

50'S 2ND XI 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

I'd like to start my report thanking the host grounds for looking after us so well – Whitchurch, BWI, Thornbury and Shirehampton. To the producers of some amazing teas – huge thanks from the squad – you know who you are!! I'd also like to thank two superstars in Kath Bovey and John Fripp for scoring and umpiring through the season. Both superb at their roles and two wonderful people – thank you on behalf of the whole team. Thanks also to the many supporters, WAGS, daughters and dogs who also travelled to watch us far and wide and finally to the 22 players who played through the season – massive thank you for your support and contributions.

What a season and what an impact one debutant 49yo made!! Sorry Donno it was not you. A clean sweep in the League with 7/7 games won and one no result as a certain County used the weather to call a game off, despite us having some people locally and them saying it was very playable.... Never mind! We thus qualified for the knockout games as second seeds nationally behind Essex who were the only other unbeaten team.

Round One saw us beat Suffolk and then lose somewhat controversially to Wales in the quarter final to a team that had four players who had played first team cricket within a week of that game, but the rules at that time allowed them to play.... That rule was changed at the subsequent AGM!!

The games themselves:

Cornwall away at Mount Ambrose – 6 wicket win.

The usual first game – away! Toss won and Cornwall bowled out for 216 with Steve Williams 4-53 and Ali Smith 3-26 the stars with the ball. Young and old opened with Donno and Feebs but it was our 3 and 4 who broke the back of the chase Srini Kamath with 77 from 99 and Lee Pattison 43 from 56. Some had stayed the night before and some the night after. A great start to season 2025 and we enjoyed the stopover!!

Devon home at Whitchurch – 76 run win.

Asked to bat first as teams knew our desire to chase, we amassed 267-8 thanks to the heavy scoring from our top three. Mike Donaldson with 43 from 49, James Seagrave 54 from 55 and a certain Ben Trotman with 69 from 80. A 12-ball cameo of 21 from Pete Bovey put us above par. Devon's chase began quickly and it took a pace off decision to bring on Ben Trotman to start with and then Pete Bovey and Dave Millard to bowl nine each start through. 2-27, 2-25 and 3-42 respectively and the game was won. Four dismissals from Steve Jones – two caught and two stumped. A great tea provided by the wife of the Club president.

Somerset home at BWI Rose Green – 3 wicket win.

Milly calls Donno, “where are you?” and gets the reply “having a coffee in a hotel”. “No problem we start in 30 minutes”. Milly calls Pars, “where are you?” and gets the reply “at home”. “Sound, we start in 30 minutes mind”. Somerset kindly agreed to a more delayed start and after winning the toss and starting with ten we bowl as usual. 238-3 was never enough on a road and a fast outfield, thanks to a couple of their batters batting for themselves. One with 48 from 96 balls! Ali Smith the pick of the bowlers with 1-33 from 9. The chase did not really ever get going and regular wickets fell and we were tottering at 159-7 albeit with Ben Trotman still not out. Mike Gray joined him and after Ben was assured at drinks that Mike could bat, they settled down to take us home much to the joy of Pars and Freddie. Ben completed his debut 100 for the Seniors with 114 not out from 120 and Mike Gray got his finisher name back with an unbeaten 33 from 25. Also, a regulation no ball from Steve Jones with gloves in front of the stumps courtesy of the Somerset umpire.

Devon away at Whimble – 10 wicket win.

Freddie took the captains arm band for this one with Milly unusually out of the country on holiday. Toss won and bowl as usual, albeit Devon coasted to 70 before losing their first wicket. Andy Geddes was pressed into bowling due to an injury to Steve Williams who at the time had conceded just 11 runs from 6.5 overs with the new ball. Wickets were shared around and Mike Gray was the pick with 2-29 from his full nine. The youngsters then decided it would be fun to give Geds pad rash!! In 39.2 overs for the loss of no wicket the game was won. Ben Trotman with a second consecutive unbeaten ton of 102 from 123 was supplemented by Mike Donaldsons debut ton for the Seniors with 101 from 111 balls. Four wins from four!

Cornwall home at Thornbury – 5 wicket win.

Nobody was late for this early start.... And Cornwall decided they'd win the toss and bat after a late call up to James Collins. At 69 for five we were maybe a tad too smug as 6 and 7 added 200 for the next wicket to see Cornwall to a challenging 269-7. Ali Smith with 2-38 and Dave Millard with 2-25 took most wickets and Ravi Vinjamuri with 1-27 was miserly up front from his nine. Donno did not follow up with a second ton but did allow Steve Davies to hit his first 2's Senior 50 with 54 from 58. Once again we were indebted to Ben Trotman for carrying his bat (three in a row) to the tune of 155 from 125 to get us across the line with more than five overs to spare!

Somerset away at North Perrott – 29 run win.

