NEWS OF OLD WILSONIANS

FEBRUARY 2022



OLD WILSONIANS' ASSOCIATION
(FOUNDED 1904)

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UPDATE FROM OWA PRESIDENT MARK MACE

For anyone unable to attend the AGM, work to transition the Association to becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation continues. It's taking longer than expected, but it's the biggest change the club has gone through since its inception. So it's important to get it right. In order to see it through to completion and get the new Trustee and Sports Club Council structures up and running, I have agreed to extend my term as President by an extra year. If anyone wants to know more about why we're making the change or would like to get involved in the running of the club, please contact me.

Since my last NOW update, I'm pleased to report that the improvements to the changing facilities have been finalised. Completion was delayed, which meant that unfortunately the Cricket Club didn't get the benefit of them during their season as we had originally planned. It didn't seem to slow the 1st XI down though who only lost twice during the season as they comfortably won their division. So not only can they look forward to playing in Kent Division One next season, they'll also have excellent new changing facilities to enjoy at the club.

As the COVID situation eases, things continue to return to normal at Hayes and the football season is well underway. From the various WhatsApp groups that I'm involved in, it seems that player availability is proving to be an issue this season. Which I suspect explains the somewhat mixed results so far. Hopefully it's something that can be addressed by brining younger players into the club from both the school and the OWFC Juniors section.

Great changes are afoot within the bar also. For the first time in the 30+ years I've been involved with the club, we have changed breweries. A full range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks will of course still be available, but in particular we'll have a new and more varied selection of beers. I'm especially looking forward to sampling our new house 'Old Wilsonians' Pilsner'. As a bonus, we're also getting a complete refresh of our cellar equipment too.

Looking forward, there are a couple of things on my to do list. Firstly, we can now start to think about our next development initiatives. A couple of big projects for consideration are a revamp of the clubhouse and improvements to the car parking facilities. Myself and the management council will be looking into these imminently. Secondly, I'm keen to see the return of the annual OWA Dinner (COVID restrictions permitting of course). I'll be looking to put together a small team to help me organise the event, so any volunteers would be greatly appreciated.

Finally, I was saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Peter Wakeford in January. Another OW legend that will be sorely missed. A touching tribute to Peter detailing his considerable contribution to the club, both on and off the field, can be found on the website and in this issue of NOW.

Old Wilsonians' Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Old Wilsonians' Association, held on Tuesday, 7th December 2021 at the Clubhouse Hayes and by video link, 19:30

Attendees:
Zoom: Mark Mace, Nigel Jordan, Richard Smart, Neil Kendrick, Mick Pilgrim, Chris Kingshott, Toni Junge, Isobel Robinson, John Cornish, Dan Harris,
Actual: Alex Forbes, Nick Mole, John Drabwell, Mike Pike, Jamie Parkinson, Jasper Gundry-White, Tom Roberts, Chris Gurr, Ian Pilgrim, Bill Hartley, Clive Prince, Steve Millward, Jim Lloyd and Roger Matthews

1. Apologies for absence
Mark Williams, Nick Thompson, Chris Heayberd, Judith Heayberd, Clive Peckover, Anton Snowsill, Doug Forbes, Malcolm Taylor, Pete Davis, Colin Smith and Jonathan Hart.

2. Minutes of previous meeting (Tuesday, 8th December 2020)
Mark Mace asked if it was agreed that the Minutes of the 2020 AGM were an accurate record. Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by Alex Forbes, seconded by Mike Pike and approved by the meeting.

3. Matters arising
Mark Mace mentioned that subsequent to the meeting, in order to correct an oversight he had stepped down from the Membership Committee and Gerry Adams had withdrawn from the Disciplinary Committee. Both these vacant positions had been filled by Stuart Paton and these changes had been recorded at the Council Meeting on the 19th January 2021.

4. Report of the President/Chairman of Council *Mark Mace*
Overall it has been a quiet year, Only one development project was undertaken - the renovation and redesign of the main changing rooms. Despite delays and increased costs compared to the original forecast, which mainly resulted from issues uncovered as the project progressed as well as increased materiel costs (seen generally with building supplies), the end results are fantastic and a huge improvement from what we had before. My thanks to Al Forbes and Neil Kendrick and for getting the project through to completion.

The Tennis Club has instigated a project to improve the path to the tennis courts. The existing path will be replaced, and extra drainage introduced to resolve the flooding that frequently occurs. In addition, a new sloping path will be added to improve access for members and guests with disabilities as well as spectators with pushchairs. It will be funded jointly between the OWA and the Tennis Club. Thanks to Nigel Jordan and John Drabwell for pulling together the designs and cost estimates. A contractor has been selected and work should begin imminently.

It has been a very challenging year as COVID restrictions greatly reduced normal use of the Club and Bar. However, we were fortunate enough to secure grants to offset lost revenue meaning our finances remained stable. Full details are available in the Treasurer's report. I would especially like to thank Jasper Gundry-White and the entire Bar team who worked tirelessly to adapt to the constantly changing COVID requirements, meaning we could maximise Bar takings in line with whatever restrictions were in place.

As everyone has seen in the news, COVID rates seem to be surging again so we can't rule out the prospect of restrictions of some sort, being imposed again. Therefore no further large scale projects will be planned until we have more certainty about returning to some semblance of normality. At

that time, we will most likely look at a comprehensive revamp of the Bar area as our next big undertaking.

Outside of the above, the main thing myself and the Council have been working on, is the move to becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) as per the resolution made at last year's AGM. It will be the biggest change to happen to the club since its inception, so we need to be sure that we get it right. We continue to work with the solicitors who are advising us through the process, but are very close to having the structure, associated constitution and underlying management framework finalised. There are a couple of finance related questions that have come to light very recently that we are clarifying with the solicitors. We then hope to be in a position to proceed with our application to the Charities Commission, for which there is a separate resolution on the agenda of the AGM. It's taken longer than expected to get to where we are and we're unlikely to complete the transition to CIO and get the new structure in place with post holders on the new OW Sports Club Committee within the remaining year of my presidency. I've therefore agreed to stay on for a further year to ensure the transition can be completed before my successor takes over.

Finally, the OWA has not had a Life President since the sad passing of Ian Forbes. Something that that the past presidents and I have been keen to rectify. Life President is the highest accolade the OWA can bestow and is the reserve of individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the club over many decades. It was unanimously agreed that there was really only one candidate worthy of the honour, so it gives me enormous pleasure to announce Mike Pike as our new Life President.

On the whole, a very positive year despite challenging circumstances and I look forward to the next year hoping that COVID restrictions continue to ease, and we can get back to enjoying our Club fully.

5.Resolutions regarding status and structure.

The Council of the Old Wilsonians' Association is hereby authorised:

- To make an application to the Charity Commission with a view to becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation; and
- To take all steps necessary to effect this, including taking all necessary legal advice; and
- Once the transfer of all of the assets and liabilities from the Association to the new CIO is complete, to proceed to dissolve the old Association in accordance with the provisions of the constitution of the Association

and the members note the proposal to appoint the following as the first trustees of the new CIO:

Michael John Pilgrim
Mark Andrew Mace
Nicholas Mark Mole
Alexander Forbes
Neil Michael Kendrick
and confirm their support of this.

Nigel Jordan asked for assurance that any amendments to the Constitution, that were requested by the Charities Commission would be referred to the members for their consideration and agreement, before the final conversion to a CIO took place. MM said that he could assure the members that would be the case.

NJ also suggested that there might be advantages to the change over date from an Association to a CIO, being on the Association's accounting date.

With regard to the appointment of the initial Trustees, there was a mixed reaction to the proposed appointees all being Old Wilsonians. The feeling was expressed, that if the Association is acknowledging the substantial contribution made to the day to day running of the Club by Honorary Old Wilsonians then they should have an opportunity to be a Trustee.
MM said that a greater say in decision making in the Club was being presented to the general members of the Club by the new Management Structure.

Ian Pilgrim, expressed the view that Honorary Old Boys should have an opportunity to be represented within the Trustees.

Jim Lloyd acknowledged that the Old Wilsonians must have a majority within the Trustees, to ensure that they maintained control of the assets which the facilities at Hayes represent. However, he did not see why the new Constitution should not be able to accommodate two Honorary Old Boys.

Neil Kendrick felt, that initially at least, the Trustees should remain as Old Wilsonians.

MM acknowledged the members views and said they would be taken into consideration.

The resolutions were proposed by Jasper Gundry White, seconded by John Drabwell and approved by the meeting.

6. Treasurer's Report
Nick Mole's Report

NM went through the income and expenditure figures for 2020-2021 referring to the balance sheet where necessary. He reported that although the Association had undergone another year which had been impacted by COVID, profits from the Bar have been encouraging and overall the financial position remains buoyant. Support in the form of grants has been received, but there is nothing to say that this will continue to be forthcoming if the situation with the virus continues. For this reason NM recommended a financially cautious approach to infrastructure projects until greater clarity exists as to when a settled return to normality is likely to take place.
Overall the finances of the Association were seen to be in good order and acceptance of the Accounts was Proposed by Ian Pilgrim, Seconded by Jamie Parkinson and passed by the meeting.

