Seniors Over 50's Captains Report - 2021

Colleagues…

It is with absolute pleasure and pride that I submit my Captains report for the Over 50's group for the 2021 season

All goals and ideals were achieved…. and beyond

The stats for all matches and players are available to see on play-cricket and in most instances do not tell the full story of how far we have advanced or even how far we could have gone this past season. I shall briefly enlighten you…

The Championship side

1.   We improved our win rate from previous years and finished mid table. We are no longer the "whipping boys" of the Championship.
2.   5 balls, 14 runs and 1 wicket stood in our way of 3 further wins which would have resulted in the team qualifying for the knockout stages
3.   Every County made a point of congratulating us on our improvement.
4.   16 players represented the Championship side this season - We, once again, were over subscribed for availability for every game. Testimony to the enthusiasm and "want" by most members. Every one of them contributed positively at some point and were worthy of their selection
5.   Noted exceptional performances include
        -      Neil irons maiden century against Cambs - 135*
        -      Paul Reeve getting us over the line at Lincs with 96*. We were dead and buried in that game - or so LINCS thought anyway
        -      My oscar performance of "man being shot by sniper" against Leicestershire at Matishall…
6.   Many others I could mention but ultimately - Team game played by committed team members.

The Friendly/2nd XI side

1.   The primary aim of this side was to establish enough interest to possibly enter a side in a 2nd XI championship for 2022
2.   Objective achieved - with resounding success
3.   Played 9   Won 6   Tied 1 (with a 6 off the last ball to tie - sorry Bish) and lost 2
4.   Plenty of notable performances
                Thaxter 6-15
                Brown 5-59
                J. Dismore   104*
                P. Free   95
                R. Everitt   94
                Lithins defecting to Lincs (and winning)

We help where we can …..

The good always comes with a tinge of bad and it was with saddened hearts that we lost Tony Reedman this year. He was a long standing team member who gave his all to the cause. Those who knew him, will still miss him. A wakeup call to the frailties of life that can strike at any time.

<u>The Future</u>

The 1st XI Championship side with new leadership can only get better and better. Competition for places suddenly becomes a new concept that we have not experienced in a while.

The 2nd XI Championship side will be formed and have its own leadership. I am very confident they will do well. There is a sound talent pool available for the team to achieve great things.

The "friendly" side will be a grounding and sounding out platform for all new players wanting to challenge for spots in the Championship sides.

You can't get rid of me too easily as I will be continuing to support the club in a different role going forward. I will be staying on in a media and recruitment capacity. I urge all players to help the club in this respect to identify suitable candidates and help expand the club.

It has been a privilege and honour to lead this group of players and I have memories that will remain for a long time. The time has come for others to show their leadership skills and qualities and take this group to the next level.

I know I am leaving the group in very capable hands and will continue to support and aid where I can with the ongoing process of creating something special. The foundations have been laid. There is only one way to go…

Thank you to the Committee for giving me all the support required to achieve what we set out to achieve. Thank you as well to the small band of merry men who have travelled this journey over the last few years - Pat, Bainsy, Roger and Buzz. All leaders in their own right who will continue the good work I am sure. Thank you also to a few unsung heroes who actually do form part of the wheel - Glen and Jo, the many umpires who have stood in our games and the many spectators who have (hopefully) enjoyed their time watching and supporting our cause.

Thank you
Alan Lithins