ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

(THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OLD WILSONIANS' FOOTBALL CLUB)

NO 1,588 SEASON 2016/2017)

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Roll of Honour

Life President	**Mike Harris**	**Treasurer**	**Alex Forbes**
President:	**Richard Smart**	**Chairman:**	**Jamie Parkinson**
Hon. Secretary:	**Jamie Parkinson**	**Club Captain:**	**Neil Kendrick**

Team Captains

Team	Name		Mobile	Home
1st XI	James Paton	J_paton89@hotmail.co.uk	07572758418	
2nd XI	Stuart Dunk	stuartmjd@hotmail.co.uk		
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5th XI	Vacant			
6th XI	Chris Chamen	Chris@tabletmedia.co.uk	07956724701	
7th XI	Nick Mole	nicholasmole@viginmedia.com	07722559193	0208 669 0603
8th XI	Kek Amankwah	Mr_keks@hotmail.com	07793814537	
9 XI	Roddy Trompiz	rodrigotrompiz@yahoo.co.uk	07811217188	
10th XI				
Vets	Lee Reid	Reid.1@btinternet.com	07961371514	
Super Vets	Al Forbes	alexforbes46@hotmail.co.uk	07855 273218	
Selection Secretary	Yuved Bheenick	Y_bheenick@hotmail.com	07736272270	

This week's games , August 13th

Team	Opponents	Ground	Contest	K.O.
1st XI	Bank of England	Away	Friendly	3-00
2nd XI	Alleyn Old Boys	Hawes Down	Friendly	11-00
Palace	West Bromwich Albion	Selhurst Park	Premier League	3-00
4th XI				
5th XI				
6th XI				
7th XI				
8th XI				
9th XI				
10th XI				
Vets				
Super Vets				

ALWAYS PACK A WHITE SHIRT WITH YOUR KIT

Classified Results, August 6th

Home	Score			Away	Scorers
1st XI	1	V	5	HAC (Friendly)	Bratterman
2nd XI	3	V	5	HAC (Friendly)	Carruthers, Fox, Keen
Palace	3	V	1	Valencia (Friendly)	Wickham 2, Jedinak

The SAL website is www.southernamateurleague.co.uk

Newsletter Contributions

All contributions to the newsletter should **reach me by 6-00 pm on a Sunday evening** – the earlier the better, preferably as a word attachment, and sent to owmikepike@yahoo.co.uk**, but please 'phone to confirm that you have done so (0208 659 6443**) - you also get an extra point on the reports table if you do so. Alternatively you can 'phone through your report and dictate it to me



Proud sponsors of Old Wilsonians FC;10% discount for all OWFC members when they eat at the restaurant.

Fixtures**: **Fixtures are correct at time of publication but are subject to change and alteration

Football training takes place EVERY WEDNESDAY night at Wallington Powerleague, 7-00

The start of the 2016/17 season

Problems with the OWA website has meant that the two final newsletters of the 2015/16 football season – numbers 1, 586 and 1.587 - have yet to be posted, but with the 2016/17 season now under way I optimistically produce this one – had hoped it would have appeared shortly after the George Croucher Memorial dinner, as it contains end of season reports, but with the problems mentioned above that was not possible

Reliable sources tell me that the website, in an updated and improved form, will be up and running by the end of August, so that is really good news

Regular newsletters will not appear until the end of the cricket season as I must give that priority – on looking at issue number 785 of "All the News That's Fit to Print" I note that the first friendly games of the 1991/92 season took place on August 31, whilst the first league games were on September 21st

(Also noted in this edition that, in an attempt to update its membership records, the Association had been sending out forms asking Old Wilsonians to provide their "Years at Wilson's", to which Stuart Paton replied "7" !!

Our AGM took place on July 5th and was attended by just ten people - the Minutes will appear in a future edition of this newsletter

A reminder that you should provide reports for ***all*** of your games – including friendly fixtures – and let's hope, at the very least, the 3rd and 6th XIs can rectify their appalling record of not managing to do so for an entire season!!