7. Bar Report
Jasper Gundry White's Report

This last year, has been one of learning to adapt to challenging circumstances. Government guidelines and restrictions, particularly on social distancing, have called for innovative thinking combined with a willing and flexible Bar team. The process of taking orders at the tables, both inside and out, and the delivery of the drinks and food, was a new approach and one that went very well.
Probably, the biggest challenge that has had to be absorbed, was the change to an electronic card based system of payments. Although, this was driven by circumstances, it is fair to say that it was the right direction for the Club to go in, and COVID provided the impetus to make it happen. The

system has been quickly accepted by both members and Bar staff, and will provide in due course, numerous opportunities in respect of areas such as stock monitoring, turnover and profit margins. Overall our net profit held up well, given the circumstances, being £3,000 in excess of the previous year, which is encouraging with regard to what might be achieved with a full years turnover. Meetings have also been undertaken with various brewers and suppliers, including our existing supplier Shepherd Neame to ensure that going forward, the Club is getting the best value for money. Once a decision has been taken, as to who is the recommended supplier, a meeting will be held with the Council to set out the case for that firm, and hopefully gain ratification.

There was a consensus amongst the members of the meeting that JGW and his team had provided a first class service throughout the year, and were to be thanked for all their hard work.

8. Sports Club report

Anton Snowsill's report

The restrictions brought about by the impact of COVID, have meant that in total only three hirings have been taken throughout the year. However, there have been a number of enquiries for next year.

9. Clubhouse report

As MM had stated in his report, the renovation of the Clubhouse changing rooms had been a great success. In particular the new layout was providing much greater flexibility of use. While a great deal of unexpected remedial work had been undertaken, it was only right that the opportunity should be taken to remedy the quick fixes of the past, which either were causing problems, or had the capacity to cause them in the future. The financial overrun in respect of materials, was treated as a shared cost, where applicable.

10. Ground report

Steve Millward had submitted the following Report

2021 has seen a slow return to some form of normality. Whilst sporting activities were still being disrupted by the pandemic in the early part of the year, the grounds have continued to be maintained to a good standard by Ian Muir.

Main Ground

Football – With matches not resuming until April the main pitches were in a reasonable state when the usual renovations were carried out, with the ground disc seeded and 40 tons of rootzone spread over the pitches. Unfortunately there was no rain and a cold breeze during the rest of April and beginning of May and deploying sprinklers for over two weeks had little effect. However, as the pitches were not as worn as in previous years, they did recover quickly and were in very good condition before the start of the 2021-22 season. The OWFC has reduced the number of teams it runs on Saturday from nine down to seven but the number of 11-a-side junior teams on Sunday has increased from 8 to 12, as well as the Vets and Super Vets teams. The frequency of matches being played over the weekend has therefore increased again, and is now beyond what is considered ideal. In spite of this, the pitches are currently in very good condition apart from the goalmouths on the 1st XI pitch. Regrettably, junior footballers continue to ignore requests to keep out of these and they remove the stake and rope in front of the goals and continue shooting practice if not watched over. Car parking on nearly all Saturday afternoons and Sundays is being monitored and the number of problems has greatly reduced.

And, a final thanks to Mick Pilgrim for organising all Vets/Super Vets fixtures. Mick is in the process of moving and has handed over this roll to Doug Forbes.

Note that the main ground will be available for football up to Easter, the weekend of the 16th/17th April 2022. Renovations will then take place over the next 18 days prior to commencement of cricket on Saturday 8th May.

Cricket – The roller was serviced early in the year and as usual extensive pre-season rolling commenced in March and continued up to and during the 2021 season, with pitches rolled as required. This work, in conjunction with end of season renovations carried out in previous years, all helped to provide very good pitches throughout the season. Indeed, the club achieved the highest pitch markings (90%) for Div 2(first of ten) from panel umpires and fourth of thirty for the three top divisions of the Kent League.
With the usual renovations carried out to the square after the season ended, I look forward to maintaining this level next year. Repairs to or replacement of the covers will be required prior to next season. Unfortunately the nets are now in a poor state and in need of a complete renovation.

Tennis – With the addition of two new carpet courts, Ian Muir now spends 50% more time on brushing. Fortunately, at this time of the year, the Billy Goat continues to vacuum up and shred leaves quickly and efficiently. Within the next month or so, Ian will also be spreading some more sand onto the existing four carpet courts. The tree pruning/felling carried out last year is now allowing more sunlight onto a previously secluded section of the courts but there is still a small part on the far side of the tennis hut that does not receive much sunlight and this area need to be monitored for any build up of moss or algae.

Hawes Down
Football – Although matches did not resume until April, the Tandridge League did not curtail league fixtures and so junior football continued into June. This caused significant wear in some goalmouths and other small areas with some parts still not fully recovered.

The previously renovated areas benefited from the period of inactivity up to April and have improved significantly. Whilst drainage does not seem to be a particular issue in these areas now, I am arranging for both 11-a-side pitches at HD to be verti-drained during the Christmas break. Please note that HD will be available for 11-a-side football up to and including Sunday 1st May 2022, with junior 9/7-a-side football guaranteed to Sunday 8th May.

Cricket – The roller was serviced early in the year and, with its weight increased, the square was continually rolled pre-season up to and during the 2021 season, with pitches rolled as required, resulting in an improvement of all pitches provided. For an even higher standard next year, post match renovations included the complete koroing of an expanded seven pitch wide square and grading with Ongar loam.

General
A new irrigation system for the main ground still remains a top priority.
Ian Muir continues to be contracted to carry out all ground maintenance. Although work has gradually returned to pre-pandemic levels, there has again been no increase in the amount paid to Ian Muir for the 2021/2022 year.

On Sundays, although the OW Juniors have been employing a car parking monitor and the number of parking issues has dramatically reduced, capacity continues to be a problem since on occasion the league schedule too many 11-a-side junior matches at home. In spite of pitches now being hired at a separate ground, this situation will only deteriorate in the 2022/2023 when there could be as many as fifteen 11-a-side teams.
Also, that ground along the edges of the driveway around from the main gates towards the bungalow and tennis courts continues to be worn away due the amount of parking required on these

grassed areas.
Additional hard surface parking spaces at the main ground are a necessity and must be considered in any future plans.

The maintenance contract for HD will again come up for renewal on the 1st March next year. The contract is subject to approval by both the OWA and the schools. I will be seeking the approval of the Heads for any new terms as well as going through any other issues that are included for discussion. Maintenance costs are now shared 50/50 between the schools and the OWA. Note that costs to outside contractors for verti-draining and large one-off renovations are paid 100% by the OWA.

The Gardening Team continues to regularly meet every second Tuesday of the month.
I understand that a fourth memorial tree has been requested, in memory of Mike Harris.Mike Pike commented that good reports had been received from both Cricket and Football with regard to Ian Muir's work.

11. Confirmation of President for 2021/2022
Mark Mace explained that in normal circumstances, he would be looking to propose a President in Waiting, but given the stage that had been reached in the Association's endeavours to achieve CIO status, he had agreed to undertake the role of President for a three year term. In doing so he hoped that he would be able to hand over to his successor a role which was far more to do with ensuring the duties of the Trustees were fulfilled, and the relationship with Old Wilsonians' alumni developed, rather than revolving around the day to day running of the Sports club and its Subsidiary Clubs.
The proposal that Mark should undertake a further two years as President was Proposed by Mick Pilgrim, Seconded by Jim Lloyd, and passed by the meeting.

12. Election of Vice Presidents
A Proposal was made by Mike Pike that Anton Snowsill, should be made a Vice President, in recognition for all his hard work in respect of the Clubhouse and the booking arrangements.
This was Seconded by Mick Pilgrim and passed by the meeting.

Existing Vice Presidents:
Gerry Adams, Terry Adams, Ron Ashdown, Lou Barry, Bob Bevan, Mike Curling, Pete Davis, John Drabwell Alex Forbes, Doug Forbes, Mike George, Bill Hartley, Ross Hartley, Neil Kendrick, Dave McCarthy, Andy McClniton, Mark Mace, Jim Matthews, Roger Matthews, Dave Mew, Cliff Milledge, Stuart Paton, Clive Peckover, Mike Pike, Ian Pilgrim, Mick Pilgrim, Stan Quantrill, Ian Rayworth, Gerry Reaseley, Andy Smith, Malcolm Taylor, Andy Udale, Dave Wakeford, Peter Wakeford, Les Wilks and Steve Wisson.

All existing Vice Presidents were re-elected on block, having been Proposed by John Drabwell and Seconded by Mick Pilgrim and passed by the meeting.

13. Election of Officers for 2020/21

President:	Mark Mace
President Elect:	In abeyance for 2022
Hon Secretary:	Roger Matthews
Hon Treasurer:	Nick Mole
Club Captain	Tony Sherlock
Hon Solicitor:	Vacant
Sports Club Secretary:	Anton Snowsill

Membership Secretary:	Mike Pike
Editor of NOW:	Malcolm Taylor
Webmaster:	Jim Lloyd, Alex Forbes
Bar Management Team:	John Drabwell, Jasper Gundry White, Steve Lawrence, Mathew Gundry White
Ground Manager:	Steve Millward
Buildings Manager:	Paul Jenkins
School Liaison Officer:	Andy Parkinson
Membership Committee:	Paul Jenkins, Stuart Paton and Mike Pike
Disciplinary Committee:	Stuart Paton, Clive Peckover and Mick Pilgrim
Appeals Committee:	President and two members of the Management Committee

At a meeting of past Club Captains it was unanimously agreed that Tony Sherlock should be put forward as the ongoing Club Captain.

