



Anything The Football Can Do...

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



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This surreal season is coming to an end

The 2020 season has been unlike any other in our memory and we have done well to get any cricket played at all

Thanks to 'Mitch' and Leigh Walker, of Bromley Common, the 1st and 2nd XIs have been able to participate in the appropriately named Corona Metropolitan League whilst Paul Matthews has worked extremely hard to ensure we have had some colts games and Jon Rodda and his coaching team have passed on their skills to willing listeners

The 1st XI punched above their weight to top their division, whilst the 2nd XI also acquitted themselves well and the 3's and 4's effectively completed the second half of their respective league programmes without having to contemplate the joys of promotion nor the fears of relegation

It is at this time of the season that I ask, more in hope than anticipation, for end of season reports from *all* sections of the Club – there is a limit to what I can convey of games I do not see on the respective league websites and post on the notice-board at the Club - and although the 1st XI have been well covered in this publication the quality of the insight and writing could be improved

As always we are indebted to a number of people but instead of naming them all I will simply say that our committee have all worked extremely hard, expertly led by Dave Welch who was our 'Clubman of the Year' last season and continued to work as assiduously as he did in 2019 in 2020, including hosting a number of 'virtual' committee meetings during which I learnt a bit more as to how technology works – although not that much!

Those who played at Hayes cannot help but notice the way that the newly laid wicket has played – just have a look at the number of runs scored in home games – so a big 'thank you' to grounds-man Ian Muir and ground manager Stephen Millward for the hours and hours of work they have put in to make this possible, although it has to be said that the batsmen appreciate this more than the bowlers!

The 1st XI have reached the quarter-finals of the Kent League Cup and visit Beckenham this coming Saturday - **September 12th**. The game starts at 4-00 p.m. so come along and support them

Talking of which the support for our sides has again been first class with many not only enjoying games at Hayes but also travelling further afield, and although Justin Pryor's supporters club has not taken off because of Covid, an integral part of the package being the provision of teas for the participants, which is not allowed at the moment, hopefully, they will be next year and our excellent tea providers will return having had a well deserved sabbatical

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on **Thursday October 29th** - full details will appear nearer the date – when, amongst other things, I will be giving a fuller report on the season

For the moment I could write more but that would be self indulgent – the people we really want and need to hear from are those who do not get the coverage they deserve – the 2nd, 3rd and 4th XI senior sides and the colts – so I look forward to hearing from all of them, as I'm sure you do

The newsletter *will* continue to be published during the winter months, so there is plenty of time for you to get your views known – and admired

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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://nkentjunior.play-cricket.com>

Old Wilsonians' Association website www.OldWilsonians.com

August/September Results

Hayes	174	1 st XI	175 for 9	Won by 1 wicket
Hayes	220 for 8	2 nd XI	156	Lost by 64 runs
3 rd XI	192 for 8	Sidcup	101	Won by 91 runs
Catford Cyphers	138 for 8	4 th XI	142 for 3	Won by 7 wickets
Sunday Development	115	Bexley	121 for 3	Lost by 7 wickets
Orpington under 13	124 for 6	Under 13	122 for 8	Lost by 2 runs
Old Olavians	209	OW cricket week XI	210 for 5	Won by 5 wickets
OW cricket week XI	226	Upminster	223	Won by 3 runs
OW Cricket week XI	82	Wickham Park	86 for 5	Lost by 5 wickets
1 st XI	227 for 8	Bickley Park	231 for 7	Lost by 4 wickets
2 nd XI	367 for 7	Bickley Park	121	Won by 246 runs
Bickley Park 3 rd XI	136 for 8	3 rd XI	104	Lost by 32 runs
Natwest Blues 2 nd XI	76	4 th XI	77 for 0	Won by 10 wickets
Orpington under 15a	146 for 9	Under 15a	116 for 8	Lost by 30 runs
Hayes Sunday Development	244 for 7	Sunday development	138	Lost by 106 runs
1 st XI		Sidcup		No play possible - rain
Sidcup 2 nd XI	118 for 9	2 nd XI	122 for 3	Won by 7 wickets
HSBC 3 rd XI	82 for 4	3 rd XI	40 for 0	Abandoned – rain
4 th XI	121 for 3	Sidcup		Abandoned – rain
ODCUACO	177 for 3	Sunday Development	153	Lost by 24 runs
Sidcup Under 11	279 for 7	Under 11	237	Lost by 42 runs
The Roebucks T20	182 for 7	Old Wilsonians T20	178 for 9	Lost by 4 runs
1 st XI	263	Beckenham	196 for 8	Won by 67 runs
Beckenham	257 for 7	2 nd XI	212	Lost by 45 runs