Another early start and so Milly calls Geds “you delayed?” knowing he'd stopped locally the night before. Amazingly he had not spotted the start time and after a few expletives made his way across and parked up to make the Royal Enclosure. We had no Junior Trots this game and so Somerset won the toss and put us in. Feebs

and Donno put on 153 for the first wicket before Feebs was grateful to be stumped for a battling 59 from 86 balls – it was very hot and Donno kept making him run! Donno looked set for ton number two, before being adjudged LBW for a superb 90 from 84 balls. Wickets kept tumbling and we were all out when Paul Fredericks was adjudged to have hit his wicket. 99.9% of people there knew the keeper had knocked the bails off.... But he was out. We also had crowd trouble twice during this game. The first was the Geds Royal enclosure that kept having to be moved or covered with towels due to sun glare but worst of all was a pitch invasion by our scorer. The home umpire and Kath had decided one bowler was about to bowl his 11th over (quite why they allowed the 10th...) and he kindly volunteered Kath to go on shouting and waving her arms. The umpires stopped play and more than one of us at the time wondered if something untoward had happened in the scoreboard. Thankfully it only took a few minutes to highlight they had mixed up three of their rotund bald players and so all was ok afterall. Somerset chased well but we kept taking wickets at key times despite needing under 100 from 15 with five wickets in hand and a well set batter. It was then that our own rotund bald wicketless bowler turned to bowler number six and Mike Gray, the bowling finisher, ran through the lower order to end with 5-43 from 7.4 overs, with Steve Jones getting another three victims. Six from Six.

Dorset home at Whitchurch – 8 wicket win.

Usual toss won and more important than the game, it allowed everyone bar the openers to feast on a Mrs Feebs tea!!!! Dorset started very well and did not lose their first wicket until 97-1. Regular bowling changes were deployed and Dorset amassed an under par 251-7 for what should have been a 280 minimum that day. Ben Trotman 2-29 and Sam Gunaratne 2-51 were the best figures on show with Pete Bovey 0-19 from 6 being our only bowler to go for under 5 an over. A sumptuous feast was then enjoyed and there were a lot of people happy to bat down the order. With Junior Trots back, Feebs was booted down the order and came in at 63-1 when Donno departed. Feebs then went for 50 from 56 with his usual wagon wheel spoke. Ben Trotman went on his way to unbeaten ton four in a row to end on 107 from 120 with able support from Andy Geddes unbeaten on 27 from 34. Seven from seven League won and second seeds nationally.

Play Off round One Suffolk home at Shirehampton – 129 run win.

Another home game in the South of the County saw Suffolk win the toss and insert us, knowing our desire to chase. Milly passed a fitness test and Feebs was sober enough after celebrating his daughter becoming a Barrister. We began like Bazballers and were already at 144 when Mike Donaldson was first out for a blistering 64 from 67, whilst Ben Trotman batted serenely along. Wickets fell regularly and we were indebted to Mike Gray with a swashbuckling 48 from 35 to get us to our 331-5 total. Ben Trotman ended with a Seniors high 167 unbeaten from 129

balls to make five unbeaten tons in a row. Staggering and a pleasure to have watched. After a Mrs Geds banquet, Suffolk had nothing to lose and went all out, scoring at over seven an over for the first 20 overs with one of their openers being very brutal with 82 from 68. With Ali Smith and Paul Turner bowled out, it was time for pace off to bring the game home. Pistol Pete, Freddie and Milly were entrusted and it fell to Dave Millard to mop the tail in short order to finish with 4-12 from 4.1 with another three-victim haul to Steve Jones.

Quarter Final home at Shirehampton – loss by 24 runs.

We drew a full Country next and were delighted that Geds managed to secure Shire again for us and also volunteered Mrs Geds to provide teas once again. Wales won the toss and elected to bat on another warm day and on another belter of a track. They batted very well and their opener was unlucky to miss out on a ton, being run out for 96 thanks to Jonesy and Junior combining. 268-8 should have been so much less but we dropped five easy catches and so could have been chasing way less. Ali Smith 2-46 and Dave Millard 2-23 were the best bowling figures and Steve Jones added three more victims. Another superb tea and were were off. Milly had left Pete Bovey out to pack the batting with Bond coming in for him. A bad start improved and we reached 102-2 when Steve Davies was out for 50 from 53. The next wicket was the key, with Ben Trotman finally being dismissed for 77 from 88 balls. He was gutted but he had set us up with 100 needed from 13 with lots of wickets left. The pressure got to us, despite James Seagrave 34 from 52 and Ali Smith with a late unbeaten 30 from 24, we were 244-8 when the overs ran out. The better team won on the day without doubt, but using the rules as they did left a very sour taste indeed. Playing full internationals from that season and playing players who had played first team on the Sunday before was naughty. England would have claimed a moral victory!!

Batter and runaway player of the season – Ben Trotman 791 runs from 7 innings with 2 50's and 5 unbeaten 100's in a row and s best of 167 not out to average 395.5. Put him second nationally 57 runs behind a Surrey player who batted twice more.

Fielder of the season – Steve Jones with an amazing 18 dismissals consisting of 11 stumpings and 7 catches. This put him top nationally five victims and deservedly so from our squeaky batted keeper.

Bowler of the season – Dave Millard with 11 wickets from just 34.1 overs (captain should have bowled him more??) with a best of 4-12 and a strike rate of 18.64 balls.

Return of the nickname – Finisher Mike Gray with bat and ball.

Champagne moment of the season – Kath Bovey storming onto the ground in the Somerset game.

Thanks again to everyone and good luck to those moving to the 60's and those who are now eligible to play 50 1's. You will always be welcome with us mind!!