

## DEVON SENIORS 60+ 2<sup>nd</sup> XI REPORT – SEASON 2023

It was hoped that after last year, this season would bring better availability, less injuries, and less interference from the League MC, unfortunately that was not to be the case on all three counts. In fact, availability for both 60 sides were challenging for Roger & myself with the seconds using a total of 35 players throughout the season. There is also no doubt that the standard of the opposition has stepped up a grade as well and this was proven in the final stages of the KO competition with 6 out of the 7 sides in the Southwest Region reaching their respective semi-finals with two from three winning their respective competition outright.

We did however manage to raise a side for all 14 games without conceding although we came close a couple of times, and the reality is that injuries are becoming more frequent, travelling does present an issue for some players and work commitments also play a factor in non-availability. After a recruitment drive over the winter, we did attract a number of players into the fold, and it is hoped that we can repeat the exercise again to attract even more.

In the league we did win our 2 fixtures against Cornwall in which in the away fixture we managed to secure victory on the last ball of the innings “ by the barest of margins” as they say, Andy Rose (on loan from the 70’s) set the victory up with a well-timed and graceful 100, but in most of the other games against the likes of Wales, Oxfordshire and Somerset we were simply not able to compete at the same level. The Wales captain informed me after giving us a thrashing away that they were choosing from 60 players in the 60’s, something we can only aspire to. Those two victories ensured that we would finish in 6<sup>th</sup> position in the league again and therefore qualify for the KO Bowl competition at the end of the season.

There were some stand out individual performances along the way, Andy Rose’s hundred against Cornwall setting up the victory, Steve Harris with a remarkable spell of bowling against Berkshire where in his first 5 overs his figures were 5-1-5-5, some valuable late order hitting from new boy David Turner in a number of matches, and Gary Kennard’s contributions with bat & ball when available.

There was also a fairly worrying incident involving Bob Heaman who was unable to get out of the way of a well struck ball from a Devon batsman whilst

at the non-strikers end, leaving him with a nasty cut and head injury, which had all players & officials deeply concerned, luckily the paramedics were on hand fairly quickly to treat him on the ground and take him to hospital. My sincere thanks go to all the staff at Whimple CC who acted promptly and efficiently in taking care of Bob, hopefully we will see Bob again in the new season.

My thanks go to all the players that played and made themselves available on a regular basis, and the players that helped out at the last moment, and my personal thanks go to all players who supported me throughout this difficult season with skill, humour and understanding. Many thanks also go to Roger for his considerable support and our thrice weekly chats during the season, sometimes with humour and sometimes with despair but always with Devon best interests in mind, and to Andy for sorting the monies out on a regular basis for me.

As always, I am eternally grateful to Gazza our scorer and loyal supporter, and the umpires Ian Western, Alex Pickersgill and Dave Hawke who stood for us during the season. Thanks also to the clubs that made their grounds available to play our home games :-

South Devon, Whimple, North Devon, Torquay and Chagford.

I would also like to thank Wollens Solicitors, Ian Western and Robert Loxton Accountants who sponsored games for us during the season.

There were 4 candidates for my player of the year, using votes from the players and myself as captain.

Rob Jack, Steve Harris, Gary Kennard and Andy Rose, but for his bowling as leading wicket taker (usually when opening the bowling when no others were available) and middle order runs, my **PLAYER OF THE YEAR** is **STEVE HARRIS**.

### Batting

Andy Rose – 279 runs - Average 34.90 – Highest Score 102

### Bowling

Steve Harris – 12 wickets – Average 36.50 – Best 6-16

This will be my last year as captain as I think that 4 and 1/2 years is long enough for me to shout at fielders who are in the wrong place, and fight MC disputes, it's been good fun with some good competitive cricket played in most matches, although tinged with disappointment that we were not able to play in a final of the KO competition due to League MC interpretations. I hope that all the players that have played in the team have enjoyed the cricket, the banter, and those funny moments (you know who you are Gary!) which will long be remembered and recalled at some time in the future, I certainly hope to continue playing with most of you again for as long as the body lets.

Neil Matthews

## RESULTS

### LEAGUE

25/4 – Devon v Worcestershire – **GAME CANCELLED.**

2/5 – Somerset 219-6 **Devon** 123 AO (Shephard 31\*) **Somerset win by 96 runs.**

9/5 – Gloucestershire v Devon – **GAME CANCELLED.**

23/5 – **Devon** 188-7 (Rose 56, Jones 41, G.Moore 40) Wales 192-1 **Wales win by 9 wickets.**

30/5 – Devon 141 AO Oxfordshire 142-2 **Oxfordshire win by 8 wickets.**

6/6 – **Devon 224-7** (Rose 102, Kennard 43\*) Cornwall 223-5 (Kennard 2-30, Power 2-63) **Devon win by 1 run.**

20/6 – **Devon 176- 9** (Harris 30, Murphy 30) Gloucestershire 177-4 (Power 2-42) **Gloucestershire win by 6 wickets.**

27/6 – **Devon 164-7**(Matthews 39) Somerset 165-1 **Somerset win by 9 wickets.**

4/7 – Worcestershire 155 all out (Pilgrim 3-33, Cooke 3-37) Devon 104-7 (Murphy 29) **Worcestershire win by 51 runs.**

11/7 – **Devon 228-6** (Rose 34, Heath 30, Stanton 36, Kennard 43) Cornwall 180 all out (Kennard 2-20, Bees 2-48, Lock 2-58, Heath 2-29) **Devon win by 48 runs**

18/7 – Devon 183-4 (Jack 60, Heaman 32, Goff 43\*) Oxfordshire 186-0 **Oxfordshire win by 10 wickets.**

25/7 – **Devon** 152 all out (Jones 37, Turner 42\*) Wales 154-1 **Wales win by 9 wickets.**

## **BOWL COMPETITION**

1/8 – Shropshire 134-5 (Rose 3-25) Devon 77-0 (Jack 44\*) ***Devon win by D/L (Shropshire conceding due to injury sustained in match)***

15/8 – **Devon** 163-6 (Matthews 30, Turner 40\* Harris 39\*) Berkshire 79 all out (Harris 6-16)  
***Devon win by 84 runs.***

### **Semi-final**

22/8 – Gloucestershire 268-5 (Botton 3-49) Devon 228-5 (Jack 61, Rose 30 retired, Goff 58)  
***Gloucestershire win by 40 runs.***