



# Anything The Football Can Do...



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

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## Some 'REAL' Cricket..... at last

So we are back, with the sound of willow on leather resounding down Hayes Hill – hope the neighbours don't complain. No more 'virtual' cricket, fascinating 'though it was – and a big 'thank you' here to 'Sully', 'Mitch' and Chairman Dave Welch - and it is always sensible, and respectful, to refer to your Chairman by his full name, for all the time and effort they have put into this venture which made £430 for the Club and would have been less but for the generosity of winners Matt Abbett and Alex Forbes, who donated their winnings back to the Club

We will also be making a donation to the NHS, to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude for helping us through this pandemic, and we might even play a game of cricket against them, if Guy Hannah, our very own doctor, can get a team together

This edition contains reports of the last three 'virtual' games, together with the averages, and it will be interesting to see how/if the performances of the players in the 'real' game and against 'real' opponents, match up to those of the virtual game

Although both the Kent League and Regional leagues have in effect been declared null and void – to the extent that there will be no promotion nor relegation in the 2020 season – all of our four senior sides will have a full list of fixtures until early September, with the 3's and 4's Regional League fulfilling their scheduled games because they are all local; well, it is a 'regional' league!

Things were not quite as straightforward for the 1's and 2's as their fixtures involved a great deal of travelling but, and thanks to the initiative of our very own Michael Mitchell and Leigh Walker, of Bromley Common, two local leagues were formed and we will play games against Orpington, Hayes, Bickley Park, Sidcup and Beckenham

The Sunday Development side are due to play four fixtures, half the original intention, but at least they are getting some competitive cricket

Our biggest problem related to the Colts – sadly the go-ahead to play cricket was given just as their season was due to finish but, and thanks to the hard work of Paul Matthews, some friendly games have been organised, whilst Jon Rodda and his excellent team plan to have three coaching sessions a week

There are a number of restrictions in place – coronavirus has certainly not gone away – and these must be strictly adhered to and observed

Our President, Jasper Gundry-White, who is now the Club's bar manager has, and in this capacity, put an enormous amount of work into making the Clubhouse itself save for you so, again, please adhere to the rules and regulations he and his bar team have put in place. Failure to do so will have only one consequence – the bar will have to close again

Pleased and proud to report that the newsletter starts a brand new feature this month, namely 'Stats corner', which this month features the Sunday Development side and appears immediately after the report of the team's game against Bromley – seem to be getting the hang of this editing lark at last after all these years

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### **Websites**

Kent Cricket League Website: [www.kcl.uk.net](http://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](http://www.oldwilsonians.play-cricket.com)

North Kent Junior League: <http://nkentjunior.play-cricket.com>

Old Wilsonians' Association website [www.OldWilsonians.com](http://www.OldWilsonians.com)

***Results since the last edition and until the end of July***

*Virtual games*

1 <sup>st</sup> XI	205 for 9	Chestfield	206 for 7	Lost by 3 wickets
2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	238 for 5	HSBC	232 for 7	Won by 6 runs
Roan & Lambethans	147	3 <sup>rd</sup> XI	148 for 6	Won by 4 wickets

***REAL GAMES AND YES, TO REPEAT THESE ARE REAL GAMES***

Bromley Common T20	113	OW T20	114 for 2	Won by 8 wickets
ODCUACO 1 <sup>st</sup> XI	315 for 5	1 <sup>st</sup> XI	259	Lost by 56 runs
ODCUACO 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	168	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	154	Lost by 14 runs
ODCUACO 3 <sup>rd</sup> XI	234 for 4	3 <sup>rd</sup> XI	136	Lost by 98 runs
Bexleyheath 5 <sup>th</sup> XI	229 for 8	4 <sup>th</sup> XI	49	Lost by 180 runs
Bromley Town T20	149 for 8	OW T20	131 for 7	Lost by 18 runs
1 <sup>st</sup> XI	177 for 4	Orpington	121 for 7	Won by 56 runs
Orpington	80	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	82 for 2	Won by 8 wickets
3 <sup>rd</sup> XI	90	Bexley 5 <sup>th</sup> XI	15 for 3	Abandoned due to rain
4 <sup>th</sup> XI	162 for 3	Streatham and Marlborough 6 <sup>th</sup> XI	did not bat	Abandoned due to rain
Bexley under 15b	134 for 1	Under 15b	71 for 7	Lost by 63 runs
Sunday Development	118 for 8	Bromley	122 for 6	Lost by 4 wickets
Sidcup Under 15	124 for 5	Under 15's	110 for 5	Lost by 14 runs
OW's 20/20 XI	210 for 3	Catford Wanderers	134 for 7	Won by 76 runs

But it's still 'Virtual Cricket' time – for the next three reports

*Introduction*

And so we come to the ninth, and final, week of our virtual/fantasy cricket games and I'm sure you will all join me in saying a big 'Thank you' to Dave Welch, 'Mitch' and 'Sully' for the enormous amount of work they have put into this venture and for the entertainment they have given us all in the process

They have also made a lot of money for the Club, the NHS and the winning participants in the process, who have kindly donated their winnings back to the Club - thanks Howard; thanks Alex.