All of the above were Proposed by John Drabwell and Seconded by Mick Pilgrim on block and passed by the meeting.

14. Election of Honorary Old Wilsonians

Existing Honorary Old Wilsonians:
George Wing, John Lucock, Ray Neve, Paul Jenkins, Denise Pilgrim, Stephen Millward, Clive Prince, Jasper Gundry-White, Nigel Jordan, Andy Steel, Nick Fuller, John Martin, Jill Forbes, Caroline Maxwell, Jan Jenkins, Judith Heayberd, Bob West, Norman Holmes, Archie Whitaker, Jake Johnson, Chris Gurr, Adam Stone, Tony Sherlock, Margo Lawrence, Justin Pryor and Laki Kastiruratne.

There were no nominations for Honorary Membership this year.

15. Reports of subsidiary clubs

Senior Football
Alex Forbes Report

The last year has seen the sad loss of our Life President Mike Harris. Mike was OWFC and his presence on a Saturday is sorely missed. Simply the club would not be where it is today without him and we will continue to honour his memory with days like the new 2 Mike's VP day, a new addition to the calendar. His funeral was attended by representatives from the club and as sad as it was it was nice to reminisce about his truly unique take on amateur football and the hours he put into it. Anecdotes about his grumpiness were well balanced with stories about his love for the OW's and his family and I can confirm that no kits bags made it into the pub where we got refreshments afterwards. RIP The Little Mexican.

The 2020-2021 season was again disrupted by the pandemic, with the league eventually taking the decision to make it null and void. This probably helped some of our higher teams, whilst 3s and 4s were after trophies! In its place came some spring cups and the 8s lost in the final with the 1s winning their games in a very strong group. Over the summer we appointed a new 1st team coach, Barry Wilde. He works at the school and the hope is he can develop the 1st XI as well as recruit more schoolboys throughout the club. They have made a promising start with some excellent results with a very young squad. Unfortunately, due to a loss in numbers over the summer we have had to drop the 2XI and the 9XI (to cover for the 7XI). The committee are working hard to recruit and we have more junior players this year but the national lack of engagement in adult football is hard to

tackle and seems to have been made worse by the pandemic. As things have started to settle down most teams are doing ok and we hope for some good results for the remainder of the season. Committee wise Jon Howe has stepped down and we thank him for his hard work in many areas of the club but Cejay Watson has been a welcome addition and Stuart Dunk has taken over the finances. The summer golf day was well attended and enjoyed even if the President got COVID and the committee continue to look for ways to raise funds. Alex Forbes drives the club forwards in a way that only a Forbes can and his tireless work never ceases to amaze.

There is still lots to look forward to over the coming year and as always, a dedicated batch of volunteers will ensure that football is provided to 100 old boys as well as increasing numbers of players from outside the school network.
Thank you to the OWA for their continued support.

Junior Football
Mark Williams and Chris Kingshott's Report

Introduction
It has been another year of solid progress for the Junior Football Section. We have added additional teams including more girl's teams. We remain a popular Club with regular interest from players wishing to join from other clubs both in the local community and beyond.

The 2019/20 season was heavily impacted by the COVID pandemic and resulting Lockdowns, so was extended to end of June 2020 in order for all fixtures to be completed. The Tandridge League has to be commended for their commitment in this regard. We also continued our training with APD to the end of June to make up for lost sessions and enable our players to remain "match fit".

The 2021/22 season started in September and we entered 32 teams into the Tandridge League. This includes 4 all-girls teams. The season is progressing well and without interruption.

Membership
Membership showed a healthy increase as a result of bigger squads and our new teams. We decided to keep our fees at the same level, and know this represents exceptional value. However, we expect to have to raise fees for the 2022/23 season to cover increased coaching and training venue costs. We have kept our fees at the same level for two seasons in a row and know that we represent exceptional value for money compared with other clubs.

Our finances remain healthy with strong reserves.

Growth/ Facilities
Prior to this season commencing, we were hit with the news that Bromley FC had reneged on their agreement with APD (our training provider) to offer us training facilities any longer. This caused considerable initial disruption, but we were delighted to eventually secure Ravensbourne School for all of our sessions and now run training every day from Monday to Saturday.

We are also continuing our very successful minis sessions at the Club and have added girls' sessions to this. These are important for the Club as they feed our new u7 teams and will lead to a growth in diversity. Girls' football is growing in popularity and we are committed to this.
Charles Wright has done an excellent job in this area and has been added to our Committee to oversee the girls section.

Despite our growth, the view of the Committee is that we are very near to maximum capacity based on pitch availability, club facilities and general oversight/management. Although a large

Committee, the Club's growth does need carefully managing and the focus is now on making sure our teams are run in the right way, with the right approach and strong coaching practices. We are therefore likely to restrict the number of new teams in the 2022 season.

We also wish to have more teams competing in the Premier divisions, so whilst we continue with an all-inclusive ethos, where we can strengthen our strongest teams, we will. We have one u13 team and one u14 team playing in the Premier division now.

Issues
As the Club is into its 7th season since forming in 2014, we now have more teams at older ages and a natural growth in squad sizes. The more competitive nature of football as players get older means we have more disciplinary issues to deal with. We have dealt with a greater number of issues this season than before, relating to player and officials conduct. The Committee deals with these matters quickly and fairly, making everyone from officials to players to parents aware of their responsibilities. We actively promote the FA Code of Respect and engage closely with our members to ensure best practice.

We continue to be mindful of the fact that more junior members means a greater need to ensure that the behaviour of children at the Club is both respectful and controlled. This has been raised at Sports Chairs meetings and any action needing to be taken is managed by Chris and Mark, Co-Chairs.

Committee
No members of the Committee have stepped down this past year. We were delighted to welcome Charles Wright to oversee the girls section. We were also delighted to welcome Emma Cummings as Safeguarding officer.

Cricket
Mike Pike's Report

A really successful year for the Cricket Club was overshadowed by the fact that, on January 5th, we learned of the death of Graham Watts who, of course, also worked tirelessly for the Association as well as the OWCC.

As a tribute to him the 2021 season was dedicated to Graham and at the T20 final in Tunbridge Wells in May – unfinished business from 2020 – all of the players, and the majority of a large OW supporting contingent, wore shirts with Graham's initials on them and although we lost, Graham would have been proud of our achievement of getting to the final in the first place.

We certainly did Graham, and ourselves, proud in the league season, with the 1st losing just twice and winning 15 games as they comfortably won the Kent League Division Two by 26 points, but the 2nd Xl finished a disappointing 7th after a good start, whilst the 3rd and 4th Xls, who play in the Regional League, both finished sixth in their respective leagues.

The Sunday Development side which, as its name implies, is designed to nurture young talent, also gained promotion and will now play in the top division next year.

We continue to have a thriving colts section and they continue to improve under the expert guidance of Jon Rodda and his excellent coaching team and many of the youngsters were initiated into senior cricket during the course of the year.

Both sections of the Club had successful end of season awards evenings and a special word of praise, and thanks, to Joe Jukes and Laurence Allen who were rewarded for all of their dedicated hard work to the Club by being chosen as 'Colts Person' and 'Club Person of the Year' respectively.

The seniors evening ended with the 1st Xl singing 'We are the champions' which they tell me is now on Youtube, but means I will have no idea how to find it.

Tennis

Nigel Jordan's Report

Like everything else, tennis has been affected by the pandemic. Unlike other sports, however, tennis has seen a considerable surge in interest and new members as a result. Our membership now stands at 670 – an all-time high.

We gave our members a 25% reduction in their fees when they renewed membership at April 2021 to recognise time lost through the pandemic. Many people offered to donate that back to the club – which spawned the idea of a crowdfunding campaign. That was a new adventure and we raised around £4,400 including £1,500 from Sport England. We will use that to improve our access path to cater for a more inclusive set of members – thosewith various abilities and restrictions all need to access our courts. We have just started our first dedicated SEN groups at the request of players. Diversity and inclusion has never had a higher profile than at present. And the need to improve our access path is becoming urgent. Hopefully work will have started by the time of the meeting.

We have spent a lot of money in recent months – converting the 2 tarmac courts to carpet at a cost of £35,000 and completing the work to add proper nets and posts and new floodlights to the netball court – our cost was £18,000. All of that expenditure was necessary in order to cater for the larger membership numbers. We cannot be far away from needing to re-carpet courts 1-4 which are now 11 years old so we are working hard to ensure we can afford that when the time comes.

Our league teams – adults and children - have had a fairly average summer season (we lost all of last winter season to COVID) with our Men's 2 gaining promotion, and our ladies and mixed teams doing well too. Some of our youngsters are now doing amazing things at county level and even at national level. This is a whole new world for the club.