3 rd XI	180 for 5	Chislehurst and Wes Kent	55	Won by 125 runs
4 th XI	177	Old Colfeians	178 for 4	Lost by 6 wickets
ODCUACO T20	107 for 6	Old Wilsonians T20	110 for 3	Won by 7 wickets
Old Wilsonians T20		Blackheath		No play possible
Bexley	269 for 3	1 st XI	149 for 5	Lost by 120 runs
2 nd XI	222 for 6	Bexley 3 rd XI	223 for 7	Lost by 3 wickets
Bromley Common 3 rd XI	73	3 rd XI	75 for 4	Won by 6 wickets
Beckenham 4 th XI	121 for 9	4 th XI	97	Lost by 24 runs
Orpington	105 for 9	Under 15a	61	Lost by 44 runs
Hayes	207 for 5	1 st XI	171	Lost by 36 runs
2 nd XI	259 for 6	Sidcup	262 for 8	Lost by 2 wickets
Roan and Lambethans 2 nd XI	90	3 rd XI	91 for 9	Won by 1 wicket
Orpington 4 th XI	135	4 th XI	127 for 9	Lost by 8 runs

GHOST OF MIKE KENDRICK INSPIRES ‘MITCH’ Hayes 174, 1st XI 175 for 9

It is now three wins in a row against Hayes and although this was a game that lacked real quality, from either side, more of which later, this victory took the 1st XI to the top of the Corona Metropolitan league

Batting first Hayes lost an early wicket but at 93 for 1 in the 18th over Dave Ellicott-White struck twice in successive balls but, and even so, and having scored at five runs an over, a score well over 200 was certainly on the cards

However, less than 22 overs later their innings was all over, fittingly DEW getting the last wicket by bowling their last man, perhaps suitably named ‘Eddicott’, to finish with 3 for 23 with Josh Lawrence, 2 for 36, ‘Mitch’, 2 for 28 and Shehan, 2 for 33 also helping themselves to some cheap wickets as we looked forward to some batting practice and rubbing salt into the wounds of our near neighbours

And, initially, things were going to plan with Jon Rodda (29) again batting well and he and Syd Sherlock (29) took the score to 72 when Jon was bowled. Matt Abbett then hit the first ball he received for six and was bowled by the next one at which point the ghost of Mike Kendrick appeared and screeched: “What are we doing? That’s the one boundary we need for this over; we’ve got nearly 30 overs to score just over 100 runs”

Just over an hour and 16 overs later we were 121 for 8 and Mike’s ghost re-appeared and in effect answered his own question by declaring “We are making a bad side look good”

From this point on ‘Mitch’, who had watched three of those wickets fall from the other end, decided that something needed to be done, took control and determined to get the 44 runs we needed for victory and the fact that he got 40 of them is indicative of that determination

Credit, too, to DEW and Shehan who stayed with him, Dave initially for 25 runs and then Shehan for the remaining 19 and the fact that they only scored three between them is irrelevant as they were both perfect foils for their skipper

Hayes set their field deep offering ‘Mitch’ a single virtually every time he was on strike and he declined.

My mind went back 12 years or so – it wasn't working that well then, either – to a conversation I had with Peter Wakeford, who knows a lot more about batting than most – when he told me about “This little left-hander who is opening the batting for the 2nd XI”, adding “he looks very good but he cannot hit the ball off the square”

How things have changed because today the ball travelled swiftly but the circumstances dictated that easy singles were not the order of the day until, at the end of the 44th over the scores were level, ‘Mitch’ having taken a 2 and a single off the last two balls so we needed just one from the last over, the second ball of which was a wide to see us victorious by a single wicket

‘Mitch’ ended 53 not out, and he had lifted his side to the top of the table

MOM: Michael Mitchell – a skipper's innings in the true sense of the word; Mike Kendrick would have been proud

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

ANOTHER TOUGH GAME Sunday Development side 115, Bexley 121 for 3

After last week's visit to Premier Division Bromley it was the turn of another Premier Division side, Bexley, to visit Hayes and, having been asked to bat, we made a good start, thanks to openers Dan Nichols (21) and Syd Sherlock, but when, and with the score on 68, Syd became our second wicket to fall, we quickly lost another eight in less than 20 overs to be dismissed for 115

After our openers only Dan Seston and Nathan Carpenter made it to double figures – 11 to be precise – and but for 18 wides we would not have made it into three figures and our bowlers were on a hiding to nothing as they attempted to defend such a low total and so it proved as Bexley cruised to a seven wicket victory, although credit to Ollie Willis, who took 2 for 9 in four overs, and Josh Lawrence, 1 for 4 in two overs, for ensuring they did not get it all their own way

