

Final Match v Chudleigh (away) and Final Thoughts on Season

(Well I ask you, who would have thought.... - Eden Kane – A singer of the late 50s)

Well I mean, I ask you, who would have thought looking to the last two matches of the season that in our penultimate match we would beat the eventual third team Cornwood – who would have been promoted to the premier league by beating Torquay the runaway favourites had we not beaten them convincingly. But there we are. The message was that when Cornwood visited us they thought they would beat us easily, did not take us seriously and as a result were hoisted on their own petard. So as a result we went to bottom of the table Chudleigh, needing 7 points more than Ivybridge – who were playing top of the table Paignton – to remain in Division A. There was poetic justice in this as many will remember the miserable we spent sitting in the pavilion watching the rain come down at Ivybridge when we had the chance to be promoted that year. The abandoned game and consequent equal points meant that Ivybridge went up, This weeken we now stay up and Ivybridge go down. ‘Life’ as someone said ‘can be hubris’.

So to the matters in hand in this part of my ramblings. Chudleigh won the toss and chose to bat. I suspect had we won, Paul H would have elected to bowl – so nothing untoward there. Paul and Fred King opened as usual this year, and also as usual in the second part of this season, Paul was off his shorter run – and bowled 10 overs for 18 runs. That is class bowling by any standards and is reminiscent of Chris Luxton in his heyday, and of course Pete Waterman. With such miserly bowling up front teams have a major job to post a decent total. I think Paul’s bowling was too good for the batsmen in this League. Fred after finding the edge on many occasions managed to get a catch at second slip and followed that with a catch at first slip to finish with 2-35. Josh Atkinson took over from Fred. For most of the year, Jamie Lathwell has fulfilled this role, but in his absence Josh A proved two things. He is a great wicket taker, and that his brother Cameron is a superb catcher. Josh took out the two main Chudleigh batsman both caught by Cameron, one good and one superb catch and Josh returned with figures of 2 – 20. It was then left to the spinners to wrap things up. Martin Stewart took three, one LBW another caught by Cameron and the last wicket of the innings a stumping from Ollie H (I think for once it is fair to say that he should have had four – Fred managing to put down the easiest catch of the season, one I myself would have backed myself to take). However Fred made up for this by taking one of Jack Ford’s three wickets as Jack again mesmerised the middle order, at one point taking 2 in two balls. Chudleigh all out 133 and 5 bowling points. Only two more needed for safety, but during the

tean interval we learnt that Ivybridge had only taken 2 bowling points off Paignton and consequently we were safe now whatever happened.

The now usual partnership of Tom B and Ollie H started off the chase. At 13 Ollie misjudged one, played no shot and was deemed LBW. Jack Ford joined him at 3, made a convincing 15 before playing a most unlike Ford shot and was caught. Paul H resuming his number 4 spot hit lustily for 26 until for some reason, probably he doesn't know, missed a straight one – it may have been the surprise of getting a straight one! This brought James Ford to the crease. All this while Tom Brend had been driving and pulling his way to well earned 53 before playing a dreadful shot at a dolly drop. I am looking next season for Tom to turn his 50s into 100s. There followed a bit of a hiatus with a couple of quick wickets, but James Ford steered us home with an unbeaten 22 with the help of Josh A batting sensibly. 19 points and all over before 6 pm. Who could ask for more.