The club remains very vibrant. We have some delightful new members and some have rapidly become volunteers – a very welcome addition to the "workforce". We need to secure the succession for longstanding Committee members and also sort out our content on the website – which in parts is very stale. My first job for the coming months….

A highlight was winning the Kent Tennis award for Competition of the Year, and going on to win the South East & London regional award and being in the last 5 at the LTA national awards.

Squash and Racketball
Nick Thompson's report.

Considering how 2021 started (total lockdown for the entire 1st quarter), our sports section is gradually starting to recover from a pretty unprecedented loss in revenues, since restrictions began to ease in May.

18 months of COVID-related rules inhibiting squash and racketball play, clearly resulted in strong pent-up demand among our membership to return to indoor court action as soon as those restrictions lifted, which is great!

From my end, I would once again like to thank all our loyal members for their continued patience and support over the past year, especially during the football and cricket changing room renovations, which overran and I know caused disruption to many of you this summer. I share your frustrations, but the project is complete now and has uplifted the club immeasurably for those sports sections.

We continue to see an uptick in daytime play as people work from home, so we definitely think this will be a growth area going forward. Weekday evenings are blocked out consistently and even stronger than pre-pandemic levels, which is also great to see.

In 2022, we will undergo some relatively pressing renovations to the front walls on both courts, which are beginning to crumble away. We also hope to move to a new contactless payment system for court lighting, which will replace coins and bring our club into the 21st century.

We will see how the pandemic situation plays out over winter, but assuming we don't get a repeat of what happened last year, it would be nice to run a long overdue, internal squash tournament in the Spring (and for racketball too, if the numbers are there).

Netball
Toni Junge's report

It was an unusual start to the season with the uncertainty around whether we would be going into another lockdown. Due to this we chose to run a 6-week block of training sessions at the start of October rather than get individuals sign up for a whole year. This was a wise choice as we went into lockdown and couldn't play again until April. With uncertainty still in the back of our minds we made the decision to run another block of 12 weeks. We did a big push on our Facebook page which had a positive impact as numbers were good and we had 27 individuals sign up.

At the start of September, we reverted back to the yearly membership and I'm pleased to say numbers have remained high and we have 33 paid members (24 full and 9 league).

The North West Kent Netball League on Saturday mornings at Bromley High School did not run at all for the 2020 -2021 season, this has resumed for this season and I'm pleased to say that we have formed a second team. We now have a team in division 9 and division 12. Both teams have made good starts and are enjoying being back playing competitively.

Junior netball at the club in connection with Shooters Netball has continued to grow. It was also hit hard by the impact of COVID but since returning in September the numbers have increased and there are now sessions run to accommodate the younger and older girls.

16. Any Other Business

Alex Forbes was asked, if he could elaborate further regarding the need to reduce the total of teams competing on a weekly basis for Senior Football from 9 to 7. Recruitment he explained, had been an ongoing problem, which COVID has not helped. The number of members, really does depend on how many schoolboy leavers they are able to feed into the system. There is a meeting planned in the first week in January with the Junior Football Club, to see if it is possible to enhance the feeder stream into the Senior Section.

AF was congratulated on the entertainment that is provided for visiting referees at the Club, and as a consequence how well it is spoken of.
Mike Pike said that at least two referees have attended OWL's lunch dates.

- Mike Pike, thanked everyone for the honour that had been bestowed on him by being made Life President and declared his intention to continue to foster and encourage the growth of the Old Wilsonians Sports Club family.
  Mike Pike also wanted it known, that the Cricket Club now has its first female President, who is Margo Lawrence.

- Jim Lloyd said that a meeting was to be held shortly, to establish the Old Wilsonians' Association vision for future interaction with alumni of the School.
-

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:30pm.

WhatsOn Old Wilsonians

Mac McAlister & Ian Forbes Vice Presidents Day

12th February 2022 1pm to 12th February 2022 6pm
Annual "Mac" McAlister & Ian Forbes Vice Presidents on 12th February. Everyone is invited. Mac & Ian were big characters & influences in the club over many decades . The club would not have the feel or atmosphere it has today with out these. Its a day the Old Wilsonian community gets together & remembers the past & looks forward to the future. Hopefully see lots of old friends and new
Alex Forbes

England Amateur FA Accredited Club of the Month - December 2021

Posted 8th January 2022
The England AFA have awarded Wilsonians Football clubs (seniors and Juniors Accrediited Club of the month for December . This is a great achievement for everyones hard work across our football at the club. This is across the whole of England and is only awarded to 8 clubs a season . Well done to everyone involved

Alf Parish Memorial Darts Competition
29th March 2019 7pm to 29th March 2019 11pm
The Annual Alf Parish Memorial Darts competition again takes place at Selhurst Park , all are welcome , its a great night organised by our very own Mike Pike . It usually £10 competitors (both cricket & football entered sides last year) & £5 for spectators , there is a bar & food .

New Sports Club Captain - Tony Sherlock
Posted 11th December 2021
Congratulations to Tony Sherlock who becomes our latest Sports club captain . This honour is bestowed on members who have done lots of work at the club over a number of years & is picked by former Club Captains .

Tony & his family have been members of both Cricket & Football clubs for years . Usually standing on the side lines watching one or both of his sons playing . Known as "Concrete Tony" – a nickname derived from him running a concrete company , personally I like to think he's like the Mafia and gets rid of the bodies (but thats my fertile imagination ! .....or is it) . Tony is a gentle giant , always on hand to help out & the heart of of a lion . Lots of congrats to Tony & the Sherlocks, enjoy the honour its well deserved & a drink on me next time I see you
Alex Forbes

PIKEY'S PROGRESS

The Class of '56, the Presidents' lunch and the Cricket Club Dinner

It was a bright day in early September 1956 when a bunch of expectant youngsters assembled in the school playground at Wilson's Grammar School little knowing that, 65 years later, some of them would be assembling again but this time at 'The New Inn' in Hayes by which time they had become known, and by their own volition, as 'The Class of 56.'

There were ten of them on this occasion as opposed to the original 90 or so and the gathering was tinged with sadness as the originator of this idea, Vic Bennett, had died since their previous get together in 2019 – Covid had made 2020 a non runner.

There could have been 17 of us but Bill Newman, Stan Palmer and Pete Wilkinson were all on holiday, although not with each other, Bob Chapman had a family lunch, Bob Bevan was speaking at another lunch – Lockdown has been kind to 'The Cat' and he has had many engagements as the 'Rule of Six' has not affected him as six is many more than his usual audience – Gerry Bourne's cancer has sadly spread and he is now virtually bed bound, and we do hope that things improve for you Gerry, whilst Dave Wakeford could not make it this time but was interested in the concept for future years.

The original intention had been to meet in the Bar at around mid-day and then adjourn to an upstairs room for lunch, but as the numbers dwindled 'The New Inn' suggested we ate downstairs "as it is much easier for the staff."

"Will we all be able to sit around the same table?" I inquired, and the affirmative answer made we feel a little easier, whilst it was certainly true that our positioning helped the staff as our table was adjacent to the kitchen, which meant that they did not have to carry hot food up two flights of stairs.
(The 'Class of 56' are men of the people, and always keen to help the workers)

Stan Honnor would have been the first to arrive; he got on the same train as me but at the far end so I just beat him, despite the fact that he has always been more agile than I, and we quickly set up a bar tab for the day.

Gradually more members of this august group began to arrive and we were reminded that Autumn was beginning to bite when ***Terry Adams and Tony Ide*** appeared in long trousers rather than shorts, their normal choice of apparel on such occasions, and it was not long before we had a full complement.

Alan Wilson helped me order a couple of bottles of wine whilst ***Richard Burger*** remembered the days when there was not a popular meal named after him. ***Bill Hartley*** seemed somewhat miffed by the fact that ***Terry Adams, Rod Warboys*** and I talked a lot about cricket.

"It has always been the same," protested Bill. "Everyone goes on about football and cricket but what about we top class high-jumpers?"

Len Bateman, who had travelled all the way from Eastbourne – thanks Len - was on hand to correctly identify Colin Cowdrey's eldest grand-son – "Not cricket again' erupted Bill - whilst ***Allen Dyne*** had a hospital appointment in the morning, so we waited for him before

sitting down to eat.

Being on one long table was not ideal, and it did mean that not everyone got to speak to everyone else – perhaps we should have changed places every 30 minutes – but it was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion and everyone had a good time.

Your correspondent is of the view that this function should henceforth be known as 'The Vic Bennett Memorial Lunch', and this met with general approval, but there was also support for including 'The Class of 56' in the title; I will see what I can do.

The President's Lunch

Move forward a week to October 22nd and it was time for 'The Past Presidents' lunch,' again at 'The New Inn', again with a mid-day meet and again a bar tab was initiated – where 'The Class of 56' lead others are bound to follow.
There were 14 of us this time so we did adjourn upstairs for the meal, although this means more work for the staff.

