



Intra County Visually Impaired Cricket: Case Study

Two Lancashire Cricket Foundation affiliated clubs are competing in Blind Cricket England and Wales (BCEW) North & West Regional league during the current season, which is unique to Lancashire. Lancashire Lions development side are the reigning champions, and were Lancashire's sole representative, but after a number of years of development, Wavertree Cricket Club now boast a competitive visually impaired team..

The first fixture between the clubs took place in Manchester in June, with Wavertree scoring 154/8 from 28 overs. Going into the final ball of the match, 4 results were possible:

- 2 runs or more = Lancashire Lions winning draw
- 1 run = a tie as both sides finish on a run rate of 5.5 runs an over
- Dot ball = Wavertree winning draw
- Wicket = Outright win for Wavertree

The result was a dot ball, giving Wavertree a winning draw for their first positive result in the league, it was also the first time in 2 years that Lancashire Lions had not won a match in the regional league.

The return match was played at Wavertree in July, with Lancashire Lions batting first and posting 208ao from 28 overs. An outright win for either team looked unlikely so Wavertree chose to chase 179 for a winning draw. Going into the final over, Wavertree needed 16, but fell just short, with Lancashire Lions recording a winning draw on this occasion.

After 2 competitive matches during 2018, the bragging rights are shared, with each team recording a winning draw. Both clubs continue to strive to development their VI cricket sections and have outreach sessions planned throughout the summer.

Rob Tipping, Lancashire Cricket Foundation Disability Cricket Manager explains the developments: "Both clubs have worked tirelessly to develop their teams, and it was great to watch both matches be played in a fantastic spirit. Umpires, scorers, volunteers and spectators all commented about the standard of play and level of sportsmanship which is pleasing to hear. We have now introduced The LCF VI Cup which the teams compete for which is a great addition".

For more information about visually impaired cricket please contact Rob Tipping on: rtipping@lancashirecricket.co.uk or 07894 584 563