Bexley looked like a very competent and accomplished outfit, as you would expect from a Premier Division Club, and we should not be too disheartened by the result

MOM: Syd Sherlock – gave us a good start and, who knows, on another day we might have built on it (Syd) Sherlock Nichols, D Pomeroy, A (Dan) Seston (Shehan) Sivaranjan Willis Lawrence.J Lawrence.S Carpenter.N Carruthers.M Sellar

BICKLEY PARK MADE TO WORK HARD 1st XI 227 for 8, Bickley Park 231 for 7

Top of the table Old Wilsonians visited Bickley Park on a blisteringly hot day with nothing to fear – apart from the blistering heat – and must have been delighted when ‘Mitch’ won the toss and elected to bat; had he elected to bowl then some members of the side may not have been responsible for their actions

We have not played Bickley Park for four years when we were both in Division Two – they got prompted that year – and soon took the next step to reach the Premier Division, where they have spent most of their time in the Kent League

“We will just enjoy ourselves and give it our best shot” said our skipper before the game, conscious of the fact that, together with Orpington, we are the minnows in this league, containing, as it does, two Premier sides, two in Division One, and ourselves and the aforementioned Orpington

However, and having beaten Hayes (Division One) last week and accounted for Orpington the week before we sat proudly at the top of the tree and keen to pit our wits against our so-called superior opponents and, at 92 for 5, the bookies decision to make Bickley Park favourites seemed to be fully justified

All of our top five had fallen to catches, all competently taken with only the slip catch which dismissed Dan Seston being a bit special, but there was never any doubt that they would be held which gave them confidence that, having dismissed the top order relatively cheaply, they would be set a relatively low total

Last week ‘Mitch’ had won us the game at Hayes and he now joined Syd Sherlock, who was 5 at the time, having just lost Louis Pryor who had batted well for his 32 before being caught behind, although he was also stumped off the same ball

It was 103 runs later before Bickley Park got another wicket when ‘Mitch’ who, aware that there were only three overs left, hit two fours from the first two balls of the 43rd over then attempted an even higher valued boundary from the next only to be caught and although we lost another two wickets in the search for quick runs, including that of Syd for 56 from the penultimate ball of the game, we finished on 227 for 8

Last week our opponents had amassed 316 for 6 away at Sidcup, a ground substantially bigger than their own, including an opening stand of 153 and their openers looked confident as they began their side's reply and reached 50 in the 11th over before Elliot Bettridge again showed he had a safe pair of hands to take his fourth catch of the season and when their number three edged a catch to Jake Phillips they were 91 for 3 and a stand of 69 was broken when their century maker of last week – 101 – was neatly caught by Velsen and not long afterwards they found themselves 184 for 6 - could we secure the four wickets we needed?

Sadly, No, although we did get a seventh – another neat catch by Velsen – but had to succumb to the quality of Premier Division batting, their number 9 hitting a quick-fire 14 to see his side home with just 11 balls remaining

Our hosts seemed genuinely impressed with the way we played against them and were relieved to get over the winning line, whilst we picked up seven bonus points, just one short of the maximum possible in these circumstances and have, temporarily, had to concede top spot to Beckenham, who won the Premier Division last season and who are now three points above us

I say 'temporarily' for our last game of the season is at Beckenham!

MOM: Syd Sherlock – followed his determined innings, the first 40 runs of which were scored in 1's and 2's, by taking 3 for 40 when he bowled

(Velsen) Devarajulu Rodda.J (Dan) Seston Abbett Pryor (Syd) Sherlock Mitchell Phillips, J Bettridge Ellicott-White (Shehan) Sivaranjan

HEAT AND HAYES IN CONTROL Hayes 244 for 7, Sunday Development side 138

Another tough game – this is a very difficult league – saw the Sunday Development side visit Hayes just over a week after the 1st XI's triumph at this ground ; would history repeat itself ?

Another scorching hot day and it was no surprise when Hayes batted when they won the toss and immediately showed their intentions with an onslaught from their openers but when Shehan Sivaranjan trapped one of them lbw he quickly had their number three caught behind to put us back in the game. However a third wicket stand of 123 then put Hayes completely in charge and although we recovered to a certain degree by taken three wickets for seven runs the onslaught soon returned and our hosts eventually amassed a commanding 244 for 7 from their 35 overs by which time our fielding had become somewhat ragged in the searing heat

Andrew Pomeroy finished with 3 for 42 on an afternoon that was not designed for running around but it was now the host's turn, so could we make them wilt in the field

"How long is the tea interval?" was the polite inquiry to the umpire

"As long as it takes for me to finish my diet coke" came the pragmatic reply

We started well enough with Velsen (26) and James Sims (19) putting on 57 for the first wicket but when the skipper departed to a well-taken catch his partner seemed anxious to join him and was soon comprehensively stumped.