Gerry Adams arrived looking a picture of sartorial elegance, which was spoilt when someone loaned him a tie.
Meanwhile M***ark Mace,*** our current President, busily began selling the new OW tie, and please see him to purchase your own if you have not already done so.
Alex Forbes did some fire-fighting before joining us and arrived just in time for his starter whilst 'The Dangerous Brothers' – ***Ian and Mick Pilgrim*** – lived up to their epithet, and a big 'Thank You' here to Mick who organised the event.
Malcolm Taylor recalled the day when Gerry got stuck in the bath – eventually he was refloated and the Queen cracked a bottle of champagne over his head to re-launch him, and ***Lou Barry*** was given the bill at the end of the day – he did not pay it but he is the only one of us who can divide by 14.
Pete Davis, as ever, showed an interest in anything and everything, ***Doug Forbes,*** who looks more like his Dad as the weeks and months roll by, drank in a manner of which Ian would have been proud, and ***Bill Hartley*** asked why everyone seemed to be obsessed with football and cricket rather than top class high-jumpers.
Steve Wisson, in his position as Chairman of the School Governors, gave us an update on the school and ***Mark Mace*** an update on the Association and Sports Club.
Clive Peckover offered words of wisdom and ***Neil Kendrick***…… didn't.
Les Wilks was not able to join us, neither was ***Bob Bevan,*** who was at Jimmy Greaves's funeral followed by a speaking engagement at a Cricket Dinner in the evening, and we also remembered other, sadly more permanent, absent friends.
Interestingly the following day was the 50th anniversary of a 2nd X I home game of football against Centymca in which three of them, ***Ian Forbes, 'Mac' McAlister and Mike Kendrick*** had played, helping to secure a 3-2 victory for the club whilst, away at Owens, ***Lou Barry*** scored one goal and provided two assists but could not prevent the 5th Xl losing 7-4.

CRICKET CLUB DINNER

And talking of Cricket Dinners, the OWCC were holding theirs on the same evening as the Presidents' lunch – how considerate of them – and six of us were attending both.
Mark Mace took the Presidential limo, ***Doug Forbes*** talked himself into a lift and ***Bill Hartley*** popped home to change, which left just ***IP, Alex and I*** to traverse the footpath along the railway line back to the Club.

The evening was a great success and it will be a long time before I forget hearing the massed voices of the 1st X choir singing " We are the Champions " to rapturous applause – can we see it on You Tube? - and hearing Monty Lynch, who has joined our coaching staff, emotionally reply "Being selected for England for the first time" in answer to the question "What was your proudest moment?"

The Cricket Club have had a magnificent season – for more details please see the cricket club newsletters - with the 1st XI being crowned champions of Division Two with 15 wins from 18 games, meaning they will play in Division One next year for the first time in their history.

Many awards were made and congratulations to the winners of each and every one of them but, and as ever, the individual who has done the most for the Club in the season was crowned 'Club Person of the Year' , an award which, quite rightly, went to Lawrence Allen who: played regularly for the 4th XI, is our Vice-Chair and fixtures secretary, umpired, scored and wrote reports and cleaned the showers and, as if that were not enough, I'm sure there are some things I have forgotten.

SCHOOL NEWS

33 OXBRIDGE OFFERS

Students at Wilson's attain places at a range of universities and we are proud of them all. At this time of year, we are particularly pleased to congratulate students who have received offers from Oxford and Cambridge. This year thirty three students have been offered places in a wide variety of subjects including: Medicine, Law, Economics, History, Engineering, Geography and Modern and Medieval Languages. Two students have been offered choral scholarships, one at St John's College, Cambridge and one at New College, Oxford.

A successful Oxbridge application requires that a student demonstrate real dedication to his chosen subject, far beyond what is taught in lessons and over a long period of time. What is tested in the application process is the intellectual flexibility, curiosity and resilience of the candidate, not recall or answers learned by heart! Can the candidate apply familiar knowledge in unfamiliar contexts? Does he enjoy the intellectual challenge of divergent questions? Does he demonstrate by his actions over time (rather than his words) real commitment to and love for the subject? As such you can't really 'prepare' for an application once you enter the Sixth Form, instead the student who is thirsty for knowledge and willing to test himself to his intellectual limits is one who will inevitably shine. Even then, the application process is highly competitive, with applicants from across the world. Not everyone can succeed.

Whether your son is in Year 7, Year 11 or somewhere in between, we would encourage him to develop areas of interest in the subject (or subjects) he loves, by throwing himself into wider reading. Not because of a future application to a possible university, but because it is fun and motivating for bright young people to do!

(In the mid 1960's a Wilsons pupil named Roy Porter in Whiteley House received an offer of a place from Cambridge University. The Headmaster at the time Norman Friskney was so pleased he announced it in Assembly and gave the whole school a half day holiday to celebrate the first pupil in years to achieve this achievement. How the school has changed! Ed)

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!
OW'S DRAWS ARE BACK BIGGER THAN EVER FROM JANUARY 2022



THE O.W ASSOCIATION IS CURRENTLY RUNNING TWO FUND RAISERS THAT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY CAN JOIN

THE "200 CLUB" PRIZE DRAW

FOR JUST £5 PER MONTH OR £60 A YEAR YOU WILL BE ENTERED INTO 52 WEEKLY DRAWS WORTH £50, 12 MONTHLY DRAWS WORTH £100 AND 3 ANNUAL DRAWS WORTH £750

THE "SUPER DRAW"

FOR JUST £15 PER MONTH, YOU WILL BE ENTERED INTO 12 MONTHLY DRAWS OF £100, 10 MONTHLY DRAWS WORTH £200 AND TWO ANNUAL DRAWS WORTH £1,250

AS PART OF THE "SUPER DRAW" MEMBERSHIP YOU WILL ALSO RECEIVE A £50 DISCOUNT ON YOUR ANNUAL PLAYING SUBS

YOU CAN HOLD AS MANY NUMBERS AS YOU LIKE

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE SEE, CALL OR EMAIL TOM SULLIVAN
T: 07771731964
E: SULLY100@HOTMAIL.CO.UK

EXISTING MEMBERS PLEASE GET IN CONTACT WITH ME CONFIRMING THAT YOU ARE HAPPY TO CONTINUE YOUR MEMBERSHIP

THE SUPER DRAW AND PRIZE DRAW ARE PART OF THE OWA LOTTERIES AND WILL BE USED TO IMPROVE FACILITIES AT THE CLUB FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL MEMBERS

SUPER DRAW 2021 WINNERS

Draw date	Winning No.	Winner name	Amount paid
Jan 1st	52	M. HOFFMAN	£170
Jan 15th	23	R. SMART	£70
Feb 1st	54	P.WAKEFIELD	£170
Feb 15th	55	C. COWELL	£70
Mar 1st	66	D.SMART	£170
Mar 15th	43	P.JOHNSON	£70
Apr 1st	38	N.KENDRICK	£170
Apr 15th	1	A.KIRCHIN	£70
May 1st	60	D.WEAVER	£170
May 15th	61	D.CUNNINGHAM	£70
Jun 1st	68	A.UDALE	£1,000
Jun 15th	10	J. SANGER	£70
Jul 1st	71	SA KIDD	£170
Jul 15th	30	T.ADAMS	£70
Aug 1st	33	J.GUNDRY-WHITE	£170
Aug 15th	11	P.JENKINS	£70
Sep 1st	38	N.KENDRICK	£170
Sep 15th	47	A.SMITH	£70
Oct 1st	18	A.FORBES	£170
Oct 15th	37	C.SMITH	£70
Nov 1st	45	M.TAYLOR	£170
Nov 15th	20	T.FANNING	£70
Dec 1st	74	N.JORDAN	£1,000
Dec 15th	44	J.TROUT	£70

200 CLUB WINNERS 2021

Date	Winning No.	Winner name	Amount paid
31 Dec 2020			
7 Jan 2021	199	S. DONNELLY	25
14 Jan 2021	28	J.GRIMWOOD	25
21 Jan 2021	101	J.KEMPTHORN	25
28 Jan 2021	3	R.CROSS	50
4 Feb 2021	179	R.BARR	25
11 Feb 2021	134	J. QUANTRILL	25
18 Feb 2021	106	J.JENNINGS	25
25 Feb 2021	32	L.ALLEN	50
4 Mar 2021	190	M.RAYWORTH	25
11 Mar 2021	103	D.CUNNINGHAM	25
18 Mar 2021	3	R.CROSS	25
25 Mar 2021	20	P.JOHNSON	25
1 Apr 2021	153	KENDRICK	50
8 Apr 2021	174	J.FORBES	25
15 Apr 2021	9	J. FITZSIMONS	25
22 Apr 2021	79	J.MATTHEWS	25
29 Apr 2021	15	P.RICHARDSON	25
6 May 2021	190	M.RAYWORTH	50
13 May 2021	139	C.SMITH	25
20 May 2021	23	G.ROBINSON	25
27 May 2021	162	R.HALL	25
3 Jun 2021	153	KENDRICK	25
10 Jun 2021	53	F.BRINDLE	50
17 Jun 2021	53	F.BRINDLE	25
24 Jun 2021	132	P.STANLEY	25
1 Jul 2021	32	L.ALLEN	25
8 Jul 2021	176	D.WEAVER	25
15 Jul 2021	179	R.BARR	25
22 Jul 2021	78	R.ASHDOWN	25
29 Jul 2021	36	M.TAYLOR	500
7 Aug 2021	173	T.FORMAN	25
14 Aug 2021	99	C.COWELL	25
21 Aug 2021	15	P.RICHARDSON	50
28 Aug 2021	5	S.JENKINS	50
5 Sep 2021	54	MRS V TAYLOR	25
12 Sep 2021	197	D MARGETTS	25
19 Sep 2021	121	W STANLEY	25
26 Sep 2021	71	N TREACHER	25
3 Oct 2021	102	N KENDRICK	25
10 Oct 2021	160	C.MILLEDGE	50
17 Oct 2021	156	L.PILGRIM	500
24 Oct 2021	5	S.JENKINS	25
31 Oct 2021	24	J.RICE	25
7 Nov 2021	102	N.KENDRICK	50
14 Nov 2021	190	MRS RAYWORTH	25
21 Nov 2021	172	C.BILLING	25
28 Nov 2021	200	I.BOND	25
5 Dec 2021	54	MRS V TAYLOR	25
12 Dec 2021	70	M.GEORGE	25
19 Dec 2021	15	P.RICHARDSON	25
26 Dec 2021	30	P.JENKINS	50
2 Jan 2022	106	J.JENNINGS	25

