

50 2's vs Devon 28th May

After many hours hard work the groundsman at Whitchurch Cricket Club was able to produce a rock hard track and dry square, having placed many sheets down to negate the heavy rain the day before.

Devon won the toss and had no hesitation in asking a Gloucestershire to bat, knowing that their preferred approach was to bowl and then chase. Gloucestershire got off to a rapid start with Donaldson and Junior Trotman taking the score to 79 before Donaldson fell in the 14th over for a belligerent 43. Junior kept accumulating and was joined but at the crease by the polished/play of James Seagrave. Seagrave raced to a runner ball 54 before he was dismissed in the 28th over with the score at 163.

Former captain Feebs then joined Junior and reached double figures before junior sale for an excellent 69 from 80 balls. A small collapse then followed and any chance of a score of 300 was lost. Some late hitting by Pete Bovey, Ali Smith and Steve Jones so Gloucestershire ended on an above par 267 for eight from their 45 overs.

Having enjoyed a sumptuous tea, provided by the Whitchurch president and his wife, Gloucestershire took the field looking for a fast start. The fast start duly followed but sadly from Devon as they raced to 64 without loss from the first 10 overs. Mike Gray then struck in the 11th over clean bowling one of the openers. Millard then decided a change of pace was required and so replaced opener Ali Smith with the extreme off-spin pace of junior Trotman. Junior then removed the other opener, also clean bold, to leave Devon still well sat at 90 for two from 16 overs. Mike Gray completed his nine overs straight through to end with a commendable one for 46.

Millard then brought himself onto bowl and this was most definitely a change down in pace. In tandem with Junior they slowed the run rate right down with Devon slowing to 120 for two of 22 overs at drinks.

Clearly, something had been put into Millard's drink at the break as he bowled a quick ball that took a thick edge that was well held by Steve Jones behind the stumps. Indeed, somebody remarked it was quicker than the speed of all his previous balls added together. Pete Bovey was now bowling in Tandem with Millard and four overs later. Menard struck again to remove the Devon captain stumped by Steve Jones. Millard was to get another wicket through another stumping and Bovey two wickets courtesy of fine catches by Donaldson and Junior. They both bold nine overs straight through with Millard ending on three for 42 and Bovey two for 25 with just five boundaries conceded in those 18 overs.

Junior and the closer Paul Fredericks then quickly mopped up the remaining two batsmen. Fredericks one for 10 and junior two for 27 from 6.4 overs. Devon bowled out for 191 and a convincing second win of the season

A great debut for Junior with runs & wickets and a catch and Gloucester move on to Dorset to try and make it three wins out of three.