Best of luck to all of you in the months ahead and I look forward to reading of your exploits – irrespective of the results

Congratulations to a true legend

Many congratulation to Mick Pilgrim on being recognised by the Football Association for his 50 years of voluntary service to football, following in the considerable foot-steps of Mike Harris, who has also been recognised in this way

Mick is a true legend of the Club - a former President of the Association and both the Football and Cricket Clubs – and continues to referee on a regular basis each weekend

Below please find his CV, which illustrates perfectly his tremendous contribution to the game – although he seems to have forgotten to mention that I was his first ever OW skipper!

Michael Pilgrim…..FOOTBALL HISTORY CV…1963 to 2015

1963 -65 Captain of St Saviour's Primary School team, Herne Hill Road,SE24
1965-72 Captain of Wilson's Grammar School House teams and School teams at U.12;U.13;U.14;U.15 and 1stXI level.
1969-72 Worked for I.L.E.A. as Play Group leader coaching football (and other sports) in inner London Schools during school holiday periods.
1969-2006Played and captained various XIs for Old Wilsonians Football Clubincluding 559 1st XI games out of 841 played in total for OWFC.
1969-1982Played Sunday football for Ajax Casuals FC and served on Club Committee in various capacitiesand played for Carlton FC (including in National Sunday Cup Final in 1981).
1987-2001 Co-ordinated and ran OWFC Annual 5 a side Tournament raising over £20,000 for Football Club funds.
1988-1999 Chairman of OWFC.
2001-2003 President of OWFC.
2006-2008 Club referee officiating lower X1 matches for several seasons.
2009-present day Ground Manager at Old Wilsonians Sports Ground in Hayes including management and supervision of football pitches at both main ground and nearby Hawes Down Junior School working in partnership with Heads of local schools.
2009-present day Having qualified as a Level 7 referee in 2010 and gaining promotion to Level 5 in 2012 I now referee for the S.A.L., the London University Soccer League (LUSL),British University and Colleges (BUCS) League and in Vets and Kent Schools football. I also refereed in the Orpington and Bromley Sunday Football League for two seasons between 2010 and 2012.

ALL OUR TODAYS

A couple of reports left over from last season

LAST GASP WINNER 1st XI 0 Old Garchonians 1

With the 1's playing only once in the last three weeks the final game of the season had a strange feel about it - more like a pre-season friendly. Again availability was an issue with ourseventh 16 year old making his debut in David Okoh at right back, that took the total players used this year to the magic 50.

Garchonians turned up with only 10 men but, to their credit, were the better side throughout. Even though the 1's dominated possession it was Garchonians who looked the more likely to break the deadlock, their number 10 up top being a constant threat.

The game was dull and uninspiring with very little happening. But Garchonians were to get their reward with the last kick off the game when the number 10 created an opening for their centre midfielder to score.

The game itself showed where the 1's have come up short this year, as a lack of creativity and goals and the constant changes each week have taken its toll. But all credit to the squad for getting through the difficulties each week, in every league game except for one they have competed. They have

often gone with 11-12 players and many youngsters, and have still been able to remain in the top parts of the league. Chris Wells
Hilton; Middleton; Okoh; Wilson; Paton; Simmons; Akkaya; Childs; Bratterman; Sellman; J Parkinson; Subs: Farmer MOM: Wilson

LAST GAME DEFEAT BUT A SUCCESSFUL SEASON Old Blues 4th XI 1 8th XI 0

A bit of a dead rubber game, but the squad of 11 embarked to the Ham Playing fields just over the river from Twickenham. Ed Adams was adamant there was a bridge over the river but, luckily, the smart ones on the team could read a map and could see that there were no bridges across the river, only one to an island. We could have walked, as there was a referee mishap, with the official reading 1.30 as 3.30...

We started with our famous circular warm-up where half the team ran clockwise and other half also ran clockwise. When 'Eggy' shouted Banana, the last one to sit on the floor had to run to the goals and back to where we warmed up....

