Anything The Football Can Do...

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

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First month of the season completed but where is the cricket weather?

Sadly I have to start this month's newsletter with the sad news of the death of Colin Smith, yet another member of the great 1960s OW side who were a match for any team during that period.

In those days the player with the lowest score in the game had to 'pack the bag' and on one occasion Colin was somewhat put out when that job was assigned to him and responded:

"But I got 75!"

Colin had been ill for some time and left us on May 16th and there will be a 'Service of Thanksgiving at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, West Common Road, Bromley, BR2 7BX on June 15th and we will raise a glass, or two, in his memory at the Club afterwards.

A number of Old Wilsonians have already indicated their intention of attending both, and I hope this number will increase.

A greater appreciation of Colin will appear in our next edition and I ask those of you who knew him to send me your thooughts.

Last month I congratulated Karim Mir on his successful marathon run and he has responded by writing about his experience, which is a good read. Karim has also written a 3rd Xl report, and I ask others to follow his fine example – you can run a marathom as well if you like.

Congratulations are also due to Tom and Alex Sullivan on the imminent arrival of their first child. They are hoping for a Millwall supporter – well, Tom is; Alex is the sensible one!

As ever it is so good to see our colts learning their trade under the expert guidance of Jon Rodda and his coaching team. On the field of play the results have been mixed but I must draw your attention to the under 15a's 10 wicket victory against Premier Division Bexley.

I also draw your attention to the fact that the 1st Xl team for their game against New Beckenham contained ***ten*** players who have come through our colts section, the only exception being Sahan Adeesha, our overseas player, a game in which they scored 298 for 6 and then bowled the opposition out for 246, our 'former' colts scoring 252 of those runs, taking nine wickets and holding seven catches.

Last month I reported that our darts team failed to retain the Alf ParishMemoral Trophy but a photograph of the event appears later in this edition, whilst I could not help notice that at the 1st Xl's game at Harvel, which was delayed by three hours because of the weather, many of them played darts whilst they waited for the game to start, so perhaps we will be able to regain the trophy next time

The weather has not been of a quality condusive to cricket so far but the return of Test Match Special, and the cricket story line in 'The Archers', may be the portent of better things to come.

The weather also put paid to our early season barbecue, which has now been rescheduled for ***Saturday June 17th***

Finally a reminder that annual sibscriptions are now due and, if you have not already paid them, then please do so as soon as possible. If you are struggling to pay then please speak to a member of the committee and we will help you in any way we can

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T20	Syd Sherlock

Websites

Kent Cricket League Website:	www.kcl.uk.net
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

April/May Results

1st Xl		Sidcup		No play possible
1st Xl	161	Bromley Town	153	Won by 8 runs
2nd Xl		Blackheath		No play possible
Beddington	238 for 8	1st Xl	226	Lost by 12 runs
2nd Xl	181 for 6	Eynsford 1st Xl	186 for 5	Lost by 5 wickets
1st Xl		Broadstairs		No play possible
2nd Xl		Cowdrey		No play possible
3rd Xl		Catford & Cyphers		No play possible
4th Xl		Alleyn		No play possible
Under 15a		Dulwich		No play possible
Under 11 girls b		Greenwich Junior Academy		OWs conceded
Under 13b	81 for 6	New Beckenham	50	Won by 31 runs
Under 11b	115 for 6	Bromley	107 for 6	Won by 8 runs
Beckenham	164 for 3	Under 13b	94	Lost by 70 runs
1st Xl	156 for 8	Harvel	115 for 9	Won by 41 runs
2nd Xl	184 for 7	Gravesend RFC 1st Xl	188 for 5	Lost by 5 wickets
3rd Xl	106 for 8	Bexley 4th Xl	108 for 7	Lost by 3 wickets
4th Xl	138	Beckenham 6th Xl	139 for 5	Lost by 5 wickets
Under 15a	85	Sidcup	89 for 5	Lost by 5 wickets
Catford & Cyphers Under 11a	154 for 4	Under 11a	32	Lost by 122 runs
Under 11b	115 for 6	Bromley	107 for 6	Won by 8 runs
Beckenham Under 13c	164 for 3	Under 13b	94	Lost by 70 runs

