

**Devon Cricket League A Division**  
**Season 2019**  
**Match No. 12 v Ivybridge away**

**'And he saith unto him, take up thy bed and walk. King James bible**

For those who go to watch a cricket match to enjoy the skills of the participants, the ebb and flow of the teams and an exciting game this, as most games between these two sides, had it all. England v New Zealand? A cake walk by comparison. The only 'rain on my parade' was that Bideford lost by 3 wickets with two balls to go, despite heroic performances.

First the bare facts. Paul heard restored to the field, if not to full mobility, came in with James Hayter in place of Chris Luxton and Cameron Atkinson for Martin Stewart. Unfortunately Paul called wrongly and we batted first.

Ivybridge have an excellent opening bowler who took 4-23 in 10 overs straight off and reduced Bideford to 66-5. Through this difficult period Ben Perry again stood firm and anchored the innings. With Ollie Hannam reassigned to the 7<sup>th</sup> spot (and I have to say he looked far more comfortable there, he and Ben fought through and put on a stand of 78 before Ben was given LBW to a shot which, as they say on reflection, he would rather not have played. Ollie carried on and with Jamie Lathwell put on another 49 runs, Ollie eventually out for 56 and Jamie 29 off 23 with the only 6 of the innings. The final score of 200 seemed about par for the wicket but 10 more would have made it more challenging.

After tea Ivybridge started the pursuit. Steve Bond bowled one of the openers with the score on 12. Jack Ford the other for 17. Jack again returned superb figures of 10-1-14-1. Jamie Lathwell persuaded their overseas to spoon a catch to James Hayter. However no further wickets were on offer and the score was steadily creeping up. Paul Heard, whose last words to me last week were to the effect that he would not probably see me at Ivybridge, not only played and batted at No 3, but excelled in the field throwing himself around, and finally, taking up his bed and walking, as it were, proceeded to bowl 6.4 overs taking 4 for 38. Alas despite everyone's best efforts 9 from 2 overs was the asking total which 2 fours finally finished and Ivybridge were home by 3 wickets and 2 balls.

It is of course very disappointing to come so close to beating a team below us having secured a relatively straightforward win at home. However with more of the batsmen seeing to be getting into form and I have to say, personally (but what do I know) yesterday's batting order looked a bit more productive, none of the bowling lets us down and Jack continues to stifle batsmen and gets wickets whenever he bowls. But the performance of the day was undoubtedly Paul. His performance showed how vital he is to the team, and I am praying that his efforts yesterday have not aggravated his injury. He must be very disappointed. To get so near and fail is – well, ask the New Zealanders. I was also pleased to hear more noise and motivation on the field. Criticism, not much but perhaps a few short runs were taken which should not have been. Picking up while running at the ball and throwing accurately was perhaps the only skill set which could have been improved yesterday.

Unfortunately this defeat has left us in the relegation zone again. Next week is Budleigh Salterton at home which is going to be tough, but if we take advantage of our home knowledge and play like yesterday we certainly could pull it off, what the results across the board for this season have shown, is that anybody can beat anybody.

So lets hope.....

The Quill

After that, we have Barton and Abbotsherswell in short order, one home, one away. - these really are must wins.

However a cracking good game which everyone can be proud of.

The Quill.