NEWS OF OLD WILSONIANS

AUGUST 2019



OLD WILSONIANS' ASSOCIATION
(FOUNDED 1904)

NEWS OF OLD WILSONIANS
AUGUST 2019

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Wilson's Alumnet is now LIVE!

It gives us great pleasure to announce the launch of Wilson's Alumnet – the alumni networking platform exclusively for Old Wilsonians. By getting everyone together in one place we want to celebrate our vibrant alumni community; by sharing achievements and successes past and present, highlighting fond memories of your time at Wilson's and offering a unique opportunity for you to reconnect with fellow alumni across an impressive range of industries and professions.

To become a member use the below link https://get.alumnet.social/wilsons/

Much more than just a social networking platform

Create new networks

Wilson's Alumnet is all about forming quality connections with people you know and trust - people with whom you have a shared school experience. Not only will you be able to exchange memories, but also offer professional advice and support and share common interests.

Discover fresh job opportunities

Whether you're just starting out or simply looking for a new opportunity, find out who is willing to help you from your Wilson's connections. Source work experience placements, mentoring, informal career and business advice, gap year suggestions and much more.

Share interests past and present

Alumnet is bursting with small communities called 'Circles.' These are interest groups that can date back to your time at school (e.g. the 'Brecon Circle') or those that are more relevant to your life today (e.g. the 'Company Founders Circle'.) Join as many as you can to make your Alumnet experience as diverse as possible.

Catch up at events and reunions

Bring Alumnet to life by organising events and reunions with our intuitive 'Events' tab. You take control and have the power to organise your own events - whether it be organising a Park Run for your new running circle or getting your whole year together for a full-blown reunion!

Bringing Wilson’s Alumnet to life

We are looking forward to making Wilson’s Alumnet a space that works for everyone. We’re inviting you to get involved from the moment you sign up. Alumnet is driven by the content that you provide so be as active and as creative as you can! Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Let us know what you are up to now
  Who are you still in touch with?
  Share professional advice, career top tips, job offers and work experience opportunities
  Advertise your company, product or servicec
  Start posting photos, old or new – both are very welcome!
  Create your own Circle and run your own unique Wilson’s micro-community
  Organise an event or reunion and catch up with old friends
  Post an article or video or start a Wilson’s Alumnet poll

Last but not least, if you experience any problems on your Alumnet journey - from signing in to using the platform itself - then please do let us know. We're here to help!
Have an IPhone? Download the Alumnet App from the App Store now!

Tracey Rice and Tim Edge
Wilson's School

AFA Veterans Lunch

18th October 2019 1pm to 18th October 2019 6pm
AFA are holding a veterans dinner on 18th october in bloomsbury with our very own Bob "The Cat" Bevan as the guest speaker. Details below

Creating Memories Through Football

The AFA Veterans Lunch
≈
ROYAL NATIONAL HOTEL
Bedford Way, Bloomsbury, WC1 0DG
(Russell Square, Piccadilly Line)
≈
¬¬¬FRIDAY 18th OCTOBER 2019
≈
Welcome: Jason Kilby, Mayfield & Woodhouseians
CEO Amateur Football Alliance
≈
Guest Speaker: Bob “The Cat” Bevan MBE, Old Wilsonians
≈
MC: Brian Robinson, Parmiterians
≈
Bar Open from 11.30.am
Lunch served at 1.00 pm
≈
Tickets: £35
Order with cheques made payable to: ‘AFA Vets Lunch’ and sent to:
Mr C Lewis, 54 Hatherley Gardens, East Ham, London E6 3EW
Or if you prefer online banking: Sort Code: 60-16-32; A/c No. 81768818

CLASS OF '56 2019 REUNION

Here we come, walking down the street, getting respect from everyone we meet,
Hey hey we're the…… class of '56; and who are you calling a monkey.

Maidstone took cover on May 31st as a group of 73/74 year olds set out for a night on the tiles, and grouting never gets more serious than this! Pete Wilkinson worked out that our total age was 972, although it took him an incredible long time to work it out. (The night he spent with Rachel Riley obviously did him no good at all – well, as far as his mathematical skills are concerned, at least.) The sobering thought, and there were not many of those on this particular evening, was that we had a combined age of 143 when we first met.

As is the tradition on this, the fourth occasion on which those who entered Wilson's Grammar school in 1956 gathered together, we stayed overnight at the Maidstone travel lodge before meeting at the Muggleton pub and then on for a meal at a local Italian restaurant, where we were allocated our usual spacious room.

Gerry (Bourne), Pete (Wilkinson), Bill (Hartley), Rod (Warboys) and Alan (Wilson) claimed the window seat –they had the look of a Rolling Stones re-union about them – whilst the rest of us assembled around the table which, initially, proved somewhat problematic as it was not big enough and there were not enough chairs.