So hear, and for the very last time, please find 'virtual' reports of the final round of this intriguing competition, which also contain the averages of this nine week season

FLATTERING ONLY TO DECEIVE      1<sup>st</sup> XI 205 for 9, Chestfield 206 for 7

After last week's long trip to Broadstairs it was the turn of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI's opponents, Chestfield, to do the travelling for a visit to the incomparable Hayes Hill, a side against whom we rarely do well. Could we do better this time?

Velson (18) and Josh (23) started purposefully, yet again showing the value of a right-hand/left-hand partnership, but with the score on 39 Velson offered a gentle catch which was gleefully accepted. It seems that partnerships, like individual scores, have the habit of coming to an end after a promising start and when, six runs later, Josh was bowled we were reduced to 45 for 2, which brought the two Matts together yet again, who had scored a total of 549 runs between them before the start of play

Sadly the MG miss-fired today - the consequence of putting diesel in a petrol engine - and was well caught in the gully for 9. Could 'Mabbs' do any better? Well, marginally, but having made 27 he suffered a rush of blood and danced down the wicket in an attempt to hit the ball on the full toss only to completely miss it and was bowled

Syd Sherlock is becoming the 'Mr Consistency' of the side and although not as explosive and domineering as 'Ant and Dec', he has a mean streak and is always reluctant to give his wicket away, and he and Louis Pryor, whose batting has improved dramatically this season, but on 53 for the fifth wicket until Syd was bowled for 20, yet another example of both individual contributions and partnerships ending when seemingly well set

Louis was the next to go when, within reach of his first 50 of the season, he was caught at square-leg for 46 to leave us 170 for 6 and when 'Mitch' departed two runs later, lbw for 13, we were running out of overs and wickets

It is never easy for the lower order batsmen to score heavily, that's why they bat where they do, but at least we used all of our overs and finished on 205 for 9, Darrell Carter finishing with 3 for 48 for the visitors, and you had the impression that Chestfield only had to keep their heads to claim the 18 points on offer

They started soundly enough and although we dismissed both of their openers quite cheaply, the score was 47 for 2 at the time and they had already achieved the requisite run rate. There then followed a partnership of 80 between Dan Patching (44) and Neil Gowers (42), both of whom have scored heavily against the OWs in the past, but when 'Mitch' caught and bowled the former with a catch that defies description, so I am not going to describe it, and DEW trapped Gowers lbw, we were right back in the game and even more so when 'Mitch' bowled their number 5 with a ball that.....defies description in the 35<sup>th</sup> over

However, at this point the visitors remembered the bit about only having to "keep their heads" to win the game and in Conor Moldrich (21) and Archie Ralph-Harding (24) they found two batsmen prepared to do just that and got home with three wickets and nine balls to spare

Both 'Mitch' and DEW claimed two wickets each but we did not score enough runs to give the bowlers a chance of defending

MOM: Louis Pryor - his best innings of the season and another neat catch

(Velson) Devarajulu Lawrence.J Golding Abbett (Syd) Sherlock Pryor Mitchell Rodda.J September Bettridge Ellicott-White

#### Final Virtual Cricket Averages

##### Batting

	<u>Ings</u>	<u>N.O.</u>	<u>Run</u>	<u>HS</u>	<u>Avge</u>
(Syd) Sherlock	9	3	238	75*	39.67
M. Abbett	9	0	317	65	35.22
M.Golding	9	0	268	85	29.10
L. Pryor	9	3	165	46	27.50
M. Mitchell	7	2	123	54	24.60
D. Ellicott-White	5	4	24	11*	24.00
(Velson) Devarajulu	9	0	214	52	23.78
J. Lawrence	9	0	206	65	22.89
I. September	5	0	101	33	20.20
E, Bettridge	5	2	32	14*	10.66
J. Rodda	5	0	46	16	9.20

