



BIDEFORD IIS V NORTH DEVON 3S

August 1st 2020 – North 2 (Tier 7)

Three important numbers to remember this game by:

58 – the good

52 – the bad

5 – and the ugly

First – the good one: **58** – the number of runs scored by 14 year old Tom Stone – his maiden seniors' half century, an innings he will no doubt remember for a long time

Second – **52** – the number of wides we managed to bowl in 35 overs... (I kid you not)

Third – **5** – the number of catches we managed to drop in the first 20 overs of North Devon's innings...

We don't do ourselves many favours do we?!?!?! 😊 😐 😞 But it's important to remember that no one drops a catch on purpose, and no one deliberately bowls a wide. It just happens. All we can do, is practice, practice, practice... and introduce a system of fines next year....

I won the toss again (I'm beginning to think the universe is going mad!) and stuck them in. Chris (Luxton) had been down the ground and put the nets up for us, and Martin had produced an excellent wicket, good reliable bounce and carry, just enough seam movement to keep the bowlers interested and the batsmen honest, and just the right amount of turn for the spinners. The decision to bowl looked a good one as Jim and Olly bowled tidily up front, conceding just 3 runs an over until Olly unleashed his secret weapon and Tom Stone took an excellent catch at square leg. 19-1 off 6 overs. But, like last week, we failed to capitalise on a good start, as we didn't take another wicket until the score was 154 in the 26th over. 154-1 in truth should have been 70-6 as catch after catch went down... damn that hand sanitiser, it's slippery stuff....

Luke Twyman made the breakthrough with, dare I say it, a rather neat leg side stumping from yours truly, and then Julian took two wickets with some decent bowling, creating a little pressure which caused a run out (courtesy of Dan Smith at mid-wicket, once again showing what an outstanding fielder he is.)

North Devon finished on 238, with Olly getting a second wicket at the end, including a whopping 55 extras ...

After the break, John and Tom played themselves in and got us off to a slow but steady start, just what was needed, accelerating to 58-0 off 11. John particularly punished the short ball outside off, but when he got out on 31 off 35 balls, and Robbie was bowled in the same over, that left us at 64-2 and slowed our rate of progress for a while.

But Fionn and Tom almost doubled the score in the next 12 overs as Tom moved to his first ever 50. A super innings, a real pleasure to watch eventually perishing for 58 off 71 balls. The first 50 of many I'm sure, and if we played matches of 45 overs duration, it wouldn't be long before we saw his first hundred too.

After the drinks break, we got a bit bogged down, and needing 11 an over off the last 10 we lost five wickets for 35 runs, although most of the wickets that fell were not to attacking shots. But this is very much a learning process for the **Magnificent Seven** colts we had in the team. (Sorry, my references to 60s Westerns will be lost on most readers...) To try to get us an extra batting point I hit out a bit in the last two or three overs with 24* off 18 while Luke hung around nicely at the other end. He was out to the penultimate ball. We finished on 169-8

Player of the Match: Tom Stone – two good catches, and of course a half century. Well done!

North Devon 238-5 (Olly Keates 2-25, Julian Hayter 2-32)

Bideford 169-8 (Tom Stone 58, John Weeks 31, Ian Hayter 24*,)

Scorecard: <http://blwh.play-cricket.com/website/results/4475392>

Saturday 2nd XI 2020 - Socially Distanced!



Back l to r: Olly Keates, Luke Twyman, Robbie North, Tom Stone, John Weeks, Julian Hayter, Richard Stone (scorer):

Front l to r: Jim Keates, Dan Smith, Ian Hayter *, Fionn Toland, Ben Gifford