This problem was soon overcome and we then waited…….. and waited for the meal. Vic (Bennett) who had again taken on the responsibility of getting us all together - thanks Vic – had a few words with the powers that be and the food began to arrive as reminiscences, and wine, began to flow.

It is remarkable, and this applies to the Old Wilsonians' Association per se as well as this event, that the few years we spent in secondary education has induced so many of us to stay in contact for so many years.

Terry (Adams) Alan (Wilson) Bill (Hartley) and I had met at Bromley South station shortly before 5-00 p.m in order to get a train to Maidstone on time where Terry asked: "Did we have to share a room last year?" What you got up to, Terry, is your own business, but the rest of us – most of us? – were alone when it came to retiring for the night.

And it's worth asking the question here, where else could you get a night out, overnight stay, the equivalent of a bottle of wine each and a similar amount of beer and a three course meal for £85 and still have £31 left in the beer whip at the end of the evening?

Rod (Warboys) felt that Gerry (Bourne) now looks like Richie Benaud, which the latter substantiated when he kept repeating the likes of "What a fine effort that was"and "Oh; that's close".

Pete noticed some young women on a night out in Maidstone – I see where Terry was coming from now – and, no doubt there were some young men doing the same thing, but somehow we didn't seem to notice them.

Alan Wilson had thoughtfully brought along a copy of 'The Wilsonian' magazine of December 1961, in which most of us got a mention, including for passing at least one GCE 'O' level. The magazine included a photograph of the School's 1st XI football team, which featured Tony Ide, Pete Wilkinson and Stan Honnor, whilst Tony Ide was also in the

cricket. 1st XI – flash git!

The latter also featured Dave Wakeford and Bill Newman, two more of our year whom we hope to persuade to attend next time although, unsurprisingly, none of us featured in the picture of the school prefects at the time.

Terry Adams won a languages prize – his language has deteriorated since - whilst Bill Hartley was the under 16 high jump champion at 5' 1", although he's a bit taller now.

Bob (Bevan) spoke for us all when he thanked Vic for organising the event before being picked up by his chauffeur, Prince Philip, whose driving skills resemble that of a family planner in that you never know when/if he is going to pull out in the middle of the road, whilst Bob's many years of after dinner speaking has left his voice very croaky – he has begun to sound like a cross between a cement mixer on its last legs and a chicken trying to give birth to a football.

After the meal many went back to the Pub but Alan, Gerry, Pete and I returned to the Travel Lodge for a night cap. Pete told some jokes, which did at least demonstrate his acting skills, and the talk was of such things as the music of the 1960s and the battles between 'Mods' and 'Rockers', with first hand experiences much to the fore.

Not everyone made it to breakfast but the initial travellers did so, and on the journey back to Bromley South the four of us - Alan, Bill, Terry and I; do keep up – agreed what an enjoyable evening it had been and Bill compiled his 'Gits List', which no doubt included all three of his travelling companions.

And so concluded another reunion of the Class of '56 and we are already looking forward to next year's event in the hope that our numbers will increase. (As well as the aforementioned Bill Newman and Dave Wakeford, Bob Chapman is also on our radar.)
Thirteen made it this time, sadly Alan Dyne and Stan Palmer, of the original 15, could not make it at the last minute, but the 13 who did were:
Terry Adams, Len Bateman, Vic Bennett, Richard Berger, Bob Bevan, Gerry Bourne, Bill Hartley, Stan Honnor, Tony Ide, Rod Warboys, Pete Wilkinson, Alan Wilson and yours truly Mike Pike.

LETTERS TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Dear Mike,

It was so interesting reading your recent article about The Alumni Drinks Party that I wished I had been aware of it.

Your commencing article about The Capitol cinema in Forest Hill revived memories for me when I used to go there on Saturday mornings with The ABC Minors Club. I also remember catching the 12 bus in Lordship Lane by The Highwood Barracks to get to Wilsons in the years 1948 to 1953.

While I was at the school I always meant to contact Pete Davis to whom I was related. We both had the same uncle, Albert Davies, but I never managed to get round to it.

After leaving Wilsons I joined Balfour Beatty as an Electrical Engineer for 5 years and then spent 2 years in The Royal Signals. After 1 years technical trading at Catterick I was sent to a secret radio interception station in Germany tracking Russian signals.

After leaving the Signals I joined my father in his printing company where by sheer coincidence he supplied print to The Old Wilsonians. I then became involved and dealt with Les Wilks over various printing jobs. I also did a number of jobs for Bob Bevan who was involved in advertising.

At the end of 1986 I was called to the school to advise on the printing of a third edition of 'A Short History of Wilsons School'. I spent many hours with Norman Friskney discussing the content and structure of the book.

Finally on the 10th November 1987 the book was launched. A lunch was held at the new school in Wallington arranged by the school governors. Among those present were Lt. Col. W.R. Bowden Chairman of the Governors,
Mr Norman Friskney, Mr. John Simpson, Headmaster and myself. At the lunch we all signed copies of the book as a keepsake.