##### Bowling

<u>Overs</u>	<u>Mdns</u>	<u>Runs</u>	<u>Wkts</u>	<u>Best</u>	<u>Avge</u>
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I. September	82	8	363	16	3 for 20	22.69
E. Bettridge	86	3	365	14	3 for 36	26.07
J. Rodda	87.3	3	405	13	3 for 54	31.15
D. Ellicott-White	90	8	314	10	4 for 17	31.40
M. Mitchell	90	4	381	12	3 for 41	31.75

Wicket-keeping 14 - L. Pryor (14 ct)

Catches 4- Ellicott-White 3- Lawrence 2 - Abbett , Deverajulu, Golding Rodda September 1- Sherlock, Bettridge, Mitchell

### NO ROOM FOR SENTIMENT, NOR SILLY HATS 2<sup>nd</sup> XI 238 for 5, HSBC 232 for 7

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI made the relatively short trip to HSBC, which is about a 15 minute walk from your correspondent's abode - well, 20, possibly, I am getting on a bit - to partake in a very enjoyable game of cricket with the tightest of finishes which saw them victorious by the narrow margin of six runs

Callum Steel and Dan Seston gave us a good start until the former was bowled for 19 and when Siva skied a catch to long-on we were 64 for 2 and in-form Nick Morley strode to the wicket in a purposeful manner only to realise that, having faced his first ball, he had forgotten to put on his box

Running repairs having been completed he and Dan then put on 80 for the third wicket before Nick, in attempting to hit Vishaal Prashar over mid-wicket, just failed to do so and departed for 46 and 20 runs later Andrew Pomeroy became Prashar's second victim to a neat caught and bowled

However, Dan was still there and in Sanath Dandeniya he found a willing accomplice until Sanath became yet another victim of the fool-hardy attempt to play a reverse sweep to be trapped lbw for 38.

Sanath has had a disappointing season with the bat and apart from his 46 against St Lawrence & Highland Court, this was his only significant innings of the season

"I have been concentrating on my wicket-keeping," he explained, evidence of which has yet to be forthcoming

Still, he and Dan had put on 65 for the fifth wicket and the only question that remained was 'would Dan reach his century' but, and thanks to Kevin Carruthers hogging the bowling, the answer was 'No'

"It's a team game and there is no room for sentiment", was Kevin's pragmatic response to those who questioned his approach

Dan simply said \*\*\*\* and launched his bat across the dressing room as he remained 98 not out with our score on 238 for 5 at the end of our 50 overs

We got off to a good start when Guy Hannah and Andrew Steel both got early wickets, Guy having one of their openers caught - by Andrew - and the latter having their number three caught behind by Sanath 'I told you so' Dandeniya, but an excellent third wicket stand of 107 between Mark Cruse (71) and Charlie Wootton (89 n.o) held us up before the Hannah/Steel combination achieved yet another breakthrough, with Guy taking a catch off Andrew's bowling this time

Guy had actually caught Wootton before he had scored until the umpire informed him that his 'silly white floppy hat' is intended to protect him from the sun and you are not allowed to use it to catch the ball, whilst skipper Doug Forbes felt that the hat did, indeed, make him look silly and served no real purpose at all

Two quick wickets soon followed, David Pilgrim claiming one with a ball that Shane Warne would have been proud of, and Kevin Carruthers, at mid-on, holding on to a catch off Doug's bowling although, in all honesty, this should have been a straight-forward caught and bowled but Doug was not quick enough to make it so, and HSBC were 182 for 5 with less than 10 overs remaining

The defiant Wootton was still there but needed someone to help him and Alex Corrie (15) seemed to be fitting the bill until Guy bowled him and when David Pilgrim's direct throw secured HSBC's seventh wicket, the hosts needed 23 runs from the 20 balls remaining

Doug completed his over without conceding, Guy was then the epitome of economy with just two from the next and with Doug keeping up the good work when his last over went for 4, HSBC were becoming increasingly frustrated by the fact that they could not get the ball away

So they needed 17 from the last over and who better than Guy to bowl it under such circumstances - well; I could think of a long list, seeing as how you ask

They got six from the first three balls and fancied their chances, particularly as Wootton was on strike but Guy, polishing the ball on his silly hat, produced two unplayable balls that thudded into Sanath's gloves and although the last ball of the game was pulled majestically for four it was not enough and a six run victory had been secured

MOM: Dan Seston - a fine innings, deserving of a century, which also sees him join the distinguished group of players to have been on the field of play for every ball of the game and sees him as our highest run-maker of the season with 357

