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## Foreword by the President Devon County Cricket Club



When Roger Moylan-Jones invited me to take over from him as county president at the end of 2019 I was, to say the least, speechless.

Roger, who took over from the late David Shepherd in 2009, had done a magnificent job for Devon CCC and Minor County cricket as a whole, leaving huge boots to fill. I thought of it as a rowing boat following an aircraft carrier across the ocean.

If Roger had thoughts of sinking into a deck chair on the boundary with Mary to watch a summer's cricket, his hopes were torpedoed by a very unwelcome virus that has affected every human life around the world.

Sadly, but rightly so, all our games were cancelled until halfway through the summer when we were permitted to play some one-day games home and away against neighbouring counties. This was better than nothing and it appeared to go a long way to satisfying our supporters

urges to see bat on ball 'live' again. For Dave Tall, our director of cricket, who was getting over the loss of Peter Trego to Notts, those games were a chance to have a look at some very promising youngsters.

I will leave individual performances on the field to other contributors but must congratulate 20-year-old batsman Tom Lammonby on his end-of- season performances for Somerset. In six First Class matches he scored three hundreds. Amazing! Very well done young man. I bet mum and dad – Glenn and Gill – cracked open a few bottles after hearing about each one!

Devon CCC survives because of the dedication of the unpaid band of people who, behind the scenes, keep the county alive and kicking.

People like Mike Skinnner, who will sell a scorecard to anyone who dares look in his direction, or our dedicated chairman Neil Gamble who sends e-mails at 2am. I hope he's not expecting an answer by return. People like Nigel Mountford, our CEO, who once applied for a job as an auctioneer, but got tongue-tied under pressure; and people such as our fledgling treasurer Roger Wensley, who requested new multi-coloured counters for Christmas; people like director of cricket Dave Tall, who seriously, has the toughest job of all, to our scorers Rachel Tozer and Peter Langford, neither of whom come rain or shine, misses a delivery.

People like Tim Western – a true Lion, people like George Gribble, who runs our watering hole, people like Guy Curry – a 'man for all seasons', a man like Reece Callicott a very welcome new edition, and a man like our brochure editor, the evergreen David Thorneley, whose enthusiasm and energy is endless

Looking ahead to the summer of 2021, I wish all Devon cricket lovers a Covid-free season, during which all the wonderful people I have mentioned can do their jobs on behalf of the Devon County Cricket Club.

#### **Jack Davey, Devon CCC President**

THINKING OF JOINING DEVON CCC? SEE PAGE 33 for NEWS ABOUT THE NEW 'DEVON DAY' AT SOMERSET COUNTY CRICKET CLUB AND THE APPLICATION FORM ON PAGE 37.

Cover picture: Matt Golding Courtesy of Phil Mingo / @ppauk

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## **CEO's Report**



2020 and maybe 2021 will forever be remembered for the Coronavirus pandemic.

As far as club cricket and National Counties cricket was concerned, it looked very much in the Spring that no cricket at all would be played in 2020. Club cricket did resume on Saturday 11th July. All formats of National Counties cricket was cancelled. However, county clubs

were allowed to play friendlies with neighboring counties if desired.

On four Sundays in August, friendlies were played against Dorset, twice, Cornwall and Wiltshire. The games were very worthwhile and there were plenty of positive outcomes. The emergence of a couple of young players in Elliot Hamilton and Sam Read looked very capable – neither seemed out of his depth - they are certainly players for the future. The outcome was two good wins a narrow defeat and a match abandoned because of a dangerous pitch in a planned two T/20 match programme v Dorset v at Bridgwater C.C.

The Director of Cricket, David Tall is to be praised for his efforts in organizing the squad and congratulated in getting the selection of the teams correct. Rachel Tozer is also thanked for scoring all of the matches played.

Unfortunately, the newly formed Academy in partnership with the Devon Cricket Board and the David Shepherd Cricket Trust encountered some teething problems. The ECB requirement is for the Academy to be high profile and to operate for at least five days of competitive cricket. Such standards must ultimately be met by Devon CCC in order to achieve appropriate funding.

This current brochure is the 6th edition, comprising "x" pages whereas the 2016 edition comprised just 32 so much progress has

been made in "Helping to Raise the Profile of Devon CCC" We are very fortunate to have such a loyal advertiser base and each year new supporters are secured but there is still scope for improvement by attracting support from parts of the county so far unconnected. Maintaining the high quality of the brochure has always been uppermost in the minds of those involved in production so once again in this edition we have been delighted to receive and include well written interesting articles from authors with a strong identity with the county. Favourable comment must also be made of the important contribution of Terry Mohan, now having formed his own company EX8 CREATE, who works with so much enthusiasm on this project. David Thorneley is to be congratulated in being the driving force behind the brochure.

Our Finance Director, Roger Wensley, took on full responsibility for the accounts at the end of the Club's financial year from October 2019. Roger has done a fine job and sought various ways of how money could be saved. Guy Curry, a lawyer with tax expertise is to be thanked for his help.

Cullompton Cricket Club are moving to a new ground just outside the town as a relief road is going to be routed through their existing ground. The new venue will have two pitches and the plans for a 'state of the art' facility. The plans for the Pavilion & Clubhouse look impressive. Devon C.C.C. have supported Cullompton C.C. in their planning applications and it is hoped that we will be using the new grounds on occasion in the future, subject to the pitch being of the required standard. As a new railway station is being built and because the ground is close to the M5 Motorway the new venue will benefit from excellent transport links.

Nigel Mountford, CEO – March 2021



### **National Counties Cricket 2021**



Last year I wrote about the new cricket partnership agreement (CPA) which was about to be signed in advance of the new season. Unfortunately, the coronavirus disrupted the launch of ECB's contract plans for NCCCs, and, in addition, no official cricket was played under the auspices of NCCA. However, we are due to sign a partnership agreement by 21st April 2021 at the start of the new season to launch a brave new world of National Counties cricket, and we are proudly

trying to raise the profile and quality of the cricket which is at the pinnacle of the non-professional game.

Few people realise that the combined population within the 20 National Counties is over 18 million people and if our association did not exist there would be no competitive cricket just below First-Class level for young cricketers to aspire to play, and for keen cricket followers to watch. Significantly, over 30% of existing top-class professional cricketers learn their game at National Counties' level and our game is also aimed to cater for the needs of those of real ability, with other career objectives, who wish to participate at the highest level available to them, short of First-Class cricket.

In addition to the above objectives, National Counties' cricket tries to assist the ECB in promoting the game as widely as possible, generating more spectator interest in cricket generally and "Inspiring Generations" to be more involved in the game at club and county levels, and as fans. National Counties, despite covering a third of the country's population, generate few spectators to their competitive games; in 2019 fewer than 23,000 people in total attended National Counties' matches – fewer than the average home gate of, say, West Ham United FC at a single home Premiership match. However, interest is shown by many NCCC supporters following ball-by-ball information on -their laptops or tablets and from this season onwards the streaming of increased numbers of matches will take place.

Under the Cricket Partnership Agreement (CPA), about to be signed by First Class Counties, County Boards and National Counties, there will be more funding for each group. National Counties will receive £25,000 per year to run their general operations and a further performance related element will be available of up to £11,000. This total is very similar to the previous money allocation under a Memorandum of Understanding, but, in addition, in future the ECB will meet the costs of hotels, umpiring and cricket balls that previously had to come out of the normal maintenance grant. This payment in kind is worth from £12,000 to £15,000. but certain new standards will have to be met in such areas as the quality of grounds and playing facilities, the meeting of Covid-19 requirements, additional health and safety provision, extended safeguarding, upgraded GDPR, modified player regulations and different age and eligibility criteria, greater risk assessment, the running of a development X1, more governance provisions, an extended code of conduct, and wider compliance.

For the first time, National Counties are now part of the mainstream of ECB, and opportunities will be presented to National Counties to interest a wider public than ever before. It had been planned that for 2021 the T-20 format would be a roundrobin group of fixtures (again with 2 matches against each opponent on one day). The competition was due to begin in mid-April, and the winners of each of the four groups would have qualified for a finals' day in late June but owing to ECB Covid-19 restrictions the competition was called off for this year in late March 2021.

The one-day competition is due to return after a two-year gap, based on a round robin-phase with four groups of five teams, starting in late 2021, followed by quarterfinals, semi-finals and a final in September. Further, in a new two division County Championship each county will play two home and two away games, which starts in mid-July, with two divisions of five in each of the Eastern and Western Division. The Championship final takes place over four days in September. In both East and West, promotion of one team from division 2, and relegation of one team from division 1 will occur with the teams taking up their respective places in the following season.

From 2021, all National Counties will be required to run Development X1s. Unlike Devon, several National Counties will be doing so for the first time. The Devon Lions, originating in 2011, has been replaced by the Devon Academy organised jointly with the DCB, with the Board's Head coach, Sandy Allen, running the programme supported by Devon CCC Director of Cricket, Dave Tall, it will function in a similar way to the Lions with more specialist winter coaching and at least one three-day summer fixture.

In addition to working more closely with DCB over the CPA and a County Wide Plan. Devon, like other National Counties in their region, Devon has also signed a joint Memorandum of Understanding with Somerset and DCB and will work more closely with Somerset over the player pathway and will benefit from their expertise in the areas of commerce, marketing, and communications. Also, ECB has arranged an annual match with a First-Class county and, in 2021, it is hoped that Devon will play Somerset on 22 July, re-establishing the First-Class link broken 15 years ago when Minor Counties were no longer invited to play in one of the national one-day competitions. Further it is hoped that in 2022 a combined Cornwall, Devon, and Dorset X1 will play an early season 2-day friendly v Somerset at Taunton as part of the partnership arrangements referred to above.

