

# CRICKETSPOTLIGHT

ANOTHER FAMOUS TRIUMPH AS CUP HEROES EMULATE LEGENDS OF '83



Class of '83 - Steve Gale, Andy Barnard, John Foster, former Shrewsbury winners of the National KO, bask in the glory

## More to come predicts Leach

They may have etched their name in history - but allrounder Joe Leach insists there is still more to come from the Shrewsbury side.

"I still don't think we are anywhere near our potential," said Leach.

"When you look at the young lads coming through, it's scary.

"If we can keep everyone together, we can be a serious club side.

"We are all young lads and we want to go down in history. There is the genuine drive and hunger.

"Saturday was brilliant but it's just a stepping stone to what we really want to achieve."



Brothers in arms - Steve (left) and Joe Leach are sure they can bring more success to Shrewsbury

# Shrewsbury smiling with family fortunes

By JAMES GARRISON

On a thrilling day dominated by brothers in arms and sons following in the footsteps of proud fathers, the Shropshire cricket family hailed a fresh batch of legends.

The Shrewsbury class of 2011 now sit alongside the same club's heroes of 1983 - the only previous county side to win the National Knockout - after a thrilling three wicket victory over plucky Cambridge Granta.

And only as the unforgettable celebrations began in Derbyshire - in which tears and champagne flowed in equal measure - did the full enormity of the achievement become clear.

This was the moment a side fulfilled its destiny, building on last season's Birmingham League triumph to master the national stage with a success to cherish on so many fronts.

That three sets of brothers - a trio of Barnards and two Fosters and Leaches - were able to share the historic moment only added to the emotion for a travelling army of around 200 Salopians.

### Roared

And that the Barnards and Fosters were emulating the achievements of their fathers - Andy and John were focal points of the squad 28 years ago - provided further evidence of the club ethos which has been at the root of this success story.

Once again, it was captain Ed Foster - on the back of an indifferent season by his lofty standards - who stood tall to be counted when it mattered most.

It should not be forgotten there were other vital contributions in Shrewsbury's successful pursuit of 221 from 45 overs on a day when they were roared every step of the way by the Shropshire's 'Barmy Army.'

Rob Foster's rapid 39 off just 36 balls provided all-important momentum while there were other crucial

### FINAL SCORES

Shrewsbury won the toss and elected to field

#### CAMBRIDGE GRANTA

Coleman c M Barnard b R Foster	28
Rice b J Leach	10
Fullarton not out	87
C Park st Bishop b R Foster	45
S Park run out	7
Creese lbw Green	19
Handley c Blofield b Green	1
Cowan b M Barnard	4
Beddows b M Barnard	0
Extras (5lb, 8w, 6nb)	19
<b>Total (for 8 wks, 45 overs)</b>	<b>220</b>
Fall: 22, 88, 153, 161, 202, 204, 220, 220	

**Bowling:** M Barnard 8-1-21-2, J Leach 5-3-24-1, E Barnard 7-0-34-0, S Barnard 7-0-27-0, R Foster 9-0-48-2, Green 9-0-61-2

#### SHREWSBURY

E Foster not out	98
Bishop b Cowan	20
S Leach c Beddows b S Park	2
J Leach c Cowan b Hill	26
R Foster b Handley	39
Cox c Hill b Handley	23
Blofield run out	0
S Barnard run out	1
E Barnard not out	0
Extras (0b, 2lb, 12w, 1nb)	15
<b>Total (for 7 wks, 44.4 overs)</b>	<b>214</b>
Fall: 31, 36, 112, 172, 209, 214, 212	

**Bowling:** Cowan 9-2-27-1, S Park 9-1-37-1, Creese 2-0-15-0, Coleman 6-0-45-0, L Hill 9-1-37-1, Shah 5-0-31-0, Handley 4-4-30-2

**Shrewsbury beat Cambridge Granta by three wickets**

cameos from Joe Leach, Tom Cox and Ryan Bishop, who chipped in with 26, 23 and 20 respectively.

But the major innings Shrewsbury required was provided by their skipper who enhanced his reputation of being the man for the huge occasion by carrying his bat, just as he had done when leading Shropshire to Minor Counties one-day success in the Durham final 12 months ago.

