Anything The Football Can Do...

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

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Up, Up and away

Some unseasonably good weather, for April, meant that the cricket season got off to a positive start and the Clubhouse was packed on the Friday evening (April 20th) as ten teams did battle with Blod and Margo's excellent Quiz Night, with Chairman Maxwell's family team coming out on top, although they seem to have adopted Ian and Denise Pilgrim!

The following day also saw some glorious sunshine as both the 1st and 2nd Xl started their respective seasons – having popped into the café adjacent to Hayes station for breakfast beforehand – with a visit to nearby Bromley Common, the 2's securing a five wicket victory with the 1's falling just ten runs short in a game that produced nearly 600 runs.

Club Force

Thanks to all those who helped at our mini Club Force, particularly those who do not play. We had just about enough people in attendance to field one side, which was a bit disappointing as we have 13 teams!!!

However, those who made the effort ensured that both Hayes and Hawes Down are fit for purpose for everyone to enjoy in the months ahead

Welcome to all new players

A warm welcome to all of our new players this season and we hope that your association with Old Wilsonians will be a long and fruitful one for all concerned.

We are always looking for new players – our boast has always been that we will get everyone a game, irrespective of their ability, so if you know of anyone who would like to join our ranks, then you know what to do

As mentioned in the previous newsletter we have been instructed by the ECB to cull our vast list of registered players - we did have 716 available for senior cricket and 347 for the colts

These figures have now been reduced to 283 for the Kent League , 378 for the Feeder league and 132 for the colts – it is difficult to convince umpires that someone who is 44 is still eligible to play for the under 13's - but there is more trimming to do before the exercise is completed

Umpires and scorers

As always we need more umpires and scorers, essential to a game of cricket, so you know where to hang your coat or sharpen your pencil for the summer if you can help

Teas

Delighted to be able to report that the provision of our teas for the season will again be in the capable hands of Denise Pilgrim and Jill Forbes (Saturdays) and Kelly Hope (Sundays)

Please help them in any way you can – e.g. taking your plates and cups into the kitchen after you have finished with them and volunteering to load the dish-washer – that's not asking for too much, is it?

Who to contact and how

Chairman:	Paul Maxwell 0208 777 3475 (H) psm67@btopenworld.com	07852 966625 (Mobile)
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Colts Chairperson:	Barrie Frampton Email: barrie.frampton@gmail.com	
Club Captain:	Alex Forbes Email: Alexforbes46@hotmail.co.uk	07855 273218 (Mobile)
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Skippers:

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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

BATSMEN ENJOY EARLY SEASON SUCCESS Bromley Common 301 for 5 1st XI 292 for 7

Games of cricket in April are traditionally beloved by bowlers – the wickets are invariably slow, the consequence of the rain that inevitably falls in this month, which also means the opportunity to roll cricket squares are reduced, and although the assiduous batsman has taken advantage of winter nets, he or she has not had the opportunity to bat 'in the middle', which is where it counts

However, this game defied all tradition as Bromley Common and our 1st XI shared 593 runs in this encounter in 90 overs for the loss of 12 wickets!

This has become a regular encounter in our pre-league programme with the 2nd XI also visiting Oakley Grove and, due to the cancellation of our intended game with Bromley the week before – due to the previously mentioned rain - this was the 1st XI's first game of the season

Bromley Common are now a Premier Division side following two consecutive promotions and we wish them well in the top tier, so this was going to be a tougher test than usual . Apparently it had been pre-arranged that our hosts would bat first – rumour has it that the snow was on the ground when the toss took place, and their openers put on over 100 for the first wicket before Dave Ellicott-White claimed our first wicket of the season, a gentle catch to Chris Scott at mid-off.

Dave then struck again when he induced their other opener to lob the ball to Stan Sherlock, who held his nerve admirably, and when two further wickets fell the Common found themselves struggling on 154 for 4

However, a fifth wicket stand of 117 restored their momentum and although Guy Hannah eventually broke this stand, the only remaining question to be answered was whether they would surpass 300, which they did – just – so how would we respond?

The loss of two early wickets did not help our cause but after that it was a case of everyone availing himself of some useful batting practice as newcomer Malinda Thotiwilage (44), and welcome to the Club, last year's new-comer Matt Abbett (35), last year's 2nd XI skipper Chris Scott (22), Michael Mitchell (75) and Josh Lawrence (27) all showed their good intentions so much so that a victory was well on the cards.

However the skipper's dismissal, with the score on 279 for 7, made this less likely and, hard as Dave Ellicott-White and Kenny Maxwell tried, we fell ten runs short.

So, and as intimated earlier, this was a day for the batsmen rather than the bowlers, no better illustrated than by the fact that the latter bowled 75 wides between them - the OWs 29 and Bromley Common 46 - and umpire Jasper Gundry-White is now suffering from repetitive strain injury as a consequence

(Velsen) Deverajulu Rodda.J Thotiwilage Abbett.M Scott Mitchell Lawrence.J Ellicott-White Maxwell.K (Stan)Sherlock Hannah

Man of the match: Dave Ellicott-White – his 3 for 23 in 8 overs was the stand out bowling performance on a day when the bat was very much in charge

Discovery of the month

Have discovered a group called 'Goat Girl', whose singer goes by the unlikely name of 'Clottie Cream. '

They come from South London and are described as "sounding at times like a less romantic Libertines", have an album out , inspiringly called 'Goat Girl,' a track from which, 'Cracker Drool', can be found on 'The Mojo Machine turns you on 2018,' a free CD given with every copy of this indispensable magazine for music lovers

At the time of going to press Josh Lawrence was not available for comment

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**

COPY DATE FOR NEXT EDITION - May 31st; don't be shy