

This team started perfectly with a win from their trip to Braunton. Now an entirely different challenge against a familiar rival. The weather promised to spoil things, but the match started dry. Bideford won the toss and chose to bowl.

Elliott Currie bowled first from the pavilion end of the wicket and kept the batters to only scoring singles. Sam Beckley then bowled from the beach end up a small slope. Two runs for the first ball followed by the first wicket being caught by Arlo Sherborne and North Devon were already 7 for 1. Exciting!

Second and third batters for North Devon got in their groove and were proving difficult to shift. Harry Staddon and Annabel Berry were next into the attack. They bowled well against two strong batters but couldn't move them. Henry Callaghan bowled next, being paired with Otis Sherborne. It took until Otis's second over for the breakthrough to come. Bowled Otis, caught Damon Berry.

Riley Hornby was seventh to bowl in an innings where all fielders had a chance. The third and final wicket taken by Bideford came only two overs later when Arlo Sherborne came into the attack. As is going to start becoming expected, Arlo came running in to bowl and almost as soon as the ball had left his hand it was back there as he caught and bowled Max Kimberley from the opposition.

Although the outfield was fast and if a ball was hit well it would run away for a boundary, the players fielded well as a team including the solid role played by Sam Robinson as our wicketkeeper.

Braunton were able to score a total of 167 runs at the end of their innings. Quite the hill to climb to achieve a win. However, we had a strong batting lineup and we were confident.

Damon and Jack Ancill came out to bat and to start the second innings. Oscar Meech was the first bowler and he only got a bye off his first over. The second over was the opportunity to start properly scoring. It wasn't so easy to sweep to the boundary as it had been in the previous match but Damon and Jack did keep the run rate comparable although always a little behind.

It wasn't until half way through the tenth over that Jack was unlucky and played on and got bowled for 17 runs. Elliott Currie came in at three. He did well to support Damon as he carried on scoring until three overs later when Damon was caught by the North Devon change of wicket keeper to someone who clearly had some beginners' luck! 37 runs was his total this time.

Sam Robinson came on to bat next and by this time it was clear that the run rate needed improving if Bideford had a chance of winning. Sam and Elliott really took the challenge on and tried their hardest to score at every opportunity. The pair were solid until the end of the 18th over when Elliott was caught behind by the wicketkeeper. 14 runs for him.

Sam Beckley joined the attack, understanding the challenge – 2 overs remaining, 24 runs needed for the win. Slim, very slim. Unfortunately, 2 runs later Sam Robinson was bowled by Max Borer but not before he had scored the second highest runs – 18 including two 4s but mostly due to some determined running to get important 2s.

Henry Callaghan was the final of the Bideford players to bat and he and Sam Beckley saw out the innings attempting to score as many runs as possible off each ball. Unfortunately, it was just not meant to be, even with the last over going for 18 runs on its own!!

A match of some great individual performances and strengthening of the team spirit. It showed that this U15s group can take the challenge to all the teams this year and will be hoping and expecting to return the favour when North Devon come to the Ho! on 1st August.

This time the final result meant that Bideford CC U15s came up short by 3 runs. Next . . . Barnstaple at home.