

50s 4th XI 2025 season review

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...

Massive thanks to everyone single person involved, I look forward enormously to re-joining battle with you in 2026.

James Collins