Anything The Football Can Do...

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

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Issue No: 203 (July 2023) Club: Old Wilsonians
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Can someone help with our Website ?/President's Day approaches

"The cricket season is so short" is the cry uttered by virtually everyone who follows the game and, on July 1st, we reached the half-way point, although this edition of your newsletter covers the games up until the end of June, so do not look for those July 1st reports

The season is even shorter for our 'All stars', 'Dynamos' and 'Colts' sections with the end of season virtually coinciding with the end of the school year, so perhaps I will get some end of season reports for the August edition(?)

Talking of which – reports that is – I think I have now admitted defeat with regard to receiving detailed accounts of our games, although Karim Mir did put everyone else to shame by writing about the 3rd Xl's defeat of Colfeians whilst he was preparing for, or was it recovering from, running the marathon, so, and as far as this newsletter is concerned, you will have to be content with the reports that I write for the games I score - would be delighted if someone were to prove me wrong, so please take up the challenge

I continue to write what I call 'mini-reports' for all of the senior games which can be found on play-cricket which may be of value and which Laurence Allen then puts on our website, but he is a very busy man, and as well as his 'day' job, he works tirelessly for the OWCC so these sometimes appear later than we would like - ***which is where you come in***

Can someone help us with our Website

Will someone ***PLEASE*** volunteer to take responsibility for updating our website.

Today's world seems to have a website for virtually anything and everything and is primarily a world for young people, many of whom play cricket for us, so can someone ***PLEASE*** put his/her hand up and volunteer to help in this regard

President's Day is on Sunday July 23rd

President's Day is one of the highlights of the season and this year it will take place on: ***Sunday July 23rd*** and Margo Lawrence, our esteemed President, has been working incredibly hard to ensure that it is a day to remember

There will be ***three*** games of cricket – The Under 15a side are playing Beckenham at 9-30, there will be a Ladies and Girls match at 1-00 p.m. and at 3-00 p.m. Margo's side will be playing the Chairman's Xl, whilst four great members of the Club will be remembered in a special way

The Bar will be open all day, whilst food will also be available, so please come along and support our illustrious President and join in the fun and games

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Sunday Development: Dan Seston

T20	Michael Mitchell - as above

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
Old Wilsonians' Association website www.OldWilsonians.com

June Results

Under 15b	89	Hayes	90 for 4	Lost by 6 wickets

Ashford Town	153	1st Xl	155 for 4	Won by 6 wickets
2nd Xl	213 for 9	Orpington	104	Won by 109 runs
Graveney	280 for 4	5th Xl	244 for 8	Lost by 36 runs
Beckenham Under 15a	122 for 9	Under 15a	124 for 7	Won by 3 wickets
Under 11a	100 for 2	Bromley Common	102 for 4	Lost by 6 wickets
Bickley Park Under 13	98 for 4	Under 13a	102 for 3	Won by 8 wickets
Bromley Common Under 13	96	Under 13b	100 for 6	Won by 4 wickets
Beckenham Under 11c	130 for 0	Under 11b	80 for 0	Lost by 50 runs
Under 12	180 for 3	Dartford Under 12	99	Won by 81 runs
1st Xl	180	Leeds & Brommfield	184 for 6	Lost by 4 wickets
2nd Xl	193 for 8	Simba	194 for 1	Lost by 9 wickets
Sidcup 3rd Xl	217 for 7	3rd Xl	150 for 8	Lost by 67 runs
4th Xl	174 for 7	Dulwich 6th Xl	175 for 3	Lost by 7 wickets
ODCUACO Under 15b	132 for 2	Under 15b	136 for 1	Won by 9 wickets
Lamorbey Park	158	Sunday 11	159 for 2	Won by 8 wickets
Under 11b		Hayes Under 11b		No play possible
Under 13a	120 for 7	Orpington	121 for 6	Lost by 4 wickets
Under 14	137 for 9	Chislehurst & West Kent	115 for 7	Won by 22 runs
Under 13b	86 for 7	Catford & Cyphers	90 for 0	Lost by 10 wickets
Under 11	117 for 5	ODCUACO	102	Won by 15 runs
1st Xl	322 for 9	Gravesend	258	Won by 64 runs
2nd Xl	116	Catford & Cyphers	119 for 1	Lost by 9 wickets
3rd Xl	193 for 6	Hayes	197 for 6	Lost by 4 wickets
Ex-Blues	223 for 5	4th Xl	222 for 9	Lost by 1 run
Blackheath Under 15a	118 for 8	Under 15a	119 for 2	Won by 8 wickets
Under 15b	161 for 4	Hayes	123 for 2	Won by 38 run
Beckenham Under 11a	139 for 6	Under 11a	85	Lost by 54 runs
Under 13a		Hayes		No play possible
1st Xl	228	Nonnington	162	Won by 66 runs

