

SHIPTON UNDER WYCHWOOD CRICKET CLUB

It must have been the coldest ever start to a cricket season but imagine what the Indian tourists thought of our spring weather. At least every item of our sporting attire was hunted down from attics and airing cupboards and given immediate wearing with many extra and unusual garments concealed below. Fortunately we are now enjoying the type of weather not ordered by Yorkshire Water and players have reverted to their usual recognisable profiles.

The usual flurry of competitions have made it a busy and not unsuccessful start to the season which as I write has just reached halfway. We are not, however, positioned as comfortably as we would like in either of our 1st and 2nd XI Leagues which are all important and we hope that recently improved form will soon see us in calmer waters.

I have complained before of the quirky point scoring system run by our league where you can obtain between 7 and 15 points for a win. Our 1st XI have recently beaten Banbury, Leighton Buzzard, Oxford and Aylesbury but only accumulated 28 points - a few extra wickets taken, a greater margin of victory could have made this nearer 60.

The weather and occasion were traditionally perfect for President's Day, when our new incumbent John Jennings and his wife Phil plus family gave us a superb day of feasting, fun and a most competitive game of cricket. The President's team assembled from friends of the Club and old Shipton players from far and near were just beaten by the Club in the penultimate over of a memorable occasion. Many thanks to them all.

We are again hitting the headlines throughout the country as Shipton-u-Wychwood has again reached the last 16 Clubs of the National Village K.O. Competition. Thrilling wins over Tiddington (last year's runners up at Lords), Kingston Bagpuize and best of all, last week at Goatacre in Wiltshire, who have won the competition twice, have got the Club buzzing with anticipation.

On 21st July we face a near 400 mile round trip to Carew near Pembroke in Wales and if we could win there and another away round - possibly in Cornwall - we would be staging the National semi-final at Shipton on 18th August with the final at Lords on 1st September. I hope I am not tempting fate but whoever wins it will be playing to the limit of one's abilities on the day and I am convinced that - man for man - we are good enough, with the experience gained in previous excursions, to go all the way.

Watch this space - I may be writing a lot or a little in the next edition!

Brian Gorton