

Anticipation and excitement were high going into the first match of the season. Four weeks of only training on a Friday evening meant all the players were ready to get out there. Braunton was a bit breezy but not too cold.

Damon Berry, our captain, won the toss and chose to bat. Jack Ancill and Damon went out to open the batting. Although Jack was supposed to face the first ball, he managed to persuade Damon to instead.

The plan had been for Damon to start steady to leave Jack to push on with the scoring. The first ball was bowled by Drew Harrison of Braunton and Damon hit it straight to the boundary for four. The innings carried on in the same vein with Jack and Damon keeping up the run-rate and heading towards a good score.



None of the bowlers seemed to have an answer for Jack or Damon and although Damon had started faster, Jack reached 51 and retired in the 12<sup>th</sup> over. The partnership made 118 at the point Jack retired. Elliott Currie joined Damon at the crease and supported him well as he too reached 51 and retired.

After 20 overs, Bideford finished on 143 for 4.

The second innings started with Sam Beckley bowling. Four byes and one run off the first over. Otis Sherborne was chosen to bowl next and came in like a steam train taking two wickets in his first over. The batting then settled down for a while but there was no heavy scoring from the two batsmen. The third wicket taken was also Otis in his third over, caught by his brother Arlo. This over would finish as a wicket maiden. One of only two maidens in the match.

Riley Hornby was the next bowler to step up and on his fourth ball took the next wicket. A new member of the team took on the next over, Egan Ross. Only two runs off his first over and on the first ball of his second he got his first wicket. A match to remember for him.

Harrison Booth and Henry Callaghan took on the bowling, with Harrison taking another wicket and both managing to keep the run rate low.

Finally, the last four overs were covered by Elliott Currie and Arlo Sherborne. It took Elliott two balls to take the next of Braunton's wickets and they were 61 for 7. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> over Braunton were on 81 for 7 with one over to go.

Arlo came in to bowl the final over and took out Finn Cole, caught and bowled on his first ball. Two dots pass then in he came again. Oscar Lambert hit the ball back towards Arlo and he dived forward just managing to scoop up the ball before it hit the ground, caught and bowled again. Amazing fielding and the ninth wicket taken in dramatic fashion. Braunton finished on 86 for 9.

The whole team was buzzing after that emphatic win. A great start to the season! Next stop NDCC.

Bideford CC: Jack Ancill - 51\* (retired), Damon Berry - 51\* (retired), Elliott Currie – 5.

Braunton CC: Otis Sherborne – 3-6 (4ov), Arlo Sherborne – 2-11 (2ov), Riley Hornby – 1-6 (2ov) Egan Ross – 1-8 (2ov), Harrison Booth – 1-9 (2ov), Elliott Currie – 1-6 (2ov), Sam Beckley – 0-16 (4ov) & Henry Callaghan – 0-7 (2ov).