

## Collingbourne CC vs Biddestone 3rds

A warm sunny day was the perfect setting for the start of the Wiltshire cricket league 2009 season which saw Collingbourne CC hosting Biddestone 3rds in the first game of Division 3. Collingbourne won the toss and elected to field first on what turned out to be a helpful wicket for the bowlers. Openers Ollie Scott and Darren Pritchard kept a tight reign on the Biddestone batsmen as they found themselves struggling on 19 for 2 wickets from 10 overs with Scott taking both wickets. League debutant Pritchard (2 for 44 from 12 overs) then joined the party with his first league wicket for the club before Charlie Knight (2 for 17 from 7 overs) claimed 2 victims in his first 3 balls. With Pritchard bowling tirelessly up the hill and getting swing and movement from every ball plus the varied off spin bowling of Michael Hulme (2 for 13 from 4 overs) it wasn't long before the Biddestone innings came to a close in the 34<sup>th</sup> over with the score on 69. All 4 bowlers did their bit ably assisted by some excellent fielding. But it was Ollie Scott who was the pick of the bowlers taking match best figures of 4 wickets for 13 runs from 9.3 overs. Only Biddestones captain A. Humphreys showed any sign of resistance with a gutsy 27.

Collingbourne went into their innings with much confidence and looked to knock the runs off for very few losses. They started well with openers Matt McCann (8) and Graham Chandler (15) taking the score to 21 from 8 overs. Unfortunately the loss of 3 wickets in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> overs knocked Collingbourne back and left them on 24 for 3 from 10. By the time Collingbourne had reached 30 runs 2 further wickets had fallen leaving the stage open for Captain Owen Sheppard (18\*) and Darren Pritchard to pick up the pieces. Thankfully Pritchard was in good form with the bat as well as the ball and the two batsmen shared a 45 run partnership to finish the game, Pritchard top scoring with an unbeaten 29. Biddestone didn't make it easy thanks to A. Marsh finishing with figures of 4 for 25 from 10 overs but in the end their score of 69 wasn't enough and the game ended in a good first win for the home side.