A hot day and a pitch that was as dusty as Tottenham and Liverpool's shelves for Premier League trophies meant that the ball was bouncing all over the place. There was some football played.

We did not settle quickly and conceded an early goal but, after that, there was plenty of football. Chances galore from us, Sparrow and I getting nosebleeds as we wondered up the pitch, Kek the tinkerman moving our left back to left mid and our striker into midfield to change the dynamics of our attacks. 'Stridey' had some powerful shots go over the bar, Will Adams had great determination to get the ball into shooting positions but could not find the back of the net. 'Eggy', in goal, after recovering from a broken leg, having a shot on target. Wicks skying a free kick.. We played football and did not score... It happens.

What did happen, though, was a great team performance with 100% determination, full of energy. We shouted at each but then changed that to constructive criticism. The boys had a few beers after and we went down to Richmond as a team to laugh out the season.

We end in middle table but led the league for most of the season. Battling hard and playing for each other, over the last three years we have improved drastically, and this year we scored more goals than the previous two and conceded less.
Team: EGLON, PATEL, RAND, SPARROW, WALKER, K.AMANKWAH, WICKS, PROWTING, W.ADAMS, E.ADAMS, STRIDE Mom: RAND

And some end of Season reports

2nd Xl

The second XI wanted to build on last year's excellent season! However this year has been marred by a few poor results at the wrong time, predominantly due to availability!

Having said that, currently we look like we will finish runners up to Nottsborough, rather than the third place of last year, although if results don't go our way we will probably finish third again.

Last year we achieved 15 wins 3 draws 4 losses 48 points, this year 9 wins 5 draws and 5 losses currently on 32 points with today's game. We have not scored as many and we have also conceded more than last year

In the cups we got to a final (via an appeal after some moody selection) and lost another semi. The final was against an exceptionally strong Easthamians, who were 2-0 up in 10 minutes and should have had a centre back sent off after 15 minute. We pulled it back to 2-2 before conceding the best goal I have ever let in just before half time. Despite a far better performance in the second half, and making the best save Bob Leeds has ever seen, we were caught on the counter attack eventually falling short 6-3 , with couple goals conceded towards end of game.

In another game we should have won we lost the most one sided game I have ever played in 1-0 at the death vs NUFC Oilers, having missed about 30 chances to take the lead. Another win against Nottsborough (champions, 3 out of 4 times we have beaten them in two years) was not enough to kick start an unbeaten run.

This season has seen lots of selection challenges and availability issues, injuries to key players at the wrong time but some stand out contributions along the way. Molby, Jimmy Taylor and Jack Cowell all had superb seasons and the voting for player of the year was tight between them and myself. Most people who played the majority of games were solid, Dunk, Howe and Karra, Sampson, Collins and Guycode were all excellent…. but to be honest if we want next season to be a success, the boys need to start training more, get fitter and they could win the league with consistent availability.

Finally a season highlight was Jon Howe going to the wrong ground, surely a clear winner for J Arthur. The deserved winner of player of the year was Michael Mitchell, who was excellent all year and performed in all the big games. Neil Ashworth

3rd XI

The 2015-16 season ended up turning into a relegation battle for the 3's and, writing this before a double header today against Owens, we still need a win to guarantee survival.

The league started with inconsistency, as we struggled to deal with the loss of key centre back James Croft after he decided to take a break from playing…coincidentally the same week as being pictured on Facebook having found himself a girlfriend. Fortunately, we were progressing well in the AFA cup and a 2 month unbeaten run before Christmas saw us sitting mid-table in the league and with a quarter final to come in January.

Unfortunately the inevitable consumption of Christmas turkey saw us take a little longer to recover from than expected - it took until mid-March for us to record another win. During this time we crashed out of the cup and dropped down the table to be involved in a relegation scrap with HSBC and Carshalton.

The last few months have seen an influx of new players and results have improved, hopefully to the point that we have ended up getting the result today and staying up.

