Anything The Football Can Do...

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

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There is still a lot more to play for

The highlight of July was undoubtedly cricket week and our cricket correspondent, Laurence Allen, gives a full analysis of the games elsewhere in this edition, and it is well worth reading

Thanks to President Paul Jenkins and Chair Paul Maxwell, who also gives his pertinent views, both of whom worked tirelessly all week to ensure it was a success, and the 1st and 2nd XI skippers, Michael Mitchell and Chris Scott, who were primarily responsible for getting the teams together and formed the other important element of the cricket week committee

The week is also a big fund-raiser, over £3,000 this year, and the fund-raising committee of Kenny Maxwell, Steve Lawrence and Tony Sherlock did a grand job – they even successfully completed one of the most important functions of the week, which is to smoke out the scorers with an infinite number of barbecues!

Thanks also to Jane Abbett for scoring, the ever reliable Stephen Millward and the indefatigable Laurence Allen for doing most of the umpiring, and all those who provided magnificent lunches and teas throughout the week

The cricket was excellent and a particular thanks to the Surrey Masters, who proved to be the main attraction, containing, as it did, many house-hold names; and Neil Kendrick. Seriously, though, many thanks to Neil for making this possible

There were many visitors supporting the event, which is always good to see, whilst the bar takings amounted to £9.574.77p, so a warm vote of thanks to the bar staff

This cricket extravaganza did not have an adverse affect on our players the following weekend, with none of the five Saturday sides losing , although it has to be admitted that the games of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th XIs had to be abandoned because of the amount of rain that fell – thank goodness it did not do so during cricket week – whilst the Sunday Development's side's opponents, Bexley, conceded the game on Friday night. But the 1st XI were rewarded for their long trip to Nonnington, near Canterbury, by yet another victory as they continue with their fantastic season

One of the attendees at President's day was Tom Sissons, who has taken me to task for asking whether anyone could better Brian Smith's achievement of 1,000 wickets in 19 years
"I used to take 100 wickets every season on a regular basis", he explained

Yes, Tom, but you used to bowl 50 overs every weekend; and on uncovered wickets!

Away from cricket week, one of the performances of the month came from ODCUACO's Emily Ainger, who took 6 for 34 against our 5th XI – for more details please speak to Aaron Steel, Sean Beckett, Dan Nichols, Paul Frankland, Joshua Merchant and Rod Warboys, one of whom will surely provide a full report of the game for this newsletter!!

The Colts season is now over and thanks to Adrian Beckett, his committee and all of the coaches for the superb way in which they have handled the season. For the record the Under 13A finished third in their league, the Under 13B eighth, the Under 15 sixth, the Under 11 fourth, and the Under 17 seventh, whilst the move to Friday evening coaching seems to have worked well for all concerned

So we enter the final furlong of the season with everything to play for and the 1st and 2nd XIs both having realistic chances of promotion, the Sunday Development side still unbeaten and everyone else determined to end 2017 with a flourish

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Websites

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

July Results

1st Xl	176	Sibton Park	105	Won by 71 runs
2nd Xl	158	Bexleyheath	159 for 8	Lost by2 wickets
Dartford 4th Xl	137 for 8	3rd Xl	108	Lost by 29 runs
Blue Star	65	4th Xl	66 for 3	Won by 7 wickets
5th Xl	49	Bexley 6th Xl	50 for 0	Lost by 10 wickets
Old Elthamians	265	Under X1	260	Lost by 5 runs
Hartley Country Club	136 for 5	Under 15a	77	Lost by 59 runs
Bromley	87	Sunday League side	88 for 9	Won by 1 wicket
Hayes	281	Under Xl	258	Lost by 23 runs
Beckenham	74 for 5	Under 13b	62 for 7	Lost by 12 runs
Bexley	69 for 5	Under 13a	70 for 3	Won by 7 wickets
1st Xl	124	St Lawrence & High Court	95	Won by 29 runs
2nd Xl	205 for 7	Old Colfeians	180	Won by 25 runs
3rd Xl	180 for 8	Bromley 4th Xl	181 for 8	Lost by 2 wickets
Nat West 1st Xl	205 for 6	4th Xl	207 for 7	Won by 3 wickets
5th Xl	153	Dulwich 6th Xl	154 for 6	Lost by 4 wickets
ODCUACO	164 for 7	Sunday League	167 for 5	Won by 3 wickets
Sunday Xl	158	Earlswood Strollers	159 for 5	Lost by 5 wickets
Under 13b	107 for 5	Cudham Wyse	34	Won by 73 runs
Under 11	110 for 4	Chislehurst & West Kent	82 for 6	Won by 28 runs
1st Xl	131	Chestfield	135 for 5	Lost by 5 wickets
Bickley Park	159	2nd Xl	108 for 4	Incomplete game
3rd Xl	211	Hayes 4th Xl	137	Won by 74 runs
Roan & Lambethans	236 for 5	4th Xl	148 for 8	Lost by 88 runs
5th Xl	216 for 9	ODCUACO	127 for 9	Won by 89 runs
Bromley Common	151 for 4	Under 15a	131	Lost by 20 runs

