



SHROPSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

Newsletter

August 2025



*Hello and welcome to the second issue of our quarterly newsletter
By John Hulme, Shropshire CCC Chairman*

As we take a short pause from our NCCA Championship programme, in what has been a breathless season to date, our focus in this edition is on the success of our Trophy side, which reached the national final for the first time since 2013, full details of which are to be found overleaf.

Reaching the final of any competition is always an achievement and the team under the management and leadership of Ed and Charlie Home, together with the support of head coach Ed Ashlin, are to be warmly congratulated on their recent success. It has been a side in the making for the last two years, and the consistent level of performance throughout the group stages, and subsequent knockout rounds, was a credit to one and all. The importance of being a settled and unified group cannot be overstated.

The Shropshire cricketing public played its part too, providing valuable support and encouragement throughout, consistently turning up in their numbers, none more so than at Shifnal where the game against Staffordshire was played in front of one of our largest home crowds in recent seasons

If defeat in the final to Dorset - ultimately deserved winners - at Chester Boughton Hall proved to be a bridge too far, the players and coaching group as a whole can nevertheless take great pride in finishing runners-up, even if the curse of doing so continues to linger. It's a shadow that has only been lifted once in six attempts!

The success of the 50-over side enabled squad players to be brought into the Twenty20 Cup competition and if Cheshire, Cumbria, Northumberland and Staffordshire were to provide a formidable challenge, there were a number of encouraging performances by young Shropshire players and debutants, experiencing their first taste of white ball cricket in county colours. The experience will not have been lost.

Whilst there has been much to enjoy already this season, it has also been a time of sadness with the passing of Albert Barkley and Harold Banks, both cricketing stalwarts.

Albert was a friend to many and with considerable honour served on the county committee for over 30 years. He was one of life's true characters who will be long remembered with much affection and warmth.

Harold, a talented and studious all rounder, played for the county in the early 1970s following trials with Gloucestershire. He enjoyed a successful career with both Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury. Ever modest, he rarely spoke of his own achievements but always enjoyed and shared in the success of others.

Valete and Rest in Peace.



Shropshire County Cricket Club
is proud to support
Severn Hospice
as our chosen charity for 2025.

We will also be displaying the Severn Hospice logo on our playing shirts, as worn here by Lewis Evans and Ben Lees, for our NCCA Championship matches.



Captain Charlie Home "very proud" of his side after Shropshire's fine run to NCCA Trophy final

Captain Charlie Home said he was "very proud" of his side as he reflected on Shropshire's excellent run in this season's NCCA Trophy.

An impressive sequence of six wins in a row secured Shropshire's first appearance in a one-day final for 12 years.

While the big day against Dorset in last month's final may have ultimately ended in defeat by five wickets, Shropshire's 50-over campaign delivered many highlights.

An exciting run started with a comfortable victory by six wickets in the opening group game against Herefordshire at Eastnor at the end of April.

It was the first of four wins out of four in the group stage of the competition, with the opening home success secured by seven runs over Norfolk, the 2024 Trophy winners, at Shrewsbury's London Road ground.

Andre Bradford led the way with a half century before Ben Roberts helped himself to four wickets - three of them from the final four balls of the match - as Norfolk fell just short in their run chase.

Local rivals Staffordshire were swept aside by six wickets at Shifnal the following week, the first of three victories enjoyed by Shropshire at Priorslee Road in this year's competition.

Former Worcestershire teammates Tom Fell and Jacques Banton played lead roles with a third-wicket partnership of 142 which took the game away from Staffordshire.

Shropshire ensured they emerged as group winners with a 100 per cent record after getting the better of Suffolk by 36 runs at Mildenhall.

A fine opening stand of 118 between Rahul Kaushal and George Hargrave, who both struck half centuries, proved key for Shropshire ahead of Cameron Jones and Banton both claiming three wickets.

That meant home advantage in the last eight, and it was back to Shifnal to face Northumberland, a match which Shropshire won by 23 runs.

John Oswell's excellent century had Northumberland believing they could overhaul Shropshire's total of 252-9 until he was bowled by Roberts in the 48th over.

Half centuries from Hargrave and Joe Stanley earlier allowed Shropshire to put a competitive total on the board, with Banton then taking four Northumberland wickets.

Shropshire returned to Shifnal three weeks later to face Suffolk in the last four, with the county holding their nerve to win a rain-affected semi-final by four wickets under the DLS method.

Three wickets apiece from skipper Home, playing at his home club ground once again, and Ravan Chahal restricted Suffolk to 223-9 from a reduced 40 overs after a delayed start.



Pictured: Shropshire lined up for a photograph before the NCCA Trophy final, back from left: Kevin O'Connell (scorer), Ben Lees, Lewis Evans, Ben Roberts, Cameron Jones, Seb Scott (12th man), Ed Home (head of cricket), Ed Ashlin (first team coach); front: Joe Stanley, Jacques Banton, Tom Fell, Charlie Home (captain), George Hargrave, Rahul Kaushal, Andre Bradford.

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Fell top scored with 57 as Shropshire's victory target was adjusted to 160 from 29 overs, a total they reached off the penultimate ball of the match to signal the start of the Shropshire celebrations.

Chester Boughton Hall Cricket Club hosted the final with Shropshire up against a Dorset side fresh from impressively winning at Berkshire in the last four.

