

Devon Over 50s 1st Eleven Report 2015

The season could be deemed to be successful in that we reached the quarter final of the competition before losing to the eventual runners-up Staffordshire. In the group stages we played 6 games and had 1 abandoned. Of the 6 played we lost to Hampshire and Cornwall and thus only qualified for the last 16 as best 4th placed team in the country!

We played Warwickshire, unbeaten in their group, in the last 16 and beat them by 8 wickets by chasing down 267. A great bowling effort against two of the best batters we came across all summer (excluding a certain Kim Barnett) was followed by fantastic innings from Luffman (95 not out) and Pyle (113 not out) who never really looked in trouble. Warwickshire could not believe it.

In the quarter final we came across said Mr Barnett who scored an unbeaten hundred although we did not do ourselves justice with the bat. Charlie Dibble took 6-57 to keep Staffs to 218-9 but a good bowling side stopped our batsmen getting anywhere near.

The leading run scorers in the season were Steve Luffman, 3 nineties and a fifty (393 runs at 56) and Richard Pyle 2 fifties and a hundred (286 runs at 47). Also mention of Terry Farkins who scored a match winning hundred (103 not out) against Dorset and Neil Murrin scored 98 against Cornwall.

The leading bowler was Charlie Dibble with 16 wickets at 17 apiece. With Paul Nott and Chris Cook being the most economical bowlers going for less than 4 runs per over.

With 3 teams from our group (Hampshire, Cornwall and ourselves) reaching the last 8 I think I can safely say that was a fair reflection of what a strong group ours has become. Although we lost to Hampshire and Cornwall I think in both cases we lost them rather than they won them with possibly our worst bowling performances in my 4 seasons in the fifties.

With good availability from a number of players we only had to use 15 players and I think this certainly helps build a good team spirit. My thanks to all who played and to all their efforts. It has been a pleasure leading the team and playing with such a good bunch of blokes. I would of course be delighted to be captain again next season and if not then I would give my successor my support.

Finally a bit thank you to Chris Dove for scoring and doing all the stats etc and for Chris Shelton for umpiring the majority of the games.

Graham Munday