Catford Wanderers	154	2nd Xl	155 for 5	Won by 5 wickets
3rd Xl	158 for 7	Beckenham 4th X	160 for 2	Lost by 8 wickets
4th Xl	151	Dulwich 6th Xl	153 for 7	Lost by 3 wickets
Under 15b	120 for 5	New Beckenham	121 for 9	Lost by 1 wicket
Under 15a	203 for 8	Dulwich	131	Won by 72 runs
ODCUACO	248	Sunday League Xl	246 for 9	Lost by 2 runs
Bromley	158 for 2	Under 11a	32	Lost by 126 runs
Under 13b		New Beckenham		No play possible

1st Xl HAVE ASHFORD IN A SPIN Ashford Town 153, 1st Xl 155 for 4

We have had many battles with Ashford Town over the years and there was a time when we were promoted and relegated together, and it was our own relegation last season that has brought us together again. However, they have lost their best player, and many others, have not started this season well and their attitude towards this game was somewhat fatalistic

They won the toss and elected to bat and although we took an early wicket they were 90 for 1 at the end of the 27th over. However, ten overs later, they were 101 for 6 and 11 overs later they were all out for 153, thus losing nine wickets for 61 runs in 21 overs, 'Mitch' finishing with 6 for 16 and Dan Simpson 2 for 23

In reply we lost both openers with only 35 on the board and when Jon Rodda was caught behind we were 47 for 3, at which point Louis Pryor joined Dan Seston and they put on 99 to take us within eight runs of our target, which Louis achieved with two boundaries, with a wide sandwiched in-between, to finish on 50 not out, Dan's contributioin being 53

Louis has now scored 152 runs in four league games –he also got 36 in the friendly against Beddington - and, on this evidence, is making an early claim for the 'Ken Sawyer Trophy'

Dan Seston is a talented player but he tends to start badly, but if he can negotiate the first few overs, and get into double figures, his confidence grows. Perhaps thought should be given to his batting position – is No.3 too high for him? – but he is certainly a top order batsman and a 1st Xl player.

On this occasion he got off the mark with a 4 and went on to score a well-constructed 53, before hitting the ball straight to mid-off but knowing that he had done his job and that victory was assured.
MOM: 'Mitch' – you cannor argue with 6 for 16 although, initially, their scorer did so!
(Velson) Deverajulu (Syd)Sherlock (Dan) Seston Rodda.J Pryor Bettridge Mitchell Adeesha Pomering Lawrence.J Simpson

NICE GROUND ; WHERE'S THE SIGHT-SCREEN ? 1st Xl 180 Leeds & Broomfield 184 for 6

Leeds and Broomfield were promoted last season and we were relegated so, 12 months ago, we were playing two divisions apart – trust your reporter to state the obvious. Winning and losing can become habits – trust your reporter to state the obvious – and our hosts had started the season well.

Even your reporter, who has the habit of stating the obvious, had not been to this ground. "It's very nice", exclaimed Goat Boy via the telephone as he spoke to Dan Simpson who was driving Sahan and I to the 'very nice' ground before

The ground was, indeed, nice but on closer inspection its faults became apparent – there was only a sight-screen at one and it was behind a fence, making moving it virtually impossible

'Mitch' won the toss and elected to bat and Syd hit the third ball of the game high into the air to present square leg with a simple catch which…… he dropped. However, it did not prove expensive for, on 14, Syd attempted a ramp shot, so he will get no sympathy from me – this is Kent League cricket,

not a Test match, and was easily caught, reducing us to 51 for 2, which soon became 76 for 5 by the 26th over to leave Elliot and Jon to repair the damage and they took the score to 129 for 6 before Elliot was caught for 20 and, ten runs later, Jon was trapped lbw for 31 with 10 overs left

Sahan, Josh, Ollie and Dan then managed to push the total to 180 but it did not seem enough on a small ground and we had failed to use all of our 50 overs, but early wickets would help and Sahan claimed one with his fourth ball, and when Jon reduced them to 32 for 2, spirits remained high

However, their third wicket pair then put on 60 to take them beyond the half-way mark but when we reduced them to 137 for 6 we acquired renewed hope, knowing that another two wickets would put us back into the game if not the ascendancy, but it was not to be, and they achieved a four wicket victory which caused them to break into a chorus of "We are top of the league", which they were not.

