Anything The Football Can Do...

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

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Half-way house

As we all know, the cricket season is very short and we have now reached the half-way stage, with both of our Kent league sides having a serious chance of promotion, which would bring First Division cricket to Hayes for both sides next year

Indeed, the 1st XI's victory against Sibton Park on the first day of July – see report later – puts them on top of the table just one point above St Lawrence & Highland Court, whom they visit for their next game; tickets for the encounter are at a premium!

The 5th XI are by far the most successful of our Feeder league sides, having lost just once by the end of June, a situation brought about by both their undoubted ability and the fact that four of their opponents have conceded their fixtures. They started July badly with a heavy defeat; it is always disturbing when a side turns up to fulfill their fixture rather than conceding!

Both the 3rd and 4th XIs are struggling a bit but with the return of the university boys, and the end of the exam season for those still at school, better times are surely just around the corner.

The Sunday development side, who won every game last season, continue their impressive run – three out of three so far – whilst the Sunday 'social' side, under the leadership of Tony Sherlock, won their opening five games only to lose their sixth when…….. Tony was not playing

The under 19 team have only just started their fixtures so it is too early to make a judgment whilst the colts' results have been mixed, but all of the youngsters continue to represent the Club in a dignified and responsible way, with the mini 8's again reaching the Kent finals

All of our sides results can be found on…….the results pages

June also saw two more century makers - namely Cameron Jones and Jordan Thomas – think that makes it nine times that an individual Old Wilsonian has made it into three figures so far this season

We now have a container at Hawes Down which will save the 3rd and 4th XI and the colts sides, who play there, from having to transport lots of equipment over the railway bridge every week

Many congratulations to Clive Peckover, who was awarded an OBE in the Queen's birthday honours list "for services to immigration and asylum policy" - that should ensure that we get first pick on overseas players for many years to come! Clive's services to the Old Wilsonians is also immense - he has been President of both the Association and the Cricket Club and the current OWA treasurer

July is our busiest month as it features cricket week, starting with President's Day on Sunday July 16th when the Club's many Vice Presidents will be amongst those honoring our esteemed President, Paul Jenkins, and no doubt cheering on Paul's side against a Club XI

Janet and John Brittain were two of those Vice Presidents and, sadly, both of them passed away recently and we are working on a memorial as a tangible memory to them both, which will also serve as a way of informing everyone of the state of the game being played at the time

Paul's big day is followed by our traditional cricket week, with games on every day, including a champagne breakfast on the Thursday, followed by two T20 games, the second featuring a team of Surrey legends, including the Old Wilsonians' very own Neil Kendrick

The week is also an important fund-raising part of the Club's activities, so please come along and support it for you will all be the ultimate winners as we seek to bring you top class cricket facilities at a cost to suit your pocket

Who to contact and how

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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

June Results

1st Xl	212 for 9	Broadstairs	166	Won by 46 runs
2nd Xl	187 for 6	Broadstairs	153	Won by 34 runs
Bexleyheath 3rd Xl	163 for 5	3rd Xl	41	Lost by 121 runs
Blackheath 7th Xl	183 for 5	4th Xl	102	Lost by 81 runs
5th Xl		Dartford	Dartford conceded	
Sunday Xl	248	Offham	200	Won by 48 runs
Orpington	56	Under 15	57 for 0	Won by 10 wickets
Under 13a	112 for 4	Orpington	93 for 4	Won by 19 runs
Under 17	62	Sidcup	63 for 6	Lost by 4 wickets
Gore Court	72	1st Xl	73 for 2	Won by 8 wickets
Gore Court	150 for 9	2nd Xl	151 for 5	Won by 5 wickets
Dartfordians 2nd Xl	171 for 5	3rd Xl	151	Lost by 20 runs
Bexley	182 for 7	4th Xl	93	Lost by 89 runs
5th Xl		Orpington		Orpington conceded
Sunday League	216 for 8	Sidcup	118	Won by 98 runs
Old Wilsonians	103	Beckenham (T20 game)	105 for 3	Lost by 7 wickets
Under 11	136 for 1	Bickley Park	80	Won by 56 runs
Under 13a	99 for 5	Beckenham Under 13b	92 for 4	Won by 7 runs
Dartford	123 for 8	Under 17	124 for 3	Won by 7 wickets
1st Xl	241 for 6	Upchurch	139	Won by 102 runs
2nd Xl	314 for 7	Upchurch	161	Won by 153 runs
3rd Xl	174 for 9	Bromley Common	148 for 6	Won by 26 runs
4th Xl	142 for 9	Chishlehurst & West Kent	144 for 5	Lost by 5 wickets
Sunday League	179 for 9	Bexley	170 for 9	Won by 9 runs
Catford & Cyphers	121 for 7	Under 11	90	Lost by 21 runs
ODCUACO	87 for 5	Under 13a	82 for 8	Lost by 5 runs
Sidcup	94 for 4	Under 19	56 for 9	Lost by 38 runs

