

For some of the team this was the third time they'd played a Filleigh team in two weeks. Two losses so far. Maybe this would be third time lucky?!

The plan had been to bat first but the toss was lost and Filleigh chose to bat. Sam Beckley and Adam Rashid were our opening bowlers. Learning from previous matches, the plan had been to keep the boundaries to a minimum. This was going reasonably well until their opener got his eye in and hit three 4s in a row.

Eventually a breakthrough for Sam Beckley as he took out their second batsman with a brilliant catch from Sam Robinson. Awesome quick reflexes. However, the score had already reached 55 and it was only the seventh over.

The only other wicket taken in the innings was by Elliott Currie when his ball also got nicked by the batter and was caught by Sam Robinson, our wicketkeeper.

Our bowlers kept the innings as tight as they could even though the Filleigh batters were in full flow and two of them retired. We gave them very little in the way of extras with only 1 bye, 1 no ball (worth 2) and only 6 wides bowled (worth 13).

The score to beat was 161 and seemed like the same sort of hill to climb as with the previous matches here. All Bideford could do was go out there and do their best. Damon Berry and Jack Ancill opened for Bideford and on the fourth ball Damon hit the ball with intent. Unfortunately, their fielder was more than steady on his feet and that was our first wicket down.

The end of the second over was the fall of our next wicket. This time Adam was ready to start pushing the scoring on but again another fielder took a catch. Sam Robinson came in hoping to bring his style of determination as in previous matches but this time he suffered as Damon had. All had good contact with bat and ball but the shots couldn't find the boundary before a fielder had it in their hands.

Arlo came in next and stayed to support Jack until the tenth over when he was given LBW. Riley Hornby batted next. He confidently faced each ball, seemingly unphased by the bowling and not forced to take risky shots.

Only two overs later Jack suffered the same fate as earlier batters as he attempted to increase the run rate and was caught. Bideford were 64 for 5. Vice Captain Sam Beckley was up next, could he help find 98 runs off the remaining 48 balls?

Sam and Riley dug in and stood solid as they took the runs whenever they could. Unfortunately, although Sam found 4 boundaries and racked up 19 runs, we only made it to 106 runs at the end of the innings. 56 runs short of winning.

One worthwhile reflexion on this game was that Filleigh's bowlers gave Bideford **48** extras!! **Eight** times as many as Bideford. If we had managed to turn more of the dot balls into runs then we would have been closer. Hopefully something to drive the players when training and in future matches.

Well done Bideford for very good bowling and fielding today and for your dogged determination to play a match that was most likely to end in a loss. Again, another great team performance on a beautiful evening at Filleigh Cricket Club.

Bideford CC: J Ancill – 28, S Beckley – 19, A Rashid – 4, A Sherborne – 3, R Hornby – 3
Against Filleigh CC: S Beckley – 4-0-23-1, E Currie – 3-0-22-1