

# Cricket Dyer returns from illness to lead Hambrook to cup victory over Whitchurch

Steve Hill  
 epsport@b-nm.co.uk

**C**APTAIN Lee Dyer had an extra reason for celebrating as Hambrook trumped Whitchurch by seven wickets at Cleeve to lift the Bateman Trophy.

The 30-year-old barely played last summer as his health slowly worsened before undergoing a kidney transplant that transformed his life.

Lee, pictured, said: "I had reflux as a baby, one kidney never worked and the other was just getting worse and worse, I was down to about 12 per cent function."

"I had been on the transplant list for two and-a-half years ... and then the call came in June last year."

"My kidney came from a deceased donor, and I really can't say enough about people who put themselves forward by filling out a donor card. It's such a selfless thing to do."

After a seven-day spell in hospital and ten weeks off work - he's a team leader in Yate for Tesco van drivers - Lee spent the winter in the gym working on his fitness and looking forward to a summer of cricket which has now

been capped in style by this final victory and the fact that his village side are guaranteed a top-two finish in Division One of the Globe Sports Bristol & District League.

He said: "It's been a hard year and-a-half but we're slowly starting to get there. Work were absolutely brilliant and the cricket lads have been very supportive, I can certainly appreciate what we've achieved that little bit more after everything that has happened."



● Hambrook who overcame Whitchurch to lift the Bateman Cup last weekend

"We've had a tough time as a club the last few years, but the difference now to previous seasons is the fact that we're one big team."

"That showed when we were drawn away to Blagdon in the quarters ... it's a big ask to get all the way over there on a Wednesday night, and get the result."

As for the final itself, Whitchurch battled back from 48-4 to total 127-4

the league, Hambrook are 42 points ahead of nearest rivals Frampton Cotterell with the two set to meet on August 22.

● Opener Ryan Watts crashed 13 fours and seven sixes in his 122 for **Pucklechurch** who held off Tetbury by just one run in Division Two of the Village League.

Watts dominated his side's total of 245-7 and then stumped Tetbury

centurion Tom Horrell off the bowling of Glen Cambridge in a close encounter. In Division One, Coalpit Heath went down by 30 runs at Cheltenham Civil Service despite 90 from Jack Williams.

Tom Febry's 85 and 60 from fellow opener Jaryd Trenoweth were the highlights of a 14-run triumph in Division Three for Chipping Sodbury at Painswick.

Picture: Steve Hill