

Cricket Report

National Village Champions 2003!

Shipton through again

The 2002 final had been the highlight of our Club's history since its foundation in 1933, but our victory at Lords this year surpassed even that.



due to some tight bowling by the Astwood Bank spin bowlers and it was left to Ian Lewis to get the score up to 146.

Astwood reply

The reply was very solid until Shaun Miller bowled his 9 overs for 6 runs. Wickets began to fall to Chris Painter, bowling at the other end. With the score on 79 Paul Snell returned to the attack and took the last 5 wickets without further runs being scored, much to the delight of our many supporters in the Main Stand.

On behalf of the competition sponsors, Hook Norton Brewery Co. Ltd., James Clarke presented the Cup on the steps of the Pavilion in front of a sea of ecstatic fans.

Breakdown

Our weekend did not start well as the team coach broke down on the M40 on Saturday, delaying our arrival at the Ramada Plaza Hotel. Despite this late arrival we were soon relaxed and enjoying a champagne reception and excellent dinner in the company of our opponents, Astwood Bank CC and game officials.

A warm welcome

Despite gloomy forecasts all week we enjoyed almost perfect weather on our big day. We received every courtesy and kindness from Roger Knight, Secretary and Chief Executive of the M.C.C. and all his staff at Lords. Some of our young players were allowed to visit the Pavilion and dressing rooms, while others, resplendent in new yellow 'T' shirts, played Kwik Cricket on the ground during the interval between innings.

Losing the toss

After team photographs were taken, we lost the toss and were put in to bat, Steve Bates and Jason Constable getting us off to a good start. We did not build on this,

Thanks to all

Throughout the competition we have made many new friends and enjoyed ourselves along the way; this enjoyment spills over into the community and creates an interest in our cricket. On behalf of the club I would like to thank our many supporters throughout the competition and everyone involved in making this such a memorable occasion. My special thanks to everyone at the Club for all their hard work.

Geoff Miles, Club Chairman