Anything The Football Can Do...

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

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It may be winter but there is still some cricket news

The clocks have gone back, it is getting colder, Christmas is not far away, we have had end of season events for both the colts and senior sections, our AGM has taken place - the Minutes will be circulated separately - the 1st XI skipper is currently enjoying the summer sunshine in Australia, where he is undoubtedly displaying his many talents and will return an even better player when he returns and will again lead our premier side as they, at the very least, determine to consolidate, but seek to improve their position in the top echelons of the Kent pyramid.

Sincere congratulations to all of the award winners, and the full list of the happy recipients is printed later in this edition for both colts and seniors.

The AGM was well attended, which is encouraging, for it perfectly demonstrates the commitment that all concerned have for our wonderful Club, and their determination to see it progress even further

The management committeehave worked very hard, and will continue to do so throughout the winter. It has been a joy to work with them and I thank them for their dedication, with the most significant work of the year being under-taken by Jeff Mascarenhas, namely the Club's Vision statement, which sets out our plans and aspirations for the foreseeable future, an excellent piece of work which was well received at the AGM and applauded by the OWA Council - "Other subsidiary Clubs should follow this fine example" was one of the comments.

My thanks to Doug Forbes and Jeff Mascarenhas, who have responded to my request for end of season reports - for the mini 8's and 4th XI respectively – which just leaves another 13 opportunities to reflect on the season to go!

Sad to report that, since the last newsletter, we have lost another of our Vice Presidents in Ted Knevett, who passed away on October 16th. As well as playing cricket for the OWs Ted was a former President and Treasurer of the Association, his dedication no better illustrated than in the days of our Donkey Derbies, when he was ensconced on the balcony of the Squash Courts, giving out floats for the various side stalls and eagerly counting the revenue coming in to such an extent that he never had the opportunity of enjoying the event itself.

As you probably know, we will not be able to use Ravensbourne for our winter nets this year but Jeff Mascarenhas has been working hard to find an alternative and has found several options.

Caroline Maxwell has stood down as our Website administrator and Communications Officer and we thank her for her dedication and the many hours of work she has devoted to this post and are looking for someone to step into her illustrious shoes, a job which also involved keeping records of players' appearances, the perfect complement to Ian Forbes' magnificent statistics.

Also stepping down are three of our skippers, namely Hugo Lovelock (2nd XI), Steve Beckett (5th XI) and Tom Sullvan (Sunday social side), all of whom have led their respective sides with distinction, for which we thank them.

This will be the last newsletter of the year so may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years. Keep warm, and fit, during the winter months, look out for news of the Winter Nets and support Club Force in April when we prepare for the 2017 season

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

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 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.

Jack Petchey Awards

I am pleased to advise you that the latest Jack Petchey winners are as follows:
U15-17 Age Group - Sean Beckett
18 - 25 year olds - Stephen Lawrence aka "The Future"

Sean was presented with his certificate and badge at the Colts Awards Night on the 10th September, whilst Steve received his prior to the commencement of the AGM.

Both boys received many nominations from their peer groups and will now be thinking of ways to spend their £250 award money. If you have any suggestions why not contact them.

Caroline Maxwell

Under 19's make it to the Kent Finals Day

Congratulations to the Under 19 side, who made it through the Kent Finals Day for the second successive season, this year played at Upchurch, where they had an easy win over Bexley CC and made it to the Final. Unfortunately the boys stumbled at the final hurdle and fell to Hartley CC. Details of the day may be found on the Kent County Cricket site

15As crowned League Winners

Congratulations to OWCC U15a team who were champions of the North Kent Junior League Division 1.

The boys attended the awards ceremony on Thursday 18th September to collect their medals and trophy.



Our proud, and perfectly turned out, Under 15a champions



Our Mini 8's squad cope with the hottest day of the year, acquit themselves well on the field of play and pull some interesting faces for the camera Coach Doug Forbes reports on the day

Countrystyle Recycling U9 Mini Super 8's Finals Day

It was the hottest day of the year on Sunday 11th September at the County Ground in Beckenham. An early start for the boys, parents and coaches alike, but to make the finals and the last 24 makes it all worthwhile.

We drew the toughest of all of the groups and needed to finish 1st or 2nd to gain entry to the top 8 play-off pool.