Under 13b	126 for 8	Catford Cyphers	71 for 8	Won by 55 runs
Cricket week				
President's Xl	217	Club Xl	220 for 6	Won by 4 wickets
Old Wilsonians	181	Hainsworth Xl	175 for 8	Won by 6 runs
Old Wilsonians	239	Upminster	238 for 8	Won by 1 run
Old Olavians	221 for 9 dec	Old Wilsonians	222 for 7	Won by 3 wickets
Kent League side	162 (T20 game)	Old Wilsonians	145	Lost by 17 runs
Surrey legends	140 (T20 game)	Old Wilsonians	142 for 6	Won by 4 wickets
Dulwich	218 for 6	Old Wilsonians	207 for 8	Lost by 11 runs
1st Xl	269 for 9	Nonnington	204 for 8	Won by 65 runs
2nd Xl	30 For 1	Nonnington		Match abandoned
3rd Xl	12 for 1	New Ifield 1st Xl		Match abandoned
4th Xl	61 for 7	Lessa Christchurch 2nd Xl		Match abandoned
5th Xl		Streatham & Marlborough 5th Xl		No play possible
Sunday League		Bexley		Bexley conceded
1st Xl	148	Folkestone	85 for 5	Incomplete game
Hayes	242 for 4	2nd X1	67 for 0	Incomplete game
Snodland Community	1st Xl 154 for 3	3rd Xl	129 for 9	Lost by 25 runs
4th Xl	77	ODCUACO 4th Xl	78 for 0	Lost by 10 wickets
5th Xl	91	Shooters Hill 3rd Xl	92 for 1	Lost by 9 wickets
Sunday League		Bromley		Cancelled

CRICKET WEEK - described by the man everyone wants to read

Cricket week was, yet again, a great success, thanks to the enormous amount of work put in by so many people – for more details please see elsewhere. But what happened on the field of play? Our incomparable cricket correspondent, Laurence Allen, guides you through a week of high drama

A synopsis for everyone to read about each match in what turned out to be a brilliant cricket week! Although this tells you what happened from the playing perspective, spare a thought for everyone else who was involved, from rolling and cutting the pitches, taking the covers on and off, umpiring, scoring, providing tea, cooking breakfast, sweeping the floors and doing the bins. Without you, none of it would have been possible!

17th July - Old Wilsonians Cricket Week XI 181 All Out Versus Barry Hainsworth XI 175 for 8 – Old Wilsonians won by 6 Runs!

Having won the toss, surprisingly Barry Hainsworth's team elected to field on a sunny and very warm Monday – the ideal start weather wise to the 2017 cricket week. OWs got off to a cautious start as Marcus Aimey and Chris Jacob did not bowl too many loose balls for the flying start the home team were looking for. Aimey bowled a tight off stump line throughout both his spells, with the ball moving just enough away from the bat, and was rewarded with match figures of 4-18 off his allotted 8 overs.

Charlie Smith, 3-18, coming on as first change, continued the accuracy as the OWs slipped to 43-5 nearly halfway through their allotted 40 overs. Then came the recovery as "the overseas", in the form of the Aussie combination of Jordan Thomas (42) and our guest from Bromley Common, Mark Solway (78 off 53 balls) put on a quick-fire stand of 105 to get the home side back in the game and paved the way to a respectable total.

