

SHIPTON-u-WYCHWOOD CRICKET CLUB



One of the eight best village teams in the U.K. (official).

I did say I might write a little or a lot depending on our fate in the National Village Competition and sadly it has to be a little. Our wonderful charge continued in the seventh round when we travelled to Pembroke and played at the top of our abilities to beat the Welsh champions in front of a large crowd and the picturesque Carew Castle. A superb century from Stuart Gillet and 50 from Steven Bates saw us amass 250 in our 40 overs which proved too great a target for our sporting opponents on another lovely summers day. Many of our supporters took the opportunity to take a short holiday break at nearby Tenby and Saundersfoot while looking forward to the next round in two weeks.

This duly arrived and was again at the seaside against Uphill Castle at Weston Super Mare. The quarter final with the winners at home for the semifinal a fortnight later. Secret plans were made to park hundreds of cars, accommodate and feed a capacity crowd and prepare the ground for the biggest ever cricket day at Shipton – whilst not actually daring to speak them aloud.

This time however it was not to be. Usually reliable hands dropped catches and fit men got injured but we were not daunted by the 238 target set us.

I always think we get addicted to this game because you could never run the components through a computer and get the same results or oddities that the game turns up. Our centurion from the last round was bowled out quickly, the first ball of our innings and next six batsmen contrived to find unusual ways to get dismissed. At 82 for 7 wickets we had lost all the glow of another sunny day at the seaside – but the lads were not finished. Gerry Senior batting at No. 8 dropped anchor while bowler Paul Snell hit a brisk and rallying 43. When Snell perished Senior began to savage the Somerset attack joined by last man in, Anthony Prior-Wandesworth, who posted his arrival with a huge six. Scoring at over ten an over they silenced the bulging and vociferous home beer tent supporters and when the last over came we needed 12 more runs to win. It can only happen in “Boys Own” dreams but with nine fielders employed on the boundary edge we needed a six off the last ball – a blow too far after a fantastic fight back, but sadly not to be this time.

A victory however for cricket with all its glorious improbabilities which, in cold print reads – Uphill Castle 238 Shipton-under-Wychwood 233 (Senior 64 not out). Footnote; – Uphill Castle lost their semi-final to Caldý from the Wirral, who went on to win the final at Lords on 1st September. So near.....

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

75 years of
Continuing
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Nearly 75 years ago The Royal British Legion was formed to help all those who serve or have served in the armed forces, their relatives and dependants. It is as relevant today as it was then and indeed, as long as there are British soldiers, sailors and airmen and women willing to risk their lives in the service of their country, there will be a Royal British Legion to support them and their families.

Almost one third of the population, more than 18 million people, are eligible for the charity's help and the Legion answers more than 180,000 calls for help a year. Many of those 18 million are the veterans of the First and Second World Wars, as well as veterans of more recent conflicts such as Northern Ireland, the Falklands and the Gulf War and now Bosnia. Over the past 75 years the work of the Legion has changed to meet different needs of this special community.

With over 750,000 members 3,200 branches and over 900 clubs, the Legion is part of the fabric of the nation offering a host of services ranging from nursing and convalescent homes, training centres and remedial facilities, to a housing and job finding service. The Legion also runs resettlement training for service leavers, provides loans for people to start their own businesses and helps more than 1,300 people visit the graves of their loved ones overseas every year.

LET US NOT FORGET THE LEGION AND ITS NEEDS.