



SHROPSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

2020

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John Hulme

I am deeply honoured to have been invited to take over as chairman of Shropshire County Cricket Club. It was always a pleasure to represent the county during my own playing career and to have now been elected chairman, in succession to Toby Shaw, is a huge privilege.

It will be no easy task trying to fill Toby's shoes. He has made an immense contribution to Shropshire cricket in recent years, promoting the interests of the county club, and securing a very sound financial base, which is the envy of many other National Counties Cricket Association clubs.

After the disappointment of last season, the committee has worked extremely hard to put in place new structures, both on and off the field, following recommendations included in John Foster's much valued and in depth report, which has proved the catalyst for change.

Historically, the balance of home grown players and those from outside the county in the Shropshire team, has never been an easy dynamic. But the club, having listened carefully to the voices of members and supporters, has now resolved to select from home grown players and engage just one seasoned professional in Simon Kerrigan, the former Lancashire and England left-arm spin bowler. We are delighted to have Simon on board and his record in first-class cricket speaks for itself.

We shall be setting up a network of scouts throughout the county to ensure that all up and coming talent is identified. County selection will not be confined to those playing in the Birmingham Premier League. Those playing in the Shropshire League, if considered good enough, will come under the selectors' eye and be given an opportunity.

We shall now be making a significant investment in training, coaching and development, and have been very fortunate to acquire the services of John Abrahams, our new Director of Cricket, with his wealth of experience in the first-class game and continuing involvement with the ECB.

We have also been fortunate to secure the services of Jason Weaver, former Head of High Performance at Kent CCC, who will assist John. Both John and Jason, of course, already have strong connections with the county club, having played together for Shropshire. We would like to think of it as their homecoming.

They will work closely with Ian Roe, the head of our Academy, and Dave Nock, both of whom continue to do such a fine job in enhancing the development of young players.

As a club, we now have the infrastructure in place to really nurture and develop young talent. It is imperative that our young players, however, are given time to learn and develop their skills and adapt to playing in all three formats of the game, in particular the Championship.

Shropshire can be immensely proud of the pathway it has provided for young players entering the first-class game as professional cricketers. We are committed to providing a continued pathway for our young players to progress to first-class cricket and beyond.

Off the pitch, we continue to work closely with Cricket Shropshire and the county's clubs, and are keen to build long and lasting relationships with clubs and of course the schools within Shropshire. Further, in line with a number of other county clubs, we are seeking to become an incorporated body shortly, following the unanimous approval of our members.

There is much to be positive about and, whilst the club will be entering a transitional stage, I am very confident there is much to achieve over the next two or three years. As they say, success in sport is rarely linear. It is all relative and in the fullness of time, with hard work and commitment, we can return to our former successes. I am sure our members and supporters will support us in our aims and objectives.

As a club, we had no option but to cancel this year's annual Pure Telecom hospitality event, which was scheduled to take place at Wrekin College on July 9. We took the decision after continuing to closely monitor the impact of the COVID-19 virus. Planning for this year's event - renowned as the county's premier networking event for the business community - was at an advanced stage, with more than 800 guests expected to attend.

We were naturally very disappointed to have to make this decision, but it was inevitable with the speed of change in the outbreak. We have an overriding responsibility and duty to safeguard and protect the welfare of all guests and everyone involved with the event. Their wellbeing is of paramount importance and these are particularly challenging and uncertain times.

We very much look forward to staging the occasion next year - we have already pencilled in a date for July 2021 - and welcoming back our many patrons and corporate sponsors who have supported us over the last 14 years.

Finally, I wish to pay special tribute to our late president Mrs Elizabeth Holt, who sadly passed away last summer. Mrs Holt succeeded her husband, Vesey, in 2001, who served the county club with great distinction, going on to become president of the Minor Counties Cricket Association.

The Holts made a very significant contribution to public life and the local community, in particular Shropshire County Cricket Club and Wellington Cricket Club. Their love of the game and generous support will be long remembered and it is fitting that the county club will be returning to Wellington's Orleton Park this summer after an absence of some years.