CRICKET CLUB

An out-standing season for the Cricket Club

When writing copy for this esteemed publication it is advisable to re-read your last contribution otherwise you are in danger of repeating yourself and thereby becoming a participant in a much-loved Radio 4 panel game, an honour and a privilege in itself, I grant you, but bad form when responding to a request from our editor, the esteemed Malcolm Taylor.

There has not been a 'NOW' since May 2021 – methods of communication tend to take other forms these days, none of which, I concede, I understand, and the cricket season had only just begun but has now long-since finished, and if I were asked to use one word to sum up the 2021 season from an Old Wilsonian perspective it would probably be "WOW."

However, and before talking about 2021 , there was some unfinished business to attend to from 2020 in the shape of the T20 final against Tunbridge Wells when our side, and a large number of travelling supporters, made their way to the Premier league ground, and although we lost that game, having already beaten two other Premier League sides in previous rounds, we made many new friends along the way and now had to "concentrate on the league."

And what a season it was, with skipper Michael Mitchell leading the 1st XI to the Division Two championship - 15 wins, 2 defeats and one abandoned game – and the League Champions flag now proudly adorns the top of the Bar in the Clubhouse. We now face the challenge of First Division cricket for the first time in our history and look forward to it, both eagerly and with confidence.

The Sunday Development side also won promotion – despite skipper Syd Sherlock's lack of organisational skills – to see them back in the top division again. The Saturday 2nd XI started the season well but could not sustain that initial promise as they, like the 1st XI, had set their sights on promotion.

Just to prove that we had other strings to our bow, our darts team of Howard Abbett, Jasper Gundry-White, Steve Austin, Doug Forbes, Jeff Mascarenhas and Peter Urquart won 'The Alf Parish Memorial Darts Match in June, raising £180 for the Club in the process, and will defend the trophy on March 25th.

Both of our Regional League sides had adequate rather than outstanding seasons - they both finished sixth - and the fact that we were only able to field four sides on a regular basis, rather than five , affected them more than the Kent League sides as we did not have a large pool of players to pick from , and it is always the lower sides who take the brunt of this situation.

However, and as in previous years, the 3rd and 4thXIs introduced many colts to senior cricket, who are the future of the Club. And who would have thought before the season started that Doug Forbes would be playing in the 3rd XI as a batsman and Neil Treacher in the 4th XI as a bowler whilst, on a personal level, I gained a certain amount of pleasure in registering a former County player and England Under 19 international to play 'Regional Cricket only.'

We only played one ‘social’ Sunday game in 2021 but hope to add to that number this year, whilst the T20 side failed to reach the heights of last season but still gave a good account of themselves, as did our under 19 side.

Our Colts section again had a successful season after the frustrations of last year with Chair Barrie Frampton stating that “The participation and inclusion has been fantastic,” with over 35 youngsters being introduced to the joys of the game for the first time and being offered a full Club coaching programme, thanks to the guile and guidance of head coach Jon Rodda, who also organised specialist coaching sessions and summer camps. On the field of play the under 13a side were the most successful side, with the under 17s also acquitting themselves well.

Both sections of the Club had successful end of season awards evenings and a special word of praise, and thanks, to Joe Jukes and Laurence Allen who were rewarded for all of their dedicated hard work to the Club by being chosen as ‘Colts Person’ and ‘Club Person of the Year’ respectively.
The seniors evening ended with the 1st XI singing ‘We are the champions’ which they tell me a) it is now on You tube and b) in which case you will have no idea as to how to find it !

This lively event was followed by our AGM where Margo Lawrence was elected as our President in succession to Jasper Gundry-White, and we thank him for the enormous contribution he has made to the OWCC.

Jasper knows virtually everyone of any influence in Kent cricket and never misses the opportunity to promote the OWCC and he, like treasurer Andy Spedding, always keeps his eyes open for possible grant opportunities. Many thanks, Jasper, for all of your hard work on our behalf and I am confident that you will continue to serve the club in such an out-standing way for many years to come.

Doug Forbes replaces brother Alex as Club captain but, other than that, it is virtually the same leadership team as before as we aim to maintain continuity and build on the solid foundations we have laid over the past few years. Looking forward we aim to establish ourselves as a female cricketing club – we had a very successful ‘Open Day’ towards the end of the season – as we continue to evolve into an all encompassing outfit.

Sadly I have to conclude this report with the sad news of the death of Peter Wakeford on January 12th. Peter was a member of, arguably, the best ever OW side who were virtually unbeatable in the early 1960s. A stylish bat and superb close to the wicket fielder, Peter was a former President of the OWCC and played until he was in his early70s – “I cannot see the ball anymore,” he conceded.

After he stopped playing he always took a keen interest in the Club and one day informed me that he had discovered: “A young left- hander who looks very good but he cannot hit the ball off the square.” That youngster was Michael Mitchell, now the 1st XI skipper, who has now proved that he ***can*** hit the ball a lot further and has the leadership qualities to take the side to the very top, and please see elsewhere in this magazine for fuller tributes to Peter.

Mike Pike - Secretary OWCC

TENNIS CLUB CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER – 22 DECEMBER 2021

As we approach the Christmas festivities and look forward to the New Year the pandemic is once more starting to impact our daily lives in a very direct way. At present there are no regulations from Government to change how we currently operate – but as a club we are monitoring the situation closely and will react if the Government or the LTA asks us to. In the meantime I would urge you all to take whatever sensible precautions you can.
Please be especially careful in any indoor setting – whether the hut, pavilion or the bar. Always use hand sanitiser and avoid close contact with others from outside your immediate household. And avoid unventilated spaces whenever you can.

NEWS ABOUT OUR FACILITIES
In recent weeks we have been able to replace the floodlight bulbs that were broken – with one exception. We are working on a solution for that. We are also looking at more strategic issues regarding the floodlighting – whether we can progressively implement LED lighting - which has been so successful on court 7.
The problems with one of the toilets in the pavilion has also been resolved – hopefully once and for all. It was a much bigger task than we originally expected but we hope that won't be an issue for us again.

Following the generosity of many members we have been able to advance our plans to improve the access path from the bungalow to the courts, including making it wider, less prone to flooding and accessible to a wider, more diverse club membership. The work have been approved by the Old Wilsonians' Association and we have agreed a price with the contractor. We just need some drier weather to allow the work to be completed. The estimate is this will take a couple of weeks.

A quite substantial hole has opened up on the railway line end of court 1. It appears that water drainage may have been gradually washing away soil and structure from beneath the tarmac surface on which the carpet lies. It might have been happening gradually over 20+ years since we first installed carpet courts. We are getting in the experts to advise on our options – but until that is fixed court 1 remains out of action.

Finally a reminder from me to look after our facilities please. If you are the last to leave, please shut all the gates to the courts, ensure floodlights are switched off, shut the hut and the pavilion and make sure all the internal lights are off too.

KENT TENNIS AWARDS
The wonderful news is that Alex Burn has been shortlisted in the Volunteer of the Year category. The winner will be announced at the annual Awards Dinner on Saturday 5th March 2022. This takes place from 7.00pm, at the Tudor Park Marriott Hotel & Country Club in Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 4NQ. I have asked for a table of 10 places for the club – the most I can secure. It is always a very nice evening when we celebrate tennis in Kent. In 2022, we will have a special guest in the form of the LTA President David Rawlinson and the LTA Deputy President (Sandi Proctor) will also be there as she is from Kent anyway.
Tickets are always snapped up so if anyone else is interested please let me know.

In the meantime, if you wish to raise an issue or get involved as a volunteer, please let me know by email to **nigel@nigeljordan.com**

NIGEL JORDAN, CHAIRMAN OWLTC

FRED BRINDLE REST IN PEACE

Sadly in October 2021 we lost Fred Brindle . Fred was a stalwart of the football club and played over 400 times . He was ever present in the lower sides and would regularly drive the younger members to & from matches. He popped up one day after playing in the insurance league (he worked at Lloyds of London) and decided to come and play at Old Wilsonians as he was good friends with Ian Rayworth and Terry Adams. Fred and Ian became a fixture in the lower sides, advising and nuturing the younger players in the Wilsonians way. He was a fullback who played hard, but fair, he was also a great advocate of team bonding after the game with a pint or two.

