



## Over 50s Match Reports - The 2006 Season

### 28th May - Devon v Hampshire

**Toss Critical...** Devon included two new players in their first group championship game against Hampshire at Sandford Cricket Club. Mike Lievesley from Barton C.C. and Francis Pyle from Shobrooke C.C. On a damp wicket Devon lost the toss and were put into bat and soon lost their first three wickets with the score on 31. It was left to Macey and Rogers to repair the damage and they pushed the score to 104 before Macey was caught. With twelve overs remaining and six wickets in hand Devon were looking for a score in excess of 175. Unfortunately the mid to late order could not increase the tempo and wickets tumbled and Devon finally finished on 166 for 9 after their 45 overs.

With the wicket and outfield drying Devon needed to take early wickets but despite some good bowling by Jenkins and Lievesley Hampshire's two openers steadily increased the tempo. Despite a number of bowling changes Devon could not take enough early wickets to put Hampshire under pressure.

In the 42nd Over Hampshire overtook the Devon total for the loss of only 2 wickets. This was a particularly disappointing result. Losing the toss was of course a deciding factor but Devon's fielding was especially poor with far too many singles being taken and with 26 Wide's bowled and 33 Extras in total a vast improvement will be required in their championship game against Wiltshire at Bovey Tracey C.C. on Thursday 1st June.

### 8th June - Devon v Dorset

**Shepherd Blasts...** Bovey Tracey's Peter Shepherd cracked a top score of 81 as Devon Over50s walloped Dorset by six wickets in a National Championship match at Dean Park, Bournemouth. Dorset were one of the two sides in the group to qualify for the final stages of the competition last year and therefore a keen contest was envisaged.

Dean Park usually produces low scoring games and this game proved no exception. Dorset won the toss and elected to bat. After miserly spells of bowling from Jon Jenkins (Chagford) and Mike Lievesley (Barton), Dorset were 45 without loss after 15 overs. Spinners Francis Pyle (Shobrooke Park) and Stuart Lott (Sandford) kept the pressure on with tidy spells of their own. Pyle had one for 20 off seven overs while Lott had two for 32 from his nine.

Former Dorset Minor Counties captain Barry Lewis ended up as top scorer for his side in a total of 175 for five from their 45 overs.

With Shepherd blazing away, Devon raced to 72 without loss in the first 15 overs. Bob Macey (28) and Mike Canning (32no) wrapped up a second successive win for Devon. Skipper Julian Page (Exmouth) described it as Devon's best all-round performance of the season so far.

Having crushed Wiltshire in their previous outing, Devon are set up nicely for a run of three matches which will make or break their qualification hopes out of the South West Pool and into the knockout stages.

Devon play Somerset at Taunton Deane this Sunday, face the Isle of Wight at Sidmouth the following Tuesday (June 27) and are off to the Channel Islands the ensuing weekend (July 1).

## 27th June - Devon v I.O.W.

**Massive Win...** Opener Pete Shepherd scored a century to set Devon Over-50s on their way to a massive 225-run win over the Isle of Wight in the National Over-50s' Championship.

Bovey Tracey's Shepherd made exactly 100, and there were chip-ins from Exmouth's Julian Page (27), Sandford pair Bob Eames (33) and Chris Theedom (45) and Hatherleigh's Nick Rogers towards a Devon total of 276 for five.

Sandford's Mike Canning then claimed three wickets for seven runs, and there were two-wicket returns for Jon Jenkins (Chagford) and Francis Pyle (Shobrooke Park) as the Islanders were skittled out for 51. None of the batsmen made a double-figure score.

## 1st July - Devon v Channel Isles

**Disappointing Batting Performance...** Channel Islands having won the toss elected to bat and soon found life difficult against Devon's opening bowlers Jenkins and Pyle. After 15 overs Channel Islands were 32 for 1. The Devon bowlers continued to bowl tightly and wickets tumbled steadily with Lott bowling 9 overs 3 wickets for 36 runs.

At 126 for 7 the Channel Islands looked to be well short of a decent total. However, a combination of good batting from Anthony and some wayward bowling in the last 15 overs the Channel Islands recovered to a score of 189 for 8.

However, on a very good batting wicket and a large outfield this should not have posed a great threat to the Devon batsmen. At 67 for 2 Devon appeared to be cruising but most of the batsmen got in and then got themselves out. With more depth in batting for this game the score gradually increased. With 5 overs remaining and 25 runs required a win should have been a formality. Unfortunately poor batting at the end meant that Devon finished 6 runs short of a much needed win with 2 wickets in hand.

This means that Devon now have very little chance of qualifying for the final stages of the competition with only one game left against Cornwall.