In return for additional resourcing, National Counties have signed up to a range of new requirements, not all of which have been entirely welcomed. However, it is accepted that a more professional approach by the National Counties organisation and the adoption of a greater regulatory framework will aim to ensure the future health and well-being of top-quality recreational cricket.

Neil Gamble, Chairman Devon CCC March 2021

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## **Player Profiles 2021**

#### George Benedict Allen

Born March 20, 1995, Sutton Coldfield Debut 2018 Major Teams Warmley, Torquay Batting Style RHB Wicketkeeper RM

#### Thomas Peter Picton Ansell ("Tom")

Born March 11, 1994, Milton Keynes Debut 2017 Major Teams North Devon; Quarndon Batting Style RHB Bowling Style RM

#### James William Baird ("Jamie")

Born April 30, 2003, Bury St Edmunds Debut 2019 Major Teams North Perrott; Somerset Academy Batting Style RHB Wicketkeeper

#### Sonny Baker

Born March 13, 2003, Torbay Debut Major Teams Torquay; Somerset Academy Batting style RHB Bowling style RAF

#### Alexander William Rodgerson Barrow ("Alex")

Born May 6, 1992, Bath, Somerset Debut 2017 Major Teams Somerset (2011-2016); England U-19s (2010: 5 ODIs); Frome; Bath; Exeter Batting Style RHB Bowling Style ROB Wicketkeeper

#### Benjamin Adam Beaumont

Born February16, 2003, Torbay Debut 2019 Major Team Cornwood Batting Style RHB Bowling Style RM

#### **George Benton**

Born June 1st1993, Torbay
Relations R Keith Benton (father) England U19, Devon Seb
R Benton (brother) – Devon, Cardiff MCCU
Debut 2017
Major Teams Paignton
Batting Style RHB
Bowling Style RFM

#### **Luke Finlay Orson Bess**

Born October 2, 1990, Exeter, Devon Relations Dominic M Bess (cousin) –England, Somerset; Devon Josh J Bess (brother) - Devon Zak GG Bess (brother) – Devon Debut 2017 Major Teams Minor Counties; Devon Lions; Sidmouth Batting Style RHB Bowling Style RM

#### Zachary George Gerald Bess (Zak")

Born February 26, 1993, Exeter, Devon
Relations Dominic M Bess (cousin) – England, Somerset,
Devon; Josh J Bess (brother) – Devon Luke FO Bess
(brother) - Devon
Debut 2015 (Trophy 2014)
Major Teams Minor Counties; Sidmouth; Exeter;
Batting Style LHB
Bowling Style RFM

#### James Edward Burke

Born January 25, 1991, Plymouth, Devon Debut 2008 Major Teams Somerset (2012); Surrey (2015-2016); Leicestershire (2017); Sidmouth; Exeter; Budleigh Salterton; Guildford Batting Style RHB Bowling Style RFM

#### Ashley Causey

Born December 13, 2003, Torbay Debut Major Teams; Bovey Tracey Batting Style RHB Bowling Style RMF

#### **Toby Richard John Codd**

Born April 15, 1998, Marldon, Devon Debut 2016 Major Teams Abbotskerswell; Bovey Tracey Batting Style RHB Bowling Style ROB

#### James Henry George Degg

Born August 18, 2001, Plymouth Debut 2020 Major Teams Plymouth, Torquay; Batting Style RHB Bowling Style RM

#### **Jack Felix Stuart Dart**

Born September 24, 1994, Exeter, Devon Debut 2015 Major Teams Budleigh Salterton; Heathcoat; Batting Style RHB Bowling Style RM

#### **Jack Henry Gibbs**

Born June 3, 2000, Barnstaple Debut Major Teams North Devon; Batting Style RHB Bowling Style RFM

#### Daniel James Goodey ("Dan")

Born September 9 1997, Plymouth Debut 2017 Major Teams Plymouth Batting Style RHB Bowling Style RFM

#### Joseph Oliver Hagan-Burt ("Joe")

Born March 28th 1999, Plymouth Debut 2017 Major teams Plymouth Batting style RHB Bowling style RMF

#### **Elliot Harvey Hamilton**

Born December 22, 2002, Plymouth Debut Major Teams; Plympton Batting style LHB Bowling style RAM

#### Max William Hancock

Born 2 July, 2001, Ascot Debut 2018 Major Teams Sidmouth Batting Style RHB Bowling Style SLA

#### Abraham Sijd Kopparambil

Born, October 10 2002 Ernakulan, S India Debut 2019 Major Teams Ivybridge, Bovey Tracey Batting Style RHB Bowling Style RM

#### Joshua Victor King ("Josh")

Born May 5, 1992, Hammersmith, London Debut 2015 Major Teams Bideford Littleham & Westward Ho!; North Devon; Devon Lions Batting Style RHB Bowling Style RFM

#### Thomas Alexander Lammonby ("Tom")

Born June 2, 2000, Exeter, Devon Debut 2016 Major Teams England U-19s (Captain 2018) (2017-2017/18: 7 ODIs); Exeter Batting Style LHB Bowling Style LM

#### Joshua Henry James Mailling

Born September 9, 1994, Plymouth Debut 2018 Major Teams Plympton, Bovey Tracey Batting Style RHB Bowling Style RAM

#### **Edward William Osborne Middleton**

Born 28 December 2000, Exeter Debut 2018 Major Teams Exeter Batting Style RHB Bowling Style RLB

#### **Jack Ryan Popham**

Born November 13, 1994, Barnstaple, Devon Debut 2014 Major Teams MCC Young Cricketers; Barnstaple and Pilton; North Devon; Brislington Batting Style RHB Bowling Style RFM

#### Mitchell Pugh

Born January 7, 1993 Johannesburg, RSA Debut 2019 Major Teams: Manly-Warringa, Torquay; Bradninch Batting Style RHB Bowling Style RFM

#### Daniel Richard Pyle ("Dan")

Born September 16, 1997, Exeter, Devon Debut 2016 Major Teams Shobrooke Park; Exmouth Batting Style LHB Bowling Style RM

#### Samuel Oliver Read

Born June 22, 2002, Exeter Debut Major Teams Clyst St George, Exeter, Prospect District, S Australia Batting style RHB Bowling style ROB

#### **Jamie Andrew Stephens**

Born April 2, 1992, Torquay, Devon Relation Philip J Stephens (father) - Cornwall Debut 2016 Major Teams Tavistock; Falmouth; Batting Style RHB Bowling Style ROB

#### Joseph Edward Thompson ("Joe")

Born February 27, 1989, Torquay, Devon Relation Matthew W Thompson (brother) - Devon Debut 2017 Major Teams Torquay Batting Style RHB Bowling Style RM

#### **Matthew William Thompson**

Born December 10, 1991, Torquay, Devon Relation Joe E Thompson (brother) - Devon Debut 2010 Major Teams Kent Cricket Academy; Minor Counties; Unicorns; Torquay; St Fagans Batting Style LHB Wicketkeeper

#### **Hugo Montague Whitlock**

Born December 25, 1996, Torquay, Devon Debut 2017 Major Teams Unicorns; Abbotskerswell; Bovey Tracey Batting Style RHB Bowling Style RFM

#### Harry Charles Bewes Ward

Born March 23, 1999 Torbay Relations Tim Ward (father) - Devon Debut 2019 Major Teams Paignton; Batting Style RHB, Bowling style RM

## Some thoughts from the Captain, Alex Barrow

The 2020 season was not what anyone expected, but we were fortunate to play in the later stages of the summer with the County and in the league. The revised formats created opportunities for younger players to have more prominent roles in their club teams and in the Devon 1st XI.

Dave Tall, our director of cricket, used the season's structure to welcome a number of players who had been part of the Devon Academy through the winter into the set-up. A good number made their debuts for Devon CCC.

In stepping into the 1st XI the new players gained valuable experience and grew in confidence around the group and were able to show their ability as young cricketers.

Elliot Hamilton and Sam Read made strong impressions with the bat with good fundamental techniques. Both contributed with significant scores.

Sonny Baker looks like a fantastic prospect. He is fast, intelligent and has a great attitude to get better. The depth of quality players is growing which is important for the county club through the next few years. In the 1st XI there is a good mix of senior players, who have performed outstandingly for Devon, as well as young players such as Ed Middleton, Toby Codd, Ben Beaumont and Jamie Baird, who are establishing their positions in the side.

In 2019 we showed how we can compete when at our best, but equally we showed our vulnerabilities when we were not. We need to be more ruthless with our execution when we are on top and when we are behind the game.

have seen Devon CCC fight back into games brilliantly over the past four years, but leaving ourselves too much to do to win the game. It is great to show that character but the skill is changing the momentum of the game before it gets too far away. This is an area we will need to be better in if we are to gain promotion to the top division in the National Counties Championship and progress through the 50-over group stage.

Our squad has the ability to achieve promotion and challenge any team in the white-ball cricket. It is an exciting squad to be a part of and I am looking forward to leading the side in 2021.

Devon CCC has a very loyal group of supporters; we are looking forward to playing some exciting cricket, and it will be great to see them all back on the boundary and share a drink and conversation at the end of the days play.