Steel.C (Dan)Seston (Siva)Sivaranjan Morley.N Pomerling.A Dandaniya Carruthers.K (Andrew)Steel Pilgrim Forbes.D Hannah

Final Virtual Cricket Averages

Batting

	<u>Ings</u>	<u>N.O.</u>	<u>Runs</u>	<u>HS</u>	<u>Avge</u>
N. Morley	9	2	328	107*	46.85
(Dan) Seston	9	1	357	98*	44.62
D.Forbes	5	4	31	12*	31.00
D. Pilgrim	5	2	87	33*	29.00
(Siva) Sivaranjan	9	1	211	81	26.37
(Andrew) Steel	7	3	95	34	23.75
C. Steel	9	0	199	83	22.11
A. Pomerling	8	0	151	54	18.87
K. Carruthers	8	3	82	25	16.40
S. Dandeniya	8	0	124	46	15.50
G. Hannah	2	1	12	7*	12.00

Bowling

	<u>Overs</u>	<u>Mdns</u>	<u>Runs</u>	<u>Wkts</u>	<u>Best</u>	<u>Avge</u>
(Andrew) Steel	85	8	347	16	3 for 35	21.68
D.Forbes	78	5	330	14	2 for 40	23.57
G, Hannah	80.4	0	378	16	4 for 47	23.62
D. Pilgrim	85	2	337	14	4 for 49	24.07
K. Carruthers	87.3	4	363	14	4 for 48	25.92

Wicket-keeping 13 - S. Dandeniya (12ct 1st)

Catches 7- D.Forbes 5- Carruthers.K, 4 - C.Steel Morley.N 3- (Andrew Steel)  
2 - D. Pilgrim, A.Pomerling (Dan) Seston 1 - G.Hannah

SNOOKERED - MORE CHALK, PLEASE Roan and Lambethans 147 3<sup>rd</sup> XI 148 for 6

Roan & Lambethans 2<sup>nd</sup> XI arrived at Hawes Down to play Champions elect Old Wilsonians' 3<sup>rd</sup> XI and skipper Josh Holland determined to bat first if he won the toss; and promptly lost it

"Didn't you use to play for Orpington", observed Josh to Andy Alcock, the opposing skipper, and upon receiving the team sheet he discovered another ten names he had always associated with Orpington CC. The league rules with regard to the transfer of players between Kent sides seems to have changed since last year

Andy elected to bat, and may have regretted it as our explosive opening attack, and 'Sully', soon had his side reeling at 36 for 3 although, to be fair, it was 'Sully' who struck first before Joe Jukes then took two wickets in successive overs and between them they had accounted for their top three

The fourth wicket pair of Daniel Berry (44) and Neil Markell (13) then determined to repair the damage and it took a change of bowling to separate them, Matt Carruthers bowling Markell. After that wickets began to fall at regular intervals and when the returning 'Sully' bowled skipper Alcock with his fourth ball, the visitors had been reduced to 147 for 9

What followed will go down in the history of Old Wilsonians' Cricket Club, and perhaps cricket per se, and be a talking point for many years to come. Mike Kendrick may once have declared when batting second - think about it - but that was nothing in comparison to what happened on July 4<sup>th</sup> 2020

'Sully' had two balls left of his over, which were far too good for their No.11, and Nathan Carpenter prepared to bowl to Sam Coleman, on whom Roan and Lambethans were relying to post a defendable score. He had already made 15, in an accomplished and confident manner, and there were still six overs remaining so, with a careful manipulation of the strike, a score of around 180 was quite possible

However, he hit Nathan's first ball, gently and deliberately to square leg where John Carpenter held the simplest of catches. The reaction of Coleman's team mates was extraordinary for, rather than berating him for such a poor shot, they jumped up and down exclaiming, "Magnificent - this is the first time we have ever hit a

maximum and, thereby, and by implication, have secured victory over the best side in the league” only for Jeff Mascarenhas, who knows about these things, to inform them that we were playing cricket and not snooker

Joe Jukes finished with 3 for 37, ‘Sully, 2 for 19, Matt Carruthers 2 for 27, Nathan Carpenter, 2 for 20 - had he not gone in off the black he may have got a third - whilst Roger Nichols accounted for the dangerous Berry

Having explained to our visitors that they now had to field they knuckled down and, to be fair, caused us some initial problems with Josh Holland and Laurence Allen back in the pavilion as we slumped to 15 for 2

