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: 195 (May 2022)

www.oldwilsonians.com

Club: Old Wilsonians
Hayes Hill
Hayes, Bromley,
Kent

Telephone: 0208 462 2600

The Cricket Club have already won a trophy

The season has only just begun and ***we have already won a trophy***

Led by skipper Jeff Mascerenhas, the Old Wilsonians' Cricket Club successfully retained the 'Alf Parish Memorial Darts Cup,' which they won last year, when Peter Urquart beat Chris 'The Power' Taylor in a gripping final after an intriguing evening of top class darts on April 22nd in the Julian Speroni Restaurant at Selhurst Park.

Steve Austin, who also played in our victory in 2021, joined Jeff and Peter as the third member of our illustrious team, cheered on by a fanatical OW crowd – Dave Welch – who would have played himself but for an eye infection – get well soon, Dave.

Our Cup winning team have therefore set the bar high for the cricket season, and we wish all of our sides success in the months ahead.

The end of April also saw the return of Clubforce – it has been absent for a couple of years, primarily as the consequence of Covid – when much work was achieved, both with regard to preparing for the cricket season and undertaking some essential work to make the Club look a little less tardy and administer some much needed licks of paint.

The attendance was not as good as it could have been but many thanks to all of those who made the effort, and whilst I am not going to mention everyone by name I ***must*** give special plaudits to ***Paul Jenkins*** – as ever the architect of the event and whose multiple skills were yet again in evidence – and ***Bill Hartley,*** whose own skills, and wisdom, were in evidence and who, along with ***John Martin and Stephen Millward,*** repaired the children's playground the following week.

There is still some work to do – so please don't complain if your particular beef has not been addressed – many of which cannot wait for another year; why not volunteer your services?

Next year ***will*** be better organised and when the call goes out to volunteer then ***please*** answer it, thereby taking some of the pressure off Paul and Bill and proving that you do appreciate all of the time, skill and effort that they put into improving ***your*** Club.

Sincere congratulations to ***Rob Key,*** an erstwhile member of the OWs Sunday 2nd Xl, who has just been appointed managing Director of the England Cricket team.

Rob, of course, also played for Kent and England and scored many runs for both, although we remember him more as a bowler, as he once took five wickets for our Sunday 2s, and, for the precise details, please see Dave Welch.

So we are at the start of our 136th season when we hope to be celebrating both individually and collectively – e.g. Doug Forbes is on the verge of taking his 1,500th wicket

Our committee continues to work assiduously under the stewardship of Dave Welch whilst President Margo Lawrence has a double work-load in her additional position of Safe-guarding Officer.

Running a successful cricket Club – which we are – takes a lot of hard work, so if you can help in any way, then please do so; you will be welcomed with open arms.

Have a good season

Who to contact and how

Life President:	Ian Pilgrim Email: Ian@westcroftmortgages.co.uk	0208 402 1668
President:	Margo Lawrence Email: Margoowcolts@aol.com	07850 446874 (Mobile)
Chairman	Dave Welch Email: dgwelch1975@sky.com	07528 691488 (Mobile)
Vice-Chair	Laurence Allen Email: Loz_Allen@hotmail.com	07946 635020 (Mobile)
Colts Chairperson:	Barrie Frampton Email: barrie.frampton@gmail.com	
Club Captain:	Doug Forbes Email: doug.forbes@outlook.com	07768 713795 (Mobile)
Secretary:	Mike Pike Email: owmikepike@yahoo.co.uk	020 8659 6443 (H)
Safe-guarding Officer:	Margo Lawrence Email: Margoowcolts@aol.com	07850 446874 (M)
Treasurer:	Andy Spedding Email: andy.spedding@hotmail.co.uk	07973 847469 (Mobile)
Fixtures Secretary:	Laurence Allen Email: Loz_Allen@hotmail.com	07946 635020 (Mobile)
Website Administrator and Communications Officers:	Alex Forbes, Laurence Allen and Steve Lawrence email: stevelawrence@gmail.com	
Skippers:		
1st XI	Michael Mitchell Email: michaelgmitchell@live.co.uk	07721 628117 (M)
2nd XI	Nick Morley Email: nicholasmorley1992@gmail.com	07760850220 (M)
3rd XI:	Kevin Carruthers Kevin.carruthers9@btinternet.com	07980 620399 (M)
4th XI	Neil Treacher Email: tapir7@tiscali.co.uk	07956513331
5th XI	Alex Forbes alexforbes46@hotmail.co.uk	07855 273218 (M)
Sunday Development:	Syd Sherlock Sydsherlock01@gmail.co.com	07957910148 (M)
T20	Michael Mitchell - as above	