Alex Barrow, Captain

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Since 1914 Sidmouth CC has been delighted to host Devon CCC Minor Counties games and looks forward to being the venue for the new National Counties Cricket Association fixtures in 2021. Sidmouth also has a close connection with Somerset, our nearest first-class county which goes back over 140 years to a match at the Fortfield in August 1875 between the respective Gentlemen of Devon and Somerset. That evening in the Sidmouth pavilion, the Somerset Gentlemen founded the Somerset County Club, encouraged by some Devon personnel whose own County side had been in existence since 1861. Sidmouth, which celebrates its bi-centenary in 2023, is very proud of its unique heritage and wishes in the 2021 season to produce outstanding pitches for limited over and three day Championship matches, and to extend top quality hospitality to all teams and spectators that come to play and watch at its magical ground.



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with a lift service to all floors. 11 rooms are bedsits and 14 have separate bedrooms and sitting room. Two meals per day are provided (breakfast is taken in rooms). Various social activities are held every week including art, a film show, Scrabble and many more.

#### Fixtures 2021

Date	Days	St Time	Opposition	Venue	
April 4th	1	11-00	Clevedon CC	N Devon	Friendly
April 11th	1	11-00	Exeter University	Sidmouth	Friendly
May 30th	1	11-00	Herefordshire	North Devon	One-Day Competition
June 20th	1	11-00	Cornwall	Redruth	One-Day Competition
June 27th	1	11-00	Wiltshire	Sidmouth	One-Day Competition
July 4th	1	11-00	Dorset	Dorchester	One-Day Competition
July 11th -13th	3	11-00	Herefordshire	Brockhampton	Championship
July 18th	1	11-00	One-Day Competition Q/Final		One-Day Competition
July 22nd	1	11-00	Challenge Match	Taunton	
July 25th-27th	3	11-00	Wales	Sandford	Championship
August 1st-3rd	3	11-00	Cornwall	Truro	Championship
August 8th	1	11-00	One-Day Competition S/Final		One-Day Competition
August 22nd-24th	3	11-00	Shropshire	Sidmouth	Championship
Sept 2nd	1	11-00	One-Day Competition Fin	Wormsley al	
September 5th-8th	4	10-30	Championship Final	Tring	







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## From Devon to Warwickshire ......and back!

Following a 25-year business career in Birmingham, I was asked in 2000 by Dennis Amiss, the then CEO at Warwickshire, to set-up an academy at Edgbaston as part of the ECB initiative to establish academies at all the 18 First Class counties under the ECB performance director Hugh Morris.

For a Devonian, from a small town on the Exe estuary near Exeter, this was a very proud moment. The opportunity to design and implement a programme to help talented young cricketers transition into the professional game at a major county was a dream role.

Over the following four years I was pleased to play a part in the careers of cricketers such as Mark Wagh, Jim Troughton, Ian Bell, Kabir Ali, Chris Woakes and Moeen Ali. Even now I still hear from many of the players I have worked with, asking for advice, discussing a problem, or even sometimes inviting me to a Test match.

I have always thought 'what makes a good coach?' in the same way people talk about great football managers and successful leaders.

They all seem to have the ability to make good players great players and good teams into great teams.

Andy Flower was a top international batsman and wicketkeeper who was able to inspire

others. When Mark Wagh became captain of Oxford University in 1997, he asked me to join him as director of cricket and I suggested that we invite Andy to join the team as coach. I had worked with Andy at Warwickshire and it was easy to understand that he went on to become the highly regarded coach of the England side, and certainly it was no surprise that he had the success he did in that role.

At Oxford Wagh played a major part in our famous victory over Glamorgan at the Parks, the year in which the Welsh side went on to become county champions.

Flower was an outstanding coach and individual who had that special quality to produce great players and teams. He once said: "When we worked together at Warwickshire and Oxford Roger's cricket knowledge and man-management skills ensured our success and enjoyment. These qualities are founded on an openness and honesty not often seen in any walk of life and will in my view, always guarantee a positive influence on individuals and teams he is working with."



Matt Thompson receiving his County Cap from Roger Newman at Sidmouth.

Coming from a man I have always admired as a coach and a person, I shall always remember that

Shortly after our time at Oxford, Wagh was approached by Somerset to join them as captain when Jamie Cox left. If he had accepted, he wanted Andy and me to join him at Somerset. For whatever reason that did not happen, but I often wonder what might have happened had Mark moved to Taunton at that time? You never know, Somerset might have won the County Championship for the first time in their history.

Having returned to Devon in 2009 as director

of cricket I realised very quickly that we had some work to do. Geoff Evans, a very close friend of mine, asked me to take on the role at a time when Devon CCC were being criticised by some of the cricketing fraternity in Devon. Geoff felt this needed to be addressed. Mind you he also reminded me there would be no financial benefit as everybody connected to the county club were volunteers, as is still the case today.

In any successful business you have to have a clear vision and a clear idea of how you are going to realise that vision. I still have a copy of 'The Way Forward' approved by the county executive in 2009.

We could not have achieved the success that followed without the contribution of some outstanding men. Geoff, as chairman, Neil Gamble, as CEO and Tim Western as academy director helped so much and their contribution to Devon CCC should never be forgotten.

Off the field we secured a sponsorship deal that was the biggest in the history of the club. On the field it was no surprise that we won the Minor Counties Championship in 2011 for the first time in seven years. The side was unbeaten for two seasons.

On the field we had a great bunch of players like Neil Hancock, Chris Bradley, Robbie Holman, Josh Bess, Sandy Allen, Robbie Woodman, Matthew Thompson, the Overton twins, Jamie and Craig, and Trevor Anning who, with others, contributed so much.

Then, of course, there was our loyal band of supporters, who were there in all sorts of weather, home and away. Thank you particularly to Mike and Jan Skinner, Mike and Bev Coxhead, Brian and Dorothy Edwards, lovely couples, who were always there with enthusiastic support through thick and thin. They were very much part of the team as was Conrad Sutcliffe whose journalism dedicatedly covered so much local rugby and cricket, but with Devon's cricket being very much a labour of love.

Finally, it was a time when we set up the David Shepherd Foundation to fund the academy. Jack Davey, the current president, should take a great deal of credit, together with the late Stuart Munday, for developing the foundation and spending so much time raising funds. It is fantastic to see it thriving as the David Shepherd Cricket Trust under the chairmanship of Guy Curry, who is a true cricket man.

Now for the future: I wish, as we all do, the current management and players all the best for the new season. I know they will be working hard to getting Devon CCC to the top table of the non-First Class game both on and off the field.

Roger Newman'
Director of Cricket 2009- 2012, Devon CCC



Roger has had a long and successful career in Education, Business and Sport. During his time in Education he became Head of Sport at a Midlands school. This was followed by a subsequent career in business when he became Chairman and CEO of a number of private companies. Having sold these companies in 1997, he followed his interest in cricket and became Director of Cricket at Oxford University and Academy Director at Warwickshire CCC. During this time, Andy Flower OBE became the England Team Director.

Roger is now Chairman of the Mattia Group, a fee based consultancy organisation with a particular interest in cricket. He advises many professionals in the business of cricket before, during, and after their careers, in areas such as performance management, sponsorship opportunities, contract negotiations and career development, as well as helping disadvantaged young people from all cultural backgrounds improve their lives through sport.

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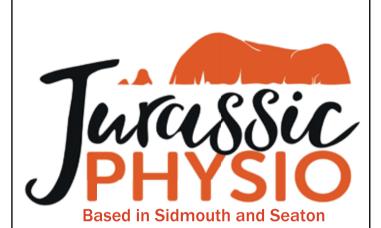
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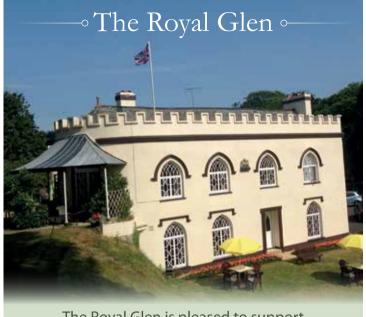
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membership has changed but

still consists of people who love cricket and want to play, officiate or simply watch good matches at lovely grounds against challenging opposition. At the same time, we strive to help players develop their skills and their understanding of this wonderful game.

We even play occasionally at the grounds of our founders.

We seek to encourage young players, both local and overseas and to introduce them to declaration cricket which is often a novelty and a

revelation. We stress the importance of the *Spirit of Cricket* and the need for competitive but sociable sport. A number of our members have gone on to greater glory with many playing First Class cricket and two who are current members of International Test teams. We have hopes of more in the future!

One major change in the last 25 years has been the drift from older, experienced players filling the teams to having more young, up-and-coming players in the mix. They are drawn

from all over the county and are recruited by existing playing members or by the officials who take part. Dumplings are happy for any club to contact us suggesting that one of their members might wish to gain some experience with us and we hope that this item might generate such interest. Our website is open to all and our private *Facebook* page can be joined upon request.

Last year was difficult for everyone and we played only five games with another two cancelled due to ba

weather and last-minute
Covid concerns. At one point
in 2020 we had had some 24
matches arranged with others
possible and this year so far,
we have 22 planned. We hope
to play all of them but time will
tell. We intend to do all in our
power to facilitate play.

The current fixture list is available at www.devondumplingscc.co.uk

If you want to be a Devon Dumpling and play good quality non-league cricket and develop your skills contact us.



#### **FOUNDED 1902**

Devon Dumplings have been playing for over a hundred years, here in Devon and occasionally further afield when on tour.

We are always looking for new members, officials, umpires and scorers. Also, if you are interested in playing for us, or in a fixture against us, contact the relevant person below.