Sahan finished with 3 for 38 and Jon, 'Mitch' and Dan shared the other three wickets between them – that means one each - but we were well beaten

MOM: Sahan – After a shaky start his bowling is starting to become both economical and penetrative whilst his quick-fire batting makes him an ideal No.8

Unsurprising event of the afternoon: Prior to the game everyone was specifically told not to go into Leeds Castle, so Syd……went into Leeds Castle

Mystery of the afternoon: Justin Pryor, who arrived with a copy of 'The Observer book of trees', spent virtually all of the afternoon inspecting the tree within the playing area

(Velsen) Devarajulu (Syd) Sherlock (Dan) Seston Mitchell Pryor Bettridge Rodda.J Adeesha Lawrence.J Willis Simpson

WE DO NOT APOLOGISE FOR THE DELAY Lamborey Park 158 Sunday Xl 159 for 2

The first Sunday fixture of the season and the tradition has always been that this team has always been a mixture of older players and youngsters, many of whom will be playing senior cricket on the Hayes wicket for the first time in their Old Wilsonian career

Team selection saw……. a mixture of older players and youngsters, many of whom will be playing senior cricket on the Hayes wicket for the first time in their Old Wilsonian career only this time it was slightly different in that many of the older players were virgin players on our fine square too

For example, there was skipper Kalp Raval, new-comer Ali Hasan Butt and Iain Ager, many of whom simply thought of as an umpire - how short-sighted we were

Our opponents were Lamborey Park, a wandering side whom we have played many times over the years and they won the toss and elected to bat, a decision fully vindicated as their opening pair put on 50 for the first wicket without undue alarms

However, one run later, Max Ruskin, one of the youngsters, clean bowled one of their openers and did the same to their number three to be on a hat-trick, which was averted, but there was no cause for alarm because, when the score reached 77, Sam Marshal, another of the youngsters, had their other opener caught behind by Monty Tupman, another one of the youngsters, and when the score reached 113 the skipper took a neat caught and bowled, but the real drama had to wait until Jack Delay, another of the youngsters, hit the stumps to make it 132 for 5.

Ten runs later he hit the stumps again, then he took his third wicket and then his fourth and fifth to reduce our visitors to 157 for 9 and one run later they were all out, Jack finishing with 5 for 21 – it was now time for us to bat and the ubiquitous and indefatigable Delay was one of our openers

He lost his opening partner Laurence Allen – one of the old guard – when the score was on 23, but he and Ali Hasan Butt then put on 129 for the second wicket before the latter was bowled for 81 with just seven runs required and Jack was still there on 53 not out when victory was achieved

MOM: Jack Delay: A five for, including hitting the stumps three times, and an undefeated 50 speaks for itself and your correspondent recalled scoring similar games not so long ago when similar youngsters were also making their Sunday debuts, ten of whom now regualarly play in our 1st Xl

Could history repeat itself?
Allen Delay Butt Marshall Tupman Monagela Raval Ager Ruskin Stretford Cummings

SOME OLD BOYS RETURN TO HAYES 1st Xl 322 for 9 v Gravesend 258

We welcomed back a number of Old Wilsonians – Fahim Jan, and Rohan Sharma and Shuresh Sharma – to Hayes Hill for this game.

Shuresh was a former 1st Xl skipper, Fahim initially the 2nd Xl's opening bowler before graduating to the 1s and Rohan a promising young spinner, but they now all wear the colours of Gravesend. Suresh no longer plays, but has maintained his habit of walking round the boundary for the entire game

'Mitch' won the toss, yet again, and elected to bat, yet again, which was not a surprise, but when we lost three wickets in four balls, to the returning Fahim, the scoreboard read a disturbing 14 for 3.

The skipper was still there and he and Louis put on an invaluable 60 before 'Mitch' offered a simple catch, gratefully taken, to depart with 17 to his name, and Louis then completed a well crafted 50 before falling just one run later to leave us 97 for 5 in the 19th over

Enter Jon Rodda to join Elliot Bettridge, who is fast becoming an accomplished batsmen – had his bowling in the friendly game at Beddington, in which he conceded 34 runs in 16 balls before an injury forced him to come off, convinced him that bowling is not a career he should follow(?)

