

DEVON OVER 50s B V CORNWALL, IVYBRIDGE CC 28TH JULY 2017

Our must-win game against Cornwall will be remembered for several incidents, not least the horrific injury to B team debutant Matt Smith, who tripped and fell while batting, dislocating his shoulder. At the time, he and Marty Causey were batting us to victory, but after Matt was forced to retire hurt and re-locate to hospital, the lower order batsmen were unable to sustain the run-rate required and we eventually fell 18 runs short.

Earlier, Ian Hayter, while attempting a caught and bowled chance from a ferocious blow, had two of his fingers mashed and had to leave the field of play. Batting later in some obvious discomfort, with blood seeping from his gloves, he was unable to maintain the form that he and fellow opener Jeff Heath had been in all season.

Cornwall's total of 192-8 was built around an 87 from their opener who was dismissed in the final over. Having reduced the visitors to 133-7, Devon couldn't quite turn the screw despite Tim Cooke's 3-42 and Dave Smale's 2-21.

Marty Causey took an outstanding catch at midwicket to get rid of Cornwall's first batsman. Glynn Ballman, behind the stumps, took a catch, given out, and then while throwing the ball in the air in celebration, mis-cued it and the ball fell to the ground. All of Cornwall naturally shouted 'not out', while all of Devon reckoned the dismissal should clearly stand. Depending on which side of the Tamar you come from, you could argue all night about that.... 'Out' it was...

When Mike Pugh was adjudged caught behind in the 19th over of Devon's innings, at 61-4 things didn't look good. But Marty Causey (46) and Matt Smith (37 ret hurt) re-built the innings and took us to the point of needing seven an over off the last 10, a run-rate they were managing comfortably before Matt's injury. Clearly in considerable pain, he had to come off.

With five overs to go, the run-rate had crept up to 10 as Marty was bowled trying to force the scoring along. A valiant effort from the lower order couldn't quite take us over the line, which meant we would not be able to qualify for the semi-finals, even if we beat Wales twice in August.

We were in no way out-played, nor over-awed by the team that hammered us so convincingly at Bude earlier in the season, and but for those two injuries – who knows what the result might have been...

Cornwall 192-8 (Blake 87, Cooke 3-42, Smale 2-21, Battin 2-38)

Devon 175-6 (Marty Causey 46, Matt Smith 37 ret hurt)



Back l to r: Jolyon Huxtable (scorer) Tim Cooke, Dave Smale, Marty Causey, Mike Pugh, Matt Smith, Chris Battin, Chris Sleep (umpire)...

Front l to r: Steve Harris, Glynn Ballman+, Ian Hayter, Jeff Heath, Marten Stanbury*