Devon Over 50s B v wales, ynystawe CC 15ᵗʰ august 2017

Despite a maiden county hundred for skipper Ian Hayter, Devon lost a thriller by just 2 runs to a strong Welsh side at the lovely Ynystawe Cricket Club.

Availability issues dogged this match but finally 11 players arrived, and were shortly joined by 50 or 60 people dressed in black, attending a funeral wake being held in the sports club bar. As the drink flowed, so increased the noise from the spectators to such an extent that the last ten overs were cheered as loudly as any T20 match at Taunton (well, almost!)

Chasing 260 was never going to be easy, but Hayter and Jeff Heath (25) put on 41 for the first wicket in good time, and a 74-run partnership between Hayter and Martin Goff (30) left Devon on 115-2 when Steve Harris came in. By then Hayter had opened up, hitting 7 x 6s and 7 x 4s, and with Harris took the score to 200 before he was out for 115 off 105 balls, needing just less than 7 an over off the last eight, with seven wickets in hand.

Ian Hayter

Harris (47) and Marten Stanbury then put on 42, but losing four wickets for two runs, 242-3 became 243-7, left us with just too much to do off the final two overs.

Earlier, having called incorrectly, Devon were asked to field first in the sunshine, and despite a miserly opening spell of 9 overs for 19 by Paul Thomas, wickets were hard to come by: one each for Battin, Stanbury, Woolnough and Harris. A short boundary one side was hard to defend, several mourners' cars became targets and went home with dents in, but all the bowlers stuck to their task admirably. Marten Stanbury once again took an excellent catch in the outfield, as he seems to do most games.

Steve Harris

In the end, Devon put up an excellent fight and gave all the funeral goers an afternoon they won't forget in a hurry.

Thanks to all who made the long trip, and to Chris Sleep (umpire) & Jolyon Huxtable (scorer) for their time and skills as well.

Wales 260-4 (Neal Williams 108), Devon 258-8 (Ian Hayter 115, Steve Harris 47, Martin Goff 30, Clayton 4-36)

Scorecard: http://www.play-cricket.com/website/results/3123505