John Hulme, Shropshire CCC Chairman



Shropshire in the field during the final match of the 2019 Championship season against Wiltshire at Marlborough

Shropshire v Cornwall

UNICORNS CHAMPIONSHIP

21st-23rd July 2019 at Bridgnorth CC

Shropshire won by 5 wickets
Shropshire 21 points Cornwall 6 points

1st Innings

Cornwall		Shropshire	
S. Harvey*+ c Gregory b Roberts	10	W. Parton c Harvey b Wells	1
C. Kent lbw b Fynn	52	J. Carrasco* lbw b Ludlam	23
J. Paull c Parton b Roberts	0	X. Clarke c Paull b Libby	34
G. Smith c Gregory b Fynn	27	W. Fynn lbw b Smith	41
T. Wells c&b Ibbotson	87	A. Kerzee lbw b Smith	24
M. Robins c Kerzee b Fynn	0	R. Aucott c Harvey b Smith	11
C. Purchase c Kerzee b Fynn	2	S. Gregory+ c Harvey b Wells	33
J. Turpin c&b	45	J. Edwards c Purchase b Wells	9
A. Libby b Fynn	11	S. Ellis c Paull b Smith	1
J. Ludlam c&b Edwards	4	T. Ibbotson not out	4
C. Gilbert not out	1	B. Roberts c Paull b Smith	3
J. Brierley did not bat		B. Lees did not bat	
Extras 7b 3lb	10	Extras 4b 1w 6nb	11
Total (All out, 63 overs)	249	Total (All out, 53.2 overs)	195
Fall of the Wickets		Fall of the Wickets	
25 25 59 157 157 167 193 216 241 249		4 46 110 110 139 150 183 188 192 195	

Bowling

S. Ellis	9	0	39	0	C. Gilbert	5	0	40	0
B. Roberts	8	0	49	2	T. Wells	15	3	45	3
A. Kerzee	8	1	20	0	J. Ludlam	6	1	25	1
W. Fynn	25	5	64	6	A. Libby	11	2	29	1
T. Ibbotson	11	1	62	1	G. Smith	16.2	2	52	5
J. Edwards	2	0	5	1					

2nd Innings

Cornwall		Shropshire	
S. Harvey*+ c Parton b Fynn	2	W. Parton c Gilbert b Smith	29
C. Kent c Fynn b Kerzee	8	J. Carrasco* c Harvey b Ludlam	50
J. Paull st Gregory b Fynn	2	X. Clarke lbw b Libby	22
G. Smith lbw b Fynn	12	W. Fynn not out	56
M. Robins c Gregory b Roberts	94	A. Kerzee c Harvey b Libby	9
T. Wells b Kerzee	4	S. Gregory+ c Paull b Libby	21
C. Purchase st Gregory b Fynn	0	J. Edwards not out	38
J. Turpin c Carrasco b Edwards	35	R. Aucott did not bat	
A. Libby c Edwards b Kerzee	5	S. Ellis did not bat	
J. Ludlam st Gregory b Fynn	7	B. Roberts did not bat	
C. Gilbert not out	2	T. Ibbotson did not bat	
J. Brierley did not bat		B. Lees did not bat	

Extras 3b 1lb	8	Extras 4lb 4nb	8
Total (All out, 46.2 overs)	175	Total (5 wickets, 72.1 overs)	233
Fall of the Wickets		Fall of the Wickets	
2 8 22 26 30 31 92 124 169 175		65 99 115 131 163	

Bowling

W. Fynn	23.2	4	60	5	T. Wells	9	2	30	0
S. Ellis	3	1	6	0	G. Smith	28	1	92	1
A. Kerzee	12	0	75	3	A. Libby	26.1	5	75	3
J. Edwards	4	0	15	1	J. Ludlam	6	1	21	1
T. Ibbotson	2	0	10	0	M. Robins	3	0	11	0
B. Roberts	2	0	5	1					

An outstanding display from Warrick Fynn inspired Shropshire to their first Unicorns Championship victory of the season.

The Oswestry all-rounder played a starring role as Shropshire beat Cornwall - who led by 54 runs at the halfway stage - by five wickets early on day three at Bridgnorth.

Having helped himself to excellent overall match figures of 11-124 from 48.2 overs, Fynn followed up top scoring in Shropshire's first innings by, fittingly, being in the middle at the end, unbeaten on 56, as the hosts advanced to 233-5 to achieve their target.

Bryan Jones, Shropshire's chairman of selectors, said: "We wanted a positive reaction after losing the last match at Oxfordshire and we are delighted we got one.