HSBC	99 for 4	Under 13b	89 for 8	Lost by 10 runs
Hayes	198 for 5	Under 17	71	Lost by 127 runs
Gravesend	201	1st XI	202 for 5	Won by 5 wickets
2nd XI	130	Gravesend	131 for 8	Lost by 2 wickets
3rd XI	151 for 6	Sidcup 3rd XI	152 for 7	Lost by 3 wickets
4th XI	216 for 6	Streatham & Marlborough 5th X	211	Won by 5 runs
ODCUACO 4th XI	277 for 4	5th XI	143	Lost by 134 runs
Sunday social side	172	Sidcup	174 for 7	Lost by 3 wickets
Sidcup	148	Sunday League	149 for 9	Won by 1 wicket
Under 17		Gravesend	Gravesend conceded	

Tennis Club Open Day - Sunday July 9th from 9-45 a.m.

Our good friends in the Tennis Club are holding a 'Fun parent and child' Open Day on Sunday July 9th The basic idea is to encourage families who are not currently tennis members to come along and join in the fun and, hopefully, then sign up. The event is open to children aged eight and under who enter as a pair with an adult and they will play lots of 'round robin' friendly matches until a winner eventually emerges. The event starts at 9-45 and a friendly and welcoming ambience is guaranteed, so please don't miss this golden opportunity – you will only regret it in the long run if you do not participate

Everyone MUST book, otherwise this event is nigh impossible to manage. The link for booking is :
https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/OldWilsoniansLawnTennisClub/Admin/OpenDays/Details/83e3d01d-cf1d-4082-b52a-695392599bd3

More details are available from Nigel Jordan, the Tennis Club's Chairman

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**

A SIDE THAT IS STARTING TO GEL 1st XI 212 for 9, Broadstairs 166

Charles Dickens wrote David Copperfield at Bleak House in Broadstairs, where he stayed with his family for at least one month every summer between 1839 and 1851, although there is no evidence that it formed the basis of the novel of that name

However, enough of this nugget of literature and on to the game between Broadstairs and our 1st XI – this is, after all, a cricket newsletter! Another long journey for the side – probably the longest of the season – following last week's visit, and narrow defeat, to Folkestone.

Batting first Sanath and Jonathan gave us a solid start before the former was trapped lbw for 25 in the 16th over, and by the time his partner was caught for 49 there were 129 on the board with more than half of our overs remaining and Matt Abbett still at the crease, and we all know that means that any total is possible. However he, too, was trapped lbw, for 47, and when 'Mitch' was out shortly afterwards, we were 145 for six.

Enter, and not for the first time this season, a partnership between Jordan and Josh, which took us to 175 for 7 before the latter was run out, and not for the first time this season. Exactly the same thing had happened the week before at Folkestone with no blame, I would add, on either party, simply a desire to enhance our total. Josh's enthusiasm is a joy to behold and he gives 100% every week and is now an established 1st XI player. Jordan went in to make 46 – employed primarily as a bowler he has already contributed some invaluable runs and looks set to score more – as the tail pushed the score beyond 200

The palindromic Guy Hannah, making his debut for the 1st XI, marked the occasion by dismissing both of their openers, thanks to the ever reliable Lawrence Roots, and with Jordan dismissing their number three, Broadstairs were 27 for three in the sixth over, and although they recovered to a degree, no-one played a substantial innings, they were never up with the run rate and we bowled them out for 166 in the 45th over.

Matt Abbett again showed what a useful change bowler he can be to finish with 3 for 17, debutant Guy finished with 2 for 33 and Jordan 2 for 37, but this was a good all-round performance from a side that is starting to gel and has confidence in one another
Dandeniya Rodda (Velsen) Devarajulu Abbett.M Morley.N Mitchell Thomas Lawrence Roots Ellicott-White Hannah
Man of the match: Matt Abbett - came up with the goods with both bat and ball

OFFHAM ARE ALWAYS WELCOME VISITORS Sunday XI 248 Offham 200

The fine people of Offham are always welcome at Hayes and they play the game in the way it was intended – which is also the Old Wilsonian way

The OW side was, as usual, a mixture of youth and experience and at 49 for 5 we certainly needed the latter, and it was good to see Nick Morley hit 51, which will do a lot for his confidence. Cricket is a confidence game for every participant but perhaps more so for Nick than most. His talent is undeniable – three seasons ago he was scoring runs for fun – but he has lost his way a little, but we all have faith in him and he will surely come again.