My memories of Wilsons remain with me with great fondness.

Very best regards

Ivan Bond

If there is another Pete Davis with an uncle Albert Davis who is related to Ivan Bond please make contact – Ed.

CRICKET CLUB

The Cricket season never really starts until…….

When 'The Archers' start to re-introduce cricket into their story lines you know that the season is truly underway again, although I'm not sure if Tracey Horribin would pass the cricket code of conduct strictures, but, as far as the OWCC are concerned, we are now certainly up and running with both our colts and senior sides back in action.

Put brutally the results for the first full month have not been good - see details and reports elsewhere – but there have been a number of circumstances that have conspired against us. We rely very heavily on our young players,which is both a tribute to our colts section and puts us in a strong position for the long-term future, but with the exam season in full swing, availability is poor.

We do, of course, wish everyone taking exams the best of luck and hope that they all do well, and accept their long term futures are more important than a game of cricket, but it is causing problems and our initial results have been disappointing; but they will change!

On the positive side new sight-screens have arrived for Hawes Down and thanks to all of those who helped assemble them – they will all now do well participating in the Krypton Factor.

The ground now also has two gazebos and a drinks trolley – thanks to the good efforts of treasurer Andy Spedding, who acquired a grant to cover the cost – so the facilities are forever improving for both players, officials and spectators alike.

And talking of Andy – and why not – may I draw your attention to his "A view from the Boundary" feature which appears later in this edition and in which he explains how he came to be involved with the Club and the trials and tribulations of being our treasurer from 196 miles away.

Talking of Hawes Down, I was privileged to watch the end of the 4th XI's game against New Ash Green where they pulled themselves back from a perilous position of 21 for 6 to secure a two wicket victory, thanks to some determined batting from Grahame Nelson, Stuart Forbes, Karim Mir and Alex Forbes.

The committee continues to work hard to improve facilities at both grounds and to make it an attractive place for all, thereby recruiting players of all ages and abilities and, to this end, an approach has been made to our school –i.e. Wilson's – in order to persuade their pupils to join the OWs on the completion of their studies and Chris Bullen, their head of cricket, was very honest in his response to our appeal.

The main problem is the fact that most of the boys concerned are already affiliated to local cricket clubs ***even before*** they join Wilson's. As we know from our own experience with the Colts section, most of them join when they are undertaking primary education, so it is a common problem.

Nevertheless we will not give up trying to recruit in this way and will have an ideal opportunity when we play three games against the school when a Club side take on their 1st XI at Hayes on ***Wednesday July 3rd***, followed by two colts games at the school on the following Saturday at both under 13 and under 15 level.

Who to contact and how

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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://nkentjumior.play-cricket.com
Old Wilsonians' Association website www.OldWilsonians.com

A View From The Boundary ……Or a bit further afield….

What's it like to be Treasurer of a Cricket Club? Especially one 196 miles away! A lot of people down here are surprised that I have not given it up, but being a part of the Old Wilsonians family is still a great feeling. It's such a friendly, welcoming club to members of all ages that I still feel a part of it, despite having moved to Devon over six years ago.

Indeed that is the reason I got involved with the Cricket Club in the first place, thanks to Denise Pilgrim, who recruited my boys Dave and Chris Spedding over 20 years ago when they were at Balgowan Primary School. Sadly Dave and Chris have moved on now but grew up through the Colts and 4th XI to become coaches, as so many of our Colts do, a tribute to the ethos laid down by IP, Denise and Alex Forbes when they created our youth section.

And so to the finances. I can only operate in my role as Treasurer due to the great goodwill of all the people who pay money in for me to our Club accounts, and then let me know the breakdown of monies paid in, or cash used to reimburse people for paying for items or services for the many events over the season.

My cricket season starts on 1st October, as our financial year ends on 30th September, so I then need to finalise and account for any late payments in and out so that I can then prepare the Annual Report for the season just ended ready for our AGM in mid October.

I then prepare a draft high-level forecast for the new season, based on 'actuals' and trends from the previous season and the preceding few years. I also add in any large items of income or expenditure that the OWCC Committee has agreed. I can then predict how our cash-flow will look over the course of the next year. I tend to under-forecast income and over-forecast costs to build in a safety margin so that we do not end the season in the red. Preparing the forecast is an iterative process, with many reviews and inputs from the Committee and others in the management hierarchy of the Club.

Once we are all happy, I will transcribe the high-level forecast into a detailed monthly breakdown, in which I then track 'actuals' and adjust remaining forecasts on a monthly basis until the end of the season.

After preparing the forecast life is fairly quiet for me until Christmas, apart from the odd purchase or payment for training courses - for example Coaching or First Aid.

For players, the season starts in earnest in January with Winter Nets, and so the Nets fees roll in and I need to pay for coaching and the hire of the hall, which has been Ravensbourne School for the last few seasons. Huge thanks to those who collect the fees from you all and pay them in for me so I can account for them.

