

Match 1 of 6

Somerset Disabled Cricket Club

V

Hampshire Disabled Cricket Club

19th May 2019 at Taunton Deane Cricket Ground, Taunton, Somerset

Somerset XI

James Redwood
James Mayled
Jack Milton
Nick Dean Captain
George Fox-Reid Wicket Keeper
Simon Penny
Colin Hancock
Ben Hallows
John Tucker
Charlie Boxham

Hampshire XI

A Gray
A Thorpe
C Bates
M Hill Captain/Wicket Keeper
T Richie
N Judson
P Melvin
A Burgess
G Smith
M Powell

Once again the County Disabled Cricket Season has started with a new team in the South West League and Somerset's first opponents in their 2019 campaign. Hampshire met the team in a home match at the Taunton Deane Cricket ground which was as usual impeccably prepared. The Weather was fine with a warm spring sun basking over Taunton rain wasn't in any one's mind at the start and after some warm-up drills the team led once again by Nick Deane were exited and a little nervous as Hampshire were an unknown team to the Somerset Players.

The Game started well with the Somerset skipper winning the toss and electing to Bowl first, a tactic that worked well for the team in the 2018 season. Everyone new that the Somerset Batting line up was solid and this had been maintained through the winter and early spring months with the support of the Somerset County Cricket Board at the County Ground and the Centre of Excellence.

The fielding was also strong although in previous years nerve had sometimes overtaken the moment. A new Wicket Keeper for Somerset and a warm up that went well and had hopefully dispelled any nervousness.

As both teams took to the field after a Somerset Huddle and Skippers chat the game was on. Batting opening the Batting for Hampshire were A. Gray and A. Thorpe with the home side's bowling attack being launched with the pace of James Mayled and medium pace of Colin Hancock.

The opening overs were a bit hit and miss with wides playing a large part of the opponents score, but it was not long before the first wicket of the visiting opener fell by being runout with no score, always a disappointing dismissal for any batsmen, this was attributed more to the pressure that the fielding team were placing Hampshire under and the bowlers managing to keep the opponents run rate to a minimum. With the first wicket confidence grew in the field and everyone was concentrating hard, team morale was high and after a change of bowler it was not long before C. Bates was the victim of James Mayled's accurate line and faster pace having scored 6 runs.

The visitors 2nd wicket fell with a score of 21. Fielding pressure was still being applied and the skipper's tactics of bowler rotation appeared to be working well. Bates was replaced by the Hampshire skipper coming in at No 4 but after facing 9 balls he was run out on a score of 9 and was the visitors highest scorer of the day (next to extras).

35 was the score when this third wicket fell, A Thorpe was anchoring the batting line up and T Richie the incoming batsman faced 5 balls before being dismissed, clean bowled, by Nick Dean for a score of 1 and a Wicket Maiden for the Somerset Captain.

The next wicket of A. Thorpe fell shortly after and having faced 18 balls only managed a score of 2 after John Tuckers accurate line and slower pace unnerved the batsman. The score was now 36 for 5 and the weather began to cool with the threat of a light rain which never really materialised.

The odd spit of rain did not dampen the team morale and with a score of 46 the 6th wicket of M. Judson fell to the bowling of John Tucker clean bowled and Johns 2nd wicket of the day. A Burgess was couldn't gain a foothold or score before falling to John Tuckers accuracy and the score had not progressed as John took his 3rd and final wicket on the very next ball, an outstand 3 for 3 from the seasoned Somerset player and an achievement the help keep up the Somerset morale, which to be honest had not faded at any stage of this game.

With the score now 47 for 8 it looked like the home side was making good progress and it wouldn't be long before an early tea may be required.