The Hainsworth XI's reply started with a dropped catch off the very first ball of the innings as Clinton Hibbert put down Barry Hainsworth, but Andrew Steel was not too downhearted as, two balls later, he bowled him! Richard Brewer then joined Marcos Aimey at the crease and they repaired the early damage with a partnership of 66 to get Hainsworth's team up with the rate. Once Brewer was dismissed, the OW's then took wickets at regular intervals and as Aimey was starting to run out of partners, he upped the tempo and was at one stage bowled in the nervous 90s by Dan Seston, only to be reprieved by a no-ball. He then got through to a fine 100, only to be caught going for a big shot to take the opposition ever closer to the line.

The U13 pairing of Roberts and Smith never gave up in pursuit, but ultimately ran out of overs as the OWs got the week off to a winning start. Thanks to Barry Hainsworth for bringing his guest team down, and we are glad you enjoyed the day! Thanks also to Ian Forbes for organising tea. View Scorecard http://oldwilsonians.play-cricket.com/website/results/3191564

Player of the Match: Marcus Aimey – scoring a ton and taking 4 wickets in a fine all round performance for Barry's team.
Moment (s) of the Match: Tom Sullivan's attempted reverse pull off Aimey going horribly wrong leading to plumb LBW, and the scorers getting smoked out for the first of many times during the week by the BBQ.

18th July - Old Wilsonians Cricket Week XI 239 All Out Versus Upminster XI 238 for 8 – Old Wilsonians won by 1 Run!

Tuesday saw the return of Upminster and again, surprisingly, they asked the home team to bat first, which led many of us to believe it was purely tactical to enable them to spend more time in the bar! In fact, the dark fruits, lager and bitter, were in full flow an hour before the toss as both teams enjoyed a liquid lunch as part of their pre-match warm up routine. Upminster did not waste time bowling their overs as they sprinted between ends to get the 40 in as quickly as possible. The home side did not waste time either, as Tom Finan (37) and Josh Lawrence (66) hit the ball cleanly; not sure why, but Josh walked off retired out when a 100 was surely there for the taking.

Anyway, the acceleration continued at rapid speed with Matt Abbett finding the middle of his normal bat for the first half of his innings then switching to "the mongoose" to maximise his six hitting chances, which were pretty much taken as he hit seven very easily, including one that landed inches away from the clock on the pavilion. My understanding is that the ball is still there and, hopefully, will remain as a reminder of what a great week it was. Matt then retired, but the rest of the team did not last very long as they were in a rush to get back to the bar as well. Amazingly the 239 OWs scored

came off 30 overs; if they had lasted another 60 balls then anything above 300 would have been achievable.

Nevertheless, it was still a good total and Upminster fancied their chances of chasing as wicket keeper Adam Quested scored a solid 65 before being stumped (ok it was more like an iron gloves run out) by Laurence Allen from the only ball Josh Lawrence managed to flight and turn all day. Nicky Ison ended up being their top scorer with an excellent 92, and if he had stayed until the end, they would have won with overs to spare, despite losing wickets at the other end. However, Doug Forbes pinned him on the back foot LBW and the OWs were definitely back in the game.

The tail wagged to give Upminster a shout of victory in the final over, but Doug's accuracy got the home team through to another win! Thanks to Rob White of Upminster for bringing a team over in coordination with Adrian Beckett , and also thanks to Andy and Shirley Steel for providing tea! View Scorecard http://oldwilsonians.play-cricket.com/website/results/3191563

Player of the Match: Matt Abbett – a spectacular hundred off only 32 balls and a contender for the champagne moment in 2017 with the six that so nearly hit the clock.
Moment (s) of the Match: 1) Guy Hannah flooring the Upminster opening bat with an accidental beamer (he was fine and came back to the club after a precautionary hospital visit to have a few beers with everyone) 2) players getting dressed up with fake moustaches, wearing various colours of war paint 3) The drinks breaks being taken to another level, as Malibu and Coke /Jaeger Bombs came out for the players along with the customary orange juice.

19th July - Old Wilsonians Cricket Week XI 222-7 Versus Old Olavians 221-9 dec – Old Wilsonians won by 3 wickets!

In this all day game, that lasted just over 100 overs, Old Olavians won the toss and elected to bat on a coldish morning with light drizzle falling occasionally in the first hour of play; a contrast to the sunny conditions from the first two days.

A steady opening stand from Miles Braithwaite (29) and Freddie Luff (26) was surprisingly broken by Louis Pryor (normally he keeps wicket), who had the honour of turning his arm over in this game and bowled a tight six over spell that kept OWs in the hunt. The main star of the show for Olavians was Alex Dombrandt, who scored a rapid and hard hitting 75 and was crucially caught out at a time that could well have seen him take their score well beyond the 221 they eventually declared on after 51 overs.

