

## **The Golden Oldies celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of winning the National Over 50s Final**

On Friday night practically the whole 2002 winning squad, wives & Chris Dove scorer assembled at Fingle Glen Hotel to commemorate 15 years since they won the National Counties Championship.

Many memories & stories were told of the championship winning campaign which ended in a memorable victory against Lancashire at Liverpool CC. How many tons did Macey & Eames score & were Rose, Stanton, Lott & Howard really all-rounders. How many of the squad played premier division cricket & after the horrendous ferry journey to Jersey how did we ever manage to win that game after such sea sickness. How many times did Steve Ripley get the captain in trouble? & was Stuart Lott guilty of being too nice

These & many more memories were discussed at length but no one can take away the fact that this was a very special & close knit squad of players who were undoubtable the best fielding side in the competition Full of all-rounder's & specialist opening bowlers few sides scored more than 180 runs against us. Macey without doubt was the finest batsman in the competition & Whitby the best fielder

With these attributes & a big squad of players Devon won 7 games out of 7 to reach the final & everyone contributed in some way .Alsop ,Coe ,Cavendish, Barter, Canning, Adams & Gambie were all outstanding cricketers in their own right but couldn't gain a regular place

On the evening Stuart Lott told the story of the final where Lancashire full of ex pros were blown away with Devon scoring 255 for 3 with Macey again scoring 103 & Whitby 73. Theedom & Howard adding 50 runs in the last 5 overs .In reply Lancashire were soon in trouble with Rose 2 for 14 & Lott 1 for 16 of 9 overs being eventually restricted to 174 for 7.This was only the second time in our history that Devon have won the Over 50s National championship

Chris Theedom thanked everyone for attending the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner but special mention was made of our scorer's contribution Chris Dove who still scores for the Over 50s now

At the dinner memories were given by Bob Eames on the sea ferry crossing to Jersey ,Pete Rose & finally Brent Howard on what he can remember about the after match evening at the Cavern Club, Liverpool

Finally a toast was made to all our wonderful wives who backed & followed us throughout

It was a truly great night & hopefully all will be present in 2022 when we celebrate 20years.The best team & best group of players I have ever had the opportunity to captain & I thank myself lucky to have been part of such a talented & pleasant group of people

Chris Theedom