



Anything The Football Can Do...



(The Official Newsletter of the Old Wilsonians' Cricket Club)

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TIME TO THINK ABOUT CRICKET - Playing it, that is

It is time to think about cricket – playing it is, that is; the subject itself is probably never far away from the minds of those who read this publication as we follow the game in warmer climes, sometimes at the expense of a good night's sleep!

Indoor Nets started in January and will now go on until April 7th, the icy blasts which heralded what the meteorologists called “ the start of Spring” forcing the cancellation of our session on March 3rd. Attendance has been good, as the OWCC's fine collection of highly tuned athletes prepare for the new season determined to achieve individual and team success.

Our first game of the season is on April 14th, when the 1st XI visit near neighbours Bromley whilst the following week sees the traditional visit of both our 1st and 2nd XIs to Bromley Common before making their annual visit to Bath prior to all of our senior sides starting their respective league campaigns on May 5th.

Colts training starts on **Monday April 30th** for the under 15s and under 17s and on **Friday May 4th** for the remainder of our colts , but before we can start playing at Hayes and Hawes Down there is a lot of work that needs to be done, ***which is where each and every one of you can play his and her part starting with***

SUNDAY APRIL 15th from 9-30 a.m.

The OWA will not be participating in ClubForce this year but there is still an enormous amount of work to do before we can start playing cricket at our two home grounds – e.g, getting sight-screens across the railway bridge and into Hawes Down.

So don't leave this essential work to a dedicated few but come to the Club and do your bit. You do not have to be there all day – although some will – the bottom line being the more people attend the more work we can complete and the earlier we can finish

FRIDAY APRIL 20th - PRE-SEASON GET TOGETHER/QUIZ NIGHT

Our traditional pre-season get together, with the incomparable quiz put together by the peerless Margo Lawrence, gives us all a chance to exercise our brains, gasp at how tall many of the colts have become, renew old friendships and talk of the months to come on the field of play

This is also a registration evening, to make sure the details we have of you are correct, and to pay your annual subs –it only has to be done once.

Many congratulations to Guilia and Lawrence

Many congratulations to Guilia and Lawrence Allen on the birth of Matthew Malcolm, which also means that Hilary and Mick Allen now become grandparents for the third time.

Apparently Matthew is already helping his dad with the fixtures so if you discover that the under eights will be playing the 1st XI in a game starting at 11-00 p.m on a Thursday evening then do not be in the least surprised, whilst his drawings in the fixtures card are a joy to behold

Bob Dorey Rest In Peace

Sadly Bob Dorey passed away on 3rd January. Bob was one of our first Honorary Old Boys and played cricket for the club for a number of years, at one point captaining the Saturday 2nd XI. He was also a prolific goal scorer for Alleyns Old Boys. Bob was a larger than life character usually armed with a brandy, a cigar and a chuckle. Bob oversaw the setting up and running of the Croydon Tram System and I have many happy memories in my younger years of the Dorey clan playing games at Xmas, with lots of laughter, tales and fun. Our thoughts are with his wife Irene and siblings Charles, Richard and Catherine

Alex Forbes

Alf Parish Memorial darts match

Pleased to report that the cricket club have already won their first game of the season, a 3-1 victory against the Old Wilsonians' Football Club in the Alf Parish Memorial darts match played at Selhurst Park on March 2nd and picked up £75 prize money when the father and son team of Howard and Matthew Abbett proved they are as proficient at the oche as they are on the cricket square

Sadly the arctic conditions at the time meant that a number of people were not able to attend but, and perversely, this turns out to be good news in that the event will be re-played thereby enabling more to attend. The revised date has yet to be agreed, but we will let you know as soon as it is

Overseas player accommodation update

We've had some great news where an offer has been made to house an overseas player for the first half of the season.

This means we are asking for one more volunteer to provide accommodation for him for the second half of the season. While I appreciate it is still a huge ask to take someone into your home, we are hoping that it may be more manageable for people if it is for half a season rather than a full one. If you feel you may be able to help then please get in contact with me. If anyone has any questions please fire away, you can speak to me on Facebook, call/text me on 07721628117 or email me at michaeltgmitchell@live.co.uk. Thank you!

Michael Mitchell, 1st XI captain

Rugby Corner

Many congratulations to Josh Frampton – son of Jackie and Barrie, grand-son of John Martin, the captain of his school's (Oak Lodge) rugby team who have become the best team in Bromley and will represent the Borough in the London Primary Schools group

Remember the five Ps

As we embark on the 132nd season of the Old Wilsonians' Cricket Club, perhaps we should all remember the five Ps of the game, namely, ***Proper preparation prevents poor performance***

Too many registered players?

