

SHIPTON CRICKET CLUB REPORT 1999 SEASON.

What a difference a few weeks make and how little it takes to please some of us. In case you hadn't guessed, (and what else do the English talk about) I am referring to the weather. Like so many other unfortunates I am emerging from the dread Seasonal Affective Disorder, or SAD syndrome. I haven't had an official diagnosis but I just know I've got it. What else could explain the dramatic mood swings, the listlessness and despair that must be endured in the dark days of January and February. And, contrary to what my wife says, it has nothing to do with a rather ill-considered New Year's resolution to discard the demon weed.

"But what has this all to do with cricket?", you may well be forgiven for asking. "Everything" I would reply. In a strange and mystical way that only fellow sun-worshippers can appreciate, my optimism has inexorably returned. At last there is something to look forward to, something tangible, something that releases us from the shackles of Winter: 'Spring has sprung', resurrecting the dreams of Shipton glories to come! (where are those nicotine patches when you need them.)

But enough of this euphemistic babble and time to reflect on a season of near bliss for your local cricket club. Last Summer saw us once again pick up the threads of The National Village Knockout competition. Unlike the previous year, we successfully negotiated the Oxfordshire final moving stongly into the national stages of the competition. A crushing victory at home to the previous year's finalists, Apperly, saw the club travel to Cornwall to play Fitzhead in the last eight. An outstanding individual performance by Shaun Miller, who scored 90 runs and took 4 wickets, steered us to a semi-final berth with the champions of Kent, Linton Park.

One step from Lords proved a step too far as a combination of bad luck and bad judgement saw Shipton slide to defeat by 16 runs. The despair of defeat was somewhat tempered with the knowledge that, in a season of transition, we had far exceeded our expectations.

In the league the first team continued to progress finishing a creditable fifth in the Cherwell League Division One. Hopes are high that this season will see us mount a serious challenge for the title. Our fledgling second eleven, in a highly competitive league, recorded an astonishing eight consecutive victories, only failing in the last few games to cap a memorable season with some silverware. Hopefully the experience gained by our talented crop of young players in 1999 will see them gain the rewards their efforts deserve.

As always, Shipton.C.C. is not all about the intensity of competitive sport. We continue to run two senior sides every Sunday, where the club caters for cricketers of all abilities and ages.

New members are very welcome and contact details are outlined below. Our junior cricket continues to flourish and this year sees us with a record four age groups represented. These are under-11s, under-13s, under-15s and under-17s. There will also be friendly matches arranged for the 10 and under age groups.

An important notice to all parents is the ECB directive which states, that all children, under the age of 18, must wear helmets when batting or keeping wicket, unless by written dispensation from parent or guardian.

Practice night will again be on a Wednesday from 6pm to 8pm, starting April 26th, and we are fortunate enough to have another qualified coach, John Barrett, joining the club. This year sees us lose an invaluable member of the club, our tea lady of several years, Elaine Yeatman. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Elaine for all her hard work and wish her all the very best in her future enterprises – you will be missed.

On the financial front, the extended run in the Village Knockout and committee are working hard to develop our practice facilities and we are currently involved in compiling a lottery bid for three new artificial nets. These will, of course, benefit the club as a whole but they will be particularly valuable to children's cricket in that they will provide an essential aid to their development, and provide a safe environment for practise.

Finally the members of Shipton-u-Wychwood C.C. must express our thanks to all the people who supported the team throughout our cup campaign. We very much hope we can provide you with some entertainment in the coming season. We are also on the lookout for a new tea-lady. We pay £45 per tea. Would anyone interested please contact one of the numbers below. These are also the contact numbers for prospective players and VPs:

Chairman: Geoff Miles. SUW-830905

Secretary: Mark Meredith: 01608-644092

Youth Teams Coach: Jerry Senior. SUW 830416.