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://nkentjunior.play-cricket.com
Old Wilsonians' Association website www.OldWilsonians.com

NB and important: Will all of the above please check that I have your details correct and let me know if this is not the case

April Results

Bexley	242 for 5	1st Xl 207 for 5	Lost by 35 runs
1st Xl	222	Bromley Town 223 for 7	Lost by 3 wickets
4th Xl	189 for 4	Bexley 6th Xl 116	Won by 73 runs
ODCUAO	185	1st Xl 189 for 8	Won by two wickets

1ST Xl FORGET MANY OF THE BASICS 1st Xl 222 Bromley Town 223 for 7

It has been a long time since the 1st Xl played Bromley Town. Indeed, the last time we visited Hayes Lane they were known as Bromley Town and Old Bromleians and their pavilion was at the other side of the ground.

Initial members of the North Kent League, and a regular fixture before League cricket had been thought of, we have yet to play them in the Kent League and they now play in Division Three following promotion last year.

Memorable encounters on this ground include:

The day ***Rod Birtles,*** a steady and economical opening bowler but a natural No.11 batsman, informed the skipper of the time that he could play in this fixture but would have to leave early as he was going to a Dire Straits concert.

We bowled first, so Rod would have to bat a little higher than normal and was given the No.3 slot, and then proceeded to hit the ball to every part of the ground and reached over 90 by the time he was dismissed – it is not known whether or not he got to the concert in time.

Gerry Adams, another natural No.11, on being told that we had won the toss and elected to bat, declared:"Oh good; that means I can sit in the car and listen to the afternoon play."

On the first Saturday in July1980 Bjorn Borg was playing John McEnroe in the year's Wimbledon Men's singles final. Bromley Town Football Club, which is adjacent to the cricket ground, had finished the season but their grounds-man decided to do some work in preparation for the 1980/81 season. He was also a keen tennis fan so decided to play the radio commentary of the tennis final over the public address system.

The final went to five sets and lasted almost four hours, and the background noise was of great assistance to the cricketers, particular the batsmen

NB: Borg won 1-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-7, 8-6.

The prime function of pre-league friendly fixtures is to get the sides together following the winter break, to get used to playing cricket again and give the skipper a chance to experiment and assess his team for the season ahead.

I was not at the Bexley game the week before – and thanks for the ever reliable Jane Abbett for scoring – from which 'Mitch' would have gleaned that both Jon Rodda and Matt Golding are again going to be a force to be reckoned with, whilst Andrew Pomering hit an impressive 47 – did not see the innings but 47 is 47 - and substantiated the progress he made last season, whilst Dan Simpson took two wickets.

(We have a surfeit of good spin bowlers in the Club, so team selection will be difficult but a nice problem to have)

'Mitch' and Jon Rodda opened the batting in this game and were both bowled – more of which later – for 28 and 22 respectively.

Louis Pryor and Matt Abbett then put on 72 for the third wicket – no prizes for guessing as to who was the dominant partner, before Louis hit a gentle catch to cover for 17, which saw new boy Jamie Drewe join 'Mabbs' – welcome Jamie and trust you have a long, productive and purposeful

relationship with the OWs.

He began a little nervously but grew in confidence before being the third player to be bowled, this time for 25. Three runs earlier Matt had graciously retired for a hard-hitting 85 – you always know what to expect from 'Mabbs' and he is, quite rightly, a prize victim for opposing sides.

At the end of the 30th over we were 196 for 6 and a run a ball – not an unreasonable ambition – would have seen us finish on a competitive 256 in this 40 overs a side game.

However, things started to fall apart at this point, apart from a six from Elliott Bettridge, and we were all out for 222 and had failed to use 16 of our allotted balls, whilst six of our batsmen had been bowled - the first rule of batting is to get in line.

The Bromley Town openers put on 110 for the first wicket and we separated them just before the drinks interval and took two more wickets after said interval; had the tide turned?

Matt Golding, who had taken their second wicket, went on to finish with 4 for 42 and Siva Ranjan took 2 for 27, with Jamie Drewe holding three catches, all of which was not enough to win us the game.