Under 13a	109 for 9	Streatham & Melborough	110 for 4	Lost by 6 wickets
ODCUACO Under 15b	84 for 5	Under 15b	73	Lost by 11 runs
Under 12	170 for 1	New Beckenham	71	Won by 99 runs
1st Xl	298 for 6	New Beckenham	256	Won by 42 runs
New Beckenham	69	2nd Xl	70 for 2	Won by 8 wickets
Old Colfeians	144 for 8	3rd Xl	145 for 5	Won by 5 wickets
Bexleyheath 5th Xl	137 for 4	4th Xl	67	Lost by 70 runs
Under 15b	145	New Beckenham	56	Won by 89 runs
Gravesend Under 15a	146 for 8	Under 15a	113 for 7	Lost by 33 runs
Catford Cyphers under 11b		Under 11b		OWs conceded
Dulwich Under 13b	142 for 7	Under 13a	93 for 7	Lost by 49 runs
Blackheath Under 11a	158 for 4	Under 11a	78 for 6	Lost by 80 runs
Under 13b	100 for 8	Hayes under 13b	101 for 1	Lost by 9 wickets
Under 11a girls		Streatham & Marlborough		OWs conceded
1st Xl	119	Bromley Common	120 for 3	Lost by 7 wickets
2nd Xl	215 for 6	Gravesend	194 for 9	Won by 21 runs
Chislehurst & West Kent	159 for 9	3rd Xl	162 for 4	Won by 6 wickets
Bexleyheath 5th Xl	135 for 6	4th Xl	136 for 6	Won by 4 wickets
Bexley	61	Under 15a	65 for 0	Won by 10 wickets
Under 15b	240 for 6	Chislehurst & West Kent	150 for 9	Won by 90 runs
Bromley Under 11	121 for 6	Under 11b	93 for 8	Lost by 28 runs
ODCUACO Under 13	128 for 6	Under 11b	94 for 8	Lost by 34 runs
Chislehurst & West Kent Under 11a	159 for 3	Under 11a	54	Lost by 105 runs
ODCUACO 20/20	151 for 8	20/20 side	108 for 9	Lost by 43 runs

Email to the Editor

Dear Mike

I am conscious that I did not follow up on the email you sent recently. I hope that your treatment has proved to be successful and that you are in good spirits. It looks like it was a tough season last year for the 1st XI but, hopefully, a more fruitful season awaits in 2023.

I am managing to get down to Lord's for the first two days of The Ashes Test as well as days two and 3 at The Oval. Let's hope it is a competitive series!

Mum has moved into a care home in Thames Ditton. She had a fall last year and, following respite care, we all agreed that staying in the home was the best option for her and the family as a whole. Looking after Mum was placing an unfair burden on my sister, Anne. She is well looked after and seems very content in her new surroundings. I am down in London this week and hoping to take her out for lunch on Wednesday. Go careful and hope you are still up to performing your scoring duties.

Best, Neil Fitzsimmons

Editor's footnote: Neil kindly donated a signed photograph of one of the West Indies touring sides of the 1960s which his father, Pat, gave to him as a Christmas present. Pat scored 8,040 runs, took 365 wickets and held 87 catches for the OWs and his name adorns our legends board.

Andy Lynch

In his email Neil mentions that he will be attending the first two days of the Lord's (Ashes) Test match. Andy Lynch, who is Bromley Common's scorer, will also be there but he will not need to purchase a ticket nor queue to get into the ground as he has been selected to score for England

"I've been sent a menu and asked what I want for lunch", he told me when we played at Bromley Common on May 27th. Congratulations Andy – a much deserved honour; enjoy the game

KARIM MIR COMPELTES MARATHON IN SUPPORT OF PROSTATE CANCER



*Karim before his marathon run – pretty sure this photograph was taken **before** as cannot imagine that he looked like this afterwards!*

It is late April; a bit chilly and just starting to rain. The track was damp. "This should suit you, " I hear all those who have seen me bowl my slow-medium seamers proclaim! This time it wasn't a pre-season cricket fixture, though. This was a whole new ball game.