On a positive note we have integrated several schoolboys into the team and a couple ran the player of the year vote close. Ryan Kan, Harry Cox and Liam Walter all had excellent seasons and have become key members of the team already.

The eventual winner has been the only consistent fixture in the back four and without him Jordan Childs would have found himself picking the ball out of the net on plenty more occasions than he did. His screaming at the other defenders to pick up their men may have left a little to be desired, but he has been a player that can be relied on to be solid and consistent every week. The 3's player of the year is Chris Tyler.

4th XI

The 2015-16 season was always set up to be a transitional one for the 4's, with the loss of captain and manager from the previous seasons.

We got off to a slow start with a number of new additions taking a bit of time to bed in, and this turned into a poor run of form culminating in throwing away a 3-0 lead in the last 10 minutes of the game at Poly.

The capitulation at Poly, and the night out that followed, seemed to spark a turning point for the team and after this we went on a run of about 8 wins from 10 games across the league and cup and the new boys really started to find their feet. Sam James and John Carruthers were scoring for fun and the infamous leaky defence shown at Poly managed to get their act together and move away from the beloved 3-5-2 to a traditional 4 at the back.

Autumn was not all fun and goals however, and in mid-October disaster struck. Matt Ballard managed to trip over his own foot taking a goal kick and ended up with a terrible "career ending" knee injury. It turned out that this career ending injury was self-diagnosed, and he was asking to play again 2 weeks later.

Inconsistency cost us as we went into December and we went out of 2 cups in consecutive weeks. However we really hit form at the turn of the year in the league beating all the teams at the top giving ourselves a good chance of promotion. The weeks went by and this looked more and more like a possibility, particularly when we ended Alleyn's perfect run of winning all their games by beating them at Fortress Hayes.

Tom Hamer made a return for a solid run of games around this time, but his time back did not last for too long and he disappeared to go travelling . Things were looking promising until mad March arrived, where we managed to rack up 3 red cards in 3 games, 2 of these in crucial games against 1st and 2nd in the league. A special mention should go to Jordan for his goalkeeper impression and the first

of these red cards, handballing on the line despite being 4-0 up with 15 minutes left to go. To be fair to him, they missed the resulting penalty.

The season petered out disappointingly as we had left ourselves too reliant on other results going our way, and we will end up either 3rd or 4th. The finish to the season should leave us feeling confident about our promotion prospects next season, and there are rumours of Yuved returning in a player manager capacity.

A few players had very strong seasons and deserve a mention, including Sam and John with fantastic goal returns (John helped by 6 against the school boys) and Dave Wateridge being the ultimate utility man from goal keeper right through to winger. Jordan Watson also deserves a mention, and has been available for virtually every game and fully bought in to the spirit of the club with performances on and off the pitch.

The player of the season was, however, a stand out performer, a crucial member of the team who won the vote by a land slide and has been a consistent presence throughout the season, which is lucky because the team didn't look half as good or balanced without him, namely Callum Henderson

5th XI

At the start of the season the 5's discussed how this was going to be the year that we did not reach The End of Season Dinner empty handed, watching all the other teams enjoying their silverware. As a result, the 5's had an 'all or nothing' approach to fixtures; registering 0 draws and often gambling with 3 at the back (or 2, depending on whether or not Billing counts). It was going great at the start of the season as we notched up 4 league wins on the bounce – but it all started to go downhill when our midfield maestro Stewart Keen was called up to the 2;s, and we lost right-back Gav to what can only be described as a monumental hissy fit: picking up an 'injury' in the same week that nobody replied to his lengthy tactical breakdown email.

The first player to deserve a special mention this season is Edd, who celebrated his fifth day of fatherhood with a 5-1 defeat away to Salesians. As tenacious as ever, Edd stepped up his game this year, dictating the tempo of our play with consistently excellent passing displays. The next player is Dyki, who since giving up smoking is playing like a man not a day over 30. With flicks, back-heels, dummies and some fantastic assists, Dyki has been at the heart of the 5's attack.

