

Collingbourne CC vs Beehive Bradford CC

On Saturday 9th May Collingbourne CC travelled to Bradford Upon Avon to play their second Wilts League Division 3 game against Beehive Bradford. It was a sunny day and on what turned out to be a pitch for both batsmen and bowlers Beehive elected to field first. Beehive started well claiming the wickets of both Collingbourne openers by the 11th over with the score at 56. It was from here that Collingbourne took off with number 3 Tom Grant and number 4 Mark Bateman sharing a 3rd wicket partnership of 194 runs, 10 runs short of the club record. Grant finished with 104 from 101 balls and Bateman 116 from 80 balls. The rest of the Collingbourne batsmen chipped in with the innings coming to a close but it was Grant and Bateman who set the team up for Collingbourne's highest ever score of 336 for 9. Beehive's bowlers clearly struggled to contain this pair with Hamley the pick of the bunch ending with figures of 4 for 63 from 10 overs.

In reply Beehive were always going to struggle against such a high score on a deteriorating pitch and opening bowlers Darren Pritchard and Ollie Scott (2 for 44 from 9) didn't make it any easier for them. Between the pair they had Beehive on 75 runs for 6 wickets from 18 overs. Pritchard finished with match best figures of 5 for 32 from 12 before spinner Michael Hulme (1 for 9 from 6) and veteran seamer John Aitken (2 for 14 from 3.1) so off the tail to end Beehive's innings on 108 all out from 30.1 overs. Only opening batsman M.Reeves offered any real resistance for Beehive with a gutsy knock of 22. Another emphatic win for Collingbourne and hopefully a sign of things to come.

On a side note in Collingbourne's friendly Sunday game against Wilcot young 17 year old Charlie Knight beat the highest individual score for a Collingbourne player of 159* set by Karl Rogers over 12 years ago with an unbeaten 163. Well done Charlie.