



# GILES FOSTER SCHOLARSHIP #2 AN EPIC GOOD SUCCESS

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Jackson Freeman has played at the Ringwood Rams since he was 10 years old. At the age of 22 he was named the 2016 Giles Foster Scholarship (GFS) recipient.

The scholarship saw him travel to the Great Preston Cricket Club (GPCC) during the 2016 English cricket season where he says his cricket game definitely improved. 'I now have more confidence with both bowling and batting and more experience in game situations and knowing my strengths and weaknesses.'

Jackson's time abroad was a huge success on many levels, and with time to reflect after a much appreciated trip to the Continent, he says he has many highlights of his time as scholarship holder. 'One significant highlight for me was helping coach the young kids on a Friday night. They may have not had many skills, but being able to be one of the first people to help them love the game of cricket is a pretty cool feeling,' he said proudly.

The GFS isn't just about cricket though, but also self-awareness and growth, and Jackson says he learned many life skills that he couldn't learn in the environment he lived in back home. He said, 'An added benefit is that I now have clear plans for the next few years of my life. The six months really helped me to realise what is important and what isn't in life.' As Jackson proposed to his girlfriend while abroad, we assume that's what he's talking about!

Ian Newton, Captain of the GPCC was impressed with Jackson's contribution saying, 'We are now the envy of other clubs in the area due to the scholarship. The GFS has helped us to retain some of our better players and recruit others, who are keen to play alongside the talented overseas players'.

**"GFS2: it was an epic good game!"  
– a match report from Ian Newton,  
President of the GPCC**

If the organisers of the day and the big crowd in attendance had been offered the last ball drama of the GFS XI's 1 run victory on Sunday, they would undoubtedly have taken it.

Following discussions between captains during an excellent pre-match meal on Saturday at our sponsors the Grand Indian, Great Preston CC got use of the home changing room, but would field first.

With an excellent looking pitch and a fast outfield, those who witnessed the whirlwind start of GFS1 settled expectantly into their seats as GFS recipient Freeman was joined in the middle by opening partner Sanderson.

Jonathan Donnelly (Pudsey Congs) and Alan Olbison (East Leeds CC) shared the new ball and it immediately became clear



**STUART AND JACKSON**

that this would be a more even contest than GFS1. The impressive Donnelly trapped Sanderson (1) LBW to a ball that didn't bounce as much as he expected, with only 5 on the board.

The dismissal of Sanderson brought Jonty Rushton to the crease, who looked to play with aggression from the word go, in fact his first two scoring shots were maximums. Freeman (16) also adopted a positive approach, before he was brilliantly caught by Sri-Lankan Edirisinghe (Ashton CC) in the gully off Olbison with 37 on the board.

When left arm spinner Edirisinghe joined the attack and picked up the wicket of Ashton LBW (so plumb he walked!) to one which skidded on and fellow spinner Holliday (Altofts CC) picked up the prize scalp of skipper Giles caught by Murray at slip for nought, the GFS were in trouble at 60-4.

Wicket-keeper Ervine joined Rushton (70) in a crucial 60 run partnership before the latter was dismissed by Edirisinghe, running past one to give Ward (Townville CC) a stumping chance that he took with aplomb.

With Paul Smith (1) falling LBW to Sri-Lankan Yohan De Silva (Dunkinfield CC), the home side could see an opportunity to wrap up the innings. Unfortunately Ervine and Topp had other ideas and combined in a 50 run partnership, before skipper Marston got rid of Ervine (54) and Ludowyke (1) in quick succession as the GFS looked for late impetus.

Topp (44 not out) boosted the score up to 213 with some late hitting, including one particularly severe assault on Chris Holliday (Cleckheaton) which yielded 20 from the final over.

Pick of the bowlers for GPCC were Donnelly (1-16 off 8) and Edirisinghe (2-17 off 9)

After an excellent tea, Murray and Ward opened up for GPCC against Michael Topp and Blake Glenn. Ward was quickly into his stride and had made 22 before he was first man out, bowled off his pads by Topp with the score on 23.

Yohan De Silva joined Murray and the scoreboard was progressing nicely, before a terrible mix-up saw Murray run-out for 16, with the score on 52.

Chris Holliday joined De Silva and was positive from the off, his 13 from 8 balls included three fours, before he got a leading edge off Ludowyke and was caught at mid-on.