At this time of year I also renew our Club insurance for public liability, so look around for the best deal. Things start to get busier up around March when the Committee, comprising Seniors and Colts reps, have a better view on what equipment we want to buy for our two grounds before matches start in April and May. I look for deals and also research what awards and/or grants we may qualify for, and make applications where I can.

Things really hot up at the end of April, as players in both of our sections register and pay their annual subscriptions. Again, huge thanks to Jane Kempthorn and Margo Lawrence, Membership Secretaries of the Seniors and Colts respectively, for organising this process

and collecting and paying in most of the subs.

A lot of players or Colts parents now pay subs directly online so I need to account for those and reconcile all subs payments with Jane and Margo so that we all always have an up to date view of who has paid, and who hasn't! The latter is particularly important as we operate a "No pay, no play" policy, where players who have not paid their Subs by 31st May are not eligible for selection. You may wonder why we have this ostensibly strict rule, but it needs to be understood that cricket is an expensive business, with a lot of expenditure being laid out each month for ground rent to the Association; pitch hire; overseas player(s); coaching; league fees; equipment; costs of fundraising etc. So we have to maintain a healthy cash-flow and get income paid in a timely manner.

Collecting all our income is not easy, and huge thanks again are due to all the Skippers and Pikey and Graham for collecting Match and Teas fees every week over the season, and to everyone else who collects various sums from fundraising and other activities, and actually going to the bank and paying it all in, or sending me cheques. As I said above, I could not do my role without all the support from everyone else in the Club, so thank you all.

Keeping on top of the ins and outs, measuring fundraising targets, paying invoices, and reconciling the accounts weekly and monthly goes on over the season, until we get to the End of Season Nights when we need to pay for engraving trophies, purchasing medals, pay for the Senior's Dinner and Colts Night, and any other expenses that occur.

Then it's the 1st October, when it all starts all over again…. Andy Spedding

Thanks Andy, for that thorough and detailed breakdown of the day to day life of our treasurer. And 'thorough and detailed' sums up our esteemed official perfectly. As well as everything he has explained in his article Andy also provides monthly reports for our committee meetings when we always know that he accounts for every penny of our income and expenditure - Ed



MIKE KENDRICK

On the eve of Mike Kendrick's funeral daughter Maria wrote the following on her Facebook page:

" Tomorrow we pay tribute to my Dad and finally say goodbye to a genuine legend x I like to think that I got some of his spirit, his partying nature, sense of loyalty and passion (and often shear bloody mindedness!) Totally proud of all you instilled in Neil and I and hope we do you proud tomorrow x Miss you dad "

Earlier in the day son Neil wrote the following

"Tomorrow we say goodbye to my Dad. I am so proud to of had him as my father. Praise and affection did not come easy to him but his generosity, loyalty, resilience and work ethic are traits that, I hope, guide my life and have been picked up by both my children.

My sister has put in so much work to make sure we give him a tremendous send off, I look forward to seeing many of you tomorrow"

As we gathered at Kemnal Park Crematorium to celebrate Mike's life the first and obvious thing that became apparent was the number of people who had turned out to pay their respects to the great man.

What followed could not have been bettered and Yes, Maria and Neil, you did your Dad proud and gave him a tremendous send off and he would have been the first to say so;

the tone of the event was little short of perfection.

Celebrant Debbie DeVito made us all feel at ease and said it was in order to laugh or cry, asked us to gather our own personal thoughts of Mike before delivering the family eulogy on their behalf.

She spoke of Mike's early life, his days at the school and the life-time friendships this inspired, his time doing his National Service, how he met Anne, their subsequent marriage over 56 years ago, the birth of Neil and Maria and, subsequently, his grand-children and ended by recalling the day that Mike, having had a sumptuous lunch which, no doubt, included a few glasses of wine, mistook Neil for a cab driver after Anne had called the former to come and collect her and his Dad from East Croydon station after he had shown a disinclination to leave.

It was then the turn of Mick Pilgrim to pay his tribute to Mike on behalf of the Club and it could not have been pitched better.

They both played many games of cricket together but not so many on the football field - there was, remember, something like a 20 year age difference between them, "But I often heard him on an adjoining pitch when I was playing".

Mick confined himself to one football story, supplied by Mike Harris, when, after a game, Mike had some choice words tbout the ability of the referee only for the said official to suddenly appear and book him, and a cricket story in which he had been so incensed at the poor bowling performance of a team mate that he insisted:

"If you continue to bowl like that then I am leaving"

The bowler concerned was Tom Sissons, who was also the skipper at the time, and he responded

"Go on then" and Mike got on his motor-bike and promptly left.

But, and quite rightly, Mick concentrated on the many qualities Mike had, his devotion and love of his family and, as far as the Old Wilsonians are concerned, his total dedication to the Club.

When the Association moved to Hayes in 1959 he, virtually single-handedly and without payment, ran the Bar.