Elliot was on 12 when Jon joined him and Jon was on 81 when Elliot holed out for a magnificent 87, and no-one would have denied him a century – the Garvesend bowlers perhaps. He hit twelve 4s and a 6 and dispatched the bad ball in an accomplished way and now strides to the wicket in a confident mood rather than leaving the next man in with fearing that he may have to leave his chair very shortly

Elliot is also an out-standing fielder – a good pair of hands and reliable on the ground and an established 1st Xl, but……..he is not a 1st Xl bowler

He and Jon put on 163 for the sixth wicket, which left the latter asking if this was a club record - probably not, but it is worth the research. Elliot's departure meant that Jon was still there, and remained until the penultimate ball of the innings before being bowled for 116 whist attempting to make it 120 – or 122 - to complete his first ton for the 1st Xl and his second for the Club
"That was also 116", proud Dad Chris informed

Old Boy Fahim Jan finished with 3 for 43 – all three being in that eventful over previously described, and Rohan 1 for 53, and we finished on an impressive 322 for 9 - could Gravesend respond?

They lost their first wicket to the first ball of their innings and their second to the last ball of the first over, which finished 2 for 2, but it was another 93 runs before they lost their third, and when it became 181 for 4 in the middle of the 24th over, the odds were probably in their favour, with their overseas player still there on 118 not out

However, Dan Simpson made it 204 for 5 when he gleefully took a return catch to dismiss their danger man to be immediately swamped by his equally gleeful team mates

We took the remaining five wickets for 54 runs but Gravesend were only 65 runs short of their target and there were over 13 overs left to play. Sahan, Dan and Andrew all finished with three wickets each but it was a day for batsmen – as Elliot and Jon had proved earlier
MOM: Jon Rodda - as if 116 was not enough he then took four catches; when it is your day it is your day
Dissapointing aspect of the game: Gravesend's refusal to score even when they were batting
(Syd) Sherlock Mitchell (Velsen) Devarajulu (Dan) Seston Pryor Bettridge Rodda.J Adeesha Pomering Lawrence.J Simpson

LEAGUE LEADERS DEFEATED 1st Xl 228 Nonnington 162

The league leaders arrived having lost just once this season - to Leeds & Broomfield - but the 1sr Xl do not and ***should not*** fear anyone

Mitch won the toss yet again and he and Syd put on 50 for the first wicket and by the time the third wicket fell – on 124 and in the 30th over – the top three, Syd, 'Mitch' and Velsen, had scored 29, 26 and 47 respectively

It is important that the top order batsmen score consistently and although none of them got a 'really big total', they all scored well, something we have not managed so far this season, and we were doing so against the – at that moment – top team in the league; solid foiundations are crucial

Unfortunately we did not build on these foundations in the way we would have liked, with only Elliot (36) and Sahan (25) adding to the total to any degree and we did not use up all of our overs, which is little short of unforgiveable – could we make up for this with the ball in our hands?

After 13 balls Nonnington were 4 for 2, both openers gone and we completed the job in the 46th over when Sahan completed a run out, having started the carnage by taking those first two wickets. At one time the visitors were 108 for 8 but, and to their credit, they showed some grit but, in the end, even they seem to feel that they were playing for batting points

Josh Lawrence was the pick of the bowlers, finishing with 3 for 20 to add to his 13 not out and on a day when there was no automatic 'man of the match' in that nobody made a big impression, e,g, a big score or a big haul of wickets, he came very close to getting that accolade

His value to the side cannot be underestimated – he has the ability to break a stand when it is starting to establish itself, as he did today, he often gets crucial runs, whilst his enthusiastic fielding fits perfectly with the ethos of the side

Jon Rodda also bowled well and, just like Elliot has worked hard on his batting, Jon has adopted the same attitude with the ball in his hand rather than the bat and his tendency to bowl wides, whilst not totally overcome - he bowled seven in this game – he is becoming more consistent

So the 1st Xl beat the league leaders which evoked the skipper to say:
"This was our best performance of the season" before adding that he is quite happy with the side's league position whilst also implying that there is no rush to get into one of the promotion spots. Quite right, 'Mitch', the only time when a league table is relevant is after 18 games and we are not half-way there yet
MOM: Sahan – dismissing both openers before either had scored was crucial to the result
(Syd) Sherlock Mitchell (Velsen) Devarajulu (Dan) Seston Pryor Bettridge Rodda.J Adeesha Pomering Lawrence.J Willis

COPY DATE FOR NEXT EDITION – ALWAYS THE OPTIMIST - July 31st