The OWs chase got off to a circumspect start as Seston and Brindley negotiated the opening bowlers, and at least three catches were spilt by Olavians before tea. Chris Swadkin (3-10) was then introduced after the break and his accurate left arm spin put the brakes on the chase even further. However, things took a turn for the better as Chris Scott (29) and Louis Pryor (69 not out) adjusted nicely to the conditions to get the home side up with the rate. A couple of quick wickets then fell but an exciting finish was set up by Ex OW Billy Woollard (up from Margate – welcome back), whose quick-fire 30 helped the home side to victory with an over to spare.

Thanks go to Brian Cantle for organising the Olavians team, and we look forward to welcoming you back next year! Thanks also to Ian and Jill Forbes for providing a lovely lunch and tea! View scorecard http://oldwilsonians.play-cricket.com/website/results/3191733

Player of the Match: Louis Pryor – he could not lay bat on ball in the first 10 minutes of his innings but , once settled, played some lovely shots and his innings proved to be the cornerstone of the run chase.
Moment (s) of the Match: 1) Elliott Betteridge turning up 45 minutes late thinking the opposition were Upminster, and when informed it was Old Olavians, his response was "what league is this team in?" 2) OWs chat with the opposition batsman Dave Golbey – some great lines and great laughs when he was batting!

20th July Twenty-20 Day

Part 1: Old Wilsonians Cricket Week XI 145 for 9 Versus Kent League Guest XI 162 for 8 – Kent League Guest XI won by 17 runs!

On the showpiece day of cricket week, the day started very early for the 60 guests that attended the Champagne Breakfast, fantastically well organised by Paul Jenkins and his team, including wife Steph, Steve Lawrence, Kenny Maxwell, Paul Maxwell and Graham Watts to name but a few, who were on site from 6.30 that morning, setting things up and preparing a fantastic breakfast and making sure everyone was well looked after. Thank you!

As the champagne flowed, so did the rain for a time and a delayed start meant the match did not get underway until around 11.45, as the Kent League side elected to bat first. Matt Smit (52 retired out) ended up being the top scorer, particularly taking a liking to OW overseas player Jordan Thomas, who was hit for four boundaries in one of his overs. Pip Franc, with three sixes in his 29, kept the momentum going as a competitive score of 162 was posted, Michael Mitchell and Stan Sherlock taking two wickets each. The home side set about chasing the target down but the league side's spinners kept things tight for the majority of the innings as Nathan Hill's three wickets, coupled with two more from Faisal Zaman, kept OWs behind the rate, despite the efforts of Jordan Thomas (41) and Lawrence Roots (30), who never gave up in their brisk stand of 57.In the end the OWs fell short, but it was a great start to the day, and thanks to 'Mitch' for organising all of those guests who came up to play! View scorecard http://oldwilsonians.play-cricket.com/website/results/3191974

Player of the Match: Matt Smit – 52 off 26 balls from the Bromley left hander says it all
Moment (s) of the Match: 1) Josh "Dudders" Holland on the Microphone / acting as DJ – put it this way; some interesting tunes, including "Down to Margate" by Chas 'n Dave 2) Alex Dombrandt hitting one of the bigger sixes at the ground that was very close to clearing the fence at the Wickham Park end of the ground. 3) Louis Pryor planting a huge six over the pavilion in to the garden of the house at the end of Hayes Hill

Part 2: Old Wilsonians Cricket Week XI 142 for 6 Versus Surrey Masters 140 for 9 – Old Wilsonians won by 4 wickets!

The big match against the Surrey Legends, that included former England Internationals Martin Bicknell and Joey Benjamin, took place in front of an excellent crowd; the champagne breakfasters were holding their own in the bar and others arrived in good time as the match got underway at 3.45.

Surrey won the toss and elected to bat, with skipper David Ward and Scott Newman getting them off to a flying start before both were dismissed by Josh Lawrence. Dudley Owen Thomas (who played for Surrey in the late 60s and early 70s) then blocked his way to 1 from 15 balls as the home side wrestled back control. Once he was dismissed, Gary Butcher (brother of England International Mark) was then run out off his first ball faced, meaning Surrey had to dig deep for that competitive score. This came in the form of Paul Atkins (37) and Bicknell, who casually stroked 28 off 17 balls, including two sixes, to help the masters finish on 140 for 9.

