

# FOSTER URGES SIDE TO DELIVER KO WIN

**EXPECTANT** skipper Ed Foster has urged his Shrewsbury side to make the most of their chance to write themselves into club history by lifting the National Knockout trophy this weekend.

Foster, who is hopeful his younger brother Rob will be fit to play despite a hand injury, is excited about the possibilities as Shrewsbury get ready to take on East Anglian Premier League side Cambridge Granta at Derbyshire CCC's ground on Saturday (11am start).

"This is a fantastic opportunity and for a lot of the guys playing, it will be the biggest game of their careers, especially with it being played at a first class ground," said Foster.

"We've played quite a few big games in the last couple of years but this is a game we're excited about and really looking forward to.

"We just want to get out there, enjoy the occasion and make sure we win."

Foster is well versed with Shrewsbury's 1983 National KO triumph at Lord's in which his dad John appeared - and he admits repeating their epic success of 28 years ago is an extra motivational tool ahead of this weekend's showpiece in the East Midlands.

"This team wants to put itself on the map and the 1983 team was a brilliant Shrewsbury side for quite a few years," he said.

"We've had a very good couple of years, getting to the National KO semi finals two years ago, winning the Birmingham League last season and now this run to the final, so we've built a lot of big match experience."

Foster revealed Shrewsbury planned to hold extra training sessions this week to ensure they are in the best possible shape for Saturday.

The squad will stay

by Stuart Dunn

overnight in Derby tomorrow as they fine tune their preparations for the big clash against opponents, the captain admits, he knows little about.

"They're a bit of an unknown but they will probably feel the same about as us," said Foster.

"They've got to be a good side to be in the final but only a handful of our guys have come across any of their players before as they are from the other side of the country."

## Fielding

Shrewsbury have selected a 12-man squad which includes county allrounder Rob Foster, who sat out both of the club's matches last weekend after taking a painful blow to his right hand while fielding off his own bowling against Knowle & Dorridge nearly a fortnight ago.

"Rob wasn't right last weekend and didn't want to risk it any further," said the skipper.

"He's in a bit of pain but he'll take a lot of stopping

not to play. He will probably take some painkillers and get on with it."

Shrewsbury's second and third teams have put back their matches to Sunday - just like the first team's final Birmingham League premier division clash at champions Barnt Green - to enable them to get to Derby to support Foster's men.

"There's two buses leaving from the ground on Saturday morning and I know a lot of people are planning to make their own way over to Derby so hopefully we'll have a couple of hundred people there to support us," added Foster, beaten on his only previous appearance at Derbyshire's ground when he was playing for Loughborough University.

Admission to Saturday's final is free and so is the car parking at the ground.

**SHREWSBURY**, from: E. Foster, R. Bishop, S. Leach, J. Leach, R. Foster, T. Cox, A. Blofield, S. Barnard, E. Barnard, M. Barnard, E. Green, W. Parton.



Getting ready for the final - Barnard brothers Ed, Stephen, and Michael.

Picture: Iain Thomson