Matt Abbett completed the recovery with yet another 100, this time 103, as he put on 77 with Jonathan Rodda, of which the latter got just 18, doing the job that was required of him. Offham used nine bowlers, and all credit to their skipper for giving all of his players a game; that's what Sunday cricket is all about.



Steve Lawrence deputises for skipper Tony Sherlock, who was undoubtedly packing the dish-washer, at the start of the Offham innings. Note Steve's immaculate turn-out, hands in pockets as he eagerly anticipates fielding the ball, or even a possible catch. Photograph courtesy of Mike Gittings of Offham CC

Offham started well and at 116 for three after 23 overs were probably in the driving seat, with Sam Ward (46) batting particularly well, but when Nick Morley bowled the always dangerous Ben Gittings for 28, you sensed the game was changing.

However Tom Evans (48) had other ideas and the skipper had to rely on his own bowling skills not only to dismiss him, a neat catch by Joe Jukes, but also to pick up two other wickets to finish with 3 for 22 to add to his 6 for 22 from the previous game

So it is now five out of five for our new skipper – defeat is simply not a word he recognises – and he is starting to look infallible. However, the real test is yet to come as he will soon lose his 'senior' players, most of whom are still incredibly young, to the Sunday Development side

As for Offham, they are having a torrid time at the moment as far as league cricket is concerned, but this game showed that they have a number of promising youngsters and that, in the long term, everything will turn out well; we certainly wish them well in their endeavours

Phillips .J (Stan) Sherlock Vincent Scott Tahir Phillips.D Morley.N Abbett.M Rodda.J Jukes.J Sherlock.A

GORE COURT NEVER RECOVER FROM AWFUL START Gore Court 72, 1st XI 73 for 2

Gore Court arrived at Hayes with two former Old Wisonians in their side and after 13 balls Jordan and Guy had reduced them to 4 for 4. Jordan took a wicket with his second and sixth balls and Guy with his first - he's no slouch! – and when Jordan bowled the first of the erstwhile OWs with the first ball of his next over, you wondered if the tea would be ready in time. (Please note; the tea is ***always*** ready on time, thanks to our incomparable catering team)

Unsurprisingly Gore Court recovered to a degree, thanks mainly to a battling 25 by their skipper, but the damage had been done in those first 13 balls and they were dismissed for just 72 in 32 overs shortly after two o'clock

Jordan finished with 3 for 8 and Guy 2 for 21, whilst 'Mitch' pitched in with 3 for 18. Our other wicket taker was Dave Ellicott-White, who has bowled tidily and economically all season without troubling the wickets column too much, so it was good to see him pick up two today.

It took the 1st XI 91 balls to get the 73 runs they required and without too many alarms as the solid and dependable Sanath was more than happy to let Matt Abbett get on with it after he had lost

his first two partners as he contributed three to their unbroken partnership of 48

Matt finished on 40 not out – there were some extras, in case you are doubting my mathematics, and three 4s and four 6s in an innings that lasted just 27 minutes, and as our visitors conducted an inquiry, we gloried in our most convincing performance of the season so far

Dandeniya Rodda.J Weeraratne Abbett.M (Velsen) Devarajulu Mitchell Thomas Lawrence Roots Ellicott-White Hannah

Man of the match: Jordan – three wicket in six balls; nothing more needs to be said

A QUESTION OF ATHLETICISM 1st XI 241 for 6, Upchurch 139

Six OW players have transferred to Upchurch since the end of last last season – I thought this was Kent League cricket not professional football – although only one was playing in this game. (Meanwhile, in the 2nd XI fixture at Upchurch, four were involved in one way or another)

Upchurch came to this game with serious promotion ambitions – they had won five of their first six games – and on a searing hot day 'Mitch' won the toss and had no hesitation in electing to bat. As mentioned in earlier reports the initial phases of any game are crucial and need to be approached carefully – see Gore Court report for an example of what may happen if this is not observed – and Sanath and Jonathan again did all that was required of them, only to both fall at the same total; what do they say about 'one becomes two?'