The OWs reply started with caution as skipper of the Masters team (and Old Wilsonian) Neil Kendrick, opened the bowling with Bicknell and Benjamin. Given their experience, although not as quick as they once were, they bowled with enough seam and swing to cause some problems. However, this did not last as Matt Abbett, coming in at number three, scored a rapid 59 off 23 balls, which kept the home side in the hunt for victory. Seamer Daryl King then took three quick wickets to give the Masters hope, but Louis Pryor, with 25 not out, clinched the OWs win with five balls to spare.

Overall it was an excellent day, capped off with a great curry (thanks to Azman Shahan for catering) an auction which raised £1, 000 for the cricket section (well compered by Paul Jenkins) and plenty of celebrations that went on well into the early hours. Thanks to Neil Kendrick for bringing the Masters to the Hill for the game!
View Scorecard http://oldwilsonians.play- cricket.com/website/results/3191975

Player of the Match: Matt Abbett – a second award of the week, well deserved with his quick fire 50, which was crucial in the victory charge

Moment (s) of the Match: 1) Matt's reverse "ramp" for six off Gary Butcher 2) Scott Newman's pulled rocket flat six into the crowd on to the pavilion balcony that nearly took a couple of people out!

19th July - Old Wilsonians Cricket Week XI 207 for 8 Versus Dulwich CC 218 for 6 – Dulwich won by 11 Runs!

The week ended with a gentle 40 over afternoon match against Dulwich, with skipper Laurence Allen losing the toss, much to the disappointment of some now weary players / volunteers who had been rushing around for the sixth consecutive day on the trot! The home side started with 10 men as Seth Clifford went AWOL after the night before, but luckily Steve "The Future" Lawrence stepped in to field at slip, given how knackered he was from the work hard / play hard approach to the week.

Dulwich started comfortably, with a 65 opening stand before Shehan Sivaranjan (son of Siva) broke the partnership and then followed up again with another quick wicket to give the home side some comfort going into the drinks break. The spinners tightened things up after drinks, but opener Oliver Steward was ticking along nicely and brought up a superb 100 before retiring. Some late hitting from skipper Matt Baulch (26 not out) and Jonny Stone (28) took Dulwich beyond 200 and set up a stiff chase for the OWs.

The reply was shaky, and, at 72-4, a collapse could easily have happened. However, a quick 51 stand between Siva Ranjan and Laurence Allen kept up with the run rate and Siva eventually fell for an excellent 93 to play himself back into form for the remainder of the season. Allen fell for 38, playing one too many sweep shots, but Howard Abbett (32 not out) and Stan Sherlock (25) tried their very best in the push for victor. However, time ran out with OWs 11 runs short. Thanks to Jeff Mascarenhas for coordinating this game with his old club, and to Jeff's wife for providing a lovely tea for everyone. View scorecard http://oldwilsonians.play-cricket.com/website/results/3192312

Player of the Match: A shared award for Oliver Steward and Siva Ranjan – both knocks were crucial in setting up the innings of the respective teams
Moment (s) of the Match: 1) Matt Abbett's umpiring stint – he was so tired that he was lying down at square leg and stopped a ball going for four as his attempt at dodging the ball did not quite go according to plan! 2) Laurence (A.K.A Rob Key ?!?) Allen smashing a six into the trees (admittedly the short boundary) only for the ball to stay stuck in those same trees - "new ball please"

OUR CHAIR HAS HIS SAY ON CRICKET WEEK

The rain has been with us for the last week, so that can only mean one thing -the schools have broken up for the summer holidays! Fortunately, we held another hugely successful cricket week in more favourable weather conditions, the playing details of which have been expertly summarised by Laurence Allen in his report above - thank you Laurence.

Traditionally the week begins in style with a fixture organised by our President for his President's Day, and this year was no exception, and Paul Jenkins and his wife Stephanie worked wonders

It was good to see old friends and new and the cricket produced an evenly balanced match. Very many thanks to Paul, Stephanie and all the helpers for ensuring that everyone attending had a most enjoyable day.

The other main event of the week is our Thursday fixture, and this year Mike Pike and Neil Kendrick arranged for a Surrey Masters team to take on our Club side in a T20 match - many thanks to them both.