General enquiries | Paul Berman 01395 263964 | 07842 233672 devonseniorscricket@gmail.com

Fixture enquiries | Peter Jolliffe phg.jolliffe@btinternet.com

Membership enquiries | Wendy Hardy wendy.j.hardy@talktalk.net





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## **Enjoying Devon CCC - Not A Minor Matter**

Brought up in Middlesex, most of my early cricket watching was at Lord's. But I did have an early brush with westcountry Minor County cricket. While on a family holiday in 1967 I watched both days of Cornwall v Dorset at Falmouth. Apart from the ground – an impressive bowl – the main highlight was getting Cornwall fast bowler Roger Hosen's autograph. He was England's Rugby Union fullback so that was quite a coup for me.

By the early 1970s I was back west studying history and archaeology at the University of Exeter. Not only was the County Ground on the edge of the campus but one of my excellent lecturers was a Devon player – wicket keeper batsman Bruce Coleman (1972-7; 39 championship matches). Interest was building.

After graduating I stayed on in Exeter and joined South West Water. And there sitting opposite me

was Devon CCC opening batsman John Tolliday (1969-81; 56 matches). John was in his prime and regularly away from his desk in the summer playing for Devon. He always brought me back a scorecard and I have recently deposited these at the Devon Heritage Centre.

I would often make my way to the County Ground to see John play and the icing on the cake was the Minor Counties Championship Challenge Match against Durham on 16/17/18 September 1978. Needing at least a draw to win the title Devon collapsed on the final afternoon. Nerves were frayed. But they held on and the Championship came to Devon for the very first time. All the more impressive when you think that Durham became a first class county little over a decade later. Interest had definitely been cemented

Life (family, work, playing cricket for Erratics CC) all got in the way of regular Devon watching but I always followed their fortunes during the glory years. Then as soon as I retired in 2014 the opportunity was there to become an active supporter. And so I have had the pleasure of regularly watching my

adopted county in championship, one day and T20 games. What greater pleasure can there be than sitting at Sidmouth or Sandford watching a game with the cream of local talent on show?

One of the joys at this level is the commitment to developing young players. So you get the chance to see emerging players close up, as I did in 2016 watching Dom Bess both play for Devon and make his Somerset first class debut against Pakistan. Within two years he was a Test cricketer! Another plus is seeing professional players, like Peter Trego, don the Devon shirt in the latter stages of their career.

I have always loved visiting new cricket grounds so have taken advantage of Devon's fixture list to attend away matches including Werrington, Warminster and Newbury (where David Thorneley recruited me as a member, encouraged

by Mike and Jan Skinner!). But pride of place goes to the remarkable Wormsley Estate ground where I saw Devon edged out by just 2 runs against Cheshire in the Trophy Final in 2018.

Lockdown in 2020 put a stop to my travels but despite missing live cricket Devon CCC did manage to work its way into my life. I am a Trustee of the Exeter City Football Club Museum and we used the period to develop a trail around the graves of former

footballers in Higher Cemetery, Exeter. One of the names that came up was Billy Light who played for the Grecians' reserves in 1905. He was a much better cricketer and played 164 times for Devon from 1902-1928. He is fourth on the list of all time Devon run scorers and second on the list of wicket takers. His grave is adorned with wonderful cricketing motifs.

Devon cricket is special; let's hope we all enjoy it again in 2021.

Martin Weiler



## **Devon Day at Somerset CCC**

In addition to being able to watch Devon compete in new NCCA One-day KO competition and Championship fixtures, members will have the opportunity to attend at least one County Championship match free at Taunton this season.

Devon CCC, Devon Cricket Board (DCB) and Somerset are now in the second year of a partnership agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding which should benefit DCCC in playing and administrative areas in the next four years. We are very proud that in the last seven years seven Devon players have become established at Somerset with two players selected for England in Test matches and a further one having played white ball cricket for England. It is hoped that relations between the respective coaching and administrative staffs will become more productive, to mutual benefit, and that offers by Somerset to support our marketing, commercial and communications will prove beneficial to DCCC.

An ECB promoted 50 over a side game between Devon CCC and Somerset CCC will take place on Thursday 22nd July at Taunton, organised by Somerset, and helped by the Devon CCC and DCB. Details of charging for adults to follow, but with U16s attending free.

Somerset has generously offered the opportunity to DCCC and Devon league club members, through DCB, to be involved in a special "Devon Day" at no cost on Monday 5th July, the second day of the Bob Willis County Championship fixture between Somerset and Leicestershire. Further, DCCC members,

exclusively, will be able to attend free another Somerset home Championship match, later in the season. Details will be on the Devon Cricket website later in the summer.

Membership/fixture cards will have to be shown to get into matches Somerset Championship matches, and Somerset staff have arranged for one of the stands to be earmarked for Devon's members throughout the day.

It is very much hoped that Devon CCC members will wish to attend game in large numbers. They can be assured of a warm welcome from Somerset CCC, which is making special arrangements. Somerset hope to make some players available during the day, if possible, and there will be opportunities to meet Devon cricketing friends in the intimate setting of the beautiful Taunton county ground. Such days have been successful in the past few years and have now become annual events.

In further appreciation of the loyalty of Devon CCC members, there will again be a monthly prize draw, in each month from May to August that will be free to all members; on each occasion hospitality will be for two - morning coffee, lunch and tea at a home match of the winners' choosing.

The Devon CCC committee hopes that members and other cricket watchers will enjoy their county cricket in the 2021 season.





## Current Membership Rates: Vice President (Minimum) £50, Full Member £25, Junior Member £10 Couple £40, Family £50 (Couple & 2 children under 16)

This form should be completed and sent to the Membership Manager: Miss R.C. Tozer, 28 Bradham Lane, Exmouth, Devon, EX8 4BB

### **Devon County Cricket Club – Application for New Membership**

Starting a New Bankers Order: The first year's subscription should be paid by one of the methods to the left, but those who wish to pay future subscriptions by Banker's Order should also complete the section below, and return it with the whole of the form to the Membership Manager NOT TO YOUR BANK		
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copy of that information. Please be assured that it will not be disclosed, sold or divulged to anyone/body unless the club is legally required to do so.

Periodically news/information, including emails will be sent out, should you NOT wish to receive these please tick this box.

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### The brochure so far...



First of all a summary related CV of the author- the youngest of three brothers, we were all born in Stoke on Trent the birth place of mum but within a few days back home 30 miles north to Stockport: mid 1950's onwards I watched league cricket, North Staffs and South Cheshire with league clubs engaging professionals such as Garfield Sobers and Frank Worrall with grandpa's car, one of many on the boundary rope at grounds such as Knypersley, Stone and Crewe Rolls Royce; grandma would serve tea of sandwiches, Staffordshire oatcakes and cake along with tea from a flask with a cork in the top!: it was not

long until I was a regular spectator at Cale Green, the home of Stockport CC playing in the Central Lancashire League thus able to witness the likes of Basil D'Oliveira and Ken Grieves applying their skills: in both leagues on batsmen passing fifty and bowlers taking five wickets the hat was passed around the ground: finally membership at Old Trafford ( still held ), often sitting on the grass ( Health and Safety regulations no longer allows ) at Test matches whereas for county matches a seat in the Warwick Road Stand behind the bowlers arm brings back fond memories of amusing banter with F S Truman not forgetting Brian Statham rarely straying off line ensuring the batsmen left a ball at his peril!

Now it's about time I addressed the title to this article, especially how it came about, I am actually a tennis member at Sidmouth C T & C Club since 2007, for a number of years active both on and off court but in recent years I enjoy just playing, increasingly reliant on my partner to score the points!: however having referred earlier to my interest in cricket I regularly watched play at The Fortfield, including the county fixtures which always attracted a good attendance thus it did not take me long to realise Devon CCC, one of twenty Minor counties ( now NCCA ) was a quality product well worthy of a higher profile. My wife and I started to attend county away fixtures and on one such occasion at Dean Park, Bournemouth on entering the ground I purchased a thin brochure, as against the normal score card, produced by Dorset CCC which provided useful information on the match that day: hence that is where the idea came from with our brochure to serve as a vehicle "To Help Raise the Profile of Devon CCC": the first edition in 2016 was just thirty two pages, supported in the main by adverts from friends and contacts in Sidmouth coupled with committee members and current/retired players submitting articles: although never seen as a revenue

raising project we initially charged spectators £2, then quickly £1 and even more speedily it was decided to distribute completely free of charge:all advertisers received as many copies as they wanted with certain Tourist Information Centres, Libraries also receiving a quota: the brochure for some years now has been distributed to all Devon registered league clubs, five each, local councillors and hotels in the locality of clubs hosting county matches are also on the list all of which help is much appreciated: the print run soon climbed to 1500 and it is hoped we will see further upward movement for there are many parts of the county yet to identify/give support to the project: further progress was made last year with all Devon MPs and members of a cricket committee from both Houses receiving a copy courtesy of Simon Jupp, MP for East Devon. In terms of the number of pages in the brochure steady progress to 72 has been reached, for which in particular both Phil Matten of Sandford CC and our own chairman Neil Gamble deserve much credit as they have consistently successfully secured new advert supporters as well as submitting articles of interest thus helping to maintain the all important high quality of the product.

Another important element of the project has been establishing links with community groups which has seen much needed funds raised by match day raffles and an annual charity quiz held at Sidmouth CC for the Sid Valley Memory Café, Sidmouth Hospiscare and the David Shepherd Cricket Trust: inevitably the pandemic had an adverse impact last year with little cricket played but hopefully this season, subject to restrictions being eased, will provide opportunities to add to the £3000 raised so far.