The first match, against Bromley Fury, was a real eye opener for many, including myself, for they had a whole squad of extremely well drilled and professional players who belied their years with excellent bowling and batting. They were simply too strong and by far the best team I have seen in my 9 years of Super 8's competition.

The team learnt from their mistakes and understood how fielding, and not losing wickets, wins games, and this was shown in the next few games with strong victories, leaving us just to beat Tunbridge Wells to qualify for the top group. Unfortunately the sun really took its toll on the lads and the bowling was loose and these extra wides lost us the game. So it was down to run rate for who qualified and the Tigers unfortunately paid the price for the heavy loss to Bromley.

So, the highest we could come was ninth, but we would need to win our three remaining matches, against similar opponents, to do so. First up were Mersham, and we under performed with the bat, but turned the gas up to full with our bowling and fielding , which were out of this world.

Bring on Castle Hill and this time we batted well and bowled well and won handsomely with three run outs and three catches before we got to the fourth over and we cruised to victory with a superb team fielding performance.

This led us to the 8th/9th playoff against Bells Yew Green, strong opponents but nothing that matched our opponents in the knockout stages, and we crushed them with both bat and ball, scoring 230+ and bowling and fielding superbly once again to leave them 20 runs short.

To win by such large margins shows that we were worthy of a top eight finish and all the team performed so well, Bromley won the tournament, and Tunbridge Wells finished fourth, with the latter being beatable by our squad of players.

SQUAD

Benjamin Rodda – Known as the "v3" due, to his older brothers, this model is by far the fastest on his feet, as well as being superb with both the bat and ball. He hits conventional shots and bowls with genuine pace, taking many wickets and batting at the end to steer the game home in tricky situations Benjamin captained for most of the matches and in my opinion is a 1st team player in the making by the time he is 16.

Eoin Matthews – This season's u9 player of the year. We asked Eoin to open the innings to give us a strong start and he delivered every time, hitting quick runs and taking wickets. Again he has grown into a fine cricketer this year, and will be pushing for the highest level of cricket at the OWs without any doubt.

Josh Frampton – Chose the finals day to introduce the world to his leg spin, and what a great decision that was, bowling many overs for few runs and taking wickets. He has great potential with the bat, hits with such power and has a great arm.

Callum Howie – Callum is a young man who stepped up at a crucial time to take an amazing catch over his shoulder, which won a champagne moment, and got a smile out of him. He batted, bowled and fielded well and is growing into a good cricketer, who needs to believe more in himself and relax to show his full potential. But my highlight was his last over innings where he played out the over so we won by three runs. Great maturity shown at a very pressured moment.

Luke Allen – A powerful young man who can bat and bowl well on his day and when he hits it… it stays hit and this lead to some key performances during the day. Luke has improved greatly in the past two seasons and is bowling, fielding and batting will improve with his years

James Buonvino – James contributed well to the team, with his pace and fielding being real assets in his cricket. He has good hand eye co-ordination and again produced many key performances during the competition

Alex Walker – WOW! I have never seen such an amazing arm at such an age. Four runs outs from five attempts, often at one stump. He turned games with his fielding and was also key with his pair, Alex V, in batting and bowling us to victory. Has a great bowling action, nice bat and one for the future.

Alex Vincent – Another from the deadly duo, he took great catches, scored good runs, initiated run outs and took wickets. All this and a very dry sense of humour means his sledging with be welcomed into the game of cricket. Again a superb player, and he won games with his performances.

Ella Mulheron – Most Improved Player of the Year for u9s, Ella is a great athlete who can bat bowl and field superbly. She is the most vocal and keeps the boys in line with her drive and competitive spirit. She was a great asset to the team and has been a pleasure to have in the side

Huey Hares – Huey paired with Ella most of the time and performed so well, especially with him bowling. For me he was our most consistent bowler, bowling a great length, he bowled maidens and took wickets. Then he batted and ran well with Ella to round off a great set of performances in the finals. Doug Forbes

OWCC Award Winners 2016

Many congratulations to the following players who this year won awards in the following categories.