Their No.4 played arguably the best innings of the game and our hosts needed three from the last ball, which they duly achieved to record a 7 wicket victory, although we helped them considerably by bowling 31 wides which, apart from anything else, modern day score-books cannot cope with!

As well as getting in line when batting, other essentials include using each and every one of the balls you are allocated and not conceding bowling extras.

Interesting statistic of the game: Matt Abbett scored one more 6 than Elliott Bettridge; how often does that happen(?)

Man of the match: Jamie Drewe. A fine game from our debutant – 25 well crafted runs, three neat catches and who knows how many wides we would have conceded but for his alertness

Rodda.J Mitchell Pryor Abbett.M Drewe Lawrence.J Golding Simpson Bettridge Ranjan Hannah

BUT WE BOUGHT A NEW TRACTOR RECENTLY ODCUACO 185, 1st Xl 189 for 8

In a week when a pigeon landed on a table at the Crucible during the world snooker championships – he claimed he was looking for John Parrott – and a Tory MP was caught looking at pornography on his mobile 'phone - he likes to have a job in hand - it was probably appropriate that our very own 'Pigeon' was the star of the show in this game; and I'd delete your history from your 'phone if I were you, Matt – looking for tractors, indeed.

This was the third, and final ,pre-league season fixture for the 1st Xl before the serious stuff starts at Dartford next week and they were badly in need of a victory this time, having lost the first two. ODCUACO were our opponents, one of only two sides who had beaten us last season – the other one being Dartford – so this was not going to be easy.

They won the toss, elected to bat and Dave Ellicott-White struck with his fifth ball of his season, a neat catch by Matt Abbett at first slip, and when James Sellar, twice, and Matt Golding joined the party, our hosts were reduced to 45 for 4.

However, a fine fifth wicket partnership of 96 held us up but when that was broken wickets began to fall regularly again and ODCUACO were dismissed for a moderate 185, James Sellar finishing with 3 for 33, DEW 2 for 33 and 'Mitch' 2 for 35

Andrew Pomering, who had batted so well at Bexley, became John Rodda's third opening partner in three games and they put on 38 before the junior partner lobbed a gentle catch and Matt Golding joined his vice-captain and progressed the score to 75 before the head coach was bowled, shouldering arms to a ball that came back to hit his off stump.

So Matt Abbett joined Matt Golding with 111 runs needed and 30 overs to get them – our opponents must have been fearing the worst. However, 10 runs later their partnership was all over, ''Mabbs' playing over the top of a straight ball to be bowled, and when we slumped to 132 for 6, the skipper having departed, and still needing 53 for victory, with 'Pigeon' on 55 at the time, it became clear to your correspondent that the not out batsman would need to score 100 for us to win, even more

so when 132 for 6 became 133 for 7.

Siva Ranjan then stayed for 11 runs before being bowled and James Sellar joined our hero who then attempted to manipulate the strike, an ambition he fulfilled completely, including in the penultimate over of the game in which he hit 15 from the first 5 balls before leaving James to negotiate, and successfully, the last ball.

So we needed four runs from the last over and, after the fourth ball the scores were level, albeit with James on strike, and he gently cut the ball to the third man boundary to secure the victory.

So the 1st Xl have won one and lost two of their pre-league season games, although there is little doubt that, had 'Mabbs' not retired against Bromley Town it would have been two wins out of three.

Interesting statistic of the game: Siva Ranjan bowled the first maiden of the game; how often does that happen?

MOM : Matt Golding - a wicket, a catch, and, more crucially, a magnificent 103 not out to win the game

The League hand-books are now available and an excuse to re-print this photograph



Back Row: Matt Golding James Sellar Josh Lawrence Louis Pryor Dan Seston Jon Rodda Dave Ellicott- White Andrew Pomering
Middle Row: An old scorer Jane Abbett: A much younger scorer
Seated: Ollie Willis Syd Sherlock Michael Mitchell (Captain) Matt Abbett

The League hand-books are now available albeit, and as per last year, in a slim-downed version which does not include Club reports.

However, they ***can*** be found on the league's website but, in order to save you the trouble of finding it, and for those who do not have access to websites – hello Tom - please see below our entry. This also gives us an opportunity, and for the second time, to see the photograph on the previous page again; and the rest of the Kent League sides to observe it for the first time

"Is there going to be the opportunity to include Club reports in this year's league handbook?" I asked the indefatigable Brian Smith.
"No, but I will put any such reports on the league website, although nobody is liable to read them," he replied with authority.
"That's not a problem – very few people read my ramblings" I reluctantly admitted.
"I do," responded the ever diplomatic Brian and then, after a short but meaningful pause, he added "but, having read what you write, I totally understand why nobody else does."