This was preceded by another T20 match between the Club and a Kent League Select side. This brought some former members and friends back to the Club and it was good to see them, and well done to 'Mitch' for pulling this together.

The day began with a champagne breakfast and 58 people attended this year, and many thanks to our chefs Steve Lawrence, Paul Jenkins, Kenny Maxwell and their helpers, and to Ruth for pouring the champagne! It was great to see such a mix of attendees, including corporate clients, our

friends from "the road", members from the tennis club and old and new members of the cricket club. The event is fast developing a well earned reputation.

The evening curry was supplied by one of our cricketers, Azman Shahan, and we thank him for such a wonderful meal. Azman has a curry house in Bromley - New India in East Street. Bromley, so pop in and enjoy his full menu.

Needless to say, none of our Cricket Week is possible without the work of so many people. All of their time is given freely and that is what makes us such a welcoming and well organised club.

The generosity of our members continues to amaze. Our request for raffle prizes was readily met. We had concerns that we could not source items for our auction but these proved to be unfounded. Our members came up trumps - thank you all.

The sheer volume of people to thank makes it difficult to thank everyone individually, but your efforts and commitment do not go unnoticed. Whether you organised, played, umpired, scored, helped, or, just as importantly, came along to support, thank you very much. Paul Maxwell

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**

1ST XI DEFEND A SMALL TOTAL 1st XI 124 St Lawrence and Highland Court 94

After ten over the 1st XI's score stood at 67 for 2, and with Pasan and Matt both at the crease, anything seemed possible. Pasan was playing his best innings of the season, full of elegant cricket shots, and Matt was , well……. Matt! Less than 27 overs later we were all out for 124, so what went wrong?

Pasan miss-cued to be caught and, six runs later, Matt, having been dropped the previous ball, hit the ball high and handsome towards the long-off boundary only for the fielder to take an important catch and we were 73 for 4. The reaction of his team mates was ecstatic; after all, Matt had scored 201 runs against St Lawrence in the two games against the sides this season and looked to be heading for a big score, so to see him return to the pavilion might be a game changer

And so it proved or, and as subsequent events went on to prove, it was an 'innings' changer, as we were bowled out for 124. The home side were given a new lease of life, they held all of the chances offered to them, and hard as Velson worked to keep the tail together - his 19 runs contained 15 singles and a four – we were dismissed for a disappointingly low total.

(Velson was eventually bowled when attempting a reverse sweep; never attempt a reverse sweep until you have three figures next to your name)

How would the league leaders react - i.e Old Wilsonians

Jordan bowled their opener with his fourth ball but from thereon our hosts moved steadily, and without undue alarm, to 50 until Dave Ellicott-White came on to ball and removed their other opener, and then their skipper, who had batted so well against us at Hayes, with his second and third balls.

'Mitch' then took a wicket with the first ball of the next over and St Lawrence had slumped to 51 for 4; game on. Our hosts needed to dig deep and did so until Dave had their overseas player caught by Pasan and, 11 overs and 20 runs later, it was all over and we had achieved a 29 run victory against, at the time, our nearest rivals; just one point below us in the table

Dave finished with 3 for 20, his best performance of the season, both in terms of figures and the way in which he bowled, Jordan 3 for 24 and 'Mitch' 2 for 24.

Apart from Jordan the other seamers, on both sides, had taken 2 for 108 between them in 17.2 overs which compared, unfavourably, with the spinners, who returned 13 for 80 in 42.2 overs. There were two run outs – both sustained by St Lawrence – and the standard of fielding from both sides was of a high standard

Chris Stokes, one of the umpires, went even further by claiming "these are two of the best sides in the division; a very good game of cricket "

They do say that chasing a small total is sometimes more difficult than chasing a large one, although most sides would undoubtedly prefer the former to the latter, and most sides would prefer to defend a large total than a small one, but this game was another example of the fact that 'losing' is not part of the 1st XI's lexicon and long may it continue; that's now six wins in a row

A couple of other possible points of interest, The' music' emanating from the St Lawrence dressing room was as raucous , and tuneless, as that of our own – although perhaps it was inspiring – and Pasan and Matt both scored 33 in 47 minutes

MOM: Dave Ellicott-White: His two wickets in two balls was the turning point and his eventual bowling figures gave him just reward for his tidy, consistent and steady bowling all season

Dandeniya Ridda.J Weeraratne Abbett.M (Velson)Devarajulu Mitchell Thomas Betteridge Seston Ellicott-White Hannah

BACK TO CRICKET IS WORKING Sunday XI 158, Earlswood Strollers 159 for 5

The plan to get people back playing cricket seems to be working, at least if this game is anything to go by, as the side contained a few players who had not donned their whites for some time

True, there were some youngsters and current 'senior' players, but the usual plethora of aspiring colts has been placed by, let us say, some of a more mature hew.

