

# Spirit has carried side through

**SKIPPER Ed Foster insists Shrewsbury's exciting run to the National KO final has been down to a real squad effort from the London Road club.**

In the earlier rounds Shrewsbury managed to impressively overcome the absence of several regulars owing to them being on Minor Counties duty with Shropshire to keep alive their hopes of cup glory.

And Foster has been quick to salute the contribution of men like Dan Manders, Jon Anders, Steve Wilderspin and Henry Blofield who may not be involved this weekend but played an important part along the road to Derby.

"It's been a real club effort and it shows the strength in depth we've got," said Foster. "For some of the earlier rounds it was a big ask as quite a few of us were away and the efforts of some of the club's other players will certainly not be forgotten.

"We played Stone at home in one of the earlier rounds and that was a great effort to win the game with a weakened team, particularly as Stone are a good side."

Shrewsbury have made the most of home advantage to come through the last three rounds, with Foster having no doubts in selecting the semi-final victory over Nottingham-based West Indian Cavaliers as his own personal highlight of the run to the final.

Cavaliers arrived with a big reputation and included former Pakistan international spinner Saqlain Mushtaq plus two former England players Usman Afzaal and Alex Tudor in their side.

But reputations counted for nothing to Shrewsbury's talented young side as they turned on the style to pull off an excellent eight-wicket win in front of a bumper London Road crowd.

"To win the game so emphatically against a team including international cricketers was fantastic," added Foster,

"It was a great win, particularly after losing in the semi finals to Chester-le-Street two years earlier."



**Bat'll do nicely – Ryan Bishop has been among the runs for Shrewsbury in their run to the final**

## How Shrewsbury made it to the final

**First round v Halesowen (away):** Halesowen 179 all out (Elliot Green 4-31, Jon Anders 2-21, Alex Blofield 2-41), Shrewsbury 180-7 (Jon Anders 83, Alex Blofield 30, William Davies 19); Shrewsbury won by three wickets.

**Second round v Moseley (away):** Moseley 154 all out (Elliot Green 5-30, Joe Leach 4-34), Shrewsbury 155-3 (Ryan Bishop 87, Alex Blofield 45); Shrewsbury won by seven wickets.

**Third round v Stone (home):** Shrewsbury 203-8 (Jon Anders 48, Dan Manders 47,

Steve Wilderspin 33, Will Parton 29), Stone 164 all out (Mike Barnard 2-18, Elliot Green 2-22, Dan Manders 2-29, Henry Blofield 2-50); Shrewsbury won by 39 runs.

**Fourth round v Wolverhampton (away):** Shrewsbury 223 all out (Joe Leach 81, Alex Blofield 55, Ryan Bishop 39), Wolverhampton 178 all out (Elliot Green 5-37, Mike Barnard 3-26); Shrewsbury won by 45 runs.

**Fifth round v Prestwich (home):** Prestwich 61 all out (Joe Leach 4-21, Ed Barnard 3-14, Mike Barnard 2-5), Shrews-

bury 62-0 (Ryan Bishop 34no, Ed Foster 21no); Shrewsbury won by 10 wickets.

**Sixth round v Ormskirk (home):** Shrewsbury 195 all out (Ryan Bishop 43, Tom Cox 30, Joe Leach 29, Alex Blofield 20), Ormskirk 160 all out (Ed Barnard 2-29, Elliot Green 2-36); Shrewsbury won by 35 runs.

**Semi-final v West Indian Cavaliers (home):** Cavaliers 191 all out (Alex Blofield 4-10, Elliot Green 3-40), Shrewsbury 193-2 (Ryan Bishop 85no, Steve Leach 53, Joe Leach 24); Shrewsbury won by eight wickets.