The London Marathon – one of the city's biggest annual sporting events and, at 10.52am, I stepped over the start line for my very first. The following 4h 20m and 31s were a full mixture of human emotions, as anyone who has run a marathon will attest to. Exhilaration, despair, joy, pain - it's all there and more. However, despite a few scares, the job was done.

The crowds are incredible - total strangers cheering you on is an incredible feeling and really does push you to the finish line. Beyond that line, my legs cramped, my knees seized up and simply walking was a challenge for the following 48 hours. Stairs were avoided at all costs Despite all that, it is a phenomenal experience and I would urge anyone who wonders 'can I do it?' to sign up and give it a go. It's hard (very hard) but it is most definitely worth it.

As well as those who supported me on the course, the many who very kindly sponsored me were undoubtedly a massive help, too. So many of those are Old Wilsonians and I'd like to again say a huge 'thank you' to each and every one of you. Between us, we've so far raised over £4,000 for Prostate Cancer UK, a great and worthy charity that is an invaluable source of information and awareness of this increasingly relevant issue for all men. The good news for those who might still want to (or maybe thought that the old sod will never do it!) is that donations can still be made for a few weeks yet – see previous newsletters or speak to me for further details.

So….one challenge over, it's now onto another, namely getting my 55 year old body through another cricket season. As always, I look forward to seeing many of you over the season, both on the pitch and off it. Thanks again, Karim

Well done Karim – we are all proud of you - ed

COMFORTABLE BICTORY FOR 3rd Xl Old Colfeians 144 for 8 3rd Xl 145 for 5

The 3rd XI turned up for an unusual second consecutive Saturday at Hawes Down and, whilst the surroundings were undoubtedly familiar, a higher temperature, and a lower setting on the groundsman's mower, cheered up those who were on time to see Skipper Joe Jukes win his first toss at the second attempt.

Choosing to field, and sneakily delaying the start whilst we awaited a couple of tardy teammates, the captain got things underway himself, bowling a sprightly spell that set the tone for the bowling unit to go about their task in a disciplined fashion.

All five bowlers impressed, never allowing Colfes to get away from them on a decent pitch that offered them little assistance. 'Sully' and Howard (Abbett) were the pick, collecting wickets at regular intervals so that no Colfes player reached 25 runs in their 144 total.

The run chase was complicated a little by an injury to our senior opener that pushed Howard into that unfamiliar role. However, both he and Chetan Kamat looked assured, seeing off the new ball with relative ease.

After Howard steered one to slip with the total on 25, Karim (Mir) joined Chetan and the pair put together a 50 run partnership in a manner that suggested a win was the likelier result. When both perished in quick succession, the outcome was once more thrown into the balance but Jason (James), showing rarely seen athleticism between the wickets, was backed up, firstly by cameos from the two schoolboys, Max (Ruskin) and Harley (Tucker) and then by the force known as Andy Ifill. Quickly assessing what was required against a now ailing Colfes attack, Andy went into overdrive, smashing mighty sixes over mid wicket on several occasions and bringing the ever growing crowd to its feet.

Such was the ferocity of his hitting, and a match that seemed destined to go down to the wire was wrapped up with almost four overs to spare. The resulting five wicket victory was most satisfying,

particularly against a team that took appealing to a level that should not be seen at any level of cricket. As our umpire reminded their bowlers on more than a few occasions, the laws of cricket preclude the possibility of LBW when the ball hits the bat, never mind when it's clearly missing the stumps.