Jake Phillips then hit the ball hard back at the bowler who just managed to get a hand to it and the ball diverted onto the stumps and Dan Seston was run out for 5. After that wickets began to fall at regular intervals and we were bowled out for 138 in the 25th over

This is a tough league and there is no disgrace in losing such games, particularly when many of our youngsters had been heavily involved in cricket week and this was the third or fourth game for some of them

MOM: Jake Phillips – battled hard for his 41 and was our seventh man out

(Velson) Devarajulu Sims (Dan) Seston Phillips. J Pomeroy. A Bolton (Syd) Sherlock Willis (Shehan) Sivaranjan Carpenter, N Carruthers. M

3RD XI USE THEIR SIM(S) CARD TO GOOD EFFECT HSBC 3rd XI 82 for 4, 3rd XI 40 for 0

Defying the elements the 3rd XI managed to start their game against HSBC but, sadly, the rain had the final say as it beat down relentlessly and remorselessly at around 3-46 but not before a sell-out crowd – the 1st XI and Mrs Carruthers – had seen much to admire

Skipper for the day Tom Sullivan – more of whom later – won the toss and had no hesitation in asking HSBC to bat on a wicket that, although dry, had sweated a bit under the covers whilst the heavy rain, which had seen the cancellation of the 1st XI's game against Sidcup, had made the outfield slow – could our bowlers make use of the conditions?

The simple answer was ‘Yes’ although HSBC contributed to their own downfall – the first wicket they lost was a needless run out; most run outs are needless – but, and more significantly, they showed little urgency in a game reduced to 20 overs in an attempt to beat the rain

So how did our bowlers perform? There were seven of them and between them they conceded four runs an over, the other two runs of HSBC’s 82 being a bye and a leg-bye

Joe Jukes conceded 12 runs from his four overs – so above par – and picked up a wicket, a straight-forward catch to Kevin Carruthers, his only blemish being a no ball

Kevin Carruthers, his new ball partner, conceded 19 runs, so below par, but, as he bowled in two spells and held a catch, he can be forgiven

Robbie Adams was the most impressive of the seven. Given the task of bowling uphill he conceded just nine runs and proved difficult to get away – there were only two maidens in the game and he bowled both of them – and certainly deserved a wicket to accompany his economy

Martin Carruthers was a little wayward – his four overs went for 23 – but on this occasion did not bowl any wides, something he tends to do when bowling for the Sunday Development side

Tom Sullivan did not come on to bowl until the 17th over and promptly took a wicket with his second ball and finished with 1 for 9 from his two overs and you had the feeling that, had he come on earlier, he would have, at least, doubled his wicket haul.

‘Sully’ is one of the unsung heroes of the Club in that he is our representative on the Kent League committee, despite not playing in the Kent League, and worked tirelessly to ensure that our ‘virtual’ games were a great success. Today, and as skipper, he brought himself on perhaps later than he should have done and also put his name next to the No.11 slot in order to give others a game of cricket.

Thanks ‘Sully’ – really appreciate all you do although, and come to think about it, the No.11 berth is probably right and the reason you do not play in the Kent League is because.....well; let’s not go there

Wayne Crossland and James Sims were our other two bowlers, bowling just one over each. Wayne picked up a wicket and James.....did not

They then opened the batting together and James, having watched HSBC take 20 overs to hit three boundaries, then did the same in the first over and then went on to hit four more as we raced to 40 in 29 balls before the rain had the final say

MOM: James Sims – made his intentions clear from the very start and had the rain arrived 20 minutes later might have seen us to victory

Sims Crossland Kamat Hazzard.A Blunt James Carruthers.K Adams.R Jukes.J Carruthers.M Sullivan

LESSONS TO BE LEARNED ODCUACO 177 for 3, Sunday Development XI 153

Having played Bromley, Bexley and Hayes, the Development side must have looked upon this final game of their shortened season as something akin to a respite, and when Syd Sherlock (56) and Dan Seston (61) put on 105 to take the score to 141 for 2 with 40 balls remaining and 37 runs needed for victory – and both in full flow – it looked as if our first victory was imminent

Dan’s dismissal was a blow but, initially, did not seem to be of undue concern, but the next over changