue his impressive early season form, and Filleigh's top four scored 7 an over almost at will with 128 off 20. Dan bowled tidily enough though, with some great deliveries, and the one that bowled the left-hander Simon Prideaux was an absolute jaffa.

That our Colts found it hard to bowl at the Filleigh bats should be no surprise; some of these guys were playing 1st XI B Division cricket the season before last, when most of our team were still playing Kwik Cricket with a soft ball. But no one disgraced themselves, and everyone should feel good about their performances. This season is a learning process, and every week we are getting better in all departments.

The run rate was reduced dramatically by the introduction of the two 14 year olds Julian Hayter and Tom Stone. In a super joint spell of eight overs, the two gave away just 20 runs – and bear in mind the two batsmen were in and scoring freely up until then. Julian finished his spell with 4-2-5-0, and Tom came back on for a couple of overs at the end and finished with 6-0-24-1. Ben and Jim also came back on and bowled very well – so difficult at the end of the innings. Jim finished with 2-58 which included a catch by Papa Keates at long on. A total of 128-3 off 20 finished at 193-5 off 35. An excellent effort from our youngsters.

After the break John and Julian opened up, but we lost John early on. We all found it hard on a low, slow surface, and when the pace was taken off no one knew how to work the ball around or how to score. Once again though, some of these were B Division players bowling at us so inevitably we will struggle. Especially the inexperienced Colts. But how do you learn? Only by playing...

No one hung around very long to keep Julian company. He batted like he has been batting on Sundays all season – with great determination, patience, concentration and focus. A lesson for us all! No one else

reached double figures except our old friend Mr W. Ides and we were all out for 82. Julian made half of those with a four and a sweetly timed six over long on reminiscent of a shot his father may well have played ... 😊

On paper, we were thrashed. But the game's bigger than that and I like to look at the whole picture. We bowled 35 overs, almost every ball to experienced adult cricketers, and all but four of those overs were delivered by colts under the age of 16. Every week they improve. Dan bowled some peaches, or whatever they're called these days, Ben rips the ball on any given surface, Jim's line gets better with every spell, and Tom and Julian were excellent.

Batting-wise, Julian was simply outstanding. No one else came to the party on this occasion, but they have done so before this season, and will do so again.

Player of the Match: Julian Hayter

Filleigh 193-5 (Dan Smith 2-34, Jim Keates 2-58, Julian Hayter 4-2-5-0)

Bideford 82ao (Julian Hayter 40)

Scorecard: <http://blwh.play-cricket.com/website/results/4475395>