The brochure has been widely well received including supporters of other counties, which brings me to the worth of being a member of Devon CCC for following the team both at home and away has enabled my wife and I to meet numerous interesting fellow spectators often at picturesque grounds, thus sharing the joy of watching cricket played at a high level with those involved both on and off the field giving their time completely voluntary — this is a nudge for the reader to turn to the centre page for the membership application form with new categories now available!

Friends will say I have no trouble in talking/writing at length so will conclude now but I can foresee this piece being the start of a series for I have not mentioned the benefits of becoming a NCCA member for just £20 or becoming more involved in Devon CCC!

David Thorneley, Committee Member Devon CCC





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### **Devon CCC's Director of Cricket – David Tall**



With all the trials and tribulations of the last 12 months it will be great to be able to focus on cricket once again.

Unfortunately our Twenty20 programme has been cancelled, but we are able to look forward to the one-day competition and the National Counties Championship once more.

Last year's shortened fixture list of friendly matches enabled us to provide opportunities to some of the younger lads we believe have potential to be part of our set-up in the coming years. They certainly didn't disappoint!

Sonny Baker, who has since joined the Somerset academy, Elliot Hamilton, Sam Read, Ben Privett and Adam Small all performed with great credit. I am well aware there are others who are not too far away.

Sam Read will have benefited enormously from the UK winter he has spent at the Lehmann Academy in Australia. It is a great opportunity

Sam's time in Australia will have benefited him as a person and a cricketer and It will stand him in good stead in the years ahead

As far as Sonny Baker is concerned, nothing would surprise me.

Somerset picked him to play against Worcestershire in their first friendly in late March, which tells you how highly they rate him

Ben Beaumont has played a few games for us over the past two seasons and we saw what he was about in 2019 when he made a half-century against Wiltshire and showed maturity last year

Ben (Privett) is probably not quite as far down the road yet as Elliot, but showed his competitive edge in the friendly against Cornwall at Sandford last year. It would be good for them both if they could win promotion with Plympton and play Premier cricket week in and week out.

Having ability is one thing. Knowing how to use it, and channelling it in pressure moments, are where all our young players will set themselves apart. It is important to remember these things do not happen overnight. We have to be patient. Our young players will show us where they are at by their performances.

So let's be positive and look forward to playing some good, hard cricket in the sunshine with a smile on our face!







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### Sandford Cricket Club

Sandford Cricket Club are delighted to have once again been chosen as a home venue for the three day game against Wales on Sunday 25th July, 2021 through to Tuesday 27th July, 2021. Wales were due to visit us in the Summer of 2020 but this was cancelled because of the Coronavirus, Wales have been fairly regular visitors to Sandford for three day games in the last 5 years and all the games have been competitive & exciting for the spectators Sandford Cricket Club have been regular members of the Devon League Premier Division over the last 20 years & the facilities at the club have been improved year by year and has been recognised by Devon County Cricket Club as one of the grounds now used regularly by the County. We very much enjoy hosting these games and we know this is also appreciated by the spectators from Mid Devon Lets hope that Coronavirus regulation in July 2021 allow us to play under normal rules and watched in fine weather by the usual large crowds at Creedy Park with "The Bill Matten Pavilion" open for changing, refreshments etc. One thing is certain Sandford Cricket Club will run the three days in their usual organised, friendly way and welcome both teams to our unique rural setting. Lets hope for good weather, large crowds with hard and exciting cricket to watch Creedy Park, Sandford, Crediton, Devon EX17 4EB

### Creedy Park – The home of Sandford Cricket Club

Ever since Sandford Cricket Club was formed in 1949, and started playing their home games at their Creedy Park ground, players and visitors alike have commented on the wonderful setting the ground is situated in. With the backdrop of Creedy House, and its surrounding countryside, providing such an idyllic vista, Sandford Cricket Club can be considered to have one of the most picturesque grounds in the County of Devon.

#### THE EARLY HISTORY OF CREEDY PARK

The first reference to Creedy Park and Creedy House being in situ, goes back to around 1600 when a gentleman of Exeter, Crediton and Creedy, by the name of John Davie (1541-1611) built a new mansion called New House on the Creedy Estate, attached to which was a good amount of land.

Towards the end of the C16th a wall was built around the park. In 1765 the house was shown on Donn's map of Devon, and a few years later the entire park and house were plotted on a map by Law and Ballment. This map shows the park bounded much as it is today. In 1793 the house was described by Polwhele as being 'delightfully situated in a large park which is surrounded by a strong wall'.

In the late C18th the Coach House and stables were built, and in the early C19th the East and West drive Lodges were also in place. A new pond and plantations, as well as repair works to the park wall also took place at that time. Up until 1824 the majority of the estate was rented out. In 1829 Creedy was described as one of the principal deer parks in the county.

In 1641, the then incumbent of the estate, John Davie became a Baronet, as such the Baronetcy, and the estate itself, passed through the subsequent generations until 1846.

However, in 1846 Sir Humphrey Davie died, unmarried, and so the Baronetcy died with him. Sir Humphrey's niece Frances Juliana Davie (1802-1882) inherited the estate, and her husband, General Henry Robert Ferguson, adopted the Davie name, and so became Baronet in 1847. At that time he also rebuilt Creedy House to the designs of a Scottish Architect, William Burn.

In 1867 the deer park was 'disparked', and converted back to pasture for the purpose of profitability. By 1873 the estate was estimated to cover 6,800 acres. Many other additions and alterations to the estate took place around this time.

In November 1915 Creedy House was destroyed by fire, along with the family archives. Between 1916 and 1921 the 'new' house (as you see it today) was built by local contractors Dart & Francis. It is believed this was the last time D&F used wooden scaffolding in the re-build, with allegedly the old poles being burned on-sight.

The 5th Baronet, Arthur Patrick Ferguson-Davie (Sir Patrick), inherited Creedy in 1947. As well carrying out more works to the park, he was also the person who was very influential in helping with the formation of Sandford Cricket Club.

Unfortunately, due to failing health, Sir Patrick had been spending more time in Cyprus, and in 1973 he made the difficult decision to move his family to live their permanently. By 1976 he could no longer afford to retain the Creedy estate, and so he put the then reduced 4,000 acre estate, up for sale. The farmland was subsequently sold to the incumbent tenant farmers.

Over the next few years two new owners also had difficulty affording to stay at Creedy, and eventually in 1982 Creedy House was converted into 13 residential units, as it is today.

### SANDFORD CRICKET CLUB WAS BORN IN 1949

Sandford Cricket Club was formed following a Public meeting at the headquarters of Sandford A.F.C., at the Recreation Field, Sandford, on the 31st March 1949. An initial committee was formed, and Sandford Cricket Club was born.

One of the first issues for the club to establish, was where to play. A number of options close to the village itself were considered, but in the end deemed inappropriate, according to the minutes taken at that first meeting.

Having been elected as the first President of the club, The Reverend Sir Patrick Ferguson Davie was asked if he had anywhere on his Creedy estate that may prove suitable on which a cricket pitch could be set up. A couple of options were put forward, and at a meeting on 21st April 1949, a site just inside the West Lodge gates was decided upon, and the club remains on the same site to this day.

Sandford C.C's first fixture took place on 6th June 1949, and was played against Yeoford at Creedy Park. It resulted in an easy win for the Sandford team, with the Rev'd Geoff Walker claiming 9-10 in 12 overs, which still remains a club record bowling feat to this day.

To say the least, facilities were basic. A marquee was purchased to accommodate the cricketers changing requirements, and to provide a venue for taking tea.

The wicket in those early days, would have been very poor, having only been prepared by using a small hand mower, and a light roller, and no groundsman's expertise. A heavy roller was not purchased until many years later.

The wicket itself was initially set up in an East to West direction, as it is today. However, during the late 1950's / early 1960's, the wicket ran in the opposite direction, from North to South, however, it was later changed back, as the setting sun became an issue for facing batsmen at the lower end of the ground.

Initially, to protect the square, a small wire netting fence was originally set up, and this was converted into an electric fence at the beginning of the 1950 season. The outfield was cut at irregular intervals by the local tenanted farmer, and rolled once or twice a season. However, he did not consent to fencing off the playing area itself, as the land was considered too valuable due to it still being required for grazing. Therefore, sheep and cattle would be kept on the outfield, not only during the close season, but also during the playing season, to help keep the grass down.

This changed though at the end of the 1950 season, when as the Club minutes note, 'the area of Creedy Park used as the cricket ground, was taken out of the farmer's tenancy'. The whole ground was then fenced off in April / May 1951, with Sir Patrick providing the wooden posts and wire for the new fence. This was subsequently erected by Club members.

Much progress was made through the 1950's and the facilities available were gradually improved. By the mid 1950's the Club had an adequate pavilion, which had been built by some of the Estate workers, together with a small scorebox.

From the mid to late 1960's, the ground, and wicket in particular, received a lot more attention, initially under the guidance of a local gentleman, who also played for the Club, and then from the current groundsman, Chris Theedom, who at that time was in his early 20's. Gradually the playing area improved as more knowledge and expertise was gained. It was not unusual to transport the professional groundsman from Exeter C.C.'s County ground to Sandford once a year to supervise work on the wicket.

Concerns arose at the time Sir Patrick was considering selling his estate in the mid-1970's. The Club was unsure as to what Sir Pat would decide to do about its Creedy Park ground. Thankfully any concerns were soon dissipated, as he ensured the ground should be maintained as an area for the Club to continue playing cricket. Phew! With the Club's future more-or-less secured, the ground was eventually purchased for a relatively 'nominal' amount in today's terms. It was then left to the Club to decide in which way it would progress.

