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New pavilion the icing on the cake for ever-improving club

Mayfield CC revel in a summer to remember

Gary Francis

By Jon Harvey

WITH a new clubhouse the envy of many cricket clubs in Sussex and all three teams winning their leagues, everything in the garden is rosy for Mayfield.

The first team made it back-to-back league titles with their East Sussex Division 4 win, while the seconds and thirds tasted success in Division 11 and 13.

First team captain Raj Sharma said it has been a fantastic year for the club.

"We always expected the first team to be right up there, as we had won the league last year and we strengthened," he said.

"We had a third team for the first time and we worked very hard to make sure we could put a team out.

Fantastic job

"We were very lucky with our captain, Andrew Watson – for me the third team captain is the most important captain in the club. I can't recommend him highly enough and he has done a fantastic job.

"It has been a phenomenal season with the new clubhouse, outfield and all three teams coming top of their league.

"Neil MacDonald has been a great captain for the seconds as well.

"We tried to have a blend of youth and experience running throughout the three teams – colts players in the senior teams.

"That is what we are trying to do as a club – offer everyone, whether it be league or friendly, all levels of cricket."

This ethos seems to be paying off



UNPLAYABLE: Rob Sharma has been in great form for Mayfield this season

with a trophy-laden campaign for the club.

Sharma, who has played for Derbyshire and Tumbridge Wells, uses an attacking philosophy as skipper and with son Rob being virtually unplayable this season, 56 wickets at an average of just 10, Mayfield have blown away the opposition.

"I am very lucky that my son listens to me," he said. "He has just worked harder and harder and he is, understandably, enjoying his cricket. I have

played professional cricket so we are very attacking out in the outfield – three slips and a short leg.

"We are contemplating starting a fourth team, if not next year, definitely the year after that.

"The thirds won Division 13, so will be in 12, and if we start a fourth team they begin in 13 – we want a bit of a gap between the teams.

"Also, a Sunday team could be started."

Chairman Douglas Shankland, who

has been in his post for a year, said it has been a remarkable year.

"It has been quite remarkable what we have achieved with the three teams all winning their divisions, our colts did very well and we have created a new pavilion and new ground," he said.

"A huge amount of work has gone into making this happen and I think the facilities we have are fantastic. This will help attract new players to the club."