A reminder that all players must be registered to play league cricket but a recent email from the Kent League explained that it has no fewer than 15,394 names eligible to play and has asked all clubs to 'de-register those no longer playing and unlikely to do so in the league again'

The Old Wilsonians currently have 715 players registered to play for us and if we could find another five, we would be able to field 60 sides each week!!!

Alternatively, as this seems unlikely, we will start a qualified cull but, rest assured, will not remove names that we feel have some cricket life left in them

Who to contact and how

Chairman:	Paul Maxwell 0208 777 3475 (H) psm67@btopenworld.com	07852 966625 (Mobile)
Vice-Chair:	Jeff Mascarenhas Email: jeffmascarenhas@ntlworld.com	07967 484634 (Mobile)
Colts Chairperson:	Barrie Frampton Email: barrie.frampton@gmail.com	
Club Captain:	Alex Forbes Email: Alexforbes46@hotmail.co.uk	07855 273218 (Mobile)
Secretary:	Mike Pike Email: owmikepike@yahoo.co.uk	020 8659 6443 (H)
Welfare Officer	Jane Kempthorn Email: jane.owccmembership@hotmail.co.uk	07886 412166 (Mobile)
Treasurer:	Andy Spedding Email: andy.spedding@hotmail.co.uk	07973 847469 (Mobile)
Fixtures Secretary:	Laurence Allen Email: Loz_Allen@hotmail.com	07946 635020 (Mobile)

Website Administrator and

Communications Officer	Laurence Allen Email: loz_allen@hotmail.com	07946 635020 (Mobile)
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Skippers:

1st XI	Michael Mitchell Email: michaelgmitchell@live.co.uk	07721 628117 (M)
2nd XI:	Sanath Dandeniya Email: sanath.dandeniya@google.com	07723 095988 (M)
3rd XI:	Howard Abbett Email: Howard.Abbett@ntlworld.com	
4th XI	Jeff Mascarenhas jeffmascarenhas@ntlworld.com	07967 484634 (M)
5th XI	Alex Forbes alexforbes46@hotmail.co.uk	07855 273218 (M)
Sunday Development:	Chris Scott Email: chris.scott928@gmail.com	07917 033946 (M)
Sunday Friendly	Tony Sherlock Email: tony@cobraconcrete.co.uk	07881 277283 (M)

Websites

Kent Cricket League Website: www.kcl.uk.net

Kent Feeder League website <http://krcl.play-cricket.com>

Sunday Development League website <http://kentsdl.play-cricket.com>

Old Wilsonians: www.oldwilsonians.play-cricket.com

North Kent Junior League: <http://nkentjunior.play-cricket.com>

Old Wilsonians' Association website www.OldWilsonians.com

NB: Will all officers of the Club please check to see if I have noted their details correctly and let me know of any changes/omissions

CRICKET CLUB TRIUMPH IN THE ALF PARISH MEMORIAL DARTS COMPETITION



Matthew Abbett listens intently to the team talk before the final of the darts tournament whilst Howard finds more inspiration in his pint

PALACE FORCED TO SELL ZAHA Football Club 1 Cricket Club 3

It had been the week of 'The Beast from the East' - does this refer to 'Chunk', see later, a Communist plot or, as we used to refer to it when I was young, Winter?

All of the weeks OWFC games were called off as a consequence of this arctic blast, whilst another possible victim was the 'Alf Parish Memorial Darts Match.' Alf was the General Secretary of the NGA (National Graphical Association) one of the Print Unions, and I got to know him through our mutual desire to protect and enhance workers' rights.

Alf lived in Bromley, where he was active in the local Labour Party, and after his death in 2011 his constituency party organised a darts evening in his honour, which was held at the HG Wells Centre, adjacent to Bromley South station

Sadly the organiser of the event died himself a couple of years ago, and the Labour Party could not find some-one to take it on and were unsure if the building would be available, so I volunteered to organise the evening and approached Steve Parish, Alf's son, and Chairman of Crystal Palace Football Club, about the possibility of holding the evening at Selhurst Park. He readily agreed and it was held there for the first time last year

It so happened that the Football Club were having their own darts competition the following week as part of their fund-raising activities, so they entered a team and won the competition – they also borrowed the Palace dartboards for their own extravaganza at the oche.

The original idea of the function was to honour Alf and raise money for the local Labour Party, which was close to Alf's heart, so all of the members of the OWFC side involved pledged their allegiance to the Labour Party from that day on!!!