On the field of play the Club played 'friendly' cricket from 1949 until 1974. Upon conclusion of a game, most players would usually make their way to the Lamb Inn in Sandford after home games, or to a local pub after away games.

By the mid-1970's, friendly cricket was losing its appeal. The younger players were becoming restless for more competitive cricket. Therefore a league status of some sort or another was considered.

In 1975 Sandford joined the then new, but now defunct N.E.Devon League, for its inaugural season. In 1983 the Club joined the Devon League, in the old 'C'Division, eventually reaching the dizzy heights of the old 'A', now Premier Division in 1989. As such, the tremendous progress on the field needed to be matched off it.

Despite reaching the old 'A' Division, in many people's eyes, Sandford were still considered a small club, but their reputation as a good cricket club, with good facilities, was growing fast.

There was no doubt that Sandford C.C had made huge strides in its first 40-odd years, but there was still a desire at the Club, to achieve even more.

### GROUND DEVELOPMENT

From its initial inception in 1949, the aim of the Club was to always improve the facilities, both on and off the field of play.

The outlook from the top end of the ground has always been spectacular, with Creedy House and the surrounding countryside forming a wonderful backdrop. This has ensured the ground has always proved to be a wonderful arena in which to play cricket.

After the Club made its initial purchase of the ground back in 1976, additional pieces of land were purchased when they became available, to the extent that the playing surface is now nearly double the size it was originally, and even up until 1976.

Following Sir Patrick's sale of the estate, the new owners of Creedy Park built a new driveway / entrance off the main road (where it is now). This meant anyone visiting either Creedy House or the Cricket Club, no longer had to enter the estate through the West Lodge arch.

In the early 1980's, thoughts began to develop about building a new pavilion, which could include a bar. The old wooden hut had started to 'have its day'. Times were changing and many of the players now had young families. A pub after a game was not the place for young families. It was also felt that a bar at the ground would mean

money being re-invested back into the Club, which had not happened previously. In 1981, news abounded that following the closure of the REME camp in Honiton, their large huts were being sold off. It was agreed that the Club would purchase one. On a very cold autumn weekend in 1981 many Club members made the trip to Honiton to dismantle the available hut. It was subsequently reconstructed during the autumn and winter of 1981/82, and first used on 10th July 1982.

The 'new' pavilion was built immediately in front of the old one, with the old one being adapted for use as changing facilities only. This included a basic shower area – a luxury at most village grounds at that time.

These facilities served the club well. However in 1997 Sandford became the first Cricket Club in Devon to have a successful Lottery Grant granted. This enabled the Club to build its current clubhouse, together with its up-to-date facilities. It was completed in 1999, and was duly opened by the late Peter Roebuck, the ex-Somerset cricketer, but who at that time, was also captain of Devon's Minor Counties' Cricket team

The new payilion enabled the Club to move forward in a big way, and offer superb

The new pavilion enabled the Club to move forward in a big way, and offer superb facilities, both on and off the field of play. In time a number of Devon age-group games were played over many years, however in 2015 Devon County asked if they could play one of their 3-day Minor Counties games at Creedy Park. This was the ultimate accolade for the Club, and one which they have grasped with both hands. Wales were the first MC visitors, and in 2020 they will returning for their third visit to

Creedy Park. Wiltshire (twice) and Shropshire having been the other visitors.

The aim of Sandford Cricket Club for the future is to maintain and improve standards, whilst hopefully contining to present a ground and clubhouse fit for the 2020's and beyond.



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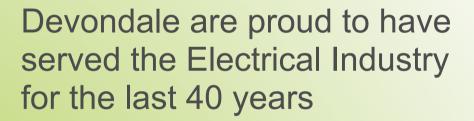
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### **The David Shepherd Cricket Trust**



Disruption to the world of cricket severely affected the work of the David Shepherd Cricket Trust in 2020, as it did with the lives of so many. Activities ceased, coaching courses planned by clubs were postponed, as were courses for coaches themselves. No games were played until late in the season, tours were cancelled and programmes abandoned. There was little demand on the Trust or work that its diligent trustees could do.

Immediate and urgent decisions were taken to put the resources and efforts of the Trust into backing clubs and cricket in general in Devon. The Devon Cricket Board had matters well in hand and the Trust liaised with the Board foregoing club subscriptions for the year and offering to make assistance available for clubs suffering severely due to the pandemic and the lack of matches and cricket generally.

As it was, with Government aid, the calls on the Trust have been few. Now is, however, the challenging time, with the rebuilding of cricket in the county and recovery of the enthusiasm and keenness of the youth who have been away from the game for so long.

The Trust is here to help and we believe that it is vital that all parties interested and involved in cricket need to work closely together. Careful planning and co-operation are called for. As an organisation dedicated to assisting the youth to learn and enjoy our game and the valuable lessons of life which it can impart through its dedication to the *Spirit of Cricket*, the Trust needs to be called upon to help. It and its many supporters are here and available.

The Devon Cricket Board and Devon County Cricket Club, with the financial support of the Trust established a new academy in 2019, taking those with special cricketing talents to train and coach them so that they can develop further their skills and represent not just the county but also at higher levels in the game nationally. Devon has a formidable record of producing cricketers at the highest levels. It is with great enthusiasm and

pleasure that the trustees were keen to share in assisting with the costs of the academy as a natural follow on to its former support of the Devon Lions and the ladies team of the same age group.

The academy was, like everything else, mothballed and the Trust is keen to see it fully revived and prosper, as it considers this to be both an exciting and important prospect which can only improve the standards of cricket in our county. The Trust is, however, only able to do so with the continuing support of its members and those who have given generously financially and of their time to raise the funds to be able to do so.

The Trust will continue its policy of assisting any club in the county which seeks financial help with running coaching courses and providing cricket for children of all ages both boys and girls. We recognise how essential it is for the prosperity of cricket in the county to encourage children at an early age to become involved with cricket as these are the future of the clubs and cricket in the County.

We are always keen to receive more applications from our clubs as we are there to serve them and promote their success and future in building up strong youth sections. We continue to support the training of coaches as it is necessary for Devon to have a body of competent and well-trained coaches who can encourage and teach all cricketers but especially young players. If your club needs help in establishing or promoting or enhancing your youth sections, come and talk to us and we will be pleased to help.

Thanks are due as ever to my fellow trustees and our hard-working and diligent secretary Kat Hampton — and especially to all our members and those who so actively support us and our work and aims. Without their support we would not be able to offer the help for which we believe there is a strong and ever-growing need in our County.

If you are not already a member of the Trust, do join us and support the work. Full details can be found on our website www.dsct111.org.uk

Photo courtesy of Conrad Sutcliffe.











Supporting Young Cricketers in Devon

### WHO ARE WE?

We are a charitable trust with the simple aims of:

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- Helping the talented to become future stars of the game

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### **North Devon Cricket Club**

North Devon CC is one of the oldest cricket clubs in the country being founded in 1823. It is situated in a unique position overlooking the Taw & Torridge Estuary and it's Pavilion is a Grade 2 listed thatched building.

In addition to being one of top clubs in the County NDCC hosts many touring sides each summer.

Best known players have been David Shepherd (test umpire), Chris Rogers (Australian Test opener) and up to date Craig & Jamie Overton of Somerset.

We are delighted to host County games and this year look forward to welcoming Cornwall to our ground.



### Sandhills, Instow, North Devon EX39 4LF



### **Neil Hancock**

Is Neil Hancock the most complete all-rounder ever to play for Devon? The genial Australian averaged more than 50 with the bat in threeday MCCA cricket, 36 in 50-over KO games and 45 in the C&G Trophy, in which he earned two man-of-the-match Gold Awards. Exactly 100 wickets in all three competitions proved Hancock's all-round value to the side. Conrad Sutcliffe has been talking to Neil about his cricket journey, which started aged 12 in Casino, New South Wales.

Neil Hancock never intended to play cricket for Devon. His aim was to become an established Grade cricketer back home in Australia and

coming to the UK for a summer was part of that plan.

Twenty-five years after he initially came to over from Australia for nothing more than a summer season with Torquay CC as part of his cricket education, Hancock has become a cricketing icon in his adopted county.

Hancock has won Devon League Premier Division titles with three clubs – Torquay, Paignton as captain, and Sidmouth – as well an assortment of 50-over and 20-over KO cup winners medals.

As a Devon cricketer between 1999 and 2013, firstly in 50-over C&G Cup games only and then from 2004 on as English-qualified in MCCA competitions, Hancock won the lot.

There was a man-of-the-match performance

in the 2006 MCCA play-off win over Buckinghamshire at Exmouth and a whirlwind half-century against Berkshire at Lord's in the 2008 Minor Counties KO Cup final. And he was a member of the Devon team that famously defeated Leicestershire at Exmouth in 2004 in one of the rare  $_{54}$  wins by a Minor County over First Class opposition in the C&G Trophy.

Yet when Hancock arrived at Torquay Recreation Ground in April 1996 as an opening bowler who fancied himself as 'a bit of a hitter' down the order, he had no idea what lav ahead – and that wasn't just on the cricket field. Who knew then he would still be here in his 40s and a happily married father of three?

"I had started out playing for the Golf Club team at home in Casino at the age of 12 and worked my way up," said Hancock.

"From the Golf Club team in a really local comp I went to the Casino

team that played in the Lismore League up in northern New South Wales.

"There was a league rep side that I was picked for and that led to touring New Zealand with the Emus, a New South Wales under-19 side.

