



### Season Report - 2005

New season, new captain, new expectations. 2005 was to prove to be somewhat of a transitional summer.

Julian Page (Exmouth) took over the captaincy from Chris Theedom and his first test as skipper was away to Wiltshire. The hosts were put into bat, and a mixture of some slightly wayward bowling, drop catches and indifferent fielding left Devon on the backfoot, and although they made a spirited attempt at reaching the required total, Devon fell short.

It was a similar story against Dorset when Devon were 100 for no wicket after the first 16 overs but stumbled to only a mediocre total and lost their second successive game. Two loses became 3 in a row when the long trip to Hampshire also ended in defeat. A batch of wides and no-balls not helping the cause in the heat at Cadnam.

In between the Dorset and Hampshire games there was however a chink of light in the win over Somerset at Chagford. A typically brutal assault on the visiting bowlers from Pete Shepherd laid the foundations for the victory but the game will be remembered for the catch taken by Sandford's Chris Theedom. The way 'Theeds' tripped over that small piece of loose earth and some how clung on to the catch was remarkable to say the least. Rumour has it that Chris is claiming that he actual intended the dive and the catch – brilliant effort whatever from the team manager.

The final 3 Championship games of the summer against Cornwall (10 wkts), the Isle of Wight & The Channel Islands (48 runs), all ended in comfortable victories and left the side to rue over missed chances in the early part of the season. Theedom's 70-plus at Bovey Tracy vs. Channel Islands and the unbroken opening partnership of 137 by Pete Shepherd and Julian Page against Cornwall at Gunnislake were the highlights batting wise through the season. On the bowling front, Jon Jenkins, Nick Rogers and Dave Amery all put in spirited performances.

A number of friendly matches were played throughout the summer which gave the ever increasing membership that the Club has, an increasing opportunity for more players to play more games. Indeed, the fixture list for the 2006 season includes even more matches for the club's fringe players to state their case for a place in the championship side. Thanks must be given for this to our fixture secretary, Dave Gambie.

The Devon Over 50's Cricket Club's committee would like to publish their gratitude to all those who assist the club in so many ways. From the ladies from all the host clubs, who provide us with such veritable feasts over the course of the summer, to all the various groundstaff who prepare the wickets enabling us to fulfil an ever expanding fixture list. A special thanks to all the clubs who prove to be such good hosts at our home fixtures.

Thank you also to the DCU&S for continuing to provide match officials for both our home and away fixtures. Finally, enjoy your cricket!!