OWCC Senior Award Winners 2016

1st XI Ken Sawyer Trophy	Connor Hammond
2nd XI Player of the Year	David Busby
3rd XI Player of the Year	Barrie Frampton
4th XI Player of the Year	Jack Treacher
5th XI Player of the Year	Stanly Sherlock
Sunday Development Player of the Year	Louis Pryor
Sunday Non-League Player of the Year	Tony Sherlock
Wicket Keeper of the Year	Lawrence Roots
Young Player of the Year	Connor Hammond
U19 T20 Player of the Year	Louis Pryor
Most Improved Player	Stephen Lawrence
Simon Corigall (1st XI Champagne Moment)	Michael Mithcell
Champagne Moment	Guy Hannah
Hospitable Team of the Year	Ian Forbes
Pikey's People Award	Jasper Gundry-White
Club Person of the Year	Paul Jenkins
1st XI Club Caps	Sean Beckett / Connor Hammond / Josh Lawrence



Our talented youngsters display their trophies

OWCC Colts Award Winners 2016

U17 Player of the Year	Daniel Seston
U17 Most Improved Player	Bobby Mills
U15A Player of the Year	Daniel Seston
U15A Most Improved Player	Harry Relf
U15B Player of the Year	Liam Vincent
U15B Most Improved Player	Henry Farrant
U13A Player of the Year	Stanly Sherlock
U13A Most Improved Player	Joseph Jeffcoat
U13B Player of the Year	Teddy Tahir
U13B Most Improved Player	Matthew Carruthers
U11 Player of the Year	Henry Brown
U11 Most Improved Player	Archie Hares
U9 Player of the Year	Eoin Matthews
U9 Most Improved Player	Ella Mulheron
Outstanding Performance	Tom Cornish

Colt of the Year	Sydney Sherlock
Colts Person of the Year	Jonathan Rodda

Additionally **Representative Cricket** awards were made to the following:

Kent County – Andrew Pomering (U12)

Bromley Area: Akhil Venugopalan – U10 Joshua Merchant and Andrew Pomering – U12, Stanly Sherlock – U13

HIGHWAY TO JEFF - their skipper reviews the 4th XI's season

The league placing has not been as important for the Old Wilsonians 4th XI as perhaps it has been for some of the other sides in recent seasons, as we try and use the 4's to see if our youngsters have what it takes to step up to 22 yard wickets and 40 overs-a-side games.

Nevertheless, a 7 win/7 loss record out of 14 completed matches, and a final placing of 6th, reflected a very up and down season. A heavy loss at relegated Catford Cyphers, and a scraped one wicket victory against bottom club Natwest, were matched by victories over each of the top three, including inflicting the only defeat of the season on eventual champions Wickham Park in the first game of the campaign.

We have continued to introduce senior cricket to some of the Club's more junior members, and this year saw the debuts of wicket-keeper Dan Nichols and all-rounder Andrew Pomering, a couple of Under 13's, and they benefit from the knowledge, wisdom and proven ability of the Club's England senior internationals, Rod Warboys and Derek Birmingham [#votefordel].

I am personally delighted to have seen two of last year 4th Team regulars - Syd Sherlock and Dan Seston - contributing to the 3rd XI success this year before progressing into the 2's, all before reaching their 16th birthdays. Their age-group team mates, Alex McCrossen and James Hammond, are equally capable and I have no doubt that the four of them can form the backbone of the Club's 1st XI in a few years time, which might send some of you slightly older guys down a well known highway!

Last year Alex was introduced to senior cricket by taking the new ball with Ian 'Chunky' Wellman, which meant that he was only ever going to come up the hill. This year he has made that end his own, producing some excellent spells, and he ended up with 11 league wickets in the 4's, as well as picking up his first league wickets in the 3rd Team. It is not surprising that Alex regularly found himself excelling in fielding positions, where the ball was bound to go as the rest of us limped around the field.

Injury, and other Saturday commitments, meant James was not so regularly available this year - although he has been very active in other areas of the Club, including supporting the coaching of more junior players. In addition to the six wickets he collected, James contributed two match-winning innings, one of which, at Blue Star CC, ensured the team's safety in the division.

It was a third 15- year old, Jack Treacher, who capitalised on his regular availability by being the leading wicket taker for the 4s this year, with 19 victims. He is the first to admit that not all 19 came from the perfect line and length delivery, but to quote Jack..."look in the book, Chunks!" Apart from his wickets, Jack's sharp wit also helped the team get through some of its more challenging moments, particularly when the target was frequently his Dad.

And what about their mentor Rod "please remind me to bowl off just two paces" Warboys? Sometimes he did not listen to the reminders, and the attempted long run-ups resulted in him not always being fit to bowl, and so it was "only" 13 wickets for him this year.

