

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON V BIDEFORD
2nd June 2018 Devon League A

(With a mention of Ivybridge)

'He who would valiant be. let him come hither'. Hymn taken from Pilgrim's Progress by John Runyan.

First to Ivybridge which I very regrettably missed. I cannot therefore make any comment other than that I can see from the card. The first obvious comment which I have made before this year is that while all the batsman who were out got going and made scored between 31 and 46, no-one went on the convert them into 50s. It is also notable that we were 7 runs short of the 5th batting point, but whether that was attainable or not I do not know.. The main wickets seem to have been taken by fielders as opposed to the wicket keeper so I am presuming that they were list trying to up the tempo. If that is so I have no argument. Thee bowling figures look quite sensational, Paul Heard 1-6 off 10, Fred King 2- 19 off 7, Martin Stewart 1- 20, Jamie Lathwell 1- 18 off 7 Steve Bind 2 - 14 and Jack Ford 2 runs off 3 overs. A straightforward demolition job. Well done.

However on the road for a second consecutive week things were very different. If ever a Pilgrim was needed to do some shoring up, this was it. In the absence of some regulars, the side included Cameron Atkinson and Josh Stevenson – well done both of them for coming to the aid of the party – although party was what it wasn't. It was a beautiful day but the [itch, naturally at Budleigh soft under the surface. PH won the toss and batted. Let me quite clear I am no cricket practitioner – if I could have held the bat up the right way or got the ball to land on the prepared surface, I would not have been scoring 64 years) but I do sometimes wonder about our ability to chase, and there were other features that seem to be showing themselves.

So we batted. PH and FK both tarted well – no wides until later no the bowling (and then very few) both unfortunate that balls went in the air just out of reach of the fielder, but despite that Budleigh's batsman blocked the good balls and hit the hittable. Their openers made 16 off 59 balls and 60 off 87. Their number 3 27 off 59. Jack Ford was introduced into the attack and was immediately on the wickets. In a miserly spell he got 4 – 22 off 10 and would have had 5 barring a little slip by the slip fielder, JF Senior. However after 115 – 5 there were 2 stands of over 30 for the 6th and 7th wickets and took Budleigh from what may have been a pat score on that pitch to what I think was over par. Other mention in despatches must be made of Cameron who bowled 10 accurate testing overs with 1 maiden for 20 runs. Excellent stuff.

After tea Fords senior and junior opened, the latter in the absence of Tom Brend. As in the last Mach I reported he held his bat to a wider delivery and was caught behind. Then followed the only decent stand of the innings with JF sen and Oliver H. Ollie Hannam got to 17 off 42 balls and then played a lose shot outside off and was taken

behind. That bowler – it must be pointed out only bowled because their regularly spinner was away and ended with 5 wicket for 6 runs. JF and OH put on 44. After that no-one attained double figures (apart from extras), and all were out either caught behind, bowled or LBW for 95 off 35.5 overs. Very very disappointing.

There are two points to be made here. First I am comparing this match to that at Paignton. There Paignton batted first, were in difficulty but batsmen 6 to 8 saved them with 30 or 40 run stands on a pitch I believe was comparable to this one. Chasing that total at Paignton, we had one decent stand and then the innings folded. This I believe is worrying and I am beginning to wonder about our ability to chase targets. Secondly I am also worried about the fact that so many of our players were out to straight balls that, I am told from my spies in the centre did not deviate in any way. The other were out to swishes outside off stump.

As I said, I am no cricketer but it does seem to me that there is a basic need to some tightening up of technique – I am also thinking of England's first innings in the first test the other day.

I hate to be critical but quite honestly a poor day's work needs a poor appraisal.

Lets look on the bright side, next 2 games at home – that's a good start, interestingly against Abbotskerswell and Brixham. Abbots yesterday knocked over Brixham for 88. Brixham seem a shadow of the team that thrashed ts when last in A division so.

Mentally let's get yesterday out if the system, tighten up the technique and hope that our pilgrimage to home matches bears better results.

The Quill.