"Playing is the easy bit", he always maintained, "what you do for the Club over and above that is what is important" and Mike epitomised that sentiment.

We were then treated to a moving poem. "We love you", before Luther Vandross's 'Dance with my Father' provided the background to some slides of Mike covering his entire life.

The Lord's Prayer then preceded the committal and blessing and a final reading and then piece of music, Lonnie Donnegan's 'Have a drink on me', and there cannot have been anyone in attendance who had not had a drink on Mike.

And so we returned to the Club, a place where Mike had spent so many happy hours, performed with distinction on both the football field and cricket square, and, selflessly, put so many hours into the OWA.

Of course we all know that Mike was not perfect and he had his moments. There was the occasion when he declared against Old Suttonians when batting second because a

member of the opposition had said something he took exception to and thereby lost us the game, and the football match when the referee abandoned the game due to “the continual dissent of Old Wilsonian players” or, to be more precise, Mike!

He was never out lbw - “shocking decision” – he would mutter as he walked off the pitch, sometimes with a broad grin on his face, indicating that such incompetence was laughable, and sometimes with a scowl which would induce those watching to proclaim “Mike’s been given out lbw again; don’t go into the dressing room for at least 20 minutes”.

He would resign on a regular basis – I have the letter, dated July 27th 1970, which he wrote to Gerry Adams, who was secretary of the Cricket Club at the time, which reads:“Dear Gerry,This is my letter of resignation from the Cricket Club. Those cricket balls that I have will be found in the sports store room”.

It is the last sentence that it is the most significant – even at the moment of resigning he remembered his obligations to the Club and, of course, he returned to it soon after.

Mike was a very modest man – he never boasted about the fact that he has scored more runs for the OWCC than any other player or about his status as an international footballer for Kenya, but he once told me: I was a far better footballer than Neil” There was a slight pause before he added“But he was a better cricketer” and he was undoubtedly right in his analysis of their respective sporting talents.

Carly Simon’s “Nobody does it better” had welcomed us as we walked in to share our thoughts of a man who touched us so profoundly, a song that contains the verse “And nobody does it better, Though sometimes I wish someone could Nobody does it quite the way you do, Why'd you have to be so good?”.

As we all know, sport was very important to Mike and he certainly was good – those 22, 462 runs with a cricket bat and international football caps prove this, but, and as far as contributions to the Old Wilsonians per se are concerned, there are very few who did so better than Mike.

On the back of the Order of Service there is an adorable photograph of the entire immediate family with Mike at the centre of it all and taken at the Care Home in which he spent the last days of his life, and there is nothing that sums up the meaning of life, for Mike, as that picture.

We were all privileged to have known Mike Kendrick, are better people for having done so, will miss him enormously, but will remember him for many years to come

Mike Pike

PERSONAL TRIBUTES TO MIKE KENDRICK

It would have been 50 years ago, in that match against Colfeians on the 1st March, that I would have properly met Mike for the first time, although he did make a "guest" appearance for the 4th XI the previous season when I was playing for the 4s.

He played left back to my left half and the thought in my head was that he was getting me to mark the bloke he should have been marking but, wisely, I kept my thoughts to myself!!

A physically and mentally strong man, and the last few years must have heartbreaking for his family.

Geoff Robinson

Everyone who has been involved with our Club, be it on the playing side of any sport, refereeing, umpiring, or just visiting over the last 60 years, will have known or been aware of MK.
Cleaning and running the bar, sorting the cricket gear and applying ‘whitening ‘, giving suitable advice to referees and umpires - I could go on and on but, and suffice to say, I put this man on a par with Ian Forbes. Colin Smith

I know, through the other Old Wilsonians, that Mike was a larger than life figure that so many had known most of their lives.
My thoughts, like others, go out to Anne and the family at this difficult time.
Norman Holmes

I'm really sorry to hear this news. I've got to know Neil and Louise through the Colts - their son Joe is a member. My thoughts are with them at this sad time. Barrie Frampton

So very, very sorry to hear about Mike Kendrick. What an absolute legend he was in terms of the OW's, and a great gentleman amongst his many friends. My sincere condolences to his family. Chas Evans

Thanks for letting me know, Mike. Very, very sad and our thoughts are with his family
Bob Chapman

Mike thanks for the very sad news. Please let me know funeral details as and when. He was, of course, my opening bat partner for many years as you well know. Peter Wakeford

So sad to hear this even though maybe it’s a release given the last few years. He has been a big part of my life and no doubt many of yours over the past 50 years plus. Just so sad.
Bob Bevan

A character and OW legend finally put to rest - John Drabwell

Very, very sad. Another legend goes - Jim.Matthews

Really sad news – David Welch

TRIBUTE FROM MICK PILGRIM AT THE FUNERAL

For those of you who don’t know me I am a fellow Old Wilsonian and team mate of Mike, especially on the cricket field where we must have played more times together than either of us would have cared to remember! Although I didn’t play much football in the same team as Mike I could certainly hear him when he was playing on any nearby pitch….mind you he’d probably have said exactly the same about me!