A senseless run out - most run outs are senseless, particularly early in an innings – left us on 61 for 3, a situation made even more frustrating by the fact that both Pasan and Matt looked well set before the run out occurred, but the latter and Velsen then put on 77 for the fourth wicket before the former was bowled for 73. It was an innings that garnered 22 singles, including seven in a row, and he was kept in check by that former OW, Rohan Sharma, who was by far the best of the Upchurch bowlers as he bowled his ten overs for 25 runs

And just in case you thought Matt was behaving like a slouch he did hit three 4s and five 6s in his innings, including three of the latter after he reached his 50, and Upchurch must have been relieved to see the back of him.

However this hastened perhaps the most exciting partnership of the season so far as 'Mitch' and Jordan added 96 in less than ten overs, putting the fielding side under immense pressure as they ran for everything – albeit not foolishly – including one memorable all run four, a partnership that was perfect in the circumstances. 'Mitch' finished on 53 not out and Jordan was dismissed for 34, as we finished on 241 for 6. It was now up to the visitors to show their credentials.

Guy trapped their accomplished opener, who hit a 100 in the corresponding fixture last season, with his third ball and when Jordan dismissed their numbers three and four the score-board read 14 for 3 and, to make matters worse for our visitors, this was in the 11th over. Another wicket did not fall until the total had reached 45 but, by this time, 23 overs had been bowled – Upchurch were running out of overs more than wickets.

When the end came it did so quickly, as 136 for 6 became 139 all out, Jordan finishing with 5 for 15 - that makes it 8 for 23 in the last two games! This was a significant win for the 1st XI and, more than anything, a victory for athleticism. On a number of occasions in our innings the ball had been in the air only for an Upchurch fielder to 'bottle' the opportunity of making an important, perhaps game winning, catch.

In comparison we chased everything, Pasan took two top class slip catches – early candidate for 'champagne moment of the season?' - and we just looked as if we wanted the win far more than they did.

So how did the four former OWs fare in the game at Upchurch? No more needs to be said than to give you the relevant scores in the game, namely Old Wilsonians 314 for 7 declared, Upchurch 161 all out

Dandeniya Rodda.J Weeraratne Abbett.M (Velsen) Devarajulu Mitchell Thomas Lawrence Roots Ellicott-White Hannah

Man of the match: Difficult to pick between 'Mitch' and Jordan, but it has to be the skipper. He has led by example throughout the season, never better illustrated than in his innings today, and he then went on to take 2 for 9 from eight overs.

1ST XI MAKE IT FOUR IN A ROW Gravesend 201, 1st XI 202 for 5

Such is the composition of Kent league Division Two this season that a trip to Gravesend is the nearest thing the 1st XI have to a 'local derby', although your correspondent was travelling from Maidstone for this fixture, and many thanks to Rod Warboys for ensuring I reached the ground on time

Our hosts have not had the best of seasons so far and, on winning the toss, elected to bat, and when Jordan bowled their skipper for five they must have feared the worst. Pasan and Jonathan then combined to dismiss their dangerous overseas player with the score on 121, a vital wicket as far as we were concerned. He had scored 64 of the 75 runs that were added when he was at the crease in an innings which lasted just 48 minutes and exactly 11 overs, and if that momentum had continued we would have been facing a total in excess of 300!

We had got him cheaply last season, for 20 and 8, and if he is not the most destructive batsmen in the league then he has few peers - Matt Abbett, perhaps. Upon his dismissal their scorer said he would bite my arm off if they reached 200 and the fact that they did so was due to some determined batting by their middle and lower order; it has also left me with one arm!

As for our bowling, the wickets were spread around - Jordan finished with 3 for 33, 'Mitch' 2 for 32 and Josh 2 for 19, but a special word of praise for Dave Ellicott-White, who did not take a wicket but conceded just 23 runs from his ten overs. Statistics, particularly averages, can be miss-leading because although Dave has only taken nine wickets this season, each of which has cost him 28.11 runs, his 77 overs have cost 253, at 3.28 per over, and a similar economy from the rest of the attack would have seen us chasing 164 - see also Gore Court report

As it was 202 was the winning target – any side who score less than 200 must fear for their 18 points – and so it proved on this occasion, although not without a few alarms

Sanath and Jonathan put on 65 for the first wicket before the former was trapped lbw for 19 and his partner and Pasan continued the good work before Pasan fell at 120 and, two runs later, we were 122 for 4; another wicket at this stage would have had us looking over our shoulders

However, the skipper and vice-skipper then showed their resolution before Jonathan became the fourth lbw victim when he had reached 88 and the total became 155 for 5. At the time of writing there have been no fewer than nine hundreds in the Club – albeit not by nine individuals – but Jonathan is not one of them.