Half centuries from Home and Fell lifted the Shropshire total to 195. Dorset, in reply, made assured progress to 198-5, hitting the winning runs off the first ball of the 47th over.

"First and foremost, what a great campaign we've had," said Home, speaking shortly after the end of the match. "Winning every game up until now is a fantastic effort. Sadly, we were beaten by the better side on the day. I think in all three facets they've probably outplayed us."

"I would say the few quick early wickets put us slightly behind the game. We did well to get up to 195 and fought our hearts out with the ball and gave it our best shot, but sadly only managed to take a few wickets and they knocked it off, but we gave it our all."

Ed Home, Shropshire's head of cricket, added: "I'm really proud of what we've achieved as a team. We won six straight games and obviously we fell just short in the final."

"But we were beaten by a strong Dorset side who in all honesty outperformed us in all three disciplines, the bowling, the batting and the fielding, and they are thoroughly deserved champions of the 50-over competition."

Joe Clarke and Andrew Kenvyn's place in club record books...

It was the topic of conversation at a recent Shropshire match - who are the youngest and oldest players to play for the county - and it certainly produced much debate.

Now, with thanks to Shropshire CCC scorer and statistician Kevin O'Connell, we can provide the answer.

Joe Clarke, now a regular in the Nottinghamshire team, is the youngest cricketer to have played for Shropshire, just ahead of current county captain Charlie Home and his younger brother Jack in the list.

Clarke was aged 16 years and 43 days when he made his Shropshire debut in a Championship match against Berkshire at Falkland CC in Newbury in July 2012. Rain led to an abandonment before he was able to bat.



Clarke's next Championship appearance was against Wiltshire the following June when he hit 61 at Salisbury, followed by 97 against Dorset at Bridgnorth, when he was bowled just three short of a century by Jake Lintott, now of Warwickshire.

The potential he showcased playing for the county helped Clarke, having played for England under-19s in a team which featured another Shropshire cricketer in Ed Barnard, to make the breakthrough to the first-class game with Worcestershire ahead of a call up from England Lions.

At the other end of the age spectrum, Andrew Kenvyn was 48 years and 163 days when he made his Shropshire debut - his one and only appearance for the county - in a Championship match against Cheshire at Nantwich in August 2013.

Kenvyn took 4-30 from 20 overs in Cheshire's second innings, after also claiming a wicket in the first innings of a match that ended in a draw.

Clarke also featured in the Shropshire side, playing alongside Kenvyn, for that game at Nantwich 12 years ago.

Pictured: Joe Clarke is the youngest cricketer to have played a first team match for Shropshire CCC

COMPETITION TIME!!

**Can you : Name the youngest and oldest overseas players to appear for Shropshire.
Special prize for first correct answer. Closing date 30th September 2025
Email answers to membership@shropshireccc.co.uk**

Shropshire trio awarded county caps

Three Shropshire players have been awarded county caps by the club this season in recognition of their respective contributions in recent years.

Captain Charlie Home and seamer Ben Roberts were presented with their county caps by former Shropshire skipper Mark Davies before the NCCA Trophy victory over Norfolk at Shrewsbury's London Road ground in May.

Consistent top order batter Andre Bradford received his county cap from Ed Home, the club's head of cricket, ahead of last month's NCCA Trophy final against Dorset.

All-rounder Home, enjoying his third season as Shropshire captain, made his Championship debut for the county against Devon in 2015.

A right-arm off spinner and top order batter, he holds a place in the club's record books for the best bowling figures by any Shropshire player in one-day cricket, 7-52 against Wales at Oswestry in 2017.

Roberts, his Shifnal team mate, has become a regular member of the Shropshire side in all three formats since making his debut for the county.

A right-arm opening bowler, Roberts made his first appearance for the county against the RAF at Bridgnorth, which was quickly followed by his T20 Cup debut against Herefordshire at Wrekin College a few days later in May 2019.



Pictured: Ben Roberts, left, and captain Charlie Home received their county caps earlier this season.

His best bowling figures for Shropshire so far came in last August's Championship victory over Wales when he took 6-43 in the second innings at Bridgnorth.

Bradford joined Shropshire ahead of the 2022 season and is close to making 50 appearances for the county in all formats.

He is closing in on 1,500 runs for Shropshire, which includes 13 half-centuries, while he is also renowned as an excellent fielder and has taken more than 30 catches for the club in National Counties competitions.

Shropshire CCC chairman John Hulme said: "All three players are to be warmly congratulated on receiving their county caps.

"It was fitting that Charlie should be awarded his county cap at Shrewsbury some 10 years after making his Shropshire debut there.

"He has led the side to an upturn in fortunes. He is a studious captain and ever willing to learn.

"Ben often goes under the radar but has become a valued member of the side over the last five years.

"We were delighted when Andre joined us at the start of 2022 season in the face of competition from other counties."



Pictured: Andre Bradford, left, was presented with his county cap by head of cricket Ed Home.

THE HUNDRED

Shropshire connections

There's strong Shropshire representation in the Hundred this year.

In the men's competition, Joe Clarke is playing for Birmingham Phoenix, while three former Shropshire seamers are also involved.

Dillon Pennington and Ben Sanderson are team mates at Trent Rockets, and Mitch Stanley was recruited by

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