But the player of the season, taking the voting by a landslide, is someone whose desire to win is second to none, someone who has never lost a physical or aerial battle and someone who has appeared on the 5's Player of the Season trophy once before. Last time they won:

- They had hair
- Bill Clinton was the president of the USA
- Blackburn were Premier League champions
- Frank Bruno was the WBC world heavyweight champion
- 1% of the UK population had internet access
- Current skipper Cejay was 2 years old

The 5th XI's player of the year was the age defying Johnny Q.

6th XI

Similarly to the last 5 seasons the 6's were in transition. Ginge (George McGeevor) having given a token effort to running the team, decided watching Palace trying to score a goal in the second half of the season was of more interest than getting lobbed on his line every week.

At the start of the season there was the usual desperate struggle for players, which resulted in Kevin Fowler maintaining his 6th XI status.

Getting only 1 point by Christmas, and conceding an average of 3 goals a week, we looked to the 7th XI for help. In came Ash Phakey, raising the back line's average height to above 6 foot from 5 foot 9, he also reduced the time taken to put up the nets on Hawes Down by 30 minutes and has since then been a stalwart.

By Christmas we had built a core of a team that could not concede 5 goals a game. It was at this point we went on our 3 game unbeaten run, including a 2-1 against league champions Civil 6s and a credible draw away at Bank of England.

After this brief revival, normal service was resumed and we succumbed to a 3-2 loss to Carshalton, followed by loss after loss after loss.

It has been a really difficult year getting a regular team out and I know the club is here because of Old Wilsonians. However my most reliable and dedicated players this year have been non old boys so I'd like to thank them for turning up every week and being more passionate and involved in the club than the majority Old Wilsonians have been.

In terms of player of the season it was a clear two-way race. I'd like to mention our runner up this year who was very close to taking it. Jack Sinclair is our school boy keeper who's played pretty much every game this year and, despite conceding a lot of goals, has often been the best player on the pitch. At 5ft 8 he still gets lobbed on his line less than Ginge. Our winner this year is a non-old boy; he has run the team when I've not been around and run the midfield in that one game we won – Elliot Tiffin

8th XI - or the Bieber effect

Free from the pressure of not having to battle relegation, the target for the 'new 8s' this season was to finish mid-table. Our season kicked off way back in August, when the 'new 8s' played the 'old 8s' at the cathedral of football known as Coney Hall. It was definitely a match for the neutrals, with the 'new 8s' avenging their demotion by winning 5-4. The game will best be remembered for Jack Sinclair scoring a goal *from his own penalty box*, a feat which I'm sure I'm unlikely to see again at Old Wilsonians!

It was a sluggish start to the season, with the SAL 'Champions League' giving us a chance to find our feet before the proper league started. As always, there was some turbulence with the line-up as we tried to introduce new players, and a loss against Bank of England was followed by a draw against Civil Service, followed by the watershed moment that was the 6-3 loss away at HSBC.

Those of you that regularly read the newsletter will know my feelings about that match; for those who don't, James Sparrow was able to sum it up neatly in one word – "embarrassing". Being 3-0 up at half-time, but then going on to lose 6-3, was easily the worst 45 minutes I have played at Old Wilsonians. Something had to change after that. I vowed to go to training on a more regular basis, and other members of the team also started to attend; the prospect of facing an angry Sparrow on Saturday afternoon was enough to scare some of the team into going! Despite our efforts in training, it couldn't stop the periods of defensive suicide during games that led to us losing 5 in a row. We thought wearing the brand new, shiny blue away kit might bring a change in fortunes; it didn't, and we lost 7-0 at home to Poly! We were at the foot of the table only with the 9s, and it got to the point where we decided that when we finally won a game we would do shots. That moment arrived away at Alleyn's, and there was some bemusement in the bar as we downed Jagerbombs with our pizza.

Another turning point in the season came when we played away at Merton, who were the league leaders at that time. The pitch was boggy, which suited their 'kick and rush' football, but we were able to overcome this; not only did we get a clean sheet, but we scored ***SEVEN***! And now we come to…the Bieber Effect.