"There were lots of good contributions, with Warrick really coming to the party on his return to the side after being unavailable for the last match by producing an absolutely magnificent all round performance.

"We were behind by 54 runs at the halfway stage, but the third innings can often be so important and we managed to take early wickets on a competitive wicket."

Shropshire resumed on 175-5, still requiring 55 runs to seal victory, with Fynn and Shifnal's Jack Edwards at the crease, and they teamed up well to guide the home side past the winning post.

Fynn struck five fours in compiling an unbeaten 56 from 97 balls while Edwards was also in good touch, closing undefeated on 38, hitting five boundaries and a six as he faced 80 deliveries.

Having opted to bat first on the opening morning, Cornwall's recovery from 59-3 owed much to a fourth-wicket partnership of 98 between Charlie Kent and Tom Wells.

That was ended when Fynn trapped Kent lbw for 52, but Wells, the former Leicestershire all-rounder, went on to top score with 87 before being seventh man out, caught and bowled by debutant Tyler Ibbotson.

James Turpin added 45 down the order to lift the Cornwall total up to 249, with left-arm spinner Fynn claiming eye-catching figures of 6-64, as seamer Ben Roberts took 2-49.

Shropshire, in reply, were going well at 110-2 before the departure of Xavie Clarke, another debutant, for 34, the first of four wickets to fall for the addition of 40 runs. Fynn, who hit 41, quickly followed his Oswestry team mate Clarke back to the pavilion as Shropshire closed the day on 179-6.

The hosts added just a further 16 runs at the start of an eventful second day, with wicketkeeper Simon Gregory falling for 33, as former Essex and Derbyshire all-rounder Greg Smith took 5-52 and Wells grabbed 3-45.

Pure Telecom Challenge

Thursday 11th July 2019 at Wrekin College

Nearly 700 guests from the county's business community enjoyed Shropshire County Cricket Club's Pure Telecom Challenge, a hugely popular event, at Wrekin College.

They were treated to some excellent cricket as Shropshire played two Twenty20 matches against Grange Cricket Club, the Scottish champions, from Edinburgh.

Former Kent and England captain Chris Cowdrey returned for a second year as master of ceremonies, with guests at an event being staged for the 13th time also entertained by top comedian Ian Irving and live music well into the evening from The Dirty Rockin Scoundrels.

Shropshire chairman Toby Shaw, the event organiser, said: "The day was another great success and just illustrates its importance as an opportunity for the Shropshire business community to get together.

"Chris Cowdrey was excellent again as host and Ian Irving was a lot of fun. The band were also very good and it meant lots of people stayed longer. I'm delighted it was such a success, another sell out, and that everyone had an enjoyable time.

"Thank you to Matt Sandford and his team at Pure Telecom for all their support as event sponsors, and to Wrekin College for making their wonderful facilities available once again."



The two captains, Shropshire's Alexei Kervezee, left, and Grange Cricket Club's Scotland international Dylan Budge, at Wrekin College

He added: "The cricket was fantastic with Grange showing just what a good side they are. It was a great experience for some of the younger players from our Academy team included in the county side as they played against strong opposition and players with international experience."

Grange's team was captained by Dylan Budge and also included George Munsey, who were both in the Scotland side which beat England in a one-day international in Edinburgh the previous year.

Grange elected to bat in the day's opening match and rattled up 215-6 from their 20 overs. Budge showed his international class to hit 90 from 47 balls and opener Oliver Hairs cracked 60 from 23 deliveries, with Jack Twigger taking 3-31 for the hosts.

Shropshire were then restricted to 122-8, with Alexei Kervezee, who captained the side, top scoring with 30, while Matt Simmonds, one of the young Academy players included, added 24. John Blain inflicted much of the damage by taking 4-9 as Grange won by 93 runs.

The second game was reduced to 12 overs per side owing to rain, with Grange, having opted to again bat first, coming out on top by 46 runs.

Opener Jamie Crawley struck an unbeaten 53 and Finn McCreath weighed in with 31 with as Grange accumulated 111-4, with Sam Ellis claiming 3-21. Shropshire, in reply, closed on 69-9

Donations from the event were made to four charities, Lingen Davies Cancer Fund, Macmillan Cancer Support, Shropshire Rural Communities Charity and Shrewsbury Bookfest.



Toby Shaw, the event organiser, with Matt Sandford from Pure Telecom