**Anya Shrubsole**

**Anya, you’ve had a remarkable 12 months with lots of honours and recognition. Where does this particular honour rank?**

Personally, out of all the honours I’ve been fortunate enough to receive since the ICC Women’s World Cup final this is the most special. To win such a prestigious cricket award is about as good as it gets for a cricketer.

I’m hugely honoured to be on the front cover and to be one of the five Wisden Cricketers of the Year. It’s something that – no matter what happens from this point on – I’ll always be able to say I’ve achieved.

**You’ve spoken a lot about how you believe your individual recognition is actually recognition for the wider women’s game. I guess there can be no clearer indication of that than two of your teammates also being honoured?**

To have three of the five being women’s cricketers is amazing. There have been two women recognised previously but to have three in a year is something that lots of people would perhaps never have thought possible.

It’s amazing recognition for us as a team, for women’s cricket and a reminder of just how special that day at Lord’s was.

**It’s a term that’s been used a lot but is the fact that three of the five Wisden Cricketers of the Year are female another watershed moment for the sport?**

I think it is another watershed moment. When Claire Taylor and Charlotte Edwards were named as being in the five it was a huge moment and I think this one is again.

Hopefully this paves the way and there will be many women’s cricketers who receive this accolade in the future.

I think all of the team would agree, we’re a small part of a much bigger picture and of course it’s a huge honour individually but they really could have picked any number of people from the team. We’ve had an amazing 12 months and it’s something none of us will ever forget.

**You’ve spoke about owning Wisden as a child. What would young Anya have thought of three of the five Wisden Cricketers of the Year being female and what do you think it will mean to a young cricket fan today?**

I think what we’re really starting to get is women’s cricketers who are role-models. If you talk to a lot of our team it’s likely their cricketing heroes come from the men’s game and that was just the way that it was. There wasn’t a lot of women’s cricket and there certainly wasn’t a lot of women’s cricket right at the forefront of the public eye and in the press.

What I hope this honour does is allow people to see us as role-models and inspire kids to dream of one day playing for England.

**Nat Sciver**

**Nat, reflect on what the last year has been like for you?**

It’s been incredible. It’s been an amazing year for women’s sport – not just women’s cricket – and, of course, the ICC Women’s World Cup final was truly special.

**Where does being named as one of the five Wisden Cricketers of the Year rank for you?**

It’s an unbelievably amazing thing to have been honoured with. It’s such an old and historic part of cricket and when you look at the other names that have been included down the years you get a sense of what an achievement it is.

**And of course it’s a once-in-a-career honour. How do you think you’ll look back on it?**

It’s something to tell the grandkids about! My dad will probably be telling everyone, I’m sure he’ll have a copy as soon as it comes out. It’s amazing and it’s undoubtedly something I’ll cherish forever.

**You played a lot of sport as a kid, what would it have meant to have seen a sport in which an award such as this was given to three women?**

Growing up and playing in boys’ sports was tough but also it was the only thing I knew how to do. For three of the five Wisden Cricketers of the Year to be female is amazing, and hopefully this isn’t the last time that that happens.

**One of the highlights of the ICC Women’s World Cup for many was the affect that it had on young cricket fans – do you ever think about the fact that young people want to grow up and be just like you?**

It’s still a weird feeling to know that kids might aspire to be like me! But if I can inspire one kid to take up cricket then I guess that’s job done. To see the number of young girls and boys who came to watch us during the ICC Women’s World Cup was so special, and hopefully we can recreate that this summer with two international series.

**And finally, how much does it mean that you’re one of three England Women’s cricketers to have received the honour?**

It’s testament to the group that we have. Unfortunately there couldn’t have been more of us in the list! It’s been a collective effort: the squad of 15 who took part in the ICC Women’s World Cup – and the squad of 19 centrally contracted players – deserve everything for the hard work everyone has put in.

**Heather Knight**

**What does it mean for you personally to be given this honour?**

It’s one of the ultimate honours in cricket. You always see the five Wisden Cricketers of the Year and it’s something you can only ever win once.

Every cricketer wants to be named in the list and it’s an absolute honour. I’m delighted that it’s not just me: to see Anya and Nat in the list as well, and for three of the five to be women, shows the reach that the last 12 months have had for women’s cricket.

It’s another great indication of where the women’s game is and I’m so happy to be on the list.

**I guess it’s another indication of how special the last 12 months have been and just how special that day at Lord’s was?**

Yeah, it’s been a decent 12 months! Taking over the captaincy, developing into that and then getting to lift the World Cup on home soil in front of so many people was just incredible.

It was a special day for women’s sport – not just women’s cricket – and all of the honours that have come with that have been quite unbelievable.

**Obviously three players from the team have made the list. That’s a big statement from Wisden and a big statement for women’s cricket?**

I think it’s a lovely statement from Wisden and it shows how many people watched that final and were engrossed by the tournament.

The reach it had was amazing and it’s been great to hear the stories of young boys and girls watching the final and mimicking the action they saw. That’s something that hasn’t really happened before with women’s cricket and it’s further evidence of where the game is at and how far it’s come.

It’s lovely that Wisden have chosen to honour three of the team – and to have chosen to put Anya on the front cover – because it shows what a landmark moment that day at Lord’s was.

**When you first played cricket as a kid I imagine your role-models came from the men’s game – how special is it that awards like this can change that for kids today?**

It’s lovely. I don’t think I found out about the England Women’s cricket team until I was about 12 or 13, when I started playing women’s cricket.

Like many girls playing cricket I looked towards the men’s game for role-models because I didn’t know anything about the women’s game. Having female role-models now – after the 12 months the game has had – means everything is a lot more visible and a lot more normalised and it’s good to be a woman in cricket.

That’s a lovely place to be and you get great joy from the youngsters aspiring to play for England one day.