Old Wilsonians approached the return of League cricket in 2021 having won the local mini-league in 2020 which also featured Beckenham, Bickley Park, Hayes, Orpingtom and Sidcup, not to mention storming to the final of the T20 competition having defeated Beckenham, again, and Bexley on the journey, more of which later.

Our 2nd Xl, playing in a comparable league for the second strings of all the same clubs involved, did not fare quite so well but did record notable wins against Orpington and Sidcup, but their best achievement was hitting 367 for 7 against Bickley Park and then bowling them out for 121.

And so back to the T20 final which was played at the Nevill ground on Sunday May 30th , which just happened to be the birthday of our President, Jasper Gundry-White, and after a breakfast at the Clubhouse, which somehow managed to include a birthday cake, we boarded a coach to take us to our destination.

The OW T20 side was a combination of 1st and 2nd Xl players and both sides had started the 2021 season well, the 1s winning all four of their games and the 2s three out of four, the weather causing their game at Whitstable to be abandoned without a ball being bowled, so we were in a buoyant mood, which was increased when our hosts lost a wicket with only one run on the board and although they recovered well, with 'man of the match' Virat Bhatia batting throughout for an unbeaten 72, we did manage to restrict the Premier Division side to 153 from their 20 overs.

However, this proved to be enough as we proceeded to lose wickets on a regular basis and were 43 runs short of our target when the 20 overs were completed, so it was now a case of "concentrating on the league" for the rest of the season as we left Tunbridge Wells having enjoyed our day, being re-united with some old friends and making a few more.

And so our two Kent league sides went about realising their respective dreams of promotion, but the resumption of league fixtures did not start too well for the 1st Xl as, having reduced ODCUACO to 79 for 8, our near neighbours recovered to finish on 147 for 8 from their 50 overs and then bowled us out for 137 and, the following week, we travelled to Dartford, restricted then to 213 for 6 and seemed to be well in control when the scoreboard read 199 for 4, only to be bowled out for 212 from the last ball of the game, thereby suffering a one run defeat.

However, the 1st Xl then went on to win ten games in a row to claim the Division Two championship, rain preventing them from making it 11 and the chance of gaining revenge on ODCUAO for their earlier defeat.

Meanwhile our 2nd Xl were also losing to ODCUACO on the Saturday after that T20 final and only won three further games, so will now have to address themselves to attempting to discover the joys of promotion this year.

On a more general level, the Club continues to progress and although we had to remove our 5th Xl from the Regional League, we hope that this is just a temporary measure and, as the consequence of a strong colts set-up, we hope to field five league sides in the not too distant future as the youngsters progress to the senior sides, whilst we are also prioritising the promotion of women's cricket.

Our 1st Xl are looking forward to pitting their considerable skills in Division One but their

Luddite scorer was a little concerned when it was explained that rain affected games will be determined by 'The Duckworth Lewis Method' and he would have to learn how it works.

"I was at school with Phil Duckworth and Alan Lewis but did not realise how important they are to the game of cricket", he opined.

"There's also an Irish band called 'The Duckworth Lewis Method' he revealed in that nerdy way he has, and before anyone could shut him up continued "and they have made two albums, one of which is called 'Sticky wickets, ' and they contain such tracks as 'The coin toss', 'Man on the boundary', 'Rain stops play', 'The Night watchman', 'Test match special', 'The end of the over', 'Sticky wickets', 'It's just not cricket', 'The umpire', 'Third man', 'Out in the middle', 'Line and length', by which time everyone was sound asleep.

The Second Division Champions Flag is proudly displayed over the Bar at our Clubhouse and we are all aware that we will have to hand it back at the end of the season so that the 2022 champions can enjoy a similar honour but, and whilst we look forward to welcoming all Division One sides to Hayes Hill this year, and assure them of the renowned Old Wilsonian hospitality, we will be doing our outmost to replace that flag with one of even greater significance.

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT EDITION - May 31st

(Would be nice if I received more contributions than for this one, namely ***none at all;*** at least ***ONE*** of you must having something to say!!)