



2015 BRINGS AN EPIC GOOD START TO THE GILES FOSTER SCHOLARSHIP

Even the eternally optimistic disposition and positive attitude of Epic Good Foundation Co-Founder Stuart Giles may have been tested if you had suggested to him that the inaugural year of the Giles Foster Scholarship (GFS) launched by the Foundation would have resulted in:

- A title winning season for host club Great Preston (the aptly named Victory Cup in Division One of the Central Yorkshire League)
- A record breaking 1093 runs at an average of 109 in League and Cup Ties for the inaugural GFS Recipient Matt King (rising to an even more incredible average of 128.75 in League Games only)
- A Boy's Own Annual style century by Matt in the Top of Table League Clash on the weekend of the GFS Commemorative Launch Match
- A full house basking in glorious English sunshine (and record-breaking bar takings) at Berry Lane, Great Preston to see a star studded GFS Invitational XI with 7 capped Ringwood Cricket players take on a Great Preston XI, and
- Australia raising themselves off the canvas at The Oval to claim a stirring Ashes Test win whilst the London leg of the GFS Corporate & Personal Development Program scaled even greater heights in the stands overlooking the ground.

BUT, the reality is that the 2015 GFS year has delivered all of the above and so much more.

Things got underway on field in fine style across late April and early May with Matt getting his UK season off to a flyer as his first three innings brought exactly 300 runs for a single dismissal. He displayed a very handy second string to his bow with the ball snaring 14 wickets at an average of 23 before a minor injury caused him to retire from the Great Preston attack approaching the halfway point in the season (although he had done enough by then to eventually add the competition All Rounder of the Year trophy to his bulging end of season list of personal accolades).

Matt was fortunate to live and work with club stalwart and 2nd XI Captain, Richard "Tiny" White and the cricket gods smiled accordingly upon Tiny, handing him the prized scalp of Stuart Giles (himself a 1000 run, title winning overseas player for Great Preston "back in the day") in the GFS Commemorative Launch Match in August.

The GFS Game was a wonderful celebration of the role cricket can play bringing communities, both near and far

together. Play got underway around 1pm with Matt strolling to the crease with his brother, Victorian First Class Cricketer and triple Ringwood Premiers Player David King for company. By 1.30pm the crowd had swelled considerably as word swept through the village that Matt's brother David was unleashing an innings of poised yet powerful batting the equal of any Berry Lane may have witnessed. Meanwhile, some relative hasty re-assessments by those who had elected to park directly behind the wicket were needed.

By the time David departed at the canny bowling hands of David Flint, the GFS Invitational XI were approaching 100 off the opening 10 overs and this platform allowed the GFS Invitational XI to reach an imposing 3/302 (plus numerous retirements) by the time afternoon tea was called. After a typically scratchy beginning former GPCC Professional and Ringwood 1st XI player Jason Evans produced a cameo of epic proportions. Many in the crowd with memories dating back to Jason's 1995 season at Great Preston were heard to rue the fact that they'd got him 20 years too early and he was just maturing into a real player now in his mid-40's.

Other highlights of the innings included the appropriate partnership of Giles/Foster arriving at the crease together following a dual retirement. It was nearly a short lived partnership though and some might suggest that it was his "Patron" status that allowed Giles to survive a first ball LBW appeal off the bowling of his former teammate Dave

Bradbrook. The ball was most definitely missing both off and leg stumps but quite possibly not middle.

Michael Foster's retirement after a typically hard hitting innings showed why he is the only Great Preston player to have gone on to first class honours in the English system and brought 10 year old Sam Giles to the crease to bat with his Dad for the first time in a game. Sam got off the mark in far more convincing fashion than his father before well-travelled GFS Invitational, Paul Smith of the Warwickshire Imps & Stoneleigh CC, rounded the innings off with some effective, if slightly unconventional stroke play.

A break for afternoon tea involved a sumptuous spread, some strategically encouraged pints for the two Australian Under 19 Representative GFS Opening Bowlers, Ringwood's Matt Fotia and Michael Topp and a fundraising raffle drawn by Epic Good Foundation Co-Founder, Cathie Reid.

When play resumed all eyes were on the two quicks, and they didn't disappoint snaring early wickets, and overcoming the generously provided pre-innings beer to bowl with great pace to an aggressive field. Great Preston's start was aided by Michael Foster - who with his competitive juices flowing elected to bat again for the home side - and they managed to find themselves ahead of the required nine run an over mark throughout the opening overs.

It was only the combination of Foster rupturing his Achilles tendon and the steady loss of wickets that halted the run chase and saw Great Preston eventually dismissed for 176 in the long twilight with a couple of their allotted overs remaining. Great Preston legend Gary Richardson showed courage under fire when Fotia was brought back in to the attack to try and wrap things up and get the GFS boys in the bar, which won him a whole new generation of admirers.

Sam Giles was exceptionally unlucky not to claim his first English wicket with a controlled display of economical leg spin, not helped by his father making a meal of a relatively straight forward chance at mid-wicket off his 10 year old opposite number, Ben Foster.

Adrian Thomas delivered a mesmerising spell honouring his brief visit to Ringwood. It should also be noted on the accompanying scorecard that David King's figures of 2/32 probably flattered to deceive after the scorers failed to realise during the middle part of the Great Preston innings he shared the bowling duties (and wickets) from the far end with St Kilda's Josh Drummond.

