



# BIDEFORD IIs V NORTH DEVON IIs

Aug 29th 2020 – Friendly

Kind of sunny at Westward Ho! , but still wet underneath. Thankful to get a game in though, a friendly with our neighbours from across the Torridge.

Yet again I won the toss... 2020 sure has been the darndest year!

Bowling first Dan and Tom opened up, bowling tidily enough, making the breakthrough in the 8<sup>th</sup> over due to a - dare I say it – canny bit of captaincy – Tom having their opener caught at backward point, the first of two catches for John that afternoon.

Luke took a wicket in his second over, but it was Jim who bagged the bowling honours. In his first spell he took 3-13 off five and bowled the best I've ever seen him bowl, ending up with 3-22 off eight. Excellent stuff Jim! Ben and Julian carried on the good work, with Julian once again proving to be the most economical bowler - his five overs costing just 12 runs. He should have had a couple of wickets as well, but two catches went down off his bowling. In truth, Rob Hill dropped his catch at slip three times, and has taken up a job offer in Billy Smart's Circus as resident juggler... 😊 Ben bowled thoughtfully and gave little away, great to see him trying new deliveries as well. He finished with 1-31 off eight.

All the bowlers bowled really well. Jim led the way, with late inswing and movement off the pitch too; all 40 overs were delivered by guys under the age of 16. North Devon only managed nine boundaries in that time, which shows our bowling is becoming more disciplined. Wides though, were still a feature, but the strong wind was definitely a factor.

After the tea break, we lost John early, but Tom and Fionn knuckled down against some tight bowling and good fielding. They didn't lose patience though, Tom tried on occasion to disrupt the bowler's rhythm by using his feet to the openers, good to see, and at the half way stage we were 66-2, having lost Fionn in the last over before drinks for 20, just as both batsmen were just beginning to get on top the bowling. That excellent foundation left us needing 120 off 20.

Unfortunately, things kind of went downhill from there. Tom was yorked for 35 and no one else made double figures. 66-2 became 93 all out. Even I can't put much of a positive spin on this one I'm afraid...!

But I am hugely encouraged by the bowling. Some of these youngsters have played very few games of cricket, and yes, we bowled more wides than we should have, but every week it's great to see the improvement.

**Player of the Match:** I'm going to spilt it again. Jim for his excellent 3-22, and Tom (5-0-21-1 and 35). Well done both.

North Devon 179-8 (Jim Keates 3-22, Julian Hayter 5-0-12-0)

Bideford 93 (Tom Stone 35, Fionn Toland 20)

Scorecard: <http://blwh.play-cricket.com/website/results/4513375>