We will all have our own special memories of Mike but for me there are three things that set him apart. The first was his exceptional ability at both football and cricket. These were my sports too and when I started playing for the Club, I, along with many others, looked up to and respected Mike and hoped that we’d be good enough to play alongside him in the 1st team one day.

The second thing that, in my view, set Mike apart was his total honesty. He was like the Roy Keane of the Old Wilsonians' -.he told it as he saw it and, as all of us who had the privilege to know Mike would agree, "he was a passionate sportsman who wore his heart firmly on his sleeve"!

Thirdly, Mike was nothing if not totally committed to his family and to the Old Wilsonians Sports Club. He put his heart and soul into making our Club one of the best if not THE very best around and was rightly rewarded with the Presidency of the Association in 1993. This is the ultimate accolade that our Club can bestow on one of its members and I know that Mike would have been immensely proud to see how Neil, our current President, has followed in his footsteps and I'm pleased to report that he's actually not making a bad job of it either!

So, returning to Mike's sporting achievements I want to provide you with just a few examples and numbers to illustrate what a fine, all round sportsman he was. For the Football Club Mike played almost 800 games with many of these for the 1stXI and, as we heard earlier, Mike played at an even higher level representing and skippering the Kenyan National team which, according to our Football Club historian, Mike Harris, makes Mike Kendrick one of only two Old Wilsonians, in our 130 year history, to play international football!

It was also Mike Harris, a lifelong friend of Mike's, who mischievously informed me that Mike was the very first Old Wilsonian footballer to have his name taken! Apparently, in the good old days, the referees used to share the same dressing room as the players and you might want to try to picture this - after one particular match Mike was sitting in the dressing room and went into a right old rant telling his team mates in no uncertain terms about how diabolical the referee had been when suddenly the referee in question appeared out of nowhere to politely ask Mike for his name!!! I reckon that Mike's response would probably have made interesting listening but I'll leave that to your imaginations!!

Turning to cricket I really need say no more than Mike was the Club's all time leading run scorer with over 22,000 runs and, with his bucket like hands, he took over 300 catches, not to mention umpteen stumpings. These numbers are absolutely staggering and I will be very surprised if they are ever beaten.

Returning to my second point concerning Mike's total honesty the phrase "actions speak louder than words" could have been written for Mike! To give but one example - Back in the day we were playing against Dulwich Cricket Club and Mike, was keeping wicket to our 1st team captain, Tom Sissons. As was his way, Mike told Tom that he didn't think he was bowling very well and said "if you continue bowling like that then I'm walking off"!
Tom replied "alright then go" or words to that effect! True to his word of course, Mike did no more than remove his pads and gloves, leave the field and drove home on his trusty motorbike and side car!

Yes…..he could be impulsive all right. Yes ….he could be bloody minded And yes ….he could be very frank. BUT I tell you this…..he was totally honest to himself ….if Mike said something you can rest assured he meant it alright and when the going got tough the bloke you wanted on your side was Mike Kendrick!

The third thing that, to my mind, set Mike apart was his total commitment. Unlike some, Mike committed to playing every Saturday and Sunday and quite often on Sundays he

would be joined by his younger brother Paul, when the pair of them got batting together I can tell you that the runs accumulated very quickly.

Mike wasn't just committed to playing however, he always maintained that "playing is the easy bit"….."it is what you do for your Club off of the field of play that is the most important thing". For instance, when finances were extremely tight in the early days at Hayes it was Mike who stepped up to the plate and ran the Bar voluntarily and almost singlehandedly. It's fair to say that no job was too small for Mike and like me, I'm sure many of you will vividly recall him pushing a broom round the Clubhouse or brushing the wickets between innings, often foregoing his own tea in the process!

Mike was rewarded for his total commitment by not only being elected as President of the Association but also of both the Football and Cricket Clubs …making him one of only 4 Old Boys to hold these three highest positions !

Of course, the underlying driver for Mike's hard graft was his total pride in our Club. He, along with the whole Kendrick family, and I include his grandchildren too of course, absolutely love the place, and, as I was reminded by some close friends just last week, it was Mike who always went out of his way to make any new faces feel welcome.

As I start to wind up it would be remiss of me not to mention Mike and the Bar! As you will all be aware, sport and the post match hospitality involving a few pints and lots of banter and laughter go hand in hand. Mike very much enjoyed this social aspect, so much so that he became a Founding member and more recently the Life President of G.O.A.L.S. for the uninitiated that stands for the GOLDEN OLDIES ALCOHOLIC LUNCHEON SOCIETY which, as a fully paid up member myself, I can assure you is still going strong today!