This was a well deserved and very welcome victory for a team that was more positive in its general approach than the previous week. Our fielding was the only negative, with both ground fielding and catching below par and requiring some attention if the team is to achieve its goals for the season.

Karim Mir

Kamat Abbett.H Mir Ruskin James Tucker Ifill Forbes.D Jukes.J Sullivan Castle.R

THE CRICKET CLUB IN ACTION AS THEY DEFEND THEIR DARTS TROPHY



Josh Frampton takes aim during the darts competition with proud Dad Barrie waiting to record his score. In the foreground fellow Old Wilsonian, Roger Hough, albeit playing for the Greemwich and Woolwich Labour Party, pokes his tongue out in an effort to distract Josh

1ST Xl OFF TO A WINNING START 1st Xl 156 for 8, Harvel 115 for 6

You wait three hours to lose a wicket and then you lose two in eight balls.

The 1st Xl's league season, after the wash-out against Broadstairs, finally got underway at 3-00 p.m. on Saturday May 13th, the three hour delay being caused by heavy rainfall the night before.

Some of the team had spent the three hours waiting time playing darts, something I hope they will remember next March when the next darts competition comes around – see photograph above.

A game reduced to 25 overs a side means that a certain amount of urgency is required but when Jon Rodda was bowled by a good ball and Velsen run out, the score-board read 3 for 2 and Harvel were on a highm a time for calm heads as far as the OWs were concerned and they came in the shape of Syd Sherlock and his skipper, who took the score to 69 before Syd was trapped lbw for 17 at the end of the 16th over.

'Mitch' followed shortly afterwards for 53 – during this innings he passed 10,000 runs for the Club – and a quick-fire 24 from Louis Pryor proved invaluable, but the key over of the innimgs was the 21st where Sahan hit the first four balls for 6 before falling to the fifth, having hit 41 in 13 balls to push us above 150, certainly a total that sensible bowling should be able to defend.

Harvel were 37 for 1 at the end of their seventh over but six balls later they were 39 for 3 after which they lost wickets on a regular basis despite a defiant and beligerent innings of 27 from the bowler who had been to Sahan's liking and they finished on 115 for 9

Josh Lawrence was the pick of our bowlers, taking 2 for 11 from his five overs, whilst Jon Rodda, continued his comeback trail, as a bowler that is, to finish with 2 for 23.

MOM: Sahan Adeesha – That quickfire 41 was the real difference between the two sides

(Slight) concern of the match: Andrew Pomering's one and only over of the day, in which he bowled four no balls and two wides - the scorers thought they were undergoing an exam

Pleasing incident of the match: Really good to see Jo and Tony Sherlcok and Brian Pomering coming along to support the team on a miserable afternoon

Strange incident of the match: To be honest this happened ***before*** the match as Mitch hoovered his living room floor

(Velsen) Devarajulu Rodda.J (Syd)Sherlock Mitchell Pryor Adeesha Nichols Pomering.A Lawrence.J Simpson Willis

RUNS FLOW ALL AFTERNOON ON FINE STRIP 1st Xl 298 for 6 New Beckenham 256

It was not exactly a prefect summer's day but, and after the wash-out against Broadstairs, the 1st Xl got their home league season underway with this fixture against New Beckenham, formerly known as HSBC.

Batting first we found ourselves at 44 for 3 two balls into the 13th over, with Velsen, the skipper and vice-skipper back in the pavilion and Syd on 13, desperately in need of assistance.

Enter Louis Pryor to provide that assistance until he was bowled for 66 attempting the reverse sweep – see my comments about not attempting the reverse sweep until you have at least 150 to your name which I have made well, on a regular basis, over the last few seasons.

Nevertheless, he and Syd had added 103 in 18 overs during this time so I forgive him; as long as he does not do the same thing again.

Have a feeling that this might be Louis's season – he batted well against Beddington and Harvel and again today and long may that continue. Ian Pilgrim, whose opinion must always be respected, described Louis as "A future 1st Xl captain" when he was a very young colt – Louis, that is, not Ian - and that prediction may well come to frution, although we all hope, including Louis himself, that this will be some years in the future as our current skipper has a lot of mileage left in him.

