



# BIDEFORD IIS V FILLEIGH

Sept 5<sup>th</sup> 2020 – SEMI FINAL



Back L to R: Richard Stone (scorer) John Weeks, James Hayter, Ian Hayter\*, Julian Hayter, Tom Stone, Ike Aviston (umpire): Front L to R: Jack Ford, Fionn Toland, Jim Keates, Dan Smith, Ben Gifford, Olly Keates

The day of our Semi-Final play-off match against Filleigh had arrived...

The evening before, we had a drop out from the team – one of last week's batting heroes Rob Hill – some excuse about working blah blah, farming blah blah, producing food to feed the nation blah blah .. so we had to rope in a last minute replacement - young Jack Ford. That meant eight of the team were not old enough to buy their captain a pint... 😞

Upon winning the toss yet again, nine out of nine, I invited the visitors to have a bat. The wicket looked good, as it always does, but there had been some rain overnight and our bowling so good the week before, I thought we could make a good fist of it.

John and Julian opened up, and Julian particularly was yet again miserly in giving runs away with 5 overs for just 14. In truth it should have been five overs for 6 runs, but two mis-fields gave away 8 runs unnecessarily. John meanwhile got the breakthrough removing an opener and the dangerous Simon Prideaux in his 8 overs for just 21. By now the crowd was (almost) going wild... and Richard the scorer was about to have palpitations...

Technology is a wonderful thing – when it works..... and today, for some reason, it didn't. Or rather, it did, but then stopped as Jim came on to bowl. Perhaps it wanted to watch him as he bowled another excellent spell of 6-1-15-1 and really put the squeeze on, not easy against the Prideaux bros...

Technology be damned anyway, as first the notepad and pen came out, and then the old-fashioned score book. He did an awesome job did Richard, luckily Anne was there too – and together a sterling effort kept everything under control!

Anyway, back to the cricket...

Jack bowled a very tidy spell giving away less than 2 runs per over. He has a bright future that lad.

Ben Gifford has bowled well all season with very little luck and few wickets to his name. He can turn the ball on any surface though, and is not afraid to experiment with variations. Today was his day. At last, lady luck was on his side, not that he needed her, but you'd rather have the Old Girl with you than against you.

Almost immediately Ben got his first wicket of the day, and removed the other dangerous Prideaux, but not before he scored 60 in about 10 minutes. From then on in though, it was all about the G-Man..

Ben reduced Filleigh from 122-4 to 159 all out. Our first 5-fer of the season! As the crowd grew, the drink flowed, noise levels increased and Ben was clapped off the field by his team-mates with figures of 5-35.

Let's not forget though, the contribution from Olly – snapped up the last two wickets for 2-15 off 3.4, giving Julian another neat stumping.

And the catching was generally good, with two from Jack, one a skier that took forever to come down, and one from James that went like a rocket up to long on and hardly got above waist height all the way..

160 to win then, we needed a good start . . .

After a bit of cosmetic work on the sight screen at tea, Tom and James opened up, and James in particular punished the bad ball, smacking two sixes in an over from the opener. Tom played his part too, and together they put on 46 in good time before Tom was out LWB for 13. James was out the same way, for an excellent 49 off 44 balls, leaving us at 78-2 after 15 overs.

By drinks at the half way stage we were 90-3, and it was anyone's game.

But young Jack Ford was in, and supported by Fionn they moved the score along. Fionn struggled against the slower bowlers, scoring 18 off 51 balls, but at least he stayed in and kept Jack company until at 131 off 29 overs he skied one which was caught, much to everyone's surprise as he had been dropped three times by then already..

Skipper came in and thanks to Jack's 47\* off 50, there were no more panic stations, the winning hit captured for posterity by Adrian Smith, a massive six over to Tesco's car park.



Six - game over!



Jack hits out



*Ben gets team-mates congrats*



*Tom hits straight*

Another win for the boys in front of their home crowd, whose support was much appreciated. Delighted for them. Having lost every game in the league rounds, this is amazing. Just 10 wides today, a huge improvement from earlier on in the season. Imagine giving away 55 wides like we did just a few short weeks ago. That would have meant we were chasing a minimum of 205 instead of 160 to win. You see the difference it makes....?

Fantastic effort!

**Player of the Match:** No surprises - Ben Gifford!! Honourable mentions for Jack Ford and James Hayter though.

Filleigh 159ao (Ben Gifford 5-35, John Weeks 2-21, Olly Keates 2-15)

Bideford 165-4 (James Hayter 49, Jack Ford 47\*)

**Scorecard:** <http://blwh.play-cricket.com/website/results/4515405>