When leg spinner Ashton picked up the wickets of De Silva (22) and Ranasinghe (13) to boundary catches by Freeman and Smith the innings was in danger of falling away at 91-5. Skipper Marston joined Edirisinghe to set about repairing the damage caused by the quick fire dismissals, but he quickly joined his colleagues back in the pavilion, bounced out by Freeman for 2.

Edirisinghe remained patient though and shared a 23 run partnership with Donnelly, before skipper Giles justified his decision to join the attack by picking up an LBW decision against Donnelly with his very first ball.

GPCC opening batsman Russell, in an unfamiliar position at 9 joined Edirisinghe in a 60 run partnership that had the crowd hopeful of a home win. When he was dismissed for 23 to an excellent Topp yorker, the equation was a further 30 off 27 balls.

Edirisinghe took responsibility and with Holliday also adding a boundary off Freeman in the penultimate over, the

game went into the final over with 7 needed for victory. A scrambled single off the first ball of Topp's over was followed by a boundary to Edirisinghe off the second, leaving GPCC as favourites needing just 2 off 4 balls.

Edirisinghe was unable to score off the third ball and when he was bowled off the fourth by Topp, the pendulum swung back to the GFS XI. Olbison was unable to score off his first ball, making the equation simple off the final ball, 2 to win, 1 to tie.

Olbison got bat on ball, but could only hit the ball back to Topp, who showed good composure to collect the ball an under arm onto the stumps, with Olbison short of his ground.

Pick of the GFS XI bowlers was Topp, who took 3-26 off 9 overs and was the GFS XI mom. Edirisinghe taking the award for GPCC.

An excellent game, played in an excellent spirit, enjoyed by a healthy crowd who were entertained to the last – same again next year please guys!

### **STUART HAS THE FINAL WORD**

Jackson conducted himself with great aplomb throughout the 2016 season and built on the wonderful foundation laid by Matthew King as our inaugural GFS recipient in 2015. Like Matthew, he enjoyed stellar success on field with 839 runs (including 3 x 100's) and took 52 wickets at a miserly 13.98 (with a best of 7/47). Jackson kept GPCC in the promotion hunt until deep into the season.

The mutual appreciation between Jackson and the entire Great Preston community was evident throughout all the festivities associated with the GFS Match. And it was my pleasure to see him in action everywhere; from thrashing a thrilling T20 88 (off 50 odd balls) to running his introductory coaching clinics, then holding fort at Grand Indian for the GFS Oration and finally hosting all the Rams GFS Ambassadors on Match Day. Unfortunately, he missed the match winning putt at the GFS Golf Day but, as I said to him and Sam afterwards – 'You can't beat experience and that is what the GFS is all about gaining!'

**Well done Jacko!**



## GFS INVITATIONAL INNINGS

BATTING	How OUT	TOTAL
J.FREEMAN	C: C.EDIRISINGHE B: A.OLBISON	16
M.SANDERSON	LBW B: J.DONNELLY	1
J.RUSHTON	STUMPED: K.WARD B: C.EDIRISINGE	70
P.ASHTON	LBW B: C.EDIRISINGE	7
STUART GILES	C: K.WARD B: K.HOLLIDAY	0
R.ERVINE	B: J.MARSDEN	54
*SAM GILES		6
P.SMITH	LBW B: Y.DE SILVA	1
M.TOPP	NOT OUT	44
C.LUDOWYKE	B: J.MARSDEN	1
B.GLENN	NOT OUT	4
EXTRAS		9
TOTAL		213