The captain took a little while to settle but, gradually finding his feet after Shrewsbury had been

## All hail the National KO champions



Pictures: TOM SOMERVILLE

Trophy time - Shrewsbury's National Knockout winners start to celebrate in Derbyshire: Back (from left) Elliot Green, Steven Leach, Trevor Sheperd (manager), Mike Barnard, Alex Blofield, Tom Cox, Joe Leach, Rob Foster; front, Steve Barnard, Ed Foster, Ryan Bishop, Will Parton (12th man).

reduced to 36-2, grew in stature.

His chanceless 98 included 10 fours and came off 124 balls, and it was fitting that Foster himself should find the boundary through mid-wicket which clinched victory with just two balls to spare.

But even the usually unflappable captain was sure to have been slightly unnerved by the events of the closing overs.

Throughout their chase, Shrewsbury had always remained slightly ahead of the Cambridge Granta comparisons and it seemed victory was a formality when just 24 runs were required off the last four overs with six wickets remaining.

### Strode

But the pressures of clinching victory in a major national final never subsides and clear thinking was, understandably, drowned in a sea of tension and nerves.

Cox skied a catch to deep point at the end of the 43rd over and the situation was further complicated with the run outs of Alex Blofield and Steve Barnard in the next.

It meant that nine runs were still required off the final over when 15-year-old Ed Barnard strode to the non-striker's end.

But Foster took command and struck a pair of twos and a brace of boundaries off the first four balls of a final over from slow bowler Jimmy Handley to put the outcome beyond doubt.

Earlier, on a day of sunshine and showers but no

interruptions, Cambridge Granta had posted 220-8 thanks to an unbeaten 87 from Alex Fullarton and quickfire 41 from Craig Park.

The total would have been more daunting had the East Anglian League champions showed a greater intent earlier in their innings - they were only 88-1 off 25 overs - and with their running between wickets.

Mike Barnard was the pick of the Shrewsbury bowlers, conceding just 21 runs from eight overs and earning his reward with wickets off the final two balls of the Granta innings.

And, while they will have had more economical days, spin twins Elliot Green and Rob Foster justified the decision to bowl out their maximum allocation with two wickets each.

It all added up to a day which will go down in Shropshire cricketing history.

And with the talent and youthfulness of this young side, the success story could go on for a lot longer yet.

## Captain's knock left emotional Ed in tears

Relieved captain Ed Foster admitted he was close to tears at the crease as his Shrewsbury side sealed an historic National Knockout triumph.

Foster was in the middle when two run-outs in the penultimate over threatened to waste all his side's good work.

But the oldest player in the side regained his composure to complete the job in the final over

"It went a bit mad but it worked out in the end," said the 26-year-old.

"I was just trying to get on strike but I couldn't. I was past nerves at that stage and I was totally emotional.

"When I hit the first four in the last over to bring us within three to win I was almost in tears. It was that type of day. But it's a great achievement from everybody to win it and I'm delighted for everybody."

## Sheperd's delight at win

Team manager Trevor Sheperd was bursting with pride after Shrewsbury's three wicket triumph.

"I'm elated and it has brought a tear to the eye," he said. "Cambridge pushed us all the way but the lads deserved it and I've been confident all week.

"Winning the Birmingham League two years ago was fantastic but to win the National Knockout is exceptional. "They are a great set of lads and I'm privileged to be part of it."

## Barnard forgets his injury woes

After seeing his cricket restricted by a hip problem over the last two years, Mike Barnard was all smiles after Saturday's victory.

"I have had to miss a lot of cricket through injury but days like Saturday make it great to be part of the club and playing with my brothers (Steve and Ed) and my mates," said the 21-year-old, who recovered from bowling a wide off the first ball of the

match to end with figures of 2-21 off eight overs.

"I woke up early on Saturday and it looked like the end of the world with the sky and the weather so it was great to get out there and play and win,

"The 1983 team was always the big thing and there was a tear in the eye when we won. They were a great side and hopefully we're remembered the same."

## FANCY DRESS TO IMPRESS



The Barmy Army - Shrewsbury's travelling contingent bring colour to the big occasion at Derby