Great Preston Chairman, Andy Clark gave a brief but heartfelt speech and presented some fantastic memento's recognising the Epic Good Foundation support via the GFS. This was reciprocated by the presentation of a Kippax Cricket bat signed by all seven capped Ringwood match participants to be displayed in the Great Preston clubhouse.



MATT KING FLANKED BY SAM AND STUART



GFS INVITATIONAL INNINGS

BATTING	HOW OUT	TOTAL
M.KING	RETIRED	62
D.KING	C: I.NEWTON B: D.FLINT	46
J.EVANS	C: A.CLARK B: D.BRADBROOK	35
J.DRUMMOND	RETIRED	36
M.FOSTER	RETIRED	41
STUART GILES	C: D.RANASINGHE B: R.WHITE	14
SAM GILES	RETIRED	2
P.SMITH	NOT OUT	18
D.TOPP	RETIRED	29
M.FOTIA	NOT OUT	1
J.CONLON	DNB	
TOTAL		302

BOWLER	OVERS	MAIDEN	WICKETS	RUNS
L.RUSSELL	4	0	0	37
D.FLINT	5	0	1	49
A.SHARP	6	0	0	34
A.CLARK	5	0	0	52
D.BRADBROOK	6	0	1	23
D.RANASINGHE	6	1	0	17
R.WHITE	5	1	1	29

GPCC XI INNINGS

BATTING	HOW OUT	TOTAL
M.FOSTER	B: M.FOTIA	27
C.WORMSTONE	B: M.FOTIA	9
J.MARSTON	C: M.KING B: D.TOPP	14
R.MILNER	C: M.KING	9
D.BRADBROOK	C: J.EVANS	49
D.RICHARDSON	C: J.CONLON B: D.KING	11
B.FOSTER	RETIRED	8
L.RUSSELL	C: M.FOTIA	16
G.RICHARDSON	NOT OUT	7
R.WHITE	C: J.EVANS B: STU GILES	20
A.SHARP	C: P.SMITH	5
TOTAL		176

BOWLER	OVERS	MAIDEN	WICKETS	RUNS
M.FOTIA	6	0	3	35
M.TOPP	4	0	1	25
A.THOMAS	4	0	0	20
D.KING	7	0	2	32
SAM GILES	4	1	0	15
STUART GILES	4	0	1	22
J.EVANS	3	1	1	6
P.SMITH	3.1	0	1	17



'THE GILES FOSTER SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE ARE DELIGHTED TO BE PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A YOUNG CRICKETER TO ENJOY SUCCESS AT GREAT PRESTON IN 2016.'



The friendship and fellowship displayed on the field of play lasted long into the evening and it would be remiss not to at least mention the fact that Great Preston won the drinking competition. Their decision to run that outcome as their lead social media story on the match possibly speaks volumes of northern English priorities, and highlights the exceptionally hospitable nature of Yorkshire-folk. It's fair to say everyone departed sometime after last drinks were called fully committed to ensuring the 2016 GFS match would be an equally significant event on the cricketing calendar.

The following week saw the GFS caravan (or more accurately Virgin East Coast Train) head south to London for a series of events at or around the final Ashes Test. Matt as the GFS holder and the current Ringwood First XI players in the UK were all in attendance and performed admirably in the dual role hosting their own guests from their respective UK clubs, whilst networking with friends and supporters of the Epic Good Foundation.

The wonderful, impromptu vote of thanks delivered by Matt to the assembled group in the Lord Cowdrey Suite at The Oval on day two would have provided a fitting justification for the entire first year investment to the Epic Good Foundation Board, as it displayed all the aspects of personal development, self-awareness and life skills that underpin the GFS program's objectives. Coupled with great feedback from all GFS guests (including those English cricket fans who departed a little less boisterous than they had arrived) and all of the GFS ambassadors, it was a wonderful way to conclude a couple of Epic Good weeks for the GFS in the UK.

Some very daring and intelligent cricket delivered victory against the weather gods on the run home and ensured Great Preston were able to claim the Division One title in emphatic fashion in the final week of the season before Matt headed off with his girlfriend for one last, horizon broadening trip around Europe and began the long journey home.

It's important to note that a key aspect of the bespoke program developed by the Epic Good Foundation was to ensure Matt maximised his scholarship year with the potential to leverage his proximity to the remainder of the United Kingdom and Continental Europe. Such broad exposure meant he could gain the widest experience possible to inform his future career and life choices back in



JASON EVANS BACK IN ACTION WITH BAT AND BALL

Australia. A skip through Matt's social media accounts confirms he was nearly as prolific in this aspect of his season at Great Preston as he was with the willow in hand.

As a result of the platform Matt laid in the inaugural season and with the Central Yorkshire League merging with the Bradford League heading in to the 2016 season, it will be a much widened and stronger conference division line-up that Great Preston find themselves in as they pursue another title. The Giles Foster Scholarship selection committee are delighted to be providing an opportunity for a young cricketer to enjoy success on and off the field at Great Preston in 2016 as well as advance the wider objectives of the program, including a continued strengthening of the ties between Great Preston and the Ringwood Cricket Club and, like many others, are looking forward to the imminent announcement of the 2016 Giles Foster Scholarship recipient.