

# SHIPTON-UNDER-WYCHWOOD CRICKET CLUB

**PRESIDENT: J.W.F. JENNINGS**



<b>CHAIRMAN:</b> <b>G.M. MILES</b> The Old Forge High Street S-u-W OXON	<b>VICE CHAIRMAN:</b> <b>R. HAYES</b> The Wickets Highworth Rd. South Marston SWINDON WILTS	<b>TREASURER:</b> <b>R. HAYES</b>	<b>SECRETARY:</b> <b>P.M. MEREDITH</b> 22, Churchill Rd. Chipping Norton OXON	<b>CAPTAIN:</b> <b>J.S. HARTLEY</b> Standing Cottage High Street S-u-W OXON
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Well the dream is over, but what a dream and what a season to win our league and to reach the final of the Alliance and Leicester Giro National Village Championship to be played at Lords, the home of cricket. If we believe the newspapers and even Shane Warne it is every cricketers dream to play at Lords and this we achieved by winning nine rounds of the championship, culminating with our win at Milstead in Kent in the semi final.

This win was a result of some aggressive batting by Sam Mendes and Jason Constable and some very accurate bowling by Chris Painter and Shaun Miller supported by a good all round team performance. At least two hundred of our supporters had travelled to Kent on the day and gave us tremendous support and witnessed some very emotional scenes when we took the final wicket and realised we were now going to play at Lords in the biggest game in the club's eighty year playing history.

There followed a very hectic fortnight for everyone connected with the Club before the final on Sunday 31st August. We enjoyed extensive local and national press coverage. Local radio and even T.V. coverage on Friday 29th August which the team enjoyed watching following our Golf day at Lyneham. I would to thank Paul Humphreys our skipper for all his efforts in dealing with the press etc. which he did willingly and very well.

We travelled to London on Saturday afternoon on a coach kindly provided by "The Oxford Tube" and booked into the team Hotel, The Regents Park Hilton. On Saturday evening we met and enjoyed the company of our opponents, Caldy C.C. from Merseyside at a reception given by "The Cricketer" magazine who administer and organise the competition. This was followed by a superb dinner for everyone at the Groucho Club in Soho where we were the guests of Sam Mendes who had always said if we ever reached the final he would take us all out to dinner in the West End. Many thanks Sam, a brilliant night enjoyed by all especially Shaun Miller.

Match day dawned with the tragic news of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales and it looked for a while that the match would not be played. However following several phone calls, Roger Knight the Secretary of the M.C.C. informed us we would be allowed to play with the match being preceded by a two minutes silence.

We were in the England dressing room, our flag flying at half mast above. We won the toss and following team photographs in the Harris Gardens, the match got under way at 11.00am in overcast conditions with a somewhat wet wicket. We bowled and fielded superbly and cheered on by our numerous supporters (six coaches from the Club alone) we restricted Caldý to 166 and looked forward to batting after lunch in improving conditions.

But Caldý, who won the competition last year, defended their total with great all-round skills. Our batting never seemed to get going despite a fine innings from Felix Macdonald which won him the "Man of the Match" award for our team and we were eventually all out for 110.

Although we lost on the day we all came away with everlasting memories of a good match played in a fine spirit at the finest ground in front of all of our many supporters. We would like to thank everyone for their support throughout the season and for the final and hope they enjoyed the occasion as much as we did as the highlight of a tremendous season for the club.

Geoff Miles Chairman

P.S. Don't forget the Annual Dinner at Lyneham Golf Club,  
Friday 7th November 1997. Everyone welcome. Please ring 830905 to book.



The team has plenty to smile about!