However, cometh the hour cometh the man - and if you cannot find one then you will have to fall back on Dan Nichols (30) and Dave Jukes (44) - and they put on 62 for the third wicket before Dan was caught at slip

Jon Carpenter (8) then helped Dave see us into three figures but when they both departed within 2 runs of each other, Old Roan & Lambethans sensed they may be in with a chance, particularly as Jeff Mascarenhas and Nathan Carpenter were now batting

But their hopes were false as we needed just two runs when Nathan was bowled, which Matt Carruthers scored with the second ball he received, Jeff remaining 20 not out at the end

MOM: Dave Jukes - superb cueing action - I mean steadied the ship after the loss of those two early wickets and the victim of a dubious lbw decision; or so he tells me

Holland.Nichols.D Allen.Jukes.D Carpenter.J Mascarenhas Carpenter.N Carruthers.M Jukes.J Sullivan Nichols.R

### Final Virtual Cricket Averages

#### Batting

	<u>Ings</u>		<u>N.O.</u>	<u>Runs</u>	<u>HS</u>		<u>Avge</u>
N. Carpenter	7		5	140	43*		70.00
L. Allen		8		2	191	94*	31.83
J. Carpenter	8		2	176	49		29.33
J. Mascarenhas	7		2	132	25		26.40
D. Nichols	8		0	199	83		24.87
J, Holland	8		0	175	44		21.87
J. Jukes	3		2	21	12*		21.00
D. Jukes	8		0	164	44		20.50
M. Carruthers	4		1	32	20		10.66
T. Sullivan	1		0	4	4		4.00

Also batted: R. Nichols 4\* \*Not out

#### Bowling

	<u>Overs</u>	<u>Mdns</u>	<u>Runs</u>	<u>Wkts</u>	<u>Best</u>	<u>Avge</u>
T. Sullivan	60.2	6	240	15	4 for 30	16.00
J. Jukes	63	3	236	14	3 for 22	16.85
M. Carruthers	62	2	252	14	3 for 23	18.00
N. Carpenter	56.3	2	233	10	3 for 29	23.30
R. Nichols	62.5	1	279	8	2 for 24	34.87

Wicket-keeping 13- J. Mascarenhas (13ct)

Catches 5 - J. Holland, 4- Nichols, R 2- Sullivan 2- Carpenter.J 1- L. Allen, Nichols. D, Jukes.D, Jukes.J

### ***AND NOW WE COME TO THE REAL GAMES - and accept no substitute***

#### RUNS GALORE AS CRICKET RETURNS ODCUACO 315 for for 5, 1st XI 259

Whisper it quietly but 'real' cricket returned to Hayes on July 18th as the 1st XI welcomed ODCUACO for a friendly fixture before embarking on a seven week 'mini' season in which we will be playing Orpington, Hayes, Bickley Park, Sidcup and Beckenham, and thanks are due here to our own Michael Mitchell and Leigh Walker, of Bromley Common, who both worked assiduously to make this possible after the official Kent League programme had been abandoned

And what a game this was, with 574 runs scored, 15 wickets taken and four of them in one over  
ODCUAO had first use of our newly laid wicket and, judging by last week's internal T20 competition, it has taken well

"It will probably take a season or so to bed-in," explained grounds-man Ian Muir when I spoke to him about a month earlier so it was probably just as well that we have this format for this year before the really serious stuff starts in 2021

The format also gives us the opportunity to experiment and 'Mitch' gave two youngsters their 1st XI debuts, namely Jake Phillips and Shehan Sivaranjan, whilst Andrew Pomeroy, who made two appearances for the 1's last year, but did not bowl, opened in this game with the 'elderly' Elliott Bettridge and it was the latter who claimed the first wicket of the season as Josh Lawrence held on to a stinging drive

Shehan had to wait until the 20th over before he got his chance to bowl and with the penultimate ball of his second over he induced their number 3, who by this time was fast approaching his 50, to take him on and he skied a catch to Elliott on the deep mid-wicket boundary who, thinking he was auditioning for a juggling act, just managed to cling on to the ball and, two runs later, Dave Ellicott-White completed a smart slip catch to reduce our visitors to 121 for 5 and double Shehan's wicket haul

What followed was a master-class of batting and a testimony to our wicket as Chris Webster (155 n.o) and Andrew Ainger (61 n.o) put on an unbeaten 194 for the sixth wicket to see them close on 315 for 5. Shehan finished with 2 for 18 from his six overs - by far the most successful of the OW bowlers - whilst Andrew finished with 0 for 43 from his five, being somewhat unfortunate in being brought back to bowl the penultimate over when the carnage was in full flow