Finally then, I know that Anne, Maria and Neil would want me to extend their kind invitation to you all to join them at the Sports Club after this Service. Whilst you're there can I suggest that you take a couple of minutes out and just imagine Mike hitting a 4, or scoring a goal, or simply walking around the Bar and having a laugh whilst crushing your hand in his vice like grip because undoubtedly his spirit will live on at our Club for a very long time indeed. And it is without any shadow of doubt, that I tell you that Mike Kendrick, has joined the pantheon of the "OLD WILSONIAN ALL TIME GREATS", too many of whom we have sadly lost over recent years.

OWCC August Newsletter

"THAT WAS NEVER LBW" President's Day remembers one of the greats

July is always a busy month for the Cricket Club, seeing, as it does, the end of the colts season, cricket week, President's day and giving us a clearer picture of what our Saturday senior league sides will need to do as they embark on the final full month of the summer – cricket wise, that is.We also found time to play, and beat, the School's 1st Xl.

President's day is always an ideal curtain raiser for cricket week as we pay tribute to our President, currently Jasper Gundry-White, and the sun shone brightly on his righteousness with the cricket taking the form of three T20 games, representing the President himself, the Chairman and the Club captain, the highlight almost certainly being Siva's five 6s in consecutive balls. Asked why he tamely hit the last ball to mid-wicket he responded: "I felt sorry for David (Pilgrim)", who was bowling at the time.

The Bar was open all day, so it may be pointless asking many of those in attendance the results of the games, and there were many fond and familiar faces gracing the day, including a cluster of former Presidents.

The occasion was also memorable for paying tribute to one of the greatest, Mike Kendrick, and a bench was unveiled in his honour and his ashes were placed in the memorial garden, whilst we will also plant a tree alongside that of another out-standing President and Mike's good friend, Ian Forbes.

"We will soon have a forest going around the boundary line" observed Club captain Alex Forbes, whilst Mike's son, Neil, also paid his tribute "to a strong man", quite literally "His strong grip was still there right until the end", Neil informed.

Mike's bench will be inscribed with the maxim "That was never lbw", and it was good to see many of the Kendrick family sitting on it as the afternoon progressed Good weather is always essential for this event and the cricket week that was to follow and, thankfully, we were blessed on each day – the Thursday is said to have been the hottest day in the UK on record.

The results were mixed; victory against the Barry Hainsworth Xl and Dulwich, defeats to Upminster and Old Olavians and on Thursday, which also saw a champagne breakfast and two curries as part of a T20 extravaganza against Bromley Common and ODCUACO , we beat both of our local rivals.

Just to prove how lucky we had been it started raining late on Friday night and did not stop until well into the Saturday afternoon, meaning that all of our Saturday games were off. So how do we approach the final weeks of the season?

The 1st Xl are on a roll at the moment, with three successive victories and it is a shame that the weather has cost them the opportunity to progress even further; the 2nd Xl are just above the drop line but should be ok; the 3rd Xl, having won promotion last season, have struggled but a couple of wins should see them safe, and the same can be said about the 4ths, whilst the 5ths cannot be relegated as they are already in the bottom division!

Finally some bad news for the 1st Xl skipper. Of the 5,500 road kill sightings logged by 'Project Splatter' so far this year, 905 were badgers, 475 were foxes and 453 hedgehogs. It is estimated that there are 485.000 badgers in the UK, and that tens of thousands are run over each year

Mike Pike

It has been a difficult season for the Cricket Club

Since the publication of the previous "NOW", in March 2019, the Club has seen the passing of Mike Kendrick, and many tributes to the great man appear elsewhere in this magazine. From the cricket club's point of view we have lost a man whose knowledge of the game was second to none and who guided so many Old Wilsonian players along the correct path.

He also scored more runs than anyone who has represented the OWCC - 22,462 to be precise – and it is significant that the Kendrick family wanted his bench, which now sits proudly next to that of Ian Forbes, to be inscribed "That was never lbw", umpiring decisions which undoubtedly prevented him scoring in excess of 25,000.

There will also be a silver birch planted next to Ian's – "One day there will be a veritable forest encircling the ground" suggested Alex Forbes when the bench was unveiled on the Cricket Club's President's day; but not for some time please, Alex; not for some time, and if trees have the ability to talk to each other then they will, and almost certainly disdainfully, have some interesting things to say about the state of modern day cricket if they replicate the thoughts of the two men they honour.

Malcolm Taylor's request for copy "NOW" means that it will appear before the end of the season but we cannot get away from the fact that 2019 has not been a good year for the OWCC.

It is difficult to define why but, for some reason, there has been a lack of availability that has meant that we have had to concede a number of 5th XI games and, ultimately, have had to withdraw the side from the Kent Regional League, whilst we have played no Sunday social cricket at all.

Thankfully the Sunday Development side continue to play on a regular basis, whilst the Colts section is still thriving under the stewardship of Barrie Frampton.

