

70s v Berks/Bucks

This preliminary game in the Vase competition seemed very much in jeopardy from threatening bad weather forecasts and indeed the first hour of the long journey to W Berks was in driving rain. However by the time Bradfield was reached there were hints of blue sky and intermittent sunshine.

Losing the toss (as usual) meant batting first on a long and lush outfield. The batting was on paper shored up by the welcome return of Bob Eames after a long absence.

However, uncertain bounce and persistent bowling by two England 70s players left the score at 24-5 off 17 overs. This brought together Botton and Goodwin in what proved to be the only significant partnership in the innings. They added 49 in 17 overs until Botton was trapped LBW for 32.

Ashworth joined Goodwin (32) and they added another 26, and Berman and the tail scrambled through the last few overs to reach a very meagre 114.

The innings were separated by a fine tea as sunshine and a breeze was steadily drying out the ground.

The Berkshire innings proceeded at a steady pace and despite miserly bowling by Botton – 16 runs from 9 overs – and a couple of neat stumpings off the bowling of Berman, they proceeded to knock off the required runs in 25 overs.

Devon 114 (45 overs)

Berks/Bucks : 115-3 (24.4 overs) Won by 7 wickets