

Bideford V Barnstaple & Pilton  
17/04/2022

There's no place like home!

We kicked off proceedings at the Ho with a pre season friendly against local side Barnstaple in a 40 over game. Before I enlighten you on the days play I'd like to thank Jamie, Andy and the Luxton's for making the ground and square look as good as ever in the North Devon sunshine.

We began the day with an excellent warm up that set the tone and immediately demonstrated the lads were excited for this one. Captain Brend delivered the news that we would bat first on what looked to be an excellent wicket. Unfortunately, the skipper made little to no use of the facilities and fell for a duck (it happens). I began the rebuilding phase with James Hayter and compiled a 90 run partnership with him before I chucked it away for 33 off the bowling of Lee Cole. James passed 50 with ease and continued to go about his business with James Ford looking assertive at the other end. Fordy was caught behind just before Brendy was about to retire him for a well made 47.

The first moment in the day that caused controversy was at the drinks break. Now as all players know the squash ratio and temperature is not one to be messed around with (is it Bondy?) Well, umpire Ike Aviston was disappointed to say the least with Steve's "attempt" at an orange cordial as it was far too concentrated and certainly not refrigerated. Be better please Steve.

Unfortunately Tom Stone fell for 0 too after a superb start to the season in Bude. James Hayter then reached his century where he looked so in control and clear of his plans throughout. I have no doubt he's in for a good year. Younger brother and better bloke Julian made an attractive 25 was the final innings of note for the top order before Jimma Thomas sent Alex's middle stump to the top fence. I'm sure if you ask Ian nicely he will show you exactly what it looked like. We ended our innings on 230-7, a score we believed to be defensible providing we bowl and field well.

During the half time a few of us wondered over to Tesco to pick out our meal deal, this always provides some discussion and judgement. This week I went for a trusty chicken, bacon lettuce whereas Fordy pushed the boat out for a prawn salad which he told me was very pleasant.

We opened the bowling with Alex and Bondy who bowled well and each took one of the openers cheaply. Gifford then came on to start what would be a legendary day for him and bowled 8 overs 3 for 39 runs. Cheers Giff. Once again super Jacky Ancill ran in for 7 overs and was very unlucky to not get a wicket. Tom Stone picked up the crucial wicket of Hastie who was going well on 45 before Jake Cleave bowled 5 overs, 2 for 39 to close out the game resulting in a victory of 48 runs.

The evening was celebrated appropriately with drinks on the outfield together and then some games inside. Gifford decided to let us know casually that he would be turning 18 at midnight which came as quite the surprise and one that was addressed accordingly... On that note we'd all like to wish Ben a very happy 18<sup>th</sup> and looking forward to having you on board!

Captain Brend would like to thank Fever and Boutique for the continued partnership with the club and their hospitality last night.

I wish you all a happy and relaxing Easter.

Social Secretary,  
Oliver Hannam

Scorecard: <https://blwh.play-cricket.com/website/results/5271678>