Fred was also a keen golfer & would regularly attend the OW Golf Society day , and as always it was lovely to see him. He was alway immaculately turned out, a quiet man, with a lovely sense of humour and always had time for you. He will be sorely missed by those who knew him. Our thougths go out to Diane & family .
Rest in Peace

FREDDIE BRINDLE - a true and dear friend of the OWA

It was on October 10th 2021 that Frederick Charles Brindle – known to one and all as 'Freddie' – was taken from us and the Old Wilsonians' Association lost a very dear and true friend. Freddie went to the Surrey Square Junior School, close to the Old Kent Road, before joining Wilson's Grammar School and we suspect that the latter's flair for sport and music might have influenced his choice. He thought the 'House' system which they used was special and was always pleased that he was assigned to Whiteley House.

Upon leaving school Freddie joined a band of Wilson's boys working in the City of London, several of whom entered the world of insurance and the Lloyd's of London insurance market. He enjoyed swimming – he became a swimming instructor - and playing football, and played the latter mainly in the 'Business House' leagues where most of the competitors owned, or had access to, superb sports grounds or facilities, and most Mondays started with a blow by blow account of the weekend activities.

Freddie always played for the firms he went to work for until he was persuaded by Bob 'The Cat' Bevan to come and play for the Old Wilsonians newly formed Veterans side, who played friendly fixtures, the criteria being that all players had to be 35 years – or over – which gave those involved a great opportunity to retell the glories of the past, and went on to play over 100 games for them.

But it was not long before Freddie extended his remit and started playing for the OWs on a regular basis in one of their lower league sides every Saturday when he, and Ian Rayworth, would drive many miles, invariably over 100, on a Saturday afternoon as they gave lifts to the numerous schoolboys who were being introduced to Old Boys football, regardless of their ability, as he embraced the Club ethic and boast of providing a game for all those who wanted to play. And invariably it was Freddie who dictated the match report of the game over the 'phone the following morning and once confused the editor when, mid-way through said report, he was heard to exclaim 'Whiskey' only to reveral, upon questioning, that 'Whiskey' was the name of his cat rather than an appeal for a drink.

He also became heavily involved in the production of the Football Club's newsletter which involved Mike Pike typing the contents onto several sides of A4 paper, meeting Terry Adams at London Bridge station every Monday morning who then gave them to Freddie to

print out over a 100 copies and leave them for ‘Pikey’ to collect in the evening and take them to the Club for team selection meetings. (Note to young readers: This was before the days of emails and the internet) Freddie also served assiduously on many committees, making him a true Clubman and not someone who simply played his football and left everyone else to do all of the work.

A few years ago he suffered a cardiac arrest but, thankfully, made a full recovery, but now we have to say goodbye to a man who selflessly gave of his time so that many could enjoy playing football in the colours of the Old Wilsonians. We will miss him and send our condolences to Diane and the rest of the Brindle family. Terry Adams and Mike Pike

Fred Brindle played 416 games for the OWs scoring 9 goals of impeccable quality. He played exactly 200 games for the 6th and 7th XIs and 146 games for the OW Vets. I recall playing in Freddie's 100th Vets game with him playing at right back in which he scored with a rasping right foot shot to everyone's amazement and delight. Ed.

Peter Wakeford 1933-2022 Rest In Peace

Posted 15th January 2022
Sad news Peter Wakeford passed away earlier this Week. "Wakers" as we knew him scored over 8000 runs for the club . He hit the ball hard,was an excellent close fielder . He was a quiet man & listened , when he talked you listened . I never saw him in his early days at the club but according to my elders he was a magnificent player in his younger years . He was pretty good when he reappeared at bthe club and started playing again. He was offered and declined the Presidency of the cricket club , it wasnt him , he would rather enjoy his cricket out of the spotlight . He was a great role model for us young cricketers growing up & will be missed . Our thoughts go out to the Wakeford family .
Wakers Rest In Peace .

Peter Wakeford - another OW legend leaves us

When the Old Wilsonians stopped playing their sports at the school ground in Dulwich Common and moved to Hayes Hill in 1959 they soon became aware that the sporting facilities were not often used – just a handful of football matches and a couple of games of cricket whilst the tennis courts were virtually in virgin condition – but things rapidly changed, much to the initial consternation of the local residents.

One of the first people to change all that was Peter Wakeford, who died suddenly on January 12th. Peter was a natural games player and as well as the three sports mentioned above he also played Squash – albeit not initially at Hayes until our courts were built some years later – badminton and, in his final years, bowls.

Peter was also an accomplished bridge player and, with Alan Davies, formed a pair who were the equal of anyone and the masters of most. But it is as a cricketer that Peter will probably best be remembered, an accomplished opening bat and the sharpest of slip fielders who always made a point of speaking to the scorer upon returning to the pavilion “don’t forget to put the initial P next to the name Wakeford”, particularly when brother David was also in the team

Peter scored 8,651 runs for the OWs and held 212 catches and both would have been considerably higher had he not emigrated to Australia for several years. He was helped by the fact that he played in the great side of the early 1960s that also included the likes of Pat Fitzsimmons, Ken Sawyer, Mike Kendrick. Peter Hubert and Alan Davies in the days

when Sunday was the main day for cricket and the Club would take on the very best, including Dulwich Hamlet when they were in their prime

However, there was one occasion when the Fixtures bureau provided as with a new Club – the appropriately named 'Fledglings' - and they raced to 340 or for the loss of not many wickets before inviting us to respond and we were soon 40 for 5. Peter had watched this carnage from the other end and was now joined by brother David and between them they stopped the rot and we ended on just over 200 but without any further loss of wickets to salvage a draw, Peter being 93 or so not out and David having completed his 50 just before stumps.

Peter continued playing until he was in his early 70s – he once opened the batting with Mike Kendrick in a combined aggregate age of over 140 but, sadly, the runs they put on did not reach anywhere near that total, and ultimately stopped playing when he confided:
"I cannot see the ball anymore", but he never lost his love for the OWCC, became its President for a short while and amentor for the likes of Rob Harris, who still holds the record for the highest individual score for an OW, and Michael Mitchell, the current 1st XI skipper. "I've just seen this little left-hander. He looks very good but he cannot hit the ball off the square," he told me when 'Mitch' was about 14.

Colin Smith remembers him as "A very good bat in his day and slip fielder - with John Mathews keeping wicket. I think it was Wakeford , Hubert, Davies, and myself at Gully".

Peter was also a prolific goal-scorer during the winter months but a broken leg cut short his career although when the Super Vets played Lloyds Bank in 2001 to mark the Millennium - we had a squad of over 20 whose total age added up to more than 1, 000 – and, at the age of 67, he proved that he had not lost any of his innate skills and spent more time on the field of play than the majority of his much younger team-mates.

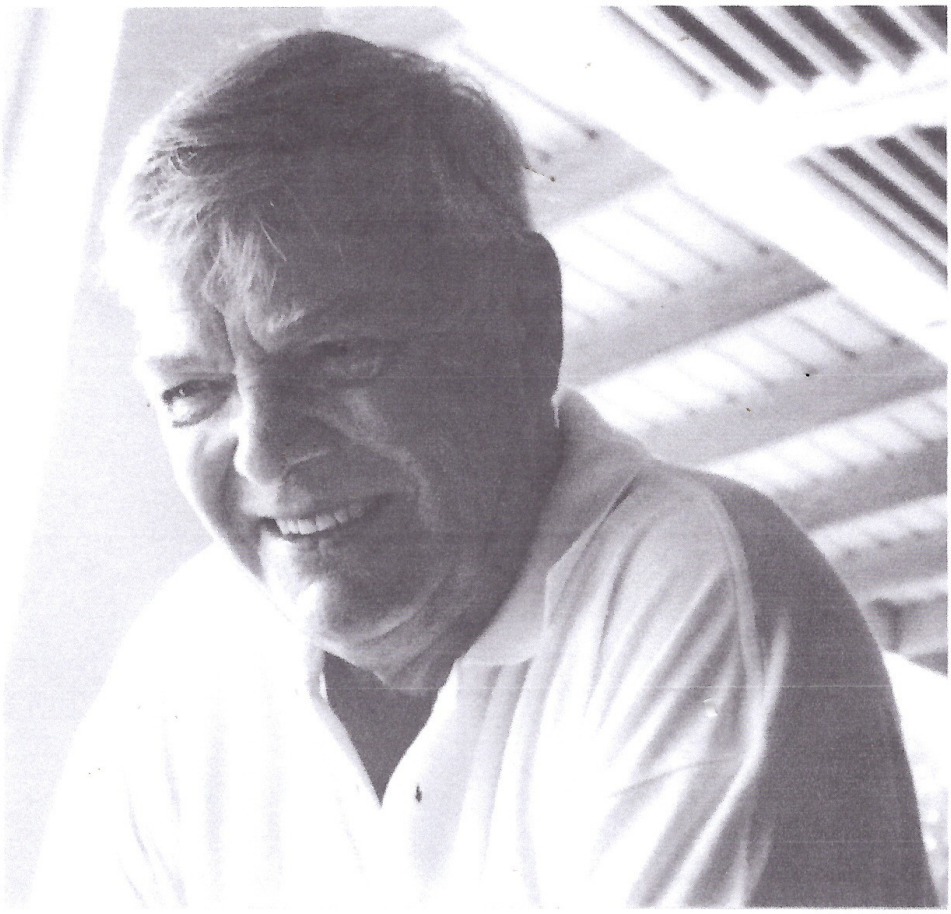
But as far as the OWs were concerned Peter was much more than a talented sportsman – he was a reliable and dependable Clubman. He served on the Council for many years and took on the running of the Super 70 and 200 Clubs, both of which made enormous amounts of money for the Club and wereso crucial to its survival.

