

## **BGCC 1<sup>st</sup> XI seasons review.**

In a season where much was expected having come so close to promotion the previous season, we were finally rewarded for having put in a good deal of hard work and endeavour.

In a strong league in which a good side like Rushwick were relegated, the lads put in consistently good performances throughout the season, this was backed up by the fact that we have lost just one game in the past two seasons! A quite impressive record all in all.

The most pleasing aspect for me was that it was a real team performance with everyone to a man contributing. You have to play good cricket to go to the likes of Rushwick, Oldswinford, Lye and Coombs Wood and get a result! To me, the main difference to the previous season where we just missed out on promotion, was the welcome return to the club of Kev Golder and our picking up Chris Harrison, both quality players who have influenced those who have played with them and set standards to be achieved. With three of our bowlers in the league averages top 10 and five batsmen in the top fifteen it just shows how well the players have performed as a team.

I would just like to mention a couple of players who have probably not received the plaudits they deserve, but have played a major part in the teams success. Clive "Fluff" Churchill topped the bowling averages and whilst he may not always have Chris or Tim's control, he has a Botham like ability to take important wickets when you most need them! Judd Doughty is another who did well for the team. In his first year behind the stumps he made an important contribution and chipped in with some important runs when they were needed batting down the order.

Our overseas star Jono Boulton took a lot of stick for some of his off field antics, but he had great pride in his performances on the field and like all good overseas players, he always contributed when we needed a good performance the most.

I can't finish without saying a very big thank you to Roy Mayo for all the hard work he put in on the ground this year, I think our home game against Rushwick which we won when every other game in the county was rained off was a massive result for the club and a testament to Roy's preparation and hard work, you make your own luck and Roy certainly made this bit for us.

I would also like to thank Tim and Jez for all their support over the year as without them a lot of things would just not have happened.

And finally, next year will be a hard one for us, we will have to be far tougher, more patient and less naïve. The only way to overcome these things is by playing a better standard of cricket is a terrific team spirit, confidence in our own ability and the momentum of a successful 2004 season, it is now down to us as to how we use those magical ingredients.

Smeders