

The Channel Islands Fifty Plus side has just completed virtually a full round of fixtures – after gradually returning to some form of ‘normality’ since the disruption caused by Covid.

David Piesing has worked tirelessly, as always, to engender enthusiasm, not only for players from both islands, and, importantly encouraged Counties to play ‘away’ in the islands, with only Devon being the exception in not being able to fulfil the arranged fixture in Jersey.

Two tours consisting of two games were completed and next year should see this commitment reduced to one three game tour.

One ‘home’ game was played in each island and to reduce costs, which have escalated considerably, but particularly in this area, teams were largely made up of a ‘base’ from that island.

Optimistic feedback is being received on several fronts, including attracting ‘YTS’ – just reached 50+ - and this will be welcome with hopefully four home games and the single tour.

Some small changes have taken place in updating the rules and the England and Wales Cricket Board has set up a Working Party, with a representative from each Group, looking at the structure of the groups, mindful of the cost burden and maintaining participation. There is also a trend to play games each Wednesday in the group stages, but Counties realise this is not practical when it comes to CI ‘away’ games

Finally, after approaching 30 years of scoring and a period as ‘manager’, stalwart Pauline Kelly retired, and DP, helped by Dave Gorman, arranged for a small presentation to be made during the tea interval of the match versus Somerset, with a presentation of a vase, complete with a bouquet of flowers to complete it.

Captain Ward Jenner and his Vice, Mark Clapham, each took the helm in three games. Each was successful in winning the toss twice, but unfortunately, when batting first, scores were remarkably similar but not enough to fully test the opposition.

Note the 50+ History is now available on the Guernsey Cricket Board website – courtesy of chief executive Mark Latter (many thanks)

For those of you looking for a bit of nostalgia – also to be found are details of all the inter-insular encounters and scorecards.

Finally, had a nostalgic few hours with Robbo, watching the game versus Dorset and Canford School.

**Results:**

**Versus Cornwall – KGV – Wed May 17**

CI - 179 for 7 (Gordon Irish 69, Richard Headington 30 retired hurt)

Cornwall - 181-5 (Gary Rich 3-24)

Cornwall win by 5 wickets

**Versus Isle of Wight – Shanklin – Sunday 21 May**

Isle of Wight - 153 all out (Ian Taylor 5-22)

CI – 122 all out (Gordon Irish 41)

Isle of Wight won by 31 runs

**Versus Wiltshire at Trowbridge – Monday 22 May**

Wiltshire - 267-1

CI – 213-8 (Gordon Irish 41, Ian Taylor 33)

Wiltshire won by 54 runs

**Versus Somerset – Grainville – Thu 22 June**

CI – 154 all out (Dave Lawrenson 42, Dave Buxton 41)

Somerset 155-4

Somerset won by 6 wickets

**Versus Dorset - Canford School – Sunday 9 July:**

CI 152 for 8 (Dave Buxton 51\*, Gordon Irish 25)

Dorset 155 for 1

Dorset won by 9 wickets

**Versus Hampshire at Romsey – Monday 10 July**

CI 179 for 8 (Mark Clapham 50\*, Richard Veillard 48, Gordon Irish 32)

Hampshire 180 for 3

Hampshire won by 7 wickets

Note - Devon forfeited their away game in Jersey.