Our openers, Josh Lawrence and Jon Rodda, soon showed the honesty of their intent - there is no better way of playing the game - and were scoring at six an over when Josh, in his eagerness to increase it to seven, fell victim to a 'walking' stumping for 33 but he had done his job with the score-board reading 127 for 1 and he and Jon had set up the innings perfectly for the big hitters to steer us to victory

However, 10 balls and only one run later, Jon was bowled for 84, having hit 60 in boundaries - 12 fours and 2 sixes - in an innings that certainly deserved to be converted into three figures. Jon was our regular opener a couple of years ago but dropped further down the order to enable Velsen and Josh to open and scored some valuable runs later in the order, including a quick-fire innings at ODCUACO last year and we looked forward to our other big hitters doing their stuff

But It was not to be, as Syd Sherlock became the second stumping victim, albeit one which necessitated the umpire to make a decision this time, and when Matt Abbett was bowled and Louis Pryor trapped lbw we were 156 for 5 when the skipper joined Jake Phillips and realising that there was some repair work to be done

Mitch's qualities are well known and numerous and include those of leadership and I have no doubt that he had a few encouraging words to say to the new boy and it was soon evident that they worked, or were not needed, as Jake observed the basics of batting by playing each ball on its merit helped in no small way by the fact that he plays straight and can spot the bad ball quickly, and when he was sixth out, for 42, he can have been well pleased with his first 1st XI innings

Jake had earlier kept wicket and, with 315 runs conceded and a 'rookie' wicket-keeper, you would have guessed that there would have been a large number of byes but, in fact, there were just two.

We now needed 62 from 19 balls, an improbable task, but with the skipper well set anything could happen but, instead, what happened next would have done justice to a Whitehall farce. Andrew Pomeroy was run out without facing a ball, the skipper was bowled by the next one for 51, Elliot hit the first ball he received for 4 and the next for a single before Shehan and DEW were both bowled first ball and we had slumped from 252 for 5 to 259 all out

So what have we missed as the consequence of lockdown delaying the start of the season for over three months? Jon Rodda's tumbling fielding, Matt Abbett's buffet bowling, Josh Lawrence's judgment of a quick single and Dave Ellicott-White's inability to cope with a straight ball immediately spring to mind and, of course, the support on the boundary, all enjoying the sunshine whilst, and obviously, observing their bubbles and social distancing

MOM: Jon Rodda - always seems to get runs against ODCUACO and can bat in virtually any position. Also good to see him batting more forcefully and scoring more freely this year

Lawrence.J Rodda,J (Syd)Sherlock Abbett Pryor Phillips,J Mitchell Pomeroy.A (Shehan)Sivaranjan Bettridge Ellicott-White

***Seen on Facebook***

When the oppo gets 315/6 and Shehan making his debut for the Old Wilsonians 1st XI at the age of 15 gets 2/18 in 6 overs.... a proud moment! Siva Ranjan  
He's clearly carrying the team!  
Great figures in the middle of such destruction - Doug Forbes  
Well, it was 315 for 5, Siva, but you are right to be proud, and encouraging words from the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI skipper after losing one of his star assets to the 1's  
And at last I have had contributions to the newsletter, even if they were short and I had to lift them from a form of communication that I do not really understand - ed

#### PLAYING A T20 GAME WAS THE RIGHT DECISION 1<sup>st</sup> XI 177 for 4 v Orpington 121 for 7

This was the first game in our mini-league – see ODCUACO report – and the weather forecast was not conducive to a 45 overs a side game; as if coronavirus and lockdown are not enough to contend with!

So common sense prevailed - don't often say that – and a T20 game was agreed with the bonus points, for the losing side, adjusted accordingly. Orpington, who were our opponents in the last 'winner takes all' game of last season – we won and they were relegated – won the toss and asked us to bat and it was no surprise when Velsen was joined by Matt Abbett as his opening partner for this format of the game is ideal for him

And so it proved as 'Mabbs' stormed to 89, 76 of those coming in boundaries, the best of these being a flat 6 over square leg, one of eight such shots, whilst another worthy of mention being that which woke Mick Pilgrim dozing in his garden in Hayes Mead Rd – new balls please is not confined to the game of tennis but is also apposite when Matt is batting

There was also a four – wide of mid-wicket – which induced Matt to shout “Mum” as the ball hurtled towards Jane, sitting elegantly on the boundary, to which Jane replied “It was nowhere near me”

Eventually Matt holed out on the long-off boundary but his job had been done and he and Jon Rodda had put on 125 for the second wicket, at which point Jon's score was on 33, and there were 37 balls left from which we gleaned 46 runs, Jon scoring 24 of them to finish on 57 not out to continue his impressive start to the season – could the bowlers defend this total successfully?