So, how did they do? Well, they lost but that was no disgrace to a strong side, many of whom play Kent league cricket on Saturdays.

We batted first and were bowled out for 158, and although Jordan Thomas carried his bat to remain 85 not out by the time he lost his final partner, new comers Sam Golden (11) and Tim Orlandini (15) both made it into double figures and kept Earlswood Strollers in the field until the penultimate ball of the allotted 40 overs

Tim Orlandini also took a wicket, although it was quite expensive, but the younger Orlandini (Tom) was a little more frugal and also took a wicket, but the bowling star was Azman Shahan, with 2 for 11 in five overs

The encouraging conclusion from this game is that the back to cricket ambition is working and those involved would fit perfectly into our Saturday 4th XI side

Thomas Shahan (Tom)Orlandini Larkman Golden Faulkner Daniels Lawrence.S (Tim)Orlandini Relf.D Sherlock.A

WINNING RUN COMES TO AN END 1st XI 131 Chestfield 135 for 5

All good things must come to an end, even the 1st XI's winning streak, and Chestfield inflicted our first defeat in seven games and completed the double over us – cannot remember the last time we beat them

As last week we batted first and again returned a low score, albeit slightly higher than at St Lawrence - 131 against 124. Sanath and Matt both scored 25 and Velson, batting at No.3, was beginning to look the part before being dismissed for 14. We were bowled out in less than 43 overs and had to hope that lightning strikes twice in successive weeks, and Jordan obliged by taking a wicket with his first ball.

Had he repeated this trick with his second ball we would have won, but their number three stayed until the end to remain 66 not out to steer his side to victory, following his 4 for 28 in our

innings. At Chestfield he had scored 130 not out as they chased down 233, although his bowling was not up to scratch on this particular occasion.

When Jordan bowled their number six our visitors were 93 for 5 and another wicket could have seen us through them (Of the four players who did not bat one was the wicket-keeper whilst two did not bowl – and in a side that used seven bowlers, Indicative that two were making up the numbers; neither played in the away fixture). But it was not to be and this division's leading run scorer, and their skipper put on an undefeated 42 to see them over the line and increase their own promotion ambitions

Jordan finished with 3 for 34 and 'Mitch' bowled his ten overs for just 24 runs. Is it difficult to chase a low total? More difficult to defend one – see also the St Lawrence report. So the six win run comes to an end but, with seven games left, there is still time for another such sequence
MOM: No out-standing performance but it would be churlish not to award it, so it goes to Jordan. He bowled his overs in three spells, a tribute to Mitch's astute captaincy as much as his never failing willingness
Dandeniya Rodda.J (Velson)Devarajulu Abbett.M Pryor Mitchell Thomas Lawrence.J Seston Ellicott-White Roots

1st XI BEAT THE RAIN - WHICH DID NOT ARIVVE 1st XI 269 for 9 Nonnington 204 for 8

The 1st XI have never played at Nonnington – the 2nd XI have, but that's one-upmanship for you, the two previous anticipated dates having been called off because of the rain, and this game was again in jeopardy for the same reason – more of which later

It is a delightful ground and the local village is exquisite, and now regular supporters, Linda and Derek Seston, enjoyed a morning coffee in a local shop before the game started and then ambled gently around the boundary once play commenced
"You look like professional hikers, " I observed to Derek, as he sported an impressive rucksack
"I just like seeing the game from different angles", he observed; "the surroundings are delightful

Nonnington won the toss and asked us to bat, with Matt Abbett opening the batting with Jonathan Rodda on this particular occasion and no-one will be surprised that, when the latter was out for 9, there were 61 runs on the board and Matt was on 48; or that this was only the 11th over! However, Matt departed in the same over, yet another victim of the reverse sweep – regular readers will know my views on playing this shot – so Sanath and Pasan had some repair work to do, which they accomplished admirably by putting on 94 for the third wicket before Sanath left for 32.