The team also pledged to defend their title this year whilst the Cricket Club also got wind of the event, particularly the fact that it made over £170 for the Football Club last year – “our best fundraiser of the season” – claimed Stuart Paton, and also entered a side

But then came the bad weather and, despite all the odds, six OWs, namely Howard Abbett, Mathew Abbett, Chris Billing, Doug Forbes, Matt Rand and Ian ‘Chunk’ Wellman, and Chunk's mate, Tony, made it to Selhurst Park on Friday March 2nd along with eight members of the Labour Party, one of whom, Roger Hough, is an Old Wilsonian.

Phil Gilmore was also due to play but, sadly, his mum had fallen on the ice and broken her arm and her dutiful son was looking after her – hope you're ok Mrs G

Incidentally, one of the highlights of the ‘Richard McAlister Memorial Day’ on February 24th must surely have been ‘Giillie's’ performance in goal for the 8th XI in the ‘el clasico’, particularly in the first half, where he defied everything thrown at him until shortly before the interval when even he was unable to prevent the 7's from taking the lead; and he initially turned up to referee!!!

Anyway, back to the darts. I had agreed to meet the dangerously lovely Amanda, who works in the Palace events department and with whom I had been liaising, between 5-00 and 5-30 and, because of the weather, allowed extra travelling time.

When I arrived at the ground the helpful man on security said he thought she had “just popped out” and a few minutes later Amanda returned with a bunch of flowers in her hand.

“Hello Mike,” she said, in her usual cheery manner

“Are those for me?”, I inquired

“Of course not; we agreed to put them round Alf's picture, remember? “

I did, indeed, remember and we went to the Vice Presidents' lounge to make the final adjustments. Not that there was much to do as Amanda had done virtually all that was necessary, and proceeded to take the stems from the flowers.

“That looks like dead heading,” I observed, in an attempt to sound intelligent and to justify my position on the periphery of the Old Wilsonians' Gardening Club.

By around 7-00, when the darts competition was due to start, it had become obvious that some people were not going to make it, which was totally understandable, so, and after some swift brain storming, it was agreed to postpone the tournament in its original format and that the two Labour Party teams would combine, the two OW sides would combine and they would play against each other in a pairs game, and my thanks here to Matt Rand, last year's winner, who worked out the draw and, to cut a long story short, the pairs that reached the final were Chris Billing and Matt Rand (OWFC) and Howard and Matt Abbett OWCC). All of the games had been the best of five legs and there was probably an extra edge to the final because of the participants

All four players performed well and a close encounter ensued, but all four found the winning double elusive at times

At one point Chris missed the board completely and his dart ended up in the wall, and Palace later issued a statement saying they would have to sell Wilfred Zaha “in order to repair the damage.” Eventually Howard and Matthew defeated Chris and Matt by three games to one

Meanwhile Doug and ‘Chunk’ beat the Labour Party in the battle of the defeated semi-finalist on the adjacent board

A local Trade Union Branch had donated £250 towards the evening and the participating players had their entrance fee reduced to £5, making a total income of £325. A raffle was held, which raised £130 and each of the participating sides were given £75 prize money, leaving a balance of £155, which will now go to the ‘proper’ competition, to be held later in the year

My sincere thanks to all of the participants and the tremendous effort they made to get to the occasion, and a reminder to all other members of both the Football and Cricket Clubs that you are encouraged to support the rescheduled evening.

Remember, at the moment both OW subsidiaries are £75 better off - thanks to the Labour and Trade Union movement - and there is a lot more to come, which will increase in proportion to the number of supporters we get. (This report originally appeared In the Football Club newsletter and has been slightly edited)

THE 4TH XI'S 2017 SEASON REVIEWED

Firstly, my thanks go to all of our umpires, scorers, tea providers, ground staff and score administrators in 2017, and particular thanks to Laki Kastiruratne and Alex Forbes, the 3rd and 5th XI skippers, for their support for all three teams at the lower end of the Club in a difficult season.

I also wish to mention Dave Welch for his excellent job at trying to centralise and increase the transparency around the availability process, using the Doodle app.

Secondly, congratulations to all teams for their efforts, but particularly to the 1st XI for their tremendously successful season, which means that Old Wilsonians are now the 23rd strongest Club in Kent, the highest we have ever been!

A few 4th XI statistics and some comments about availability to begin with.

- 6 wins and 9 losses
- significantly more tosses lost than won
- a league placing of 8th out of 9 despite winning more games than the two teams above us!
- 4 matches played when we were without 11 players
- 46 players used
- 17 individuals only represented the side once across the season!

Apart from the skipper, just five players appeared in more than 50% of the matches. So thank you therefore to vice-captain Neil Treacher, senior-pro Derek Birmingham, Seth Clifford, Shehan Sivaranjan and Stan Sherlock for being those regulars.