"I came to England, really just to learn more about playing cricket. I was working in a meat factory at the time and they gave me six months off."

Torquay had gone 14 years without winning the Premier Division title when Hancock arrived at the Recreation Ground in April 1996, just a couple of weeks after his 20th birthday.

Hancock took 47 wickets at a fraction under 14 runs each as the Rec Grounders ended their long wait for some silverware.

From that moment on Hancock was in demand by other clubs eager for his services.

"As an overseas player there is an expectation on you to perform and that was a responsibility I enjoyed and wanted more of," said Hancock.



Neil Hancock (fourth from the left) with the victorious Devon team after they defeated Buckinghamshire at Exmouth in 2006 to win the Minor Counties title

After the end of his season with Torquay, Hancock made the decision to move to Brisbane to work and play, again in the role of a bowler who gave it a whack when he batted.

"At Casino I used to open the bowling and bat four, five six, although when I got to Brisbane and started playing First Grade cricket for Toombul (97-99) it was first-change bowling and batting at seven, eight of nine, where I was a bit of a hitter," said Hancock, whose next stop



Neil Hancock on his way off after scoring his second unbeaten hundred of the game in the win over Cornwall at St Austell in 2007.

a return to Devon to play for Buckfastleigh.

"I went to Buckfastleigh for two years, where we won promotion from the A Division, then had four years at Sidmouth in my first spell there," said Hancock.

"At first I was coming over every April and going back at the end of the season, but by 2000 I had met Claire and did not go back.

"Claire and I had to decide whether to stay in England or got to Australia and chose to stay, although we might end up there in years ahead.

"I felt I had landed on my feet as I had got together with my wifeto-be, got a job with Howdens,

who were absolutely brilliant when it came to making it possible for me to play cricket, and I was earning money as an overseas player."

Hancock went from out-and-out fast bowler to all-rounder during his time at Buckfastleigh, where his maiden Devon League century was an unbeaten 171 against Plymouth Civil Service in a season's tally of 782 runs at an average of 78.20.

It was around this time Hancock took a break from bowling due to a back problem and started to concentrate on his batting.

"I left Brisbane and went back to Casino to play with my brother Malcolm purely as a batsman," said Hancock.

The runs kept coming in the Lismore League, so much so that Hancock was selected to play for the New South Wales Country XI in the 1999-2000 County Cricket Championships. It was his last full season in Australia prior to moving permanently to the UK.

Although Hancock was now regular on the Devon League circuit, he could not play for the county in MCCA competitions as he was still classed as an overseas player and therefore ineligible. He could appear in List A matches in the NatWest Trophy and



Neil Hancock with his man-ofthe-match award after the 2006 Minor Counties play-off final at Exmouth. Hancock hit 95 in the first innings and 139 not out in the second to help Devon to a 180-run win.

later the C&G Trophy, which he did with devastating effect.

Hancock's first NatWest outing for Devon was in a 68-run win over Berkshire at Torquay in 1999 when he won the Gold Award for hammering an unbeaten 113.

It was five more seasons before Hancock could appear in all formats for Devon, but the eligibility rules in the professional game were different and Somerset had taken notice of the young tyro.

After rattling off a century in a second team in 2003, Hancock was invited to train with Somerset in preparation for the launch of Twenty20 cricket in 2004. Talent spotters at Taunton felt his blend of hard-hitting and pace bowling was just right for white-ball cricket.

"I played three games in a week for Somerset – two T20s and one 40over game – which was a great experience, but I went no further," said Hancock

"My debut was against Warwickshire at Edgbaston where I got Mark Wagh out in the only over I bowled.

"Against Worcestershire in the 50-over game I bowled no worse than anyone else and put on 30-odd with Simon Francis down the order.

"Glamorgan at Taunton was my last game where I batted at eight and Ian Thomas (116no) took a liking to my first over. I did not get a second!

"That was it for me and Somerset. I never played again. Although I was given a chance in T20, it was very early days and no one really knew what good figures looked like. It would have been nice to have had a little longer to prove myself."

Back trouble still slowed Hancock as a bowler, but the flip side of the coin was the impact it had on his batting.

"I think I became a bit more level headed when I batted and playing for

Devon in the longer format of the game really suited me more," said Hancock.

"Grade back cricket in Australia had been about batting long periods of time and the three-day format in the Minor Counties Championship was just right for me."

Hancock scored 2,166 runs for Devon in three-day cricket and made 11 half-centuries and six tons from 51 trips to the crease. Two of those centuries came in the same match against Cornwall at St Austell in 2006,

a game in which Hancock wrote himself into the county history books. Both centuries were unbeaten, something no Devon batsman had achieved before in 105 years of Minor Counties status.

Hancock has never been a great one for statistics and records, but that particular achievement has stuck in his mind.

"It was great to score two not-out hundreds and even better to go on and win the match," said Hancock.



Neil Hancock bowling to Devon captain Bob Dawson while playing for Sidmouth against Budleigh Salterton in 2010

"The Cornish lads were a bit vocal in the field, expressing the view we were killing the game just to let me get a second ton, so it was nice to bowl them out to win it."

For the record Trevor Anning with four wickets and Arwyn Jones with three more put the skids under Cornwall.

Devon went on to win the Minor Counties title in 2006, beating Buckinghamshire in the play-off game at Exmouth. Hancock got a hundred in that game and was the leading batsman in Minor Counties cricket that summer. He made four hundreds and three 50s while compiling 799 runs at an average of 79.90 which won him the Wilfred Rhodes Trophy.

League honours piled up during the same period in the mid-2000s, including a Premier title as captain of Paignton in 2005. The following year his statistics of 900 league runs and 36 wickets earned him the competition's player-of-the-year award.

Hancock's big-hitting approach in T20 cricket was becoming well known around that time. The in that run-laden summer of 2006 he clubbed 85 not out off 31 balls for Paignton in a nine-wicket win over Torquay, who had set a target of 100 to win.

A week earlier Hancock had made a hundred off 45 balls against Gloucestershire for Devon in a benefit game for Matt Windows at Budleigh Salterton.

Hancock carted the Berkshire bowling all-round Lord's and out of it during the 2008 Minor Counties Trophy final. He made 53 not out off 26 balls with five fours and three sixes – one of which disappeared into the back garden of a house in nearby Elm Tree Road.

When Bob Dawson stood down as Devon captain in 2009, Hancock was appointed county captain. The side he skippered reached the play-off final against Cambridgeshire in 2011, but work commitments

prevented him playing in the final. Chris Bradley took over and Hancock never played a three-day game for Devon again.

Hancock made the national media in 2010 when belted a double hundred against Axminster in a T20 cup game.

"It was a midweek match after work and I still don't know how I did it," says Hancock now.

Umpire Graham Munday said at the time he had never seen hitting like it.

"We put someone on the beach to throw the balls back – but three of them just vanished," said Munday.

Hancock finished on 208 not out from 74 balls – 22 sixes, 12 fours – in a Sidmouth total of 264 for four.

During his second spell with Sidmouth between 2007-2011 Hancock won three more Premier titles, taking is personal tally to five. Only Richard

Baggs with Exmouth and Sandford, Peter Lucketti (Barton, Bovey Tracey and Exeter) and John Rhodes (Sidmouth, Exmouth, Sandford) are in the same league.

Two seasons at Bovey Tracey – and another 785 runs – brought the curtain down on Hancock's Premier career.

When Hancock retired from senior cricket at the end of the 2103 season he had scored 10,143 Premier and A Division runs and taken 657 wickets.

In two seasons lower down the league with South Devon (2014-15) he added another 1,422 runs and 45 wickets.

Having had a four-season break from cricket between 2016-2019, Hancock reappeared for B Division side Ipplepen in 2020. He added another league ton to his tally in the last match of the season, which he took off Torquay.

Hancock will be 45 by the time the league season starts in May and the bad news for B Division bowlers is he remains hungry for runs.

he remains hungry for runs.

"I stopped in the first place because the children were growing up and I did not have time for cricket," said Hancock, who is dad to Lydia, Naomi and Ethan, all of whom play in teams at Ipplepen.

"Last summer the family were going over to Australia until Covid prevented it and I had some free time to play cricket again.

"I have never lost my appetite for the game and now the kids are older and can fend for themselves at the club it makes it easier for me to play.

"Apart from a couple of weeks when we are on a family holiday in the summer, I intend to play every game this summer."



Hancock playing for the Unicorns against Somerset in 2010

### My Best Ever Devon Team - Keith Donohue

Former players and supporters of Devon CCC had fun during lockdown by picking their post-war, all-time county side. Dozens of entries came in, reviving memories of players from the past. Among the entries was one from ex-player Keith Donohue (1986-2000), who went on to serve as director

of cricket between 2011-2018.

Donohue was a member of the Devon side that won four Minor Counties titles and two Lord's finals between 1992-1998. Here he reflects on those he played with and the roles they would have in his All-Time Devon XI.

The recent challenge of naming your best ever Devon team posed a dilemma for me. Having played a part in the all-conquering squad of the 90s I found it surprisingly difficult to select as many individuals of this era as I thought I would.

So why was the team of the 90's a champion group over an extended period?

My answer is that it was largely down to fate, with the perfect chemistry of individuals coming together at the optimum time to

form a team whose character and collective strength were what separated us from our counterparts. Indeed I believe one of the foremost drivers of our success was the fear of losing. This stemmed from the core of that team such as, Folland,

Gaywood, Pugh, Ward, Donohue, having experienced many heavy and embarrassing defeats in the mid to late 1980s. It's not something you want to repeat when you've sampled winning!

