



BIDEFORD IIS V CHAGFORD IIS

Sept 12th 2020 – DCL Group 2 - Play Off G-Final



DCL Group 2 - Play Off G-Final Winners 2020

Back L to R: Richard Stone (scorer) Jack Ford, James Hayter, Ian Hayter*+, John Weeks, Rob Hill, Ike Aviston (umpire):
Front L to R: Olly Keates, Julian Hayter, Fionn Toland, Ben Gifford, Jim Keates, Dan Smith, Tom Stone

How fitting that, in a team full of youngsters, the youngest player should hit the winning runs!

A super day for the Club, winning this Play Off Final, with eight of the team not old enough to drive, all contributing to the victory.

Chagford had asked to play 12-a-side so they could give more kids a game, they said. Fine by me, as it meant I could keep the same team that beat Filleigh in the semi-final and not have to drop anyone to get Rob Hill back in.

Lost the toss and the visitors batted first – and why wouldn't you? Just look at the wicket Martin had prepared for us... week after week he quietly goes about his business so that we players get the best possible surface to play on. We are so lucky to have him...

John and Julian opened up and both bowled tidily. John got the breakthrough - a mis-timed bottom-ended pull landed on the stumps, dislodging a bail



which dropped back down onto the leg stump – but only the leg stump, leaving a gap between the two bails. Never seen that in 43 years of cricket!

Chagford had reached 40-1 by the 10th over when John then removed the next batsman's leg stump and in fact took the first three wickets to fall. Chagford were suddenly 54-3.

Jim carried on the good work of the openers, taking two wickets for 16 in his five overs, and as a little panic set in there was a run out too, thanks to some calm thinking by Fionn.

With Ben G bowling a testing spell taking 1-16 off five, and Jack's even more miserly 2-8 off seven, Chagford lost seven wickets for 30 runs, and were suddenly 84-9 off 25 overs.

As is often the case in situations like this, the last wicket is the hardest one to take. And so it proved. Chagford's No 11 batted sensibly, helping her more experienced partner to add 43 for the last wicket before giving a catch in the penultimate over. Still, if you'd have asked me before the innings started if I would have settled for 127 all out, I think I would have said a definite 'yes please!'

Great effort from our youngsters, not forgetting John and Olly too of course, who took the last wicket to fall, and Dan, who bowled his four overs for just 10 runs..

Chasing any kind of total is never easy, and Chagford had much more experienced bowlers in their line up than our top five batsmen and could potentially have made serious inroads. That they didn't was down to two 16 year olds – James and Fionn. We lost Tom early, but not before he creamed a boundary through mid-wicket, but the two J's took us to 54 off the first ten before James played back to one he should have played forward to, and lost his off stump. A good innings though, 29 off 27 balls with three 4s and a six. Just the start we needed, at a good run rate, meaning there was no scoreboard pressure for any incoming batsmen.

Rob joined Fionn at the crease. At 25 years old, he counts as a veteran in this team! Both of them were patient, waiting for the bad ball, enjoying the bouncers that were sent down to them, took singles where possible and gradually got nearer the target. It looked like Fionn would finish the job but he was caught for an excellent 41 off 61 balls when the score was on 115. Youngest player 14 year old Julian was in at 5, and a couple of overs later he hit the opening bowler back over his head two balls in succession to win us the game by seven wickets. Wish I'd had a tenner on that!

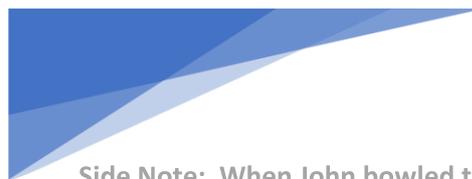
Great day for this young team, and a great day for the club. Quite a few supporters came down and enjoyed a beer or three in the sunshine. So pleased for these boys though. Losing every League match by a considerable margin, no one gave us any chance of beating Filleigh in the semi-final or Chagford in the final. In the words of one of the club's stalwarts, 'Well done Fellas.'

Player of the Match: Today it's got to be - All the team!!!

Chagford 127-0 (John Weeks 3-29, Jim Keates 2-16, Jack Ford 2-8)

Bideford 128-3 (James Hayter 29, Fionn Toland 41, Rob Hill 19*)

Scorecard: <http://blwh.play-cricket.com/website/results/4520053>



Side Note: When John bowled this batsman the leg bail flew off and spun its way through my helmet grill, hitting me in the face, just ½ an inch below my left eye. One in a million chance, I was lucky this time.

**Don't take chances, always wear a helmet.
Minimise the risk.**



DCL GROUP 2 - PLAY OFF G - 2020 ●

BIDEFORD/LITTLEHAM/WESTWARD HO! CC

[VISIT LEAGUE SITE](#)

[PRINT TABLE](#)

SEMI FINAL

CHAGFORD CC

2nd XI



SANDFORD CC, DEVON

DCL 3rd XI

06 Sep 2020 13:00

BIDEFORD/LITTLEHAM/WESTWARD
HO...

Saturday 2nd XI



FILLEIGH CC

1st XI

12 Sep 2020 13:00

FINAL

BIDEFORD/LITTLEHAM/WES
TWARD HO...
Saturday 2nd XI



CHAGFORD CC

2nd XI

19 Sep 2020 13:00



Rob and Julian walk off after hitting the winning runs



Fionn's cover drive



Nervous wait...