Sanath's average this season is 23.15 and he is one of those players who regularly returns his average. His highest score is 34 but he rarely fails, and there is surely a big score in him before the season ends. Pasan's 62 was his highest contribution of the season and he was just starting to look invincible when he miscued in the 30th over to leave us on 175 for 4.

Velson then hit 38, not only his highest of the season but also his best and most convincing, and some late flurries by the skipper, Josh Lawrence and Dan Seston enabled us to finish on 269 for 9, a score we were confident of defending to secure our eighth victory of the season

However, when Nonnington began their reply shortly before 4-00 p.m, the attention was more on weather apps than dismissing/containing our hosts as the predicted rain was anticipated between 6-0 and 7-00 p.m.

The early overs of the Nonnington innings were more or less traditional cricket, but when Jonathan and Jordan accounted for both of their openers and, after 20 overs, the home side were 64 for 3, the priority, quite rightly, was to complete our 50 overs - by this time their chances of scoring the 270 they required seemed unlikely; unless we bowled very badly; which we didn't.

Matt, 'Mitch', Josh and Dave Ellicott-White all bowled ten overs and although wickets became virtually irrelevant, we took eight of them and Nonnington got just past 200, which was relevant to them as it secured them an additional batting point

So that eighth win was secured but by far the most impressive part of our performance was bowling our 50 overs in less than two and a half hours. And the rain? Just a few, almost apologetic spots, with nothing substantial arriving by the time we left at about 7-45
Abbett.M Rodda.J Dandeniya (Velson)Deverajulu Thomas Lawrence Mitchell Seston Ellocott-White Roots
Man of the match: Matt Abbett - 48 and three wickets, despite playing with an injured hand

TOP OF THE TABLE CLASH THWARTED BY RAIN 1st XI 148 Folkestone 85 for 5

The 1st XI's victory at Nonnington last week left them one point behind leaders Folkestone, who were our visitors this week. The away fixture had resulted in a narrow 10 run defeat – our hosts had put on 111 for the first wicket before 'Mitch' and Matt had taken four and three wickets respectively and they were all out for 182 and, despite a brave six by Dave Ellicott-White from the first ball of the last over, he could not repeat the feat and was stumped on the last ball of the innings to glean Folkestone 18 points to our five - the reverse, or better, was our aim this time

On a dismal day, with rain variously forecast as early as 2-00 but no later than 4-00, Folkestone won the toss and elected to bowl – perhaps both because the conditions were conducive to bowling and with the intention of bowling us out quickly to avoid the rain – and, initially, it worked, as we were reduced to 59 for 5 in 19 overs

However the skipper and Jordan then set out to repair the damage and put on 40 before the latter was bowled and another wicket saw us struggling on 101 for 7. Dave Ellicott-White then remembered his attempted heroics on the coast to hit his top score of the season, 16, before being trapped lbw attempting a reverse sweep but having shared in a stand of 38

'Mitch' followed shortly afterwards for 47 – caught at third man attempting another reverse sweep – or was it fine leg, in view of the nature of the shot? The skipper plays this shot better than most but I maintain my belief that it should not be played until you have three figures to your name!

The second half of our innings, if not more, had been played in that irritating rain that means it is not heavy enough to come off, and the covers were put on immediately after our final wicket fell – frustratingly two runs short of a batting point – and the resumption after tea was delayed with the hope that conditions would improve.

Jordan took a wicket with his second ball, and when rain eventually forced the sides off after 18 overs, the game was delicately poised, with our visitors 83 for 4 – they were never going to need the full 50 overs to get the runs required but, equally, our chances of taking six wickets was a good bet.

The delay lasted 32 minutes, after which only one further over was possible and the odds turned even more in our favour as we took another wicket to reduced them to 85 for 5

So, and as a consequence of this result, we are now three points behind the leaders and, with only five games left, each and every side in this division could be involved in trying to secure one of the promotion places or avoid slipping into one of the relegation spots when the final games are played on September 2nd ; at least we know we are in no danger of falling into one of the latter!
Dandeniya Rodda.J (Velson)Devarajulu Abbett.M Maxwell Mitchell Thomas Seston Ellicott-White Roots Hannah
MOM: 'Mitch' – a true skipper's innings and, who knows, he could have bowled us to victory

COPY DATE FOR NEXT EDITION **- August 31st**