G. Smith was dismissed Caught behind from Somerset's debut Keeper of the bowling of Ben Hallows who placed the ball just outside of the off stump getting a nick from the outside edge of the bat, after facing 9 balls and a score of 2. Any nerves the keeper may still have been entertaining, were now dismissed to be replaced by healthy caution. The score was now 64 for 8 after 17 overs, the visitors were still managing to keep their heads up to their credit under a bowling attack that was gaining momentum. As the teams were only fielding a side of 10 players each, the game was restricted to 30 overs per inning and over 18 saw Somerset dispatch the final wicket of the innings when the Skipper clean bowled M. Powell for a duck bringing the final score to beat of 69. Overall a good fielding performance by the home team kept the score down from a determined Hampshire side which had been an unknown up to this point. Morale remained high throughout the innings and a self-belief that the team could continue their good form that was evident in last season's games which culminated in the title of league winners for 2018.

Somerset Bowling Figures

Bowlers	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
James Mayled	3	0	16	1
Colin Hancock	5	0	24	0
John Tucker	3.3	1	3	3
Nick Dean	3.1	1	9	2
Ben Hallows	4	0	1	1

Notable Hampshire Batting

Batsman	Balls Faced	Runs	How Out
M. Hill	9	9	Run Out
C. Bates	7	6	Bowled (J. Mayled)
M. Judson	17	6	Bowled (J. Tucker)

Also worth mentioning is that, of the 69 runs achieved by the opponents 42 were down to extra's including 12 wide's and 6 No Balls.

After a splendid tea that was provided and hosted by Mrs Mayled and Mrs Manley (South West Cakes always seem to taste the best), the sun was once again beaming down on the well maintained Cricket ground, and confidence was high with what was believed to be a very achievable target. With this in mind the skippers batting tactics relied on a process of calm and steady shot play with no forced errors if possible. A steady run rate that allows the batsmen to settle in and play their own natural game. Opening the Batting for the home side was James Mayled and James "Trig (not out)" Redwood. Somerset is blessed with a good strong batting line up but once again the team were unsure of the fielding ability of the opponents and proceed with caution was the plan.

As was so often the case last season, there is not much that can be written about the Somerset Batting performance, other than it was strong and measured. Hampshire Bowlers started with the opening pair of C. Bates and M. Powell and with the Somerset plan to take it steady accurate bowling was keeping the initial run rate down with only 20 runs off the first 5 overs. This steady rate continued and at over number 10 the score was 42 and no wicket had yet been lost. Extras were still playing a part, which can be expected in the first match of the season, however the Hampshire spirited defence was noticeable as the Batsmen were maintaining caution and not subjecting themselves to any risk. The odd wayward shot would sometimes be played but luck was with the team on these occasions. It was not until the 14th over that Hampshire got their first wicket as James Mayled caught an inside edge guiding the ball onto his own stumps off the bowling of the Hampshire skipper M. Hill, a well earned 22 runs off 35 balls faced. With Trig Redwood on 11 and the amount of extras given away by the visitors, the score was now on 62, and with 70 required for the victory Jack Milton needed to provide the final push. This was achieved with some well-placed and well executed shots from the number 3 batsman and the final score of 70 was achieved in Over 14.

An outstanding performance by Somerset kick started their season with a win against an unknown team who at no point in the game did their heads drop, even when the outcome became inevitable,

although quite a convincing win, it remains as to how they will perform with a home advantage so nothing is being taken for granted.

Hampshire Bowling Figures

Bowlers	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
M. Hill	1	0	8	1
P Melvin	1	0	5	0
A Burgess	2	0	9	0
M. Powell	4.5	0	15	0

Somerset Batting Performance

Batsman	Balls Faced	Runs	How Out
James Mayled	36	22	Bowled (M. Hill)
James "Trig" Redwood	49	11	Not Out
Jack Milton	5	7	Not Out

Also worth mentioning is that, of the 70 runs achieved by the opponents 30 were down to extra's including 12 wide's and 1 No Ball.

In General a good game to watch on a pleasant Sunday afternoon, everyone enjoyed the game on both sides and the outcome was a good start for Somerset with plenty of positives to be taken from the team as a whole. Next game is against Gloucester in 2 weeks' time and a team that beat Somerset in the first game of last season, another strong performance will be required as the team take on the opponents on their home ground, but with the determination and good qualities that they displayed in their first game of the season, the team should not need to worry.

Thanks to Taunton Deane Cricket ground for providing the facilities and all support from Parents for making the day a pleasure.

Kindest Regards

Neil