Availability across the lower elevens this year has been more challenging than usual, and is a trend felt across the Kent Regional League, impacting each of our sides in different ways. Where the 5th XI found that oppositions were scratching fixtures, when Alex may perhaps have struggled to raise a side himself, the 4th XI were severely weakened as the 3rd XI backfilled their own side without having the ability to send players in the opposite direction.

Amongst others, each of Steve Benwell, Xav Hussein, Steve Lawrence, Jake Phillips, Dan Robbins, Isaac Rodda, Stan Sherlock, plus newcomers Howard Abbett and Danny Phillips, found themselves ending their seasons in the 3's, having enjoyed some success in lower sides. We were also missing other prior season regulars – whether due to needs from a higher XI, due to injury, exams, sabbatical or retirement. The 4th Team 'Players of the Year' across the last two years played only one match between them!

Nevertheless, challenges such as these bring opportunity. Senior debuts were given to a number of colts – Zac DeSouza, who demonstrated youthful fearlessness with the bat and a self-confidence in the field beyond his years; James Sellar, who bamboozled opponents with his leg spin; Fraser Baxendine, whose away swing was unplayable at times and whose throws from the boundary had the rest of us in awe, and Shehan Sivaranjan who, as the season went on, increased in confidence in his ability to beat batsmen not just with his off-breaks, but with flight and guile too. And this is to name but a handful of new youngsters to the senior game.

More chances also arose for those juniors who joined us last year. Jake Phillips showed off his natural batting talent with a half century at ODCuaco, and the young all-rounder contributed wickets and stumpings, too; Dan Nichols' glove work continued to improve and it was good to see him start to contribute some runs as well; Stan Sherlock and Robbie Adams came into the side and both soon stamped their mark with the new and old ball alike; and Andrew Pomeroy showed glimpses of what might have been had he had a season without injury.

Opportunities also arose for parents. Welcome back to cricket to Roger Nichols, Colin DeSouza, Danny Phillips, and, of course, it is great to see Brian Pomeroy in his second season since coming out of retirement!

Batting performance of the season goes to Danny Phillips whose brutal innings at Natwest of 129 not out – just a fortnight after succumbing in the nineties - secured victory and his own promotion to the 3rd Team. Danny topped the batting charts with 295 runs at 98.33. He was followed by the ever-reliable Neil Treacher with 245 runs. Mentions also to Seth Clifford, who provided some stability at the top of the order in an ever-changing team, and Graeme 'Boom Boom' Nelson, Andy Steel and

Jake Phillips, who each hit league fifties, with a special mention to Jason James who, in the end of season friendly at Dulwich, avoided buying a jug but nevertheless smashed a career best 95 not out.

Bowling performance of the year belonged to Shehan Sivaranjan at Streatham & Marlborough in a game which was also undoubtedly the best team performance of the season. Arriving with only nine players, we mustered 116 for 4 from our 40 overs before successfully defending the total by bowling the opposition out when they were 7 runs short in the penultimate over. Shehan's 5 for 23 was his first five wicket haul in senior cricket and contributed to his 26 wickets in the season at 16.54. Other regular bowlers were hard to come by, with Stan Sherlock's 7 wickets at 26.43 being the next best.

Shehan took one-third of the team's wickets this season, and was the third leading wicket taker in our league. Aligned with his promotion up the batting order, and provision of useful runs in the latter part of the season – perhaps earning him the right to call himself the best all-rounder in his family that might send his Dad on the Highway – it should come as no surprise that the winner of the year's 4th XI Player of the Year was Shehan Sivaranjan.

Jeff Mascarenhas

Terms & Conditions for hire of facilities

To all Sports Club Hirers:

The cost to hire the club facilities	£200.00
We require a breakages/cleaning deposit	£50.00
We require a kitchen use deposit	£50.00
If an extension after midnight is requested	£100.00 per extra hour
Corkage will be charged per bottle	@£8.00

All moneys are to be received by the OWA at least 1 month before event. We politely request there be no decorations on the honours boards. No use of party poppers, spray string, table confetti or similar. If the club-house-bar and/or kitchen are left in need of cleaning, the appropriate deposit will be forfeited.

NB: The Association relies heavily on hiring out the Clubhouse to increase its revenue from which we all benefit. The above outlines our terms and conditions, so please pass on to anyone you think may be interested or, indeed, yourself – many Old Wilsonians have already held functions in our Clubhouse. For more details, please contact **Anton Snowsill**: antonsnowsill@hotmail.com

This newsletter

Having made the 'occasional' appearance during the winter, this newsletter will now appear on a monthly basis during the cricket season, so make sure that your team is well represented

COPY DATE FOR NEXT EDITION - April 30th; don't be shy