The short answer is 'Yes' and I am tempted to leave it at that on the basis that, otherwise, I will have to mention Dave Ellicott-White's 4 for 21, a near hat-trick and three wickets in one over. But he did bowl well so well done Dave and even 'though Orpington were never up with the run rate, it was a fine performance

'Mitch' also bowled well to take 2 for 13 – the spin twins are back, which must be good news

MOM: Matt Abbett – An innings of controlled brutality – perfect for a T20 game

(Velsen) Deverajulu Abbett Rodda.J (Syd) Sherlock Pryor Mitchell Lawrence.J Phillips.J (Shehan) Sivaranjan Bettridge Ellicott-White

#### Album of the month

*World Music by Goat*

Well, a reissue, actually, as this is the 2012 debut from the Scandi-psych quintet, which is now available on vinyl, with conceptual backstory about Swedish voodoo

Outstanding tracks – 'Mama', raucous and irresistible, 'Goathead', fried guitar solos into astral folk

#### ***REAL album of the month***

*Rough and rowdy ways /Murder most foul – Bob Dylan*

The master's best album in.....a very long time, featuring his out-standing band, which makes his limp performance in Hyde Park last summer even more of a disappointment

Numerous name checks, from Presley to Martin Luther King, the Beatles, the Stones and Radio Luxembourg, his spin on Kennedy's assassination - Mark Lane's excellent book, 'Rush to Judgment' is also recommended - and contains 5.133 well-crafted words, some of them repeated, admittedly  
Outstanding tracks – all of them!

#### SOME POSITIVE SIGNS DESPITE POOR RESULT Bexleyheath 5<sup>th</sup> XI 229 for 8, 4<sup>th</sup> XI 49

We played in deepest Gravesend in the middle of nowhere and fielded three debutants, namely Paul Foster, ex deputy head of Hayes, an all rounder , Ollie Reid (film star in a 14 year old body) and also and all rounder, and Ed Castle, a 13 year old 6 foot bowler, and all did themselves justice .

Bexleyheath attacked from the off, and with major contributions from David Hughes (70) and Conor Barry (59) amassed a large target of 229 . The three youngster all bowled well, Sam Caschetto, Ollie Reid and Ed Castle only going for a total of 80 runs from the 20 overs they bowled between them, but the older lads struggled, going at roughly 10 an over .

Not a chancre was dropped in the whole match , which is unusual at this level , the best being a Karim Mir slip catch where he did a great impersonation of a flying salmon !

Batting wise we were poor, with the flying salmon top scoring on 13 ! and need to apply ourselves a lot more . Saying that it was a surreal experience and the first game back after the lockdown and I'm certain things will improve going forward.

Alex Forbes

Treacher Allen Foster Mir Caschetto Forbes.A Reid Ward Castle Herbert Nichols.R

#### RAIN THWARTS POTENT BOWLING ATTACK 4<sup>th</sup> XI 162 for 3 v Stretham & Marlborough

A massive improvement week on week as the 4's buckled down in a 30 over match at Hawesdown , which has been transformed and is no longer the turgid wicket on which 120 is a great score. The bounce is a bit variable but the ball comes onto the bat and the outfield is fast .

The 4<sup>th</sup> XI made a solid start of 52 for the first wicket, with Rob Bryan hooking prodigiously and Alex Forbes driving through the covers gloriously. (The wicket cannot have improved that much – ed) They were backed up by an active Neil Treacher, 31 not out, an aggressive Archie Bolton 41 (another colt ) and Prem Senthikumar 15 not out, reaching 162 for 3 off 30 overs and we think that, with our young bowling attack, we would have won but, and unfortunately, the rain poured down and over half the team did not get a game .