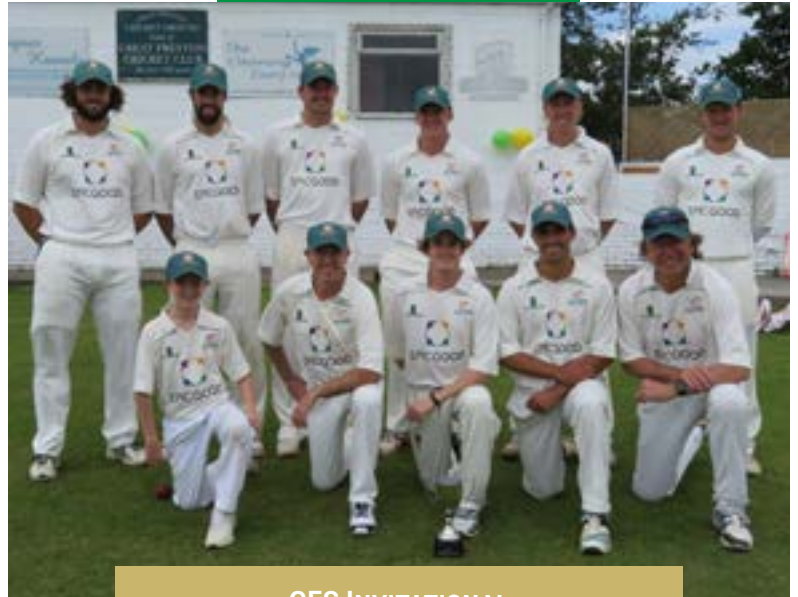
BOWLER	OVERS	MAIDEN	WICKETS	RUNS
J.DONNELLY	8	3	1	16
A.OLBISON	8	0	1	47
K.HOLLIDAY	7	0	1	43
C.EDIRISINGE	9	2	2	17
Y.DE SILVA	3	1	1	19
L.RUSSELL	2	0	0	6
C.HOLLIDAY	6	0	0	36

## GPCC XI INNINGS

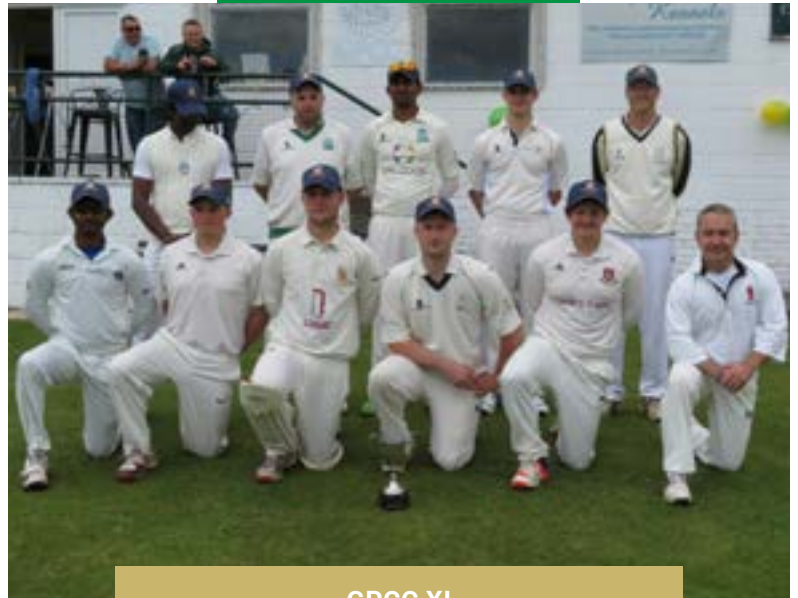
BATTING	How OUT	TOTAL
R.MURRAY	RAN OUT	15
K.WARD	B: M.TOPP	22
Y.DE SLIVA	C: J.FREEMAN B: DP.ASHTON	21
C.HOLLIDAY	C/B:C.LUDOWYKE	13
D.RANASINGHE	C/B: P.ASHTON	13
C.EDIRISINGHE	SMUDGER	82
J.MARSDEN	C: C.LUDOWYKE B:J.FREEMAN	2
J.DONNELLY	LBW B: STUART GILES	7
L.RUSSELL	B:M.TOPP	23
K.HOLLIDAY	C: J.EVANS B: STU GILES	5
A.OLBISON	RUN OUT	0
*A.MILNER/K. WATSON	NOT OUT	9
TOTAL		212

BOWLER	OVERS	MAIDEN	WICKETS	RUNS
M.TOPP	9	3	3	26
B.GLENN	5	0	0	29
C.LUDOWYKE	4	0	1	21
P.ASHTON	7	1	2	31
J.FREEMAN	7	0	1	37
P.SMITH	2	0	0	8
M.SANDERSON	5	0	0	23
STUART GILES	6	1	1	29

\*denotes Junior Ashes



GFS INVITATIONAL



GPCC XI



Photo credit: Hazel Anyan



  
**GILES FOSTER**  
SCHOLARSHIP