But it is with the bat that Rod made his mark on the season, and two instances can be immediately recalled:

Firstly, being part of a OWCC record 144 opening partnership with Del Birmingham at home to Natwest, it is just a shame that the number of combined runs they scored was 143 less than their aggregate age!

Then, a couple of home matches later against LESSA Christchurch, Rod found himself in his more familiar number 11 spot. He joined number 10, 'Jenks', at the crease with more than 10 overs to go, and the captain's lack of confidence resulted in them being immediately offered beers all evening if they lasted until tea. It was an unexpectedly expensive night. Well batted gents.

So what about the person who took 31 wickets for the 4th XI last year and was elected the

2015 player of the year? Only17 victims this time for 'Chunks', and he probably dropped 17 catches as well! But when his shoulder and availability allowed,' Chunks ' bowled as tightly as anyone in the league - an economy rate of under 2 - and without much luck. (And he probably didn't drop 17....and he probably caught more than he dropped...but let's not tell him that!)

Despite this, the self-proclaimed best all-rounder in the Club (and the self-proclaimed best all-rounder that the Maltese national team never selected) was being challenged for the title of best all-rounder in the 4th XI. In addition to his wickets, 'Chunk's' 168 runs (average of 24) was possibly trumped by Graeme "Boom Boom" Nelson (165 runs at 33 plus 8 wickets at a miserly 14) before his season was curtailed by work and fitness issues. You have got your work cut out next year 'Chunks', and we are also hearing that Steve Lawrence (who, having picked up his first ever 5-for at Natwest CC and hitting the winning runs at Blue Star CC, earned the award for the Club's Most Improved Player in 2016) who, with youngster Andrew Pomering, are also after that title!

On the batting front, vice-captain Neil Treacher was again the leading run scorer with 230 (no fifties) followed by Jeff Mascarenhas with 176 (also no fifties). The theme here is that regularly we did not take advantage of reasonable starts, and the balance between application and momentum was rarely found during the first half of the innings. Special mention, then, to Seth Clifford, who followed the aforementioned "highway to Jeff" from the upper sides, low on self-belief, and ended up scoring 168 runs as that confidence returned, only being out three times, and scoring the team's only half century of the season. Just shows what time at the crease can do for a batsman. Some good knocks also from Jason James and Steve Benwell, whilst Derek Birmingham showed his usual determination and his tactical knowledge was once invaluable in the field, and there was a lot enthusiasm from Brian Pomering in his first season in twenty-something years, and no doubt there will be more runs to come from him next year.

Before wrapping up, thanks to those who create the opportunity for us to play cricket at the lower end of the Club. Dave Welch, Mike Pike, Stephen Millward, for their umpiring/scoring/ground duties, as well as all those involved in providing refreshments during and after the game – they will all rightly receive recognition from the various skippers. But there are two other individuals I want to briefly focus on.

For those who are not aware how Saturday selection works each week, it is a bit like this. The 1st XI pick their best team, and then the 2nds skipper negotiates around the next eleven players. Then, in addition to their regular stalwarts, the 3's, 4's and 5's work with a select group of youngsters, who will be the subject of discussion among the captains and coaches at the start of (and throughout) the season to identify which would be the right team to assist their longer term development.

After those guys have been ticked off the list, we regularly find ourselves somewhat short of people to fill the three teams, and player availability this year has been particularly challenging throughout the Club. It is therefore largely through the selfless efforts of Laki Kasturiratne and Steve Beckett, the captains of the 3's and 5's respectively, that we have been able to field five teams on most Saturdays through the summer, working their contacts, not just thinking about their own teams but thinking about other teams and the Club as a whole.

Laki even played a game with ten men on one occasion to ensure one of the lower teams did not have nine players, and, despite this selflessness, his team managed to gain promotion. So thank you to both of them for the work they have done, which stretches beyond their individual teams amd embraces whole Club.

And so to the 2016 player of the season. Many will be aware that , immediately after winning last year's award, 'Chunks' launched a campaign to promote Del Birmingham as the leading candidate for this year's award...[#votefordel]...to the extent that 'Chunks' was offering bribes to anyone who voted for Del! With the greatest respect to Derek, I am very pleased to say that 'Chunks' failed in his efforts and is somewhat poorer (as others are a little richer) after his efforts to buy votes!

Many congratulations, then, to the winner of the 2016 4th XI Player of the Season award, Jack Treacher. Jeff Mascarenhas (4th XI Captain)