At the time Louis left him, Syd was on 47, there was one ball left of the 30th over and the score was on 143 and, thanks to Elliot, now playing as a batsman, and Sahan, playing a similar barn storming innings as of last week, this time for 46, we managed to more than double the score to finish at a highly respectable 298 for 6, almost enough for Elliot to start bowling again!

Syd finished on a magnificent 112 not out, standing firm when the early wickets fell, putting the side into the ascendancy in his partnership with Louis, proving the ideal foil to Sahan in his no nonsense approach and ending his own innings with a flourish.

And a vote of thanks here to groundsman Iain Muir, who had prepared a good wicket despite a wet Spring that has made pre-season preparations so difficult.

New Beckenham, too, found the strip to their liking with four of their top six getting in before succumbing to the bowling guiles of Josh Lawrence, Jon Rodda, Andrew Pomering and 'Mitch', with some smart catching from Josh, 'Mitch', Elliot and Syd behind the stumps to reduce them to 131 for 6. A sixth wicket stand of 73 then held us up for a while but two quick wickets, including that of their stibborn No.4, whom 'Mitch' bowled for 57, saw them reduced to 212 for 7 in the 38th over, thereby leaving them needing 87 from 67 balls

Game over? Not a bit of it, particularly in view of the fine strip Iain had prepared.

However, we stuck to our task, our catching was faultless – we took seven in total – and a 42 run victory was achieved.

So the 1st Xl have won two of their first three games – the weather won the other one – and next week we visit Bromley Common, who were relegated with us last year, for the battle of the titans.
Man of the match: Syd Sherlock. He carried his bat – his servant was on holiday – to remain 112 not out at the end, took a ctach and conceded just one bye
Concern of the match: The umpires deducted us a point for a slow over rate. Thankfully, and thanks to the negotiating skills of our skipper, this was re-instated but we ***must all,*** particularly the bowlers, get a move on – your officious scorer might start timing each over
Most encouraging fact of the match: Ten of the 11 players representing the 1st Xl came through our colts section
(Velson) Deverajulu (Syd)Sherlock Mitchell Rodda.J Pryor Bettridge Adeesha Nichols Pomering Lawrence.J Willis

LESSONS TO BE LEARNED 1st Xl 119 Bromley Common 120 for 3

Someone – it might have been me – described this game as 'the battle of the titans' as the two relegated sides from last year's Division One met at Oakley Rd. As a comsequence of the league's re-organisation, both sides are still in Division One but we cannot hide the fact that this is the third tier of Kent League cricket.

'Mitch' won the toss, elected to bat but no amount of flannel can disguise the fact that we were bowled out for 119 in 27 overs and less than two hours.

With all due respect to those involved, this was not the strongest side the Club have fielded and those who stepped up did their best, but the performance of the entire team was not good enough as we slumped to 60 for 7.

Josh Merchant (15) and Andrew Pomering (33) then put on 42 for the eigth wicket and we almost doubled the score from the nadir of 60 for 7 to finish on 119, but it was never going to be enough and many of us returned to Hayes to watch the 2nd Xl defeat Gravesend and the 4th Xl conquer Bexleyheath

Lessons must be learnt from every game we play, whether it be a victory or a defeat – sometimes you learn more from the latter than the former and normal service needs to be resumed when Ashford come to Hayes next week
Man of the match: Andrew Pomering – top scored with 33 and then took two of the three wickets to fall
Slight concern of the match: Our batting – and bowling
Inspring moment of the match: The fact that Andy Lynch, the Bromley Common scorer, has been selected to score for England in the Lord's Ashes Test – well done Andy; a most deserved honour
(Velson) Devarajulu Rodda.J (Dan) Seston Mitchell Pryor Bettridge Merchant Adeesha Pomering Lawrence.J Simpson

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