The 1st XI made a poor start but have recovered, thanks in no small part to a tremendous team spirit and have made a great find in Matt Golding, who has scored 543 runs for us to date. One of the reasons for the poor start was that many of our players were revising for their School exams, which is the price you pay for having such a young side.

The 2nd XI have also struggled but both they, and the 1st XI, should maintain their Division Two status, but the 3rd XI, which gained promotion last year, are finding life difficult at the higher level and look like returning from whence they came, whilst the 4th XI will also do well to avoid relegation.

But our hard working committee are determined to put things right and the Winter months will be used to recruit new players and put plans in place to increase our strength.

On the positive side we had yet another successful cricket week, when the sun shone every day and the games were all entertaining and of the highest calibre, and the eyes of the Bar committee lit up at the takings!

Mike Pike, Secretary OWCC


KIA
MCKENZIE



TENNIS CLUB

Wine Tasting Quiz

15th November 2019 19:00 to 14th November 2019 23:00

Following the great success of the 2018 event, we're back!! Another wine tasting quiz night is coming.

Demand for tickets is expected to be high as places are limited. So please express your interest as early as possible. Tickets will become available on 1 September 2019 so please tell me if you wish to come. Tickets will be £18 a head and will include biscuits & cheeses to complement the wines. I might confiscate the other £2 for raffle tickets!

The event will involve the tasting of 7 wines from around the world with associated questions. There will be a mid-interval with further chances to gain points from drink-related questions too. Tables of a maximum of 6 people can form a team for this event but smaller teams will be accommodated.

Reserve the date in your diary and start gathering friends for an evening that will be good fun and hopefully memorable for all the right reasons!

If you are interested please contact Nigel Jordan by email nigel@nigeljordan.com

Old Wilsonians' Association

SUPER DRAW 2019

Draw Promoter: Graham Watts

Tel: 0208 698 1134 *(h)* 07956 462 685 *(m)*
Email: grawat@ntlworld.com

WINNERS LIST

DATE	NO	NAME	PRIZE	DATE	NO	NAME	PRIZE
JAN 1	71	S KIDD	£170	JUL 1	18	A FORBES	£170
JAN 15	66	D SMART	£70	JUL 15	71	S. KIDD	£70
FEB 1	15	M PILGRIM	£170	AUG 1	72	S KIDD	£170
FEB 15	54	P WAKEFORD	£70	AUG15	62	P DOWLER	£70
MAR 1	70	J TROUT	£170	SEP 1			£170
MAR 15	42	M. HARRIS	£70	SEP 15			£70
APR 1	28	F BRINDLE	£170	OCT 1			£170
APR15	60	D WEAVER	£70	OCT 15			£70
MAY 1	12	P DAVIS	£170	NOV 1			£170
MAY15	38	N KENDRICK	£70	NOV5			£70
JUN 1	10	J SANGER	£1000	DEC 1			£1000
JUN 15	53	S MILLWARD	£70	DEC15			£70



If you want to join in and buy a number just £12.50 a month by direct debit, then please contact Graham Watts as above



for

GOOD LUCK

The SUPER DRAW is part of the OWA Lotteries

All payments to Old Wilsonians' Association fund raising lotteries will be used to improve facilities in the Club House and on the Grounds for the benefit of all members

Old Wilsonians' Association

PRIZE DRAW 2019

Draw Promoter: Graham Watts

Tel: 0208 698 1134 *(h)* 07956 462 685 *(m)*

WINNERS LIST

DATE	NO	NAME	PRIZE	DATE	NO	NAME	PRIZE
APR 2		DONATION	£50	AUG 13	42	M PIKE	£25
APR 9	65	A CLARKE	£25	AUG 20	170	G . WATTS	£25
APR 16	115	A KENDRICK	£25	AUG 27	63	G CARRINGTON	£25
APR 23		DONATION	£25	SEPT 3			£50
APR 30	136	R MATTHEWS	£50	SEPT 10			£25
MAY 7	106	J JENNINGS	£25	SEPT 17			£25
MAY 14	57	L TUPPEN	£25	SEPT 24			£25
MAY 21	42	M PIKE	£25	OCT 1			£25
MAY 28	18	J ADAMS	£50	OCT 8			£50
JUN 4	117	A KIRCHIN	£25	OCT 15			£25
JUN 11	9	P FITZSIMMONS	£25	OCT 22			£25
JUN 18	178	C EVANS	£25	OCT 29			£25
JUN 25	36	M TAYLOR	£50	NOV 5			£25
JUL 2	185	J HOUGHTON	£25	NOV 12			£50
JUL 9	93	R WALKER	£25	NOV 19			£25
JUL 16	19	I TILLING	£25	NOV 26			£25
JUL 23	187	D TAYLOR	£25	DEC 3			£25
JUL 30	61	M ANDERSON	£500	DEC 10			£25
AUG 6	179	R BARR	£25	DEC 17			£500

If you want to join in and buy a number for just £25 a year then please contact Graham Watts as above

GOOD LUCK

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