

Devon Cricket League A Division
Season 2019
Match No. 10 v Cornwood away

'Extra Extra read all about it' (newspaper vendor's cry

Those of you who may read these few odd lines I pen each week may well recall the first match of the season, with Cornwood at home, when, not only did we not win, but we didn't get a single point. Subsequently the team has won three games in the first half, the best start to a A division season that I can recall. However, with great respect to the team, bearing that in mind, and also the fact that Paul Heard is still on the walking wounded list, and that Cornwood has proved throughout the start of the season that they the most fearsome bowling line up in the division, and that we were on their own ground, expectation of many points were not high.

On a beautiful day Tom Brend, still standing in as skipper, won the toss and opted, without hesitation I should have thought to bowl. Things did not look very promising at the start with 53 opening stand followed by a 71 second wicket stand. Jamie Lathwell dismissed the threatening No 3 who was scoring at better than 6 an over and after that the bowling was tight and sensible and the fielding was extremely good with some very well taken catches. As soon as any batsman seemed to be getting in, he was nipped out by someone. There were however several huge hits which dented the bowling figures. Cornwood in the end were 243 all out, less than seemed at one point, more than seemed likely at another. However with Alex Hannam 3-43, Jamie L 2-60, Jack Ford 3-50 and Ben Perry 1-26 and a run out courtesy of Martin Stewart 5 bowling points were in the bag. Marginally a few more runs perhaps than we would have wanted but 5 points are 5 points, and the performance would have done much to restore confidence to the bowling unit.

After tea Tom Brend and Ben Perry opened, no doubt a special day for Ben with his father present to watch. It was very nice to meet him. From the outset it was clear that scoring runs against such bowling was going to be difficult. Tom Brend survived a couple of chances in the outfield before being given out to a fine nibble to the wicket keeper. He looked very disappointed, but whether for the shot or decision I have no idea. Ollie Hannam replaced him and he and Ben started to grind down the bowling. The score was 74 when Ollie having shown great passion finally went down the pitch with the inevitable result and was stumped for 11. Jack Ford replaced him and played some nice strokes until a lofted drive over mid off wasn't quite lofted enough. All this while Ben Perry had been proceeding steadily, but safely along and eventually reached his first 50 for the 1st xl. However with his dismissal, the Cornwood elite bowlers at last started to impose their fire power. However it is to be noted -and the most prescient of you may have wondered where the 'Extra Extra' bit came from - the doggedness of the batting was such that wides a plenty came flowing - and to be noted on their own ground - to the extent that there were 39 wides and a total of 50 extras - quite extraordinary. It should also be noted that up to the 30th over, should there have been rain, we were ahead of the DLS total. Thanks to the tail-enders (and some more wides) the eighth point came with the score passing 1250, and I would think that 8 points would have been grabbed by everyone at the start of the game.

Next week, apart I understand from being Tom Brend's birthday (would that be 15 or 16 I wonder?), Bradninch are a-visitng. Another of course of the fancied team. At Bradninch we were blown away by their opener who scored 148 or so. The next match he was out first ball. Yesterday he scored a ton so lets hope precedent is followed. Also it must be noted that there were some very curious results yesterday - and the position seems to be now that in this division any one can beat anyone. We must be one of those anyone. With the weather seemingly set fair, will we have a chance this season to try out our DLS scoreboard? Most frustrating for our hard working scorer!