

## North Devon 20/20 Cup Final

I was hoping to be able to refer to Queens ' *We are the Champions* ' but with two of our regular all rounders Jack Ford and Jamie Lathwell away, and Barnstaple sporting their two North Devon all rounders, it was always going to be an uphill struggle. James Greenleaf and Tom Stone stood up to the plate.

Tom Brend won the toss and put the favourites in. As seems the done things nowadays, Cameron Atkinson, the leggie, opened with four pretty decent overs against the very competent Barnstaple openers. However, it was Martin Stewart who got the first wicket with a stunning running boundary catch by Cameron. However the Barnstaple batters kept a decent rate of scoring going and only two other wickets fell, one to James Ford and the other to John Weeks. Each bowler conceded between 24 and 30 runs in their four overs and the fielding was pretty good.

However when Bideford batted, the pitch looked a different proposition. Captain Tom Brend made the highest score of the game 47 trying to play the anchor role, but all the subsequent batsman struggled against very accurate bowling offering few opportunities for boundaries. Ian Hayter was the only one who looked as if he could up the scoring rate, but was forced to retire hurt with 13 from 10, after which the game slowly subsided with James Greenleaf registering the only other double figure score. However praise is due to the team in getting to the final and giving a good account of themselves throughout the competition.