He has made 97 against Nonnington and 88 today, so he has got jug avoidance down to a fine art, but his day will come

'Mitch' and Jordan completed the job with more than eight overs to spare and, as last week, their running between the wickets was a joy to behold. Doing so when chasing, of course, is a different kettle of fish than when posting a score – the latter has no limits whilst the former has a goal – but they approached the task in the same way

So it is four wins in a row for the 1st XI, which sees them in third place in the table. A final word of praise for Daniel Seston, who became the latest in a long line of colts to make it into the 1st XI. He acquitted himself well and did not look out of place, although he did look somewhat confused by the 'fines' discussion after the game

Dandeniya Rodda,J Weearatne Abbett.M Jones Mitchell Thomas Lawrence Seston Roots Ellicott-White

Man of the match: Jonathan – our reply revolved around his innings, he survived the clatter of wickets around him and was there for all but 47 of our runs

SUNDAY RECORD GOES Sunday XI 172, Sidcup 174 for 8

Boasting a 100% record the Sunday side took on Sidcup without their skipper and…… lost their 100% record! Stand-in captain Doug Forbes won the toss and elected to bat, with Jordan Thomas opening the batting rather than the bowling , as is his habit on Saturdays

Ninety seven minutes later he walked back to the pavilion with a hundred against his name, having retired out, which has become a familiar pattern of these games. Three overs and five runs later we had completed our allotted 40 overs with a total that was probably about 30 runs short of that needed to be competitive

And so it proved, as Sidcup got home with overs and wickets to spare although, and after our visitors had reached 87 before losing their second wicket, we came back into it to a degree by reducing them to 154 for 7 to ring a few alarm bells as Jordan, bowling leg spin, Tom Finan and the skipper all took two wickets

The game was also notable in that, for the first time, Doug and Sam Forbes were team mates – if only Ian could have made it to see a side containing three generations of Forbes – whilst the indefatigable Brian Smith was in Sidcup's winning side

So the proud unbeaten record has gone; no doubt Tony will ensure he plays in the next game
Thomas Davies Finan Phillips.D Hibbert (Sam)Forbes Larkman Jukes.D Nichols McCrossen Forbes,D

1ST XI TOP THE TABLE AT HALF-WAY STAGE 1st XI 176 Sibton Park 105

The much needed rain in mid-week, if your interests include cricket that is – there is a limit to what you can achieve with sprinklers – meant that the outfield looked a lot greener than of late and the wicket looked like it might be difficult to bat on; it was possibly a toss that you would not have minded losing.

'Mitch' lost the toss and we were asked to bat and after 11 overs Sanath and Jonathan seemed to be implying that batting was no problem at all, as the score stood at 58 for 0. However, the next over saw Jonathan's dismissal, caught behind for 29, and when Sanath was bowled for 21 we were 68 for 3.

Matt and Nick then instigated a mini rival only for them both to fall when the score was 99, and when Jordan departed one run later, we were 100 for 6, with over 28 overs remaining. Plenty of time, then, but the wickets column was not what we would have wanted.

However, if you want a repair job done there is no-one better than Josh Lawrence to come to your rescue - he has done so on several occasions this season, usually with Jordan, and he and the skipper set about the task and put on 57 before the younger partner lobbed a gentle catch and was caught for 32. He had out-scored his skipper throughout the partnership – his six over mid-wicket was particularly memorable – and it was now left to the skipper to nurse the tail as best he could, but when he was bowled for 32 the end was not long in coming and we were dismissed for 176 in 48.3 overs

The general consensus during the tea interval was that 180 would have been a good score, indeed, that had been the target, so we were only marginally short of that, and chasing would not be easy. And so it proved, thanks to a devastating spell of bowling by Jordan who not only dismissed five of their top six batsmen cheaply, but bowled each and every one of them to reduce them to 48 for 5, which soon became 54 for 6 following a smart stumping by Lawrence Roots

After that it seemed only a matter of time and, despite some stoic resistance from their number four, Sibton Park were dismissed for 105 in the 30th over.

So the 1st XI finished the game, the mid-way point in the season, top of the table having won their fifth consecutive game. Next week they visit St Lawrence & High Court, who sit just one point behind us. It should be a game worth going a long way to see
Dandeniya Rodda.J (Velsen) Devarajulu Abbett.M Morley.N Mitchell Thomas Lawrence Roots Ellicott-White Hannah
Man of the match: It has to be Jordan – he destroyed the early Sibton Park batting to finish with 5 for 24

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