Anything The Football Can Do...

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

Editor: Mike Pike
68a Knighton Park Rd
Sydenham SE26 5RL
Tel: 020 8659-6443
Email: owmikepike@yahoo.co.uk

Issue No: 158 (May 2017)

www.oldwilsonians.com

Club:Old Wilsonians
Hayes Hill
Hayes, Bromley,
Kent
Telephone: 0208 462 2600

All systems go - the 2017 season gets underway

Our pre-season get together and quiz night was a great success, both socially and financially – it raised nearly £600 - and thanks to Tony (Sherlock) , Kenny (Maxwell) and Steve (Lawrence) for their organising skills and getting so many participants. The quiz itself was fiercely and noisily contested and enjoyed by all, whilst many members took the opportunity to pay their annual subs and sign their membership forms, which helps Jane (Kempthorn) and Andy (Spedding) with the tremendous administration work they do

Also noticed that Louis Pryor is now taller than me – although that's not difficult

Club Force followed the week after and although all the work was completed I have to say the response from members was disappointing

This is an occasion when ***ALL*** sections of the Club need to play their part but it probably benefits the cricket club more than anyone, as we play the summer game

However, and as a consequence of the dedicated few, the Nets are now in tip top condition, the covers are fit for purpose and the sight-screens are state of the art – just compare them with those at neighbouring Ex-Blues, and the pavilion has been given a lick of paint.

Paul Jenkins, our President, does a tremendous job and is there from the early morning until late at night ***on all three days***, so a few hours contributed by each and every one of you is surely not asking too much - for more details of the work accomplished please see the latest edition of 'Pikey's Progress', available on the OWA website

I was pleased to be in attendance at the first Under 13b game of the season, against Hayes, and was delighted to meet two new scorers, Andy and Nick, both of whom took to the task well - it is always encouraging when we find volunteers for this essential part of the game

As I'm sure most of you know, one of our more experienced scorers, namely Graham Watts, has not been too well of late but pleased to report that he is recovering well

Delighted to report that Laurence Allen has agreed to become our communications officer and has already got into the swing of things and is producing a weekly bulletin which you are all encouraged to read, whilst Alex Forbes updates the Association's website, also on a weekly basis, which is also worthy of your attention

Good to see that the Nets are in regular use but please remember to observe the rules and regulations when doing so

The Kent League have produced a code of conduct, which has been posted in the dressing rooms, which you are asked, instructed even, to adhere to. The 1st XI won the League's 'spirit of cricket award' last season so we have a reputation to preserve, besides which playing the game in the spirit in which it was intended is the right and proper thing to do.

As previously reported our 1st XI skipper also leads the League representative side and in his first game he was joined by fellow Old Wilsonians Matt Abbett, John Rodda and Laurence Roots, so congratulations to all involved.

The season has started well - Matt Abbett has hit ***three*** centuries , Chris Scott ***two***, whilst Kenny Maxwell also got into three figures, and the bowling performance so far must be Paul Jenkins' 7 for 4 - that's seven wickets for four runs, against Streatham & Marlborough.

Who to contact and how

Chairman:	Paul Maxwell 0208 777 3475 (H) psm67@btopenworld.com	07852 966625 (Mobile)
Vice-Chair:	Jeff Mascarenhas Email: jeffmascarenhas@ntlworld.com	07967 484634 (Mobile)
Colts Chairperson:	Adrian Beckett Email: abeckett@jameshambro.com	
Club Captain:	Alex Forbes 07855 273218 (Mobile) Email: Alexforbes46@hotmail.co.uk	
Secretary:	Mike Pike Email: owmikepike@yahoo.co.uk	020 8659 6443 (H)
Membership Secretary and Welfare Officer	Jane Kempthorn Email: jane.owccmembership@hotmail.co.uk	07886 412166 (Mobile)
Treasurer:	Andy Spedding Email: andy.spedding@hotmail.co.uk	07973 847469 (Mobile)
Fixtures Secretary:	Laurence Allen Email: Loz_Allen@hotmail.com	07946 635020 (Mobile)
Kit Manager	This position is currently vacant	
Website Administrator and Communications Officer	Laurence Allen Email: loz_allen@hotmail,com	07946 635020 (Mobile)

Skippers:

1st XI	Michael Mitchell Email: michaelgmitchell@live.co.uk	07721 628117
2nd XI:	Chris Scott Email: chris.scott928@gmail.com	07917 033946 (M)
3rd XI:	Laki Kasturiratne Email Laki1993@aol.com	07957 421337 (M)
4th XI	Jeff Mascarenhas jeffmascarenhas@ntlworld.com	07967 484634 (M)
5th XI	Alex Forbes alexforbes46@hotmail.co.uk	07855 273218 (M)
Sunday Development:	Chris Scott Email: chris.scott928@gmail.com	07917 033946 (M)
Sunday Friendly	Tony Sherlock Email: tony@cobraconcrete.co.uk	07881 277283 (M)
	Dean Relf Email: deanrelf@gmail.com	07846277283

Websites

Kent Cricket League Website: **www.kcl.uk.net**
Kent Feeder League website http://krcl.play-cricket.com
Sunday Development League website http://kentsdl.play-cricket.com
Old Wilsonians: **www.oldwilsonians.play-cricket.com**
North Kent Junior League: http://nkentjumior.play-cricket.com
Old Wilsonians' Association website www.OldWilsonians.com

April/May Results

Bromley	146	1st Xl	147 for 3	Won by 7 wickets
Bromley Common	184 for 8	1st Xl	77	Lost by 107 runs
2nd Xl	240 for 4	Bromley Common	120	Won by 120 runs
1st Xl	151	Biddestone	111	Won by 40 runs
Biddestone	110	2nd Xl	111 for 2	Won by 8 wickets
Chippenham	184	Sunday Xl	187 for 6	Won by 4 wickets
Under 13b	69	Hayes	74 for 1	Lost by 9 wickets
Under 15a		Dartfordians	OWs conceded	
Under 12		Bexley	OWs conceded	
1st Xl	274	St Lawrence and Highland Court	278 for 7	Lost by 3 wickets
2nd Xl	293 for 3	Colfeians	264	Won by 29 runs
Bromley 4th Xl	259 for 5	3rd Xl	123	Lost by 136 runs
4th Xl	92	Nat West 1st Xl	94 for 7	Lost by 3 wickets
5th Xl		Dulwich 6th Xl	Dulwich conceded	
Dulwich under 15a	54	Under 15 a	56 for 2	Won by 8 wickets
Sunday Xl	171	Ide Hill	117	Won by 54 runs
Under 11		ODCUACO	ODCUACO conceded	
Hayes Under 13a	113 for 6	Under 13a	117 for 8	Won by 2 wickets
Dulwich Under 16	54	Under 16	56 for 2	Won by 8 wickets
Bromley Under 13b	107 for 8	Under 13b	58 for 8	Lost by 49 runs
Bexley	150 for 6	Under 17	127 for 6	Lost by 23 run
1st Xl	233 for 7	Chestfield	234 for 4	Lost by 6 wickets
2nd Xl	215 for 9	Bickley Park	219 for 8	Lost by 2 wickets
3rd Xl	150 for 8	Hayes 4th Xl	151 for 1	Lost by 9 wickets
4th Xl	112 for 7	Roan and Lambethans	113 for 1	Lost by 9 wickets

5th Xl conceded		HSBC 4th Xl		HSBC
Catford Cyphers	211	Sunday Xl	215 for 3	Won by 7 wickets
Under 15b	184 for 3	Dartford	64 for 7	Won by 120 runs
Under 13b	72 for 6	Bromley Common	73 for 1	Lost by 9 wickets
OW 20/20 side	150 for 9	Orpington	116 for 9	Won by 34 runs
1st Xl	236 for 8	Nonnington	115	Won by 123 runs
2nd Xl	178 for 9	Nonnington	93	Won by 85 runs
New Ifield	200 for 4	3rd Xl	165 for 5	Lost by 35 runs
4th Xl	115 for 7	Lessa Christ Church	106	Won by 9 runs
Streatham & Marlborough	42	5th Xl	43 for 3	Won by 7 wickets
Under 15a	146 for 5	Hayes	147 for 4	Lost by 6 wickets
Sunday Xl	217 for 8	Plumstead	130	Won by 87 runs
Under 11	138 for 2	Cudham Wyse	53	Won by 85 runs
Under 13b	100 for 7	Chishlehurst & West Kent	103 for 4	Lost by 6 wickets
Under 13a	156 for 3	Blackheath	59	Won by 97 runs
Folkestone	182	1st X1	172	Lost by 10 runs
Hayes	235 for 6	2nd Xl	100	Lost by 135 runs
3rd Xl	113	Snodland Community	108	Won by 5 runs
4th Xl	223 for 8	ODCUACO	225 for 3	Lost by 7 wickets
5th Xl		Shooters Hill		Shooters Hill conceded
Sunday Xl	295 for 3	Oakhill Taverners	145	Won by 150 runs