Obviously the core of the 90s' team were very good cricketers and consistent squad selection meant that when other talented players arrived such as, Wyatt, Roebuck, Townsend, Le Flemming, Bishop, White, Dawson, Rhodes, Hunt, Morgan and Read, to mention but a few, the foundations had been laid for great success.

Every champion team has to have formidable players and we had those from one to eleven. Added to that we had a handful who were sprinkled with magic dust:

Nick Folland: his infectious optimism and insatiable appetite for runs and not out's made his team-mates think anything was possible.

Nick Gaywood: he transformed himself from a blocker to the most fearless, extravagant opening batsman who could often win a game in the first overs.

Peter Roebuck: his cricketing skills were sometimes overlooked due to his unrivalled excellence as a captain. Believe me this guy could play.



I would also place Townsend, Wyatt, Tony Allin and Bishop in this elite group.

Andy Pugh and Tim Ward played significant parts in the moulding of the 90s' team. Not only were they very good cricketers in their own right, but they were street fighters who thrived on competition. There was always something reassuring when you walked into the changing room and saw those two there.

I could recount many individual feats by those mentioned, but it is the people themselves who live long in the memory.

What I would give to experience some of that fun again; the whole changing room encouraging 'Gaypers' to run down the wicket the first ball of the game and smack the opposition's quickie out of the ground; observe 'Roeby' orchestrate with precision the oppositions' downfall with the odd tantrum thrown in; hear 'Wardy's' larger-than-life laughter with 'Pughie' in tow; see 'Folly' and Townsend giggling in the corner of the changing room following merciless mickey taking of anyone and everyone; having 'Rhodsie' show you his latest piece of new kit or 'Farmer's' (Tony Allin's) inability to stay still in moments of tension, I could go on!

Devon have been blessed with arguably better players over the generations, especially in recent times, and many who have gone on to bigger things. However, the team of the 90s would have been a tough nut to crack for any opposition. For those interested I have named my best team, but have only selected from those I either played with or watched play and who played for the county more than a handful of times.



### DEVON COUNTY CRICKET CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP CAREER RECORDS FOR CURRENT PLAYERS AS AT 6th SEPTEMBER 2019

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All CD	Debut	No.	M	Inn	N.O.	Runs	HS	Average	100	50s		St	Overs	Mdn	Runs	WKt	Average	B. BOWI	Inn	Mtc
Allen GB	2018	737	5	10	0	169	44	16.90	-	-5	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baird JW	2019	746	2	4	0	101	52	25.25	163	1	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barrow AWR	2017	729	7	14	1	840	163	49.60	5	2	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Beaumont BA	2019	745	3	4	0	54	51	13.50	))+/(	(1)	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bess LFO	2017	728	6	10	3	159	33	22.71	21	/ <del>-</del> )	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bess ZGG	2015	708	26	44	8	1235	166*	34.30	2	5	16	-	315.3	71	1118	47	23.78	5-35	2	-
Burke JE	2008	675	21	36	5	1058	144	34.12	1	9	5	-	137.4	19	544	18	30.22	4-41	-	-
Codd TRJ	2016	721	13	19	7	139	19	11.58	1/-	(-	4	((-)	278	36	1043	29	35.96	4-27	-	-
Curtis MH	2014	702	18	33	1	926	131	28.93	2	5	13	1	15	2	66	1	66.00	1-18	-	-
Degg JHG	2019	742	1	2	0	13	13	6.50	V-	1	-	1-1	1-	V -	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golding MC	2012	695	33	56	5	1190	107*	23.33	2	5	19	-	508	76	1725	52	33.17	5-88	1	-
Goodey DJ	2017	734	8	10	2	116	29*	14.50	-	-	4	1-	162.2	31	549	19	28.89	3-29	-	-
Hancock MW	2018	736	4	6	2	14	12	3.50	1-1	-	1	-	46.4	1	195	2	97.50	1-30	-	-
Kopparambil AS	2019	741	2	3	1	14	14	7.00	4	1-	1	-/1	_	) -	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mailling JHJ	2015	710	11	22	0	445	153	20.22	_1	1	5	-	3	0	16	0	-	-	-	-
Middleton EWO	2018	739	5	7	3	22	9	5.50	56	-	5	-	45	3	200	4	50.00	2-54	-	-
Pugh M	2019	747	3	4	0	138	78	34.50		1	5	(-	61	21	176	5	35.20	2-28	-	-
Skeemer MP	2019	744	4	8	2	164	46*	27.33	-	-	3	-	17	2	78	2	39.00	2-27	-	-
Stephens JA	2016	727	18	27	6	344	97	16.38	-	1	2	2	607.2	115	1994	78	25.56	7-58	3	-
Thompson MW	2010	686	48	85	11	2249	132	30.39	4	9	102	17	3	0	18	0	-	-	-	-
Trego PD	2019	740	2	4	2	351	159	175.50	2	1	2	-	53	21	124	7	17.71	2-14	-	-
Ward HCB	2019	748	1	2	0	38	22	19.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White WA	2019	743	3	6	0	143	62	23.83	-	1	-	-	92.5	23	271	16	16.93	7-62	1	1
Whitlock HM	2017	730	8	8	1	27	19	3.85	-	-	3	-	181.4	49	486	25	19.4	4 4-23	-	-

### DEVON COUNTY CRICKET CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP XI 2018

	М	Inn	NO	Runs	HS	Avorago	100	50s	Ct	St	Overs	Mdn	Runs	\A/l+	Average	P. Poud	5W	10W Mtc
A. N. Other - Sub	IVI	IIII	NO	Kulis	пэ	Average	100	505	1	31	Overs	ivian	Kuns	WKL	Average	b. bowi	Inn	IVILC
Allen GB	- ว	6	-	- 76	- 11	12.66	2, 4	3				-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baird JW	3		0		41 52	25.25	E	1	1	1	3	-	_	-	-	-	-	-
	2	4	0	101				1		2		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barrow AWR	3	6	1	394	141	78.80	3	)	5	11		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Beaumont BA	3	4	0	54	51	13.50	4	1	2	1/1		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bess LFO	1	2	0	30	17	15.00		2	27	1,	<i>_</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bess ZGG	4	7	2	168	51*	33.60	1	1	2	3	22	5	71	3	23.66	2-37	-	-
Burke JE	4	7	1	162	55*	27.00	111	2	1	-	55.1	8	208	9	23.11	4-41	-	-
Codd TJR	4	6	3	36	15*	12.00	-//	Xt.	1	-	104.4	13	351	11	31.90	4-102	-	-
Curtis MH	1	1	0	131	131	131.00	1	\-/	1	-	4	1	6	0	-	-	-	-
Degg JHG	1	2	0	13	13	6.50	-	-	-	1	-		-	-	-	-	-	-
Golding MC	1	2	0	116	84	58.00		1	-	-	6	0	19	0	-	-	-	-
Goodey DJ	3	4	1	66	29*	22.00	_	1	1	-	80.2	14	232	12	19.33	3-29	-	-
Hancock MW	1	2	1	12	12	12.00	( -	7	1	-	8	0	36	0	-	-	-	-
Kopparambil AS	2	3	1	14	14	7.00	( -	-	1	-	-()	KI	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mailling JHJ	1	2	0	15	12	7.50	١.	7	-//	-	- \	U	-	-	-	-	-	-
Middleton EWO	4	6	2	18	9	4.50	1.5	77	5	-	34	3	146	2	73.00	1-11	-	-
Pugh M	3	4	0	138	78	34.50	-	1	5	-	61	21	176	5	2-28	-	-	-
Skeemer MP	4	8	2	164	46*	27.33	-	-	3	-	17	2	78	2	39.00	2-27	-	-
Stephens JA	4	6	0	57	29	9.50	-	-	-	-	118	24	377	12	31.41	7-80	1	-
Thompson MW	4	8	2	302	132	50.33	1	2	16	-	124	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trego PD	3	6	2	435	159	108.75	2	2	6	-	74	25	186	7	26.57	2-14	-	-
Ward HCB	1	2	0	38	22	19.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White WA	3	6	0	143	62	23.83	-	1	-	-	92.5	23	271	16	16.93	7-62	1	1
Whitlock HM	6	6	0	29	19	4.83	-	-	3	-	168.4	38	505	24	21.04	4-23	-	-

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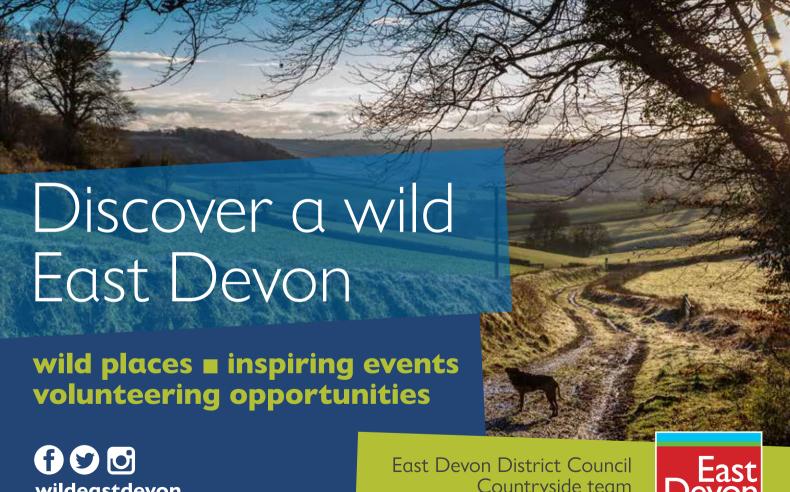






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