Over 60s 2nd XI Report 2025

The 60s IIs enjoyed another challenging season, as the small squad did their best to compete meaningfully in the tough South West division. As illness, injury and absence took their toll, a total of 28 players represented the team in the 11 league games played. Of those games three were won, eight lost and three cancelled due to the weather. As those three were against Wales (twice) and Somerset, (both strong counties at 60+ level), our average at the end of the group stage was a little higher than it might have been and consequently we qualified for the Vase rather than the Bowl in the knockout stage. This involved an away fixture against Suffolk where we came second against a decent Suffolk team, who went on to win the Bowl.

The team scored eight 50s and two 100s and competed well in all the matches, really only struggling in some of the further flung games, when availability was less strong. With such a dry summer and flat wickets, the bowling figures are less flattering, but Keith Brown again topped the list of wicket takers with eight.

Once again we played on some lovely grounds: Blundells school near Tiverton produced a belter of a wicket, Shobrooke Park is always a picture, Twyford in Hampshire looked as picturesque as when I last played there 42 years ago and Ipswich CC have two marvellous squares. With ground staff under increased pressure from midweek fixtures good grounds are not always so easy to come by, especially when you want to host your opposition at the side of the county that provides easier access for them. Thus, I was grateful to all our host grounds (the above, plus Torquay, Yelverton, Whimple, Hatherleigh and Cornwood) for their hosting, particularly when done at short notice when a game has been rearranged.

In addition, we played friendliest against Wales, Oxfordshire and a team of touring Aussies, using North Devon CC and Braunton, two more excellent venues. I was grateful to some of the 60s Is for bolstering our numbers and the odd 50+ player who kept these fixtures competitive. The Aussies were beaten off the last ball of the match; a win that is always a pleasure!

Highlights of the season include the two centuries by Jeff Heath and Martin Goff; the wins against Wiltshire, home and away; the 223 opening stand against Hampshire; a dream delivery from Joe Moretta to remove the Somerset no.4's off stump at Torquay and Keith Brown's 8 overs for 19 in the knockout quarterfinal. I should Mention in Dispatches Paul Strawbridge who played against Gloucestershire away with a painful ankle, which he later discovered was fractured; John Crocker who zoomed to Blundells to sub field for the injured Rob Jack when called during the game and Steve Reynolds,Andy Rose and Neil Matthews from the over 70s who would always turn out for us to ensure we had a full 11.

Players were given the chance to vote for a player of the season and a bowler of the

season. With the likes of Jeff Heath and Rob Lambert being taken from us to the 60s Is, there was less competition and I was voted the player of the season and Keith Brown the bowler of the season.

Finally, some thank yous: to Alex Pickersgill, William Jackson, Chris Cottrell, Ian Hayter and Kim Evers for umpiring; to Gazza Gascoigne and Gary Hudson for scoring and to all the players who represented Devon 60s IIs over the course of the season. I hope you enjoyed it and will continue to enjoy your cricket in 2026. At our age every game is a bonus, let's make the most of it and play the game in the sunshine for as long as we can.

Martin Goff

Results 2025

29/4/25 at Newquay: Devon 158-8 (J Heath 56) lost to Cornwall 159-3 by 7 wickets.

6/5/25 at Shobrooke Park: Devon 179-8 (M Goff 37) lost to Gloucestershire 181-4 (2 run outs) by 6 wickets.

13/5 at Long Melford Wiltshire 170-8 (R Lambert 3-15) lost to Devon 174-4 (J Heath 46, R Jack 43*) by 6 wickets.

20/5 at Twyford: Hampshire 284-3 (K Brown 2-35) beat Devon 187-9 (G Jones 56) by 97 runs.

3/6 at Torquay: Somerset 265-7 (G Kennard 2-44) beat Devon 236-6 (J Heath 102*; M Goff 69) by 29 runs.

17/6 at Yelverton: Cornwall 179-7 (K Brown 2-37) lost to Devon 180-4 (M Goff 71) by 6 wickets.

24/6 at Long Ashton: Devon 161 all out (A Rose 38) lost to Gloucestershire 163-3 by 7 wickets.

1/7 at Whimple: Wiltshire 180 all out (K Toze 3-23) lost to Devon 183-4 (M Goff 83*) by 6 wickets.

8/7 at Blundells School: Devon 245-3 (M Goff 136, R Jack 69*) lost to Hampshire 258-3 (K Toze 2-50) by 7 wickets.

12/8 at Ipswich CC: Devon 178-8 (M Goff 45, G Jones 43) lost to Suffolk 179-4 (K Brown 1-19) by 6 wickets.