A big 'thank you' to Derek Seston who helped out at the last moment due to an injury in a higher side

Alex Forbes

Bryan Forbes.A Treacher Bolton Senthikumar Jukes.D Caschetto Allen (Derek(Seston ) Reid Castle

#### PANTHERS RELEASED FROM THEIR CAGE Sunday development 118 for 8 Bromley Panthers 122 for 6

The Sunday Development side started their truncated season – four games as opposed to the scheduled eight – at nearby Bromley, fielding a side that contained nine players with (Saturday) 1<sup>st</sup> XI experience and two of them, Velsen Devarajulu and Syd Sherlock, opened the batting and Velsen was the first to go when the bowler, having already bowled eight wides in the over, managed to get one straight and Velsen edged it to the 'keeper

After that our batting was competent rather than inspiring with the 35 overs producing just 118 runs, Josh Lawrence top scoring with 25, followed closely by Syd Sherlock (22), whilst Shehan Sivaranjan hit a busy 15 not out towards the end with Andrew Pomeroy (10) being the only other batsman to make it into double figures

Bromley's innings started as if they were chasing 250 – they were not – or as if rain was threatening – it was not – inspired by their opener, Charlton Athletic's kit manager, who was not in a mood to take any prisoners but when James Sellar tempted him to offer Josh Lawrence a catch it was left to his fellow opener to take over, which he did with aplomb until Jake Phillips caught him, off Shehan's bowling, and when Ollie Willis had their number three caught behind, the game changed and Bromley started to struggle for runs and this was due to the efforts of our seven young bowlers and the support they were given by their team mates

It is particularly good to see five spinners in this side and I will highlight James Sellar, Ollie Willis and Shehan Sivaranjan in particular. All got a lot of bounce out of the wicket and all bowled a good length and between them had figures of 17.2 -2 – 38- 4 and although Shehan recorded the best stats, 2 for 12, James and Ollie were not far behind. A good spinner is priceless – partly because there are not many of them around in these days of limited cricket which seems to favour fast medium bowling – but to have three showing so much promise is encouraging and, indeed, exciting

As for the 'quickies' this is the first time I have seen Nathan Carpenter bowl – although he did get 10 wickets in the 'virtual' games and a batting average of 70, thanks to a lot of 'not out', but that does not count – and it would be wrong to judge him on one viewing. He opened and suffered a little from that initial onslaught but came back well to take 1 for 15 in his second spell of four overs

Andrew Pomeroy, whom I have seen bowl a few times, has a propensity to bowl wides and no balls which was again in evidence today but he has a good action and Doug Forbes, who knows more about quick bowling than most, rates him highly, which is good enough for me

So the game ended in defeat, but there was much to admire in this performance from a side that has great promise and will serve the OWCC with distinction over the years to come

MOM: Shehan Sivaranjan – batted with purpose and bowled with economy and penetration and never allowed the batsmen to relax

(Velsen) Devarajulu (Syd) Sherlock Phillips, J (Dan) Seston Nichols, D Lawrence, J Pomeroy, A Willis (Shehan) Sivaranjan Sellar Carpenter, N

NB: I see Bromley call their Development side ‘Panthers.’ Should we adopt a similar policy and give our side a name? No

### Stats Corner looks at our Development team

The Development league has been around since 2013 when Old Wilsonians left the South London league and entered the Kent Development League Division Three. We started off against teams such as Bells Yew Green and Horton Kirby. We have progressed through the leagues and in our first season finished joint second and moved into Division Two. The following season we managed a creditable second place in our new Division and after a league restructure found ourselves in Division Two Metropolitan in 2015 and again finished second, this time to local rivals OD Cuaco, and went on to win the Division the following year

This put us in to the top Division, where we would go on to play against Premier League clubs such as Bromley and Bexley. In our first season we won the entire league, finishing 10 points clear of Bromley, clearly a demonstration of the development of the colts that came through the club into the senior teams and then played Suttonians in a play-off final to determine which of the two counties, Kent or Surrey, had the best Development side, but sadly lost

However, and undeterred, we retained our title in 2018 and then went on the defeat East Molesley in the subsequent final to be crowned Kings of the southern counties

Having put all of the statistics together, the 53 players who have represented the development team - there are a few dads who have filled in when short (and Laki!!!) but almost every other player is home-grown and now form the majority of the current Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> XI

The reason for selecting the Development team as the subject for the opening segment in this new feature is to note the landmark achieved on 26<sup>th</sup> July when Syd Sherlock scored 22, against Bromley, and passed 500 runs for the side, an incredible achievement for one who is still so bloody young! He therefore joins the 500 club, becoming its fifth member

The full list is as follows:

Chris Scott – 781 runs, Jon Rodda, (767), Michael Mitchell (579) Velsen Devarajulu (548) and Syd Sherlock (519), whilst Dan Seston is coming up fast on the rails and needs just 25, and may have scored them by the time you read this

Dave Welch

***COPY DATE FOR NEXT EDITION - August 31<sup>st</sup>***