

## **50s 4th XI end of season review**

Whilst our season hasn't quite finished yet (team for the friendly match in Warwickshire will be out soon), I just wanted to take a brief moment to reflect on the 50s 4s first league foray.

Huge thanks go to Gaffers for getting everything off the ground with some friendlies last year, only to then have to step aside from the captaincy before the season due to work. There wasn't a moment's hesitation when he asked me to take over, a decision I've not regretted for a nano-second - it's been a genuine honour and utter joy.

Being the only fourth XI in a league made-up of third XIs was always going to be a challenge, with our modest objectives being to get a side out every time, be as competitive as possible and develop a strong group for the future. I can confidently say we over-achieved in all regards. Finishing third in the league stage and qualifying as top seed in the plate was certainly beyond expectations; the nagging disappointment of losing to Somerset Thirds in the Semi-Final testament to how far our ambitions and intent had risen.

But more than anything else, the enthusiasm, attitude, humour and character of the sizable group of players, umpires, scorers and hosting club officials involved is something to always cherish. Across the eight completed matches in the season a remarkable 31 players represented their County in the 50s 4s, of which nine were making their debut – ranging from “fresh-faced” 49 year-olds to Peter Pan himself at 76...

As a little memento please see to follow a “commemorative programme” containing the summary stats and all match scorecards, and of course the photographic record of some of the finest chunks of aging manhood to ever grace a cricket field together.

Thank you all.

James Collins