Peter was one of the initial members of OWLS (Old Wilsonians Lunches) and one of the first to put up his hand to volunteer to serve on the Bar, although his increasing deafness did not mean that you always got what you ordered

Dave Mew says of him:"I was on the committee for many years with Peter. He was a kind man and a pleasure to be with always."

Mike Pike

Peter Wakeford served for many years on the Bar Committee when the Club was in financial trouble and also on the OWA Council. My most abiding memory of Peter with regard to football is the fact that he played in the Millennium game in 2000 when he was almost 70 but was still able to display his abundance of skills. He was also an active member of GOALS (Golden Oldies) with other OWs and retired players from Lloyds Bank, Welcome Foundation and other sports clubs. He was offered the OWA Presidency on a number of occasions but declined each time, he was such a modest man. Ed.



Tribute for Peter Anthony Wakeford

Peter Anthony Wakeford was the first-born child to parents George and Kitty, in Islington on 19 May 1933. David, his younger brother was born 12 years later to complete the family. Having moved to South London, Peter attended Wilsons Grammar School in Camberwell and often commented that he went to school with Sir Michael Caine, who was in the year above him.

Peter left school and did his National Service in the RAF and was stationed at Felixstowe during the terrible floods of 1953 and was involved in some of the rescues. He then moved into a career in banking working for several large global banks until he retired age 62. After leaving school, Peter joined the Old Wilsonians and became a keen member and active contributor to the Club throughout his life.

He was a natural games player, from football, squash, tennis and to badminton and bowls in his later years. He was an excellent centre forward and scored many goals in his football career. Unfortunately, his football career was cut short when he broke his leg just before trials for one of the big clubs but he continued to play in a few vets' matches.

It was his natural ability for the game of cricket for which he will best be remembered. He loved to bat and was useful in the slips too. He and his brother David often batted together and without fail, Peter would always make a point of speaking to the scorer upon returning to the pavilion reminding them not to forget the initial "P" next to the name "Wakeford", whenever the brothers would play as part of the same team.

Peter was married to Gilly in 1965, having met at the Old Wilsonians. He was a devoted and loving father to Stephen, Carolyn and Samantha. He became very fond of Stephen & Samantha's partners – Rose and Terry respectively, and greatly valued the time he spent with them.

The family were famous for moving house regularly, having moved 18 times during their marriage – predominantly in the West Wickham and Bromley area. However, they did move further afield and spent 3 years living in Australia, which was an adventure especially barbecuing on the beach on Christmas Day!! As you can imagine – moving house so many times Peter became a dab hand at wallpapering, knocking walls down and painting!

Christmas was a big affair in the Wakeford household. Christmas was usually spent with close friends of the family, the Martins, who also hosted the New Years' Eve fancy dress party every year. Great times were had and many lasting memories were made. Sadly, Peter and Gilly went their separate ways in 1992 but they remained friends, especially in Peter's later years providing support and companionship to each other as well as enjoying Gilly's home cooked meals. Peter enjoyed travelling, having holidays in the UK, cricket tours to Barbados, Florida as well as an amazing trip to Machu Picchu in Peru.

Peter took up badminton and went on many walking holidays with a large group of friends.

The group would rent out four or five cottages in places such as the Lakes, the Peaks and the West Country and have big BBQ evenings in the garden, long walks – usually with a pub stop along the way.

Peter continued to be a member of the Old Wilsonians, playing cricket until he was in his early 70's stopping only when he confided to a fellow "Old Wilsonian" that he couldn't see the ball anymore! He even became President for a short while. The club members will greatly miss him and have said that Peter was much more than a talented sportsman; he was a reliable and dependable Clubman. His involvement in the Super 70 and 200 clubs as well as serving on the Council for many years, meant he played a vital part in raising crucial funds for the club.

He also enjoyed a round of golf, although he always thought he took it up too late and never reached his true potential. He was a member of the West Wickham Bowls Club, playing socially as well as representing the Club and found a new avenue for his competitive nature. Added to his sporting ability, Peter was an excellent bridge player. He had a passion for card games all his life but especially bridge and spent many hours' reading books to hone his skills. He set up a bridge club when he lived in Bencurtis Park in West Wickham that met weekly and taught many of the residents how to play.

Peter also loved a crossword and would ensure The Telegraph's Cryptic crossword was completed daily. More recently he took up doing jigsaw puzzles, which he managed relatively easily until Stephen bought him one of the moon (the dark side)– he persevered for 3 weeks until he decided it was just too difficult!

Peter was also a very good dancer who had great rhythm, which he got from his parents who were both excellent ballroom dancers. He would be the first on the dance floor and loved social outings. Trips to Eastbourne and Canterbury clubbing with friends were not unheard of. Peter was a quiet, sociable, kind and caring man who never sought the limelight. He never wanted any fuss and was a great listener, always taking the time to understand a situation before commenting. Although quite reserved, he had an excellent sense of humour and loved a laugh and a joke.

He was very protective and proud of his family and all their achievements. Most especially, when Stephen ran his 300th marathon and Sam won the most improved cup for horse riding. He had the attractive quality of seeing the good in everyone and an enviable nature to forgive quickly. He would often remark he was "too sensitive" but it was this and all the other wonderful qualities of patience, kindness but most of all love that endeared him to others.

His passing will leave a void in the lives of all those who had the pleasure of walking part of this life's journey with him, but the memories he leaves behind and the impact he made on many people's lives will live long in the heart. May Peter now rest in peace.

Samantha Baldwin (Peter Wakeford's daughter)

WAKERS by Bob 'The Cat' Bevan

Learning of the passing of Peter Wakeford got my memory cells whizzing about because, especially early on, he was a big part of the jigsaw of my life.He was one of the first guys I became friendly with when I joined the Old Wilsonians in 1961 who I hadn't actually been at school with.

I had in fact been in the same year at school with his brother David who I had also got on well with. In fact some nights we would dribble a pebble along the pavement of Grove Lane, Camberwell, as we headed for his home at the top of Dog Kennel Hill. Both Wakefords were good ball players so it goes without saying, given my lack of natural ability, that Dave had it for most of the journey. Don't think it did much for our shoes either.

Back to Peter who was an excellent centre-forward and batsman, scoring plenty of goals for the OWs and lots of runs for the club as well. By the time I started playing he was close to football retirement, partly due to a knee, but I think he did play in a few veterans games when I founded that around the end of the 60s/early 70s. He certainly took part in the first game away to Lloyds' Bank.

Despite the age gap we became good friends at the time and I was often invited to lunch with him and his first wife, Hazel. For some reason I also started to play regularly in the Sunday Cricket XI which, before league cricket came south, used to play all-day friendlies and Peter was the skipper. There were quite a few good players in the team, some of whom could only play on the Sunday so it was quite a mystery why I was in it.

It was only in later life, after leaving OWs cricket, that I started to bowl. Back then I was a No 11 and a fielder to be hidden if at all possible. I was a stronger member of the side in the evenings with great fun, card schools and singing with a fast bowler and Tommy Cooper lookalike, Ken Milton, singing in a key which was unique to him which could reduce everyone to tears.

One game stands out for me was a match against Old Shootershillians who were much stronger than us and included Andy Hooper who had a few games for Kent among several other good performers. In the morning session a young player hit 50 in about 20 minutes and then smashed one to mid-wicket where, unable to get out of the way, I caught it. I can see Peter now running towards me with a look of pure shock on his face and saying, with equal surprise "you never looked like dropping that?" It was probably because I didn't have time.

He then told me that the guy I had caught was Graham Johnson who was about to join Kent and who, as cricket fans will know, went on to be one of the county's legendary players who was unlucky not to get an England cap. Eventually he would become Chairman of Cricket. Peter and the rest of our team spent most of the evening telling him he didn't know how unlucky he had been and Johnno and I started a friendship which endures to this day.

When he spoke at the AGM after taking over from me as President of Kent CC he said "amazing what meeting someone on the playing fields of Kent can lead to". Well it was Peter Wakeford who kept selecting me on those playing fields for which I shall always be grateful. He was one of the jigsaw pieces of my life. I can only assume he picked me because he liked me. Well the feeling was certainly mutual. RIP Skip.