



DEVON COUNTY SENIORS CRICKET CLUB

DEVON CRICKET BOARD
(Affiliated to the England Cricket Board)



PRESIDENT: Mr. D GAMBIE

Devon Over 50s B Season Report 2017

2017 was very much, to borrow a phrase from football, a season of two halves for the 50s B team.

Availability issues dogged the second half after we had won three out of the first five matches, and consequently we lost four of the second five. Our hopes for a semi-final place were scuppered at Ivybridge against Cornwall by two injuries – Ian Hayter's mashed, bloody fingers in an attempt to take a return catch, and Matt Smith's horrendous dislocated shoulder when running through for a single consigned us to a narrow defeat.

A total of 33 players were used, nine of whom were making their Seniors debut. Fourteen players could only play one game, and only opener Jeff Heath played every game.

In spite of that, the season got off to a flying start with a massive 144 run defeat of Dorset, with Mike Pugh hammering 113 off only 57 balls after Ian Hayter (83) and Jeff Heath (64) had put on 165 for the first wicket in just 26 overs.

In fact, openers Heath and Hayter hit century opening stands three times in succession, and it was no coincidence that we went on to win all those games.

Two good victories against Somerset, one a real nail-biter off the penultimate ball of the match at North Perrot, and a win by default against Dorset who couldn't raise a side, left us riding high at the half way stage; but in both matches away to Gloucestershire and Cornwall we were soundly beaten.

By then Mike Pugh was quite rightly snapped up by the 1st team, but Steve Harris was a more than adequate replacement, scoring over 200 runs at 52 in five innings.

Two debutants, Marten Stanbury and Marty Causey, both made significant contributions throughout the season, not least through their fitness and fielding. Who will forget Marty's stunning catch at midwicket against Cornwall at Ivybridge??

Availability issues aside (we borrowed from the Over 60s), the team always put up a decent fight in defeat, losing frustratingly close games to Wales (by just 2 runs away, and by 16 runs at home) and by 17 runs to Cornwall.

Batting highlights include Mike Pugh's aforementioned brutal 113 against Dorset, and Ian Hayter's 115 v Wales at Ynystawe CC, which took us to within a hair's breadth of pulling off an unlikely victory in front of 60 boozy and wonderfully loud singing Welsh mourners who were using the clubhouse bar for a wake for their recently deceased friend.

There were three other half centuries for Hayter, three also for Jeff Heath, two for Harris and two for Marten Stanbury.

Bowling wise, Tim Cooke, with his own particular blend of flight and guile, ripped the heart out of Somerset at Bradninch with 4-39, and although he was sometimes expensive, once again topped the wicket takers list with 13, more than double the next placed bowler. Only two bowlers had an economy rate of less than 5 runs per over, something which we need to look at for next season.

My thanks to all the players in 2017, particularly those who helped us out at the last minute; and of course to unsung heroes Jolyon Huxtable (scorer) and Chris Sleep (umpire), without whom we would not have a match.

Players' Player of the Season: Ian Hayter



OVER 50s v DORSET AT KILMINGTON CC, MAY 10TH 2017

*Back l to r: Marty Causey, Graham Munday, Pete Gartrell, Richard Pyle, Chris Battin, Steve Preston, Chris Sleep (umpire)
Front l to r: Brian Cann, Jeff Heath, Ian Hayter*+, Mike Pugh, Tim Cooke*