Justin Bieber blared out of the portable speaker as we prepared to play HSBC again at their ground, this time in the league. It must have pumped the squad, because we avenged our earlier mauling in the season by winning 5-1. And so a series of strange superstitions began as we rose to the top of Division 5 South. Bieber became the soundtrack. I wore the same pair of socks for each game. Will Adams consumed a packet of Chewits before each game. Eggy and Steve Wicks didn't shave their beards. Sparrow had a pair of 'lucky pants' that he wore for every game. The was now talk that maybe, just maybe, we could win the league. However, we still needed to play the second and third-placed teams. And that, my friends, is where the dream has unravelled as we have lost to both. Personally, I think it was the point where someone (ahem Himesh) started putting on Craig David covering Bieber songs. Or that's what I thought…we played the original at Ibis Eagles and still lost anyway!
So with two games to go), we are aiming for 4th place or even 3rd if results go our way.

When I first took over the 8s, my main aim was to build a culture where playing on Saturdays was enjoyable; after all, it is an escape for most of us from the 9-to-5 treadmill. And 3 years on, it is exactly that. It has been a pleasure to play with such a top bunch of lads, and our team spirit has seen us

through some difficult times this season. There have been some sublime performances, along with some awful ones, but nevertheless everyone will stick around for a beer and post-game chinwag. In summary, I feel proud to lead a team that embodies the spirit of the club.
And now for some FUNNIES from the season…

- The tekkers by Alex Forbes on Himesh during the Unclasico;
- James Stride missing a game to get engaged…Sparrow was not amused;
- Ed smashing a glass in the restaurant at the Xmas meal…before we had even taken our seats;
- The captain (who shall remain nameless) putting part of his TV in the oven to fix it because 'I read it online'. Guess what…it didn't work;
- Crombie not only arriving late to the game at Poly with the kit, but also carrying a pair of high heels;
- And finally…THE BIEBER EFFECT

There were many fine individual performances this season, but in the second half the performance of one spurred the team on. Our player of the season…Ed Adams

9th XI

After the unmitigated disaster of the Al Forbes era, the only way was up for the mighty nines. Having lost all 16 league games and 3 cup games the previous season, we had totally forgotten what it felt like to even draw a game, let alone win. We soon put that right in our first game in the SAL cup, with a handsome 3-0 victory at Merton.

This did not prove to be a fluke, and soon the victories were mounting up – a 5-2 thrashing of Ibis Eagles in the Cup, and league victories against Old Blues, Merton and Bank of England meant that after six games we were sitting pretty in third place. Distracted by dreams of Champions League qualification, we then hit a slightly rough patch of 8 straight defeats that left us bottom of the table. It seemed we were destined to remain on 9 points until an extraordinary game at Old Blues – 3-0 down after ten minutes and heading for a hiding, we fought back to draw 5-5. More precious points followed with a 3-2 home victory over Salesians, despite some of our players leaving the field thinking we'd lost the game!

There were some excellent performances throughout the season that deserve a mention. In goal, Chunk pulled off numerous spectacular saves at the start of the season, before being poached by the 4th XI. Luckily we had a ready-made replacement in Nev Spencer, who kept us in more games than I can remember. We certainly wouldn't have finished with the same points total without Matt Hallett's organisation (i.e. shouting) and Chris Jerome's tough tackling (i.e. blatant fouls). On the wing, Luke Curran's passing and creativity were always a threat, and his availability week in week out certainly put other schoolboys to shame. In terms of goal-scoring, special mention must go to Al Forbes who scored his first since 1983 in our 4-1 home defeat to Bank. Luckily for us, he is a modest man and didn't really want to talk about it much. Oliver Krauss' finishing was always ice cool, as you would expect from a German, and he scored several vital goals for us. However, our player of the season award goes to our top scorer, in his first season for us, the injury-prone but deadly – Harry Smith.