Successful trip to Bath

A fantastic tour of Bath for the clubs 1st and 2nd Xls proved a great success . After the inaugural 1st team tour last year, this year saw the inclusion of the 2's as 23 of Old Wilsonians' CC's finest members headed to the West Country to take over Bath.

The tour included three games, one for both the 1's and 2's on the Saturday against ' Rootsy's' old club, and a mixed XI game on the Sunday, as Old Wilsonians romped away with ***three wins out of three,*** leaving a tour track record of ***played four, won four*** over the two years.

1st team game - http://oldwilsonians.play-cricket.com/websi…/results/2949109

2nd team game - http://oldwilsonians.play-cricket.com/websi…/results/2949110

No scorecard for the Sunday game but we chased down 184 in a 25 over game , which included an outrageous 100 from Matt Abbett

Well done to everyone involved on making the trip a successful one for OWCC

Michael Mitchell

T20 SUCCESS AT ORPINGTON Old Wisonians 150 for 9, Orpington 116

Old Wilsonians T20 side beat Orpington by 34 runs in Round 1 of this season's Shepherd Neame T20 cup competition. The side, which included three current and five former colts, put in an impressive performance in which every individual contributed, with Michael Mitchell (44) and 3 for 10, Chris Scott (23) and Matt Abbett, 2 for 15, being particularly impressive.

This victory has set up a potential giant killing tie against premier league side Beckenham in the next round John Rodda

Abbett.M Morley.N Ranjan Scott Mitchell Rodda.J Sims Ellicott-White (Sydney)Sherlock Finan Jukes

OLD WILSONIANS' ASSOCIATION SPORTS CLUB

Terms & Conditions for hire of facilities

To all Sports Club Hirers:

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

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

NB: The Association relies heavily on hiring out the Clubhouse to increase its revenue from which we all benefit. The above outlines our terms and conditions, so please pass on to anyone your think may be interested or, indeed, yourself – many Old Wilsonians have already held functions in our Clubhouse.

For more details, please contact **Anton Snowsill:** **antonsnowsill@hotmai.com**

Thought for the month

"We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing"

- George Bernard Shaw

BROMLEY COMMON AGAIN GET THE BETTER OF US Bromley Common 184 for 8 1st Xl 77

After a convincing win at Premier Division Bromley, the 1st Xl were in confident mood when they faced Division One Bromley Common at 'The Grove', and when our hosts slumped to 58 for 5 in the 14th over, another major scalp appeared to be on the cards. However when the sixth wicket pair doubled the score with 28 overs remaining – their run rate had never been a problem, it was just that they kept losing wickets – they finished on a respectable 184 for 8 from their 45 overs.

Opening pair, and new comers Brian Kulasena, 2 for 30, and Jordan Thomas, 2 for 41, were the most successful of our bowlers, although Brian has now decided to return to Australia and we will have to find another opening partner for Jordan, our overseas player for the current campaign.

David Pilgrim, bowling for the 1st Xl for the first time - "I seem to remember running around in the field for the 1's on a previous occasion", he confided, bowled his leg spin tidily to finish with 1 for 15 from six overs, whilst Harrison Weaver and Jonathan Rodda also picked up a wicket each

If Bromley Common's top order batsmen had failed to impress it was nothing to that of ours as we lost five wickets in the first six overs to slump to 16 for 5. A sixth wicket partnership of 50 between Sanath Dandeniya (30) and Jordan Thomas (22) then gave us hope but 66 for 6 soon became 77 all out, although it must be remembered that we had a couple of more debutants, Steve Lawrence, who also did a lot of "running around the field" as a substitute last season, and Stan Sherlock, both of whom could lay claim to being the future of the Club

As for the present there is the makings of a good side here, as their subsequent performances in Bath the following week illustrated – see separate report - but we seem to have a mental block when we play Bromley Common, who invariably defeat us.

Man of the match: Sanath Dandeniya - again – i.e. as in last season – he demonstrated his grit and character and will again be crucial this time around

Rodda.J Kulasenya Abbett.M Dandeniya Mitchell Weaver Thomas Roots Lawrence Pilgrim.D (Stan) Sherlock

RUNS GALORE 1st Xl 274 St Lawrence & Highland Court 278 for 7

After a reasonably successful pre-season - two wins and one defeat In the games played - it was time for the 1st Xl to play their first league encounter against highly rated St Lawrence and Highland Court; they finished third in Division Two last season and graced the Premier Division not that long ago

The corresponding fixture last year saw the visitors achieve a comfortable 8 wicket victory but it was our turn to out-play them in the return fixture, with a 121 run victory. Only six of that side were representing us today, a team which saw three 1st Xl (league) debutants, Matt Abbett, Jordan Thomas and Harrison Weaver, whilst Velson Devarajulu returned to the Club after brief sojourns at Bexley and ODCUACO.

St Lawrence won the toss and elected to bowl and picked up two early wickets as if to justify their decision, after which Matt Abbett took over in a superb exhibition of batting which saw him record the fifth highest Individual innings by an Old Wilsonian.

He hit 168 not out in two hours ten minutes in an innings that contained 108 in boundaries - six 6's and eighteen 4's - and he was merciless in his execution. He shared a third wicket partnership of 79 with Sanath Dandeniya - the latter started tentatively before beginning to regain the confidence that saw him go on to make 34, and after his dismissal Matt just took over and shared a fourth wicket partnership of 41 with Velson, of which the latter made three, whilst the fifth wicket saw Nick Morley make 15 of the 53 runs they shared. Not that it mattered; they all did their jobs.

Josh Lawrence (10) then helped add another 34 to take the score to 256 for 7, after which we crumbled a bit to be all out for 274, but at least we used up all of the overs, the last wicket falling

to the very last ball of the 50.



Jordan Thomas shows he means business - Doug Forbes believes that our overseas player strongly resembles brother Stuart; as long as he doesn't bowl like him!

It was now up to the bowlers and a neat slip catch by Matt Abbett - who else - saw the first wicket fall with just 19 runs on the board; advantage Old Wilsonians. However a stand of 125 redressed the balance before 'Mitch' dismissed their number three shortly before the drinks break and their number four with the first ball after it to make It virtually honours even between the two

sides, and when Matt Abbett dismissed their stubborn opener, Dave Ellicott-White took his first league wicket of the season and Josh Lawrence two more, one of the favourites for promotion had slumped to 209 for 7.

Perhaps of even more significance was the fact that they now had 55 balls left to get the 66 runs they required for victory. That they did so was almost entirely down to their skipper, who got no fewer than 56 of them to finish on 82 not out - he even had three balls to spare. It was an innings as good as Matt's but more significant in that it brought his side victory.

So the 1st Xl came out on the wrong side of a 552 run feast In the first competitive game of the season against a top class side, which is certainly no disgrace

Lessons to be learned: Good as St Lawrence batted our bowling looks a bit light, although Josh Lawrence's 2 for 21 from seven overs was admirable. Jordan's first spell was full of pace and fire but their skipper got hold of him in his second and he needs a genuine opening partner.

Matt dominated the batting but we all know that Jonathan, 'Mitch', Sanath, Velson and Nick all have runs in them, and with Pasan Weeraratne to return we should reach the 225 runs required for maximum batting points on a regular basis - Pasan is also a fine bowler and fielder

The fielding was of a good standard - nobody panicked when a catch was in the offing - and the ground fielding was sound. All in all the prospects for the season look good

Man of the match: Matt Abbett not only scored 168 not out but also took a wicket and a neat catch "You looked on to score the highest individual score ever by an Old Wilsonian", I commented during the tea Interval"

He replied very simply - "I will", and, on this evidence, no-one will doubt that at all

Rodda Mitchell Abbett.M Dandeniya (Velson)Devarajulu Morley.N Thomas Lawrence Weaver Roots Ellicott-White

NO BIRTHDAY BLUES FOR NEW SUNDAY SKIPPER Sunday Xl 177 Ide Hill 117

Captain Manwairing opened his eyes to greet the new day. It was his birthday but, more importantly, he was about to skipper the Old Wilsonians' Sunday social side for the first time.

Original opponents Lamorbey Park had dropped out but Ide Hill were happy to step into their shoes, a side who hail from Edenbridge, home of erstwhile Old Wilsonian Bert Bourner, who purchased our ground for us back in 1959 - thanks Bert!

Tony's side were a mixture of youth and experience, in some cases both, whilst the visitors could only muster nine men which, if nothing else, gave us a numerical advantage.

We batted first and Velson Devalajulu and Louis Pryor put on 72 for the first wicket before the former retired (out) having reached his 50. He hit ten fours in his innings and, having graduated through our colts section before seeking pastures new - see also the 1st Xl report against St Lawrence – has now returned home.

Louis was caught behind for 28 and, following minor contributions from Azman Shahan ((13), Matt Abbett (12) and Tom Finan (18) the skipper strode to the crease with the score standing at a precarious 137 for 8 and ten overs remaining. Tony is a big man and you get the impression that if he hits the ball then it will go a long way, and so it proved as he hit a rapid 22, including a six and three fours, before son Stan was bowled and the innings came to a close on 171.

Ide Hill began their reply positively and, at the end of the 23rd over, were handily placed on 100 for 2, although it has to be remembered that this was effectively 100 for 4 as they only had nine players. Matt Abbett then dismissed their skipper, a comfortable catch for Velson, before 'Dad ' Howard (Abbett) then took over to take 3 for 10 in four overs, and it was left to Dan Nicholls to take the final wicket as our visitors were dismissed for 117

So a comfortable victory for our debutant captain on a memorable day; it is not known whether he endured the initiation ceremony for such occasions and was given the bumps by his team mates; on his birthday, too!

(Velson) Devajulu Pryor Islam Shahan Abbett.M Abbett.H Finan Relf.D Nicholls Sherlock.A Sherlock (Stan)

Congratulations Brian

In this world there are heroes and super-heroes and one of the latter is Brian Smith, who handles all of the administration for the Feeder league, which approaches 100 Clubs

As someone who performs this role for just one Club, namely our own, I get extremely frustrated when I am given a score-book where the figures do not add up, names are omitted and the basic information is not provided – you may have heard me vent such frustrations!

Imagine, therefore, having these problems duplicated multiple times and you will have an idea of what Brian has to deal with, and he copes admirably.

Delighted to report, therefore, that our super hero achieved his own personal milestone when he took his 1,000th wicket for Sidcup – Brian is a one Club man – in the game against Dartfordians on May 6th, which he explains in his own words as follows:

"Well it started on the 18th July 1999 (Debut for Sidcup CC), and the landmark of 1,000 wickets for Sidcup CC was reached on Saturday 6th May 2017. I would personally like to thank everyone involved ... fellow team mates who have held on to great catches, ' keepers for the stumpings, and the umpires who have agreed with the plumb lbws. I knew a splash of brut would do the trick on Saturday!! And most importantly ... for all those batsman who have kindly donated your wicket (I owe you a pint) ... hopefully there will be a few more before the end of the season!! So in summary; 4,667.3 overs (28,005 balls) - 683 maidens - 18,330 runs – 1, 000 WICKETS.
It has been a very emotional week and I would be the first to admit that I had a lump in my throat and a tear in my eye when the umpire's finger went up - just disappointing not to bowl the gentleman for the 1,000 wicket.
Dartfordians were fabulous, they even gave me a guard of honour as we walked off at the end of the innings. A magical day, we won in the last over, and I don't remember much of the evening.
Managed to get all the Sidcup team to sign the ball, so I have a keep-sake.
Will be delighted to come to Old Wilsonians during the season ... and add to the tally if I can. 1,001 and counting!!
I'm thinking of retiring at the end of the season, but we shall see."

What makes Brian's achievement all the more remarkable is that he has reached 1,000 wickets in less than 18 seasons – only three Old Wilsonians, Doug Forbes, Tom Sissons and Ian Forbes, have a wicket haul into four figures and I'll wager that it took them all longer than that, although Ian will tell me if I am wrong.

Congratulations, my friend; you will always be welcome to at Old Wilsonians and no-one will begrudge you adding to your wicket haul – as long as you finish on the losing side, of course. Now, about the extra point you should have awarded to our 3rd XI in their game against…….

THE RUNS CONTINUE TO FLOW 1st XI 233 for 7 Chestfield 234 for 4

The side that travelled to Chestfield saw three changes from the previous week but it did not substantially alter the strength of the team and the batting line-up again looked full of runs.

We again batted first but with the score at 56 for 5 after nine overs a repeat of last week's 274 looked unlikely. and it was again left to Sanath Dandniya to repair the damage and he and Jordan Thomas put on 50 for the sixth wicket before the former was caught behind for 31 – Sanath is the model of consistency but he seems to be paranoid about getting into the 40's but, hopefully, this is a fear he will overcome – and sooner rather than later

Jordan was then joined by Josh Lawrence and another wicket would have seen us in real trouble and in danger of being dismissed for a low total - it was 106 for 6 at the time. However, both batted splendidly and put on 94 in 16 overs before Josh was bowled for 34, his highest ever 1st XI score. Josh has the ability to become a genuine all-rounder, his first task being to secure his 1st XI place, and, on this evidence, he is virtually there

Jordan was a revelation. Employed primarily as a bowler he batted exactly how the situation demanded, carefully and diligently at first – the score was 56 for 6 when he arrived at the crease – and helped Sanath repair the damage and was 53 not out when Josh departed with just 19 balls left

and our score on 190 for 7. He added a further 35 to his own total, including three sixes and two fours, and he and Lawrence Roots saw us to 233 for 7 to claim maximum batting points

An early wicket put us in the driving seat but their overseas player then took over and finished on 130 not out, including sharing in a second wicket partnership of 131, and Chestfield got home with 14 balls to spare.

It always used to be said that Old Wilsonians were a bowling side and if they were defending a total of over 200 then they were odds on favourites - their problem in those days was getting over 200! When we made our steady way through the divisions of the Kent league the general consensus seemed to have been that the greatest difference, between the division s, is the quality of the batting rather than the bowling, so it is a lot more difficult for the bowlers than in seasons gone by. If you bowl a bad over you are likely to be punished – and severely

The fact that there is a maximum of ten overs per bowler in Division Two - as opposed to 15 in the lower divisions – also stretches resources and means that you have to have at least five top line bowlers if you have any top half pretentions

The good news for the 1st XI is that they have picked up maximum batting points so far this season and four bowling points, and although that first win of the season has proved to be elusive so far, but see later, it cannot be far in coming, see later, and the return of Pasan Weeraratne will improve both the batting and bowling whilst his fielding will further enhance a young and energetic side in this vital department of the game

A final word of thanks, and praise, to Joe Jukes, who did not bowl, was due to bat at No.11 but was prepared to drive to Whitstable for the sake of the team. Thanks Joe; our trips to Folkestone and Broadstairs are just around the corner; well, not literally!!

Man of the match: Jordan Thomas; his innings, and partnership with Josh Lawrence, ensured we secured maximum batting points

Rodda Mitchell Abbett.M Dandeniya Maxwell Lovelock Thomas Lawrence Roots Ellicott-White Jukes

DON'T PANIC Catford & Cyphers 211 Sunday XI 215 for 3

"We've got a very strong batting side" explained Captain Mainwaring to the Catford skipper, a gentle way of suggesting that it might be better, for the game, if he put us in after the latter had won the toss.

"So have we", responded his adversary, tersely, and elected to bat

It was raining when I arrived at the ground and the score-board read 84 for 2 – my lateness was due to the fact that I had gone to the Palace v Hull game beforehand, and many thanks to Jane Abbett for covering the scoring during my absence and, indeed, for the entire innings

The Sunday side bowled our visitors out for 211 in 38.2 overs and apart from contributions of 85 and 50, there was little sign of a "strong" batting line-up.

"Comparisons are odious", said Dogberry in 'Much ado about Nothing and if the visiting skipper felt he had a strong batting line-up it would be interesting to know how he described his bowling, as the Sunday side stormed to a seven wicket victory in 17.2 overs – that's just 104 balls

To be fair they did manage to use ten bowlers in that time – the true meaning of "giving everyone a game" – and that's quite an achievement for so short an innings

The main beneficiaries in this run festival were Sergeant Wilson (74) (aka Chris Scott), Corporal Jones (24) (Azman Shahan) Private Fraser (85) (Matt Abbett) and Private Walker (Jordan Thomas 22 n.o). The rest of the platoon could only watch and admire

Scott Shahan Abbett,M Thomas Hammond Islam (Velson)Deverajulu Abbett H Jukes (Tony)Sherlcok Nichols

1ST XI SECURE FIRST LEAGUE WIN OF THE SEASON 1st XI 233 for 8 Nonnington 115

The 1st XI secured their first league win of the season, we always knew it was only a matter of time, with a comfortable 121 run victory against Nonnington,

We again batted first, although this time being inserted by the opposition, a decision no doubt

influenced by some much needed rain during the week – "I would have bowled first" explained 'Mitch' and we, again, got well over 200 runs.

Sanath opened with Jonathan, a sensible decision in view of his tenacity and powers of concentration, whilst the fact that he is left-handed helps disrupt any opening attack, and they set about laying a good foundation on a day when the ball was certainly "doing a bit"

The first ten overs of any innings are crucial; lose early wickets and you end up chasing the game, and the initial job is to tame the opening bowlers and quieten the fielding side's exuberance, which always comes at the start of any game.

This was achieved only for Sanath to be caught behind in the 11th over, and when Matt Abbett was trapped lbw we were 48 for 2 after 13 overs. Enter Pasan Weeraratne, and it is certainly good to see him back. Pasan was such an important part of our promotion to Division Two and is three players in one; a fine bat, a reliable change bowler and outstanding fielder, and he and Jonathan put on 110 before Pasan offered a simple catch that was gratefully accepted, having made 43, with his partner being 80 at the time and 16 overs remaining.

Jonathan continues to be an elegant player – his innings contained 13 fours, all of them genuine shots - whilst his running has improved immeasurably and we all felt for him when he was dismissed for 97. "I would have taken 97 before the game started", he philosophically mused.

The score was 181 when he departed with 51 balls remaining and a further 55 runs were added in this time, including 18 from the last over, as everyone rallied to the cause

Nonnigton's innings was a curious affair in that after 29 overs they were 84 for 1 – steady enough but needing to be in the region of 115 to have a realistic chance of victory. What followed probably explains their apparent over caution as, 15 overs later, they were all out for 115. Josh Lawrence, in another impressive display, finished with 4 for 21, the skipper, 3 for 24 and Jordan Thomas 2 for 10.

We held all of the catches offered, including the first six wickets to fall, albeit none by the 'keeper, and the prospect of ten outfield catches was on the cards. However 'Mitch' bowled their number six so we had to settle for a more conventional method of taking ten wickets.

Man of the match; Has to be Jonathan, although Josh ran him close

Dandeniya Rodda.J Abbett.M Weeraratne Mitchell Thomas Pryor Lawrence Brindley Roots Ellicott-White

THREE WINS IN A ROW FOR THE SUNDAY Xl Sunday Xl 217 for 8 Plumstead 130

Plumstead replaced Dulwich Wanderers as the Sunday Xl continued on their winning ways, the highlights of which were an unbeaten century from Chris Scott, three wickets from the wicket-keeper and the chance of a hat-trick from Steve Lawrence.

Chris, no doubt still on a high following his trip to Wembley to see Millwall promoted to the championship, celebrated by hitting 109 not out and batting for all of our 40 overs, put on 61 for the first wicket with Louis Pryor but a mid order collapse saw us reduced to 100 for 6, at which time Chris was on just 38. However, some late order support from Stan Sherlock (17), Jonathan Davies (11) and Andrew Pomering (13 n.o) not only enabled the side to sail past the 200 mark but also enabled Chris to get into three figures himself.

The Plumstead reply started well enough and at the drinks interval – the half-way stage – they were 109 for 4. However, Captain Mainwaring then adopted his master plan and brought on Steve Lawrence to bowl and he took wickets ***with his first two balls***. The expectant crowd then held their breath as 'The Future' prepared to bowl his hat-trick ball which was…….. a wide. However, this did mean that our hero had a second chance, only for the ball to be dispatched to the boundary; as was the next one.

Then came the skipper's second master-stroke as Jake Phillips, who had removed his pads during the drinks interval, came on to bowl and took a wicket with his ***second*** ball, and went on to finish with 3 for 13, marginally better than Steve's 3 for 19.

The last time a wicket-keeper turned bowler had performed with such dramatic effect was when Jim Matthews, the then 1st Xl skipper, had taken off his pads in a game against Old Dunstonians – before they were Dunstonians Cuaco – and went on to take eight wickets.

So the skipper's inspired leadership means it is now three wins out of three for the Sunday Xl and, on this evidence, with plenty more to come

Scott Pryor Shahan (Sherlock.A) Phillips Mitchell Morley.N Adams.R (Stan)Sherlock Davies Pomering.A Lawrence.S

A GAME THAT WAS THERE FOR THE TAKING Folkestone 182, 1st Xl 172

Folkestone have suffered consecutive relegations in the last two seasons, from the Premier Division to the Second Division, but they were 109 without loss after 20 overs in this game and looked set to post a large score in the summer sunshine.

However, when 'Mitch' bowled both of their openers in consecutive overs it heralded a rapid collapse and they lost all ten wickets for just 71 runs in 21.2 overs! Our skipper finished with 4 for 34, although our myopic scorer at one point confused him with Josh Lawrence, and Matt Abbett 3 for 43, whilst Jordan Thomas's 0 for 39 from ten overs certainly did not reflect his performance – he beat the bat on numerous occasions and the Folkestone batsmen were just not good enough to get an edge!

So we needed 183 to secure our second victory of the season and, having never scored less than 200 so far this summer, we must have fancied our chances; would batting second make a difference?

Jonathan Rodda departed early but Pasan Weeraratne and Matt Abbett repaired the damage but when the latter was caught behind a couple of quick wickets followed, including that of Pasan, whose 45 had included eight 4s and one 6 in an innings that looked to be a match winning one until his dismissal. and when 62 for 4 became 82 for 5 some urgent repair work was needed, which 'Mitch' and Jordan Thomas set about diligently until the former was bowled for 23 with the score at 125.

Josh Lawrence and Jordan continued the good work until the former was run out for 15 as he determined to seek the runs required for victory, and when Jordan was bowled for 42 in the 47th over our chances were receding and we needed 17 from the final over. Dave Ellicott-White hit the first ball for a towering six over mid wicket but, try as he did, could not repeat the exercise and was ultimately stumped from the last ball of the game.

Man of the match: 'Mitch' - his four wickets won us the first half of this contest and he batted in a way that suited the situation

Rodda Weeraratne Abbett,M Dandeniya Mitchell Morley.N Thomas Lawrence Roots Ellicott-White Maxwell

WINNING JUST COMES NATURALLY Sunday Xl 295 for 3. Oakhill Tavetrners 145

The Sunday side enjoyed another run feast with Matt Abbett (102) leading the way but the most encouraging innings came from youngsters Dan Seston (50) and James Sims (52,) with Clinton Hibbert (36 n.o) showing he still knows how to hold a bat by sharing in an unbeaten stand of 50 with John Larkman (16 n.o) to see the side hit a massive 295 for 3 in just 35 overs

Matt's credentials are well known and he scored his runs in just 58 minutes, but James almost matched him – his 50 took only 2 minutes longer than Matt's, whist Dan shared in a first wicket stand of 161 with his 1st Xl partner as they scored at ten runs an over during their partnership.

The rain arrived just as the innings ended but stopped shortly afterwards when it was the turn of the bowlers to show their prowess, which they did with aplomb, no-one more so than skipper Tony Sherlock who finished with 6 for 22. Tony has taken to the captaincy of this side like a duck to water, ensuring that everyone gets a game, regular picks 12 players and ***still*** gets everyone a game!

He also ensures that everyone pays their match fees promptly, automatically tidies up after the game – including loading the dish washer – and has the air of authority which commands respect.

What's more he knows how to win cricket matches, also an important talent for any captain! His partner in crime on the bowling front in this game was Alex McCrossen, who finished with 3 for 29, particularly impressive as he bowled all of his victims; the value of bowling straight can never be over -estimated, and it is now four wins out of four for our sociable Sunday social side

Abbett.M Seston Hibbert Sims Larkman Morley.N (Stan) Sherlock (Syd)Sherlcok (Tony)Sherlock Phillips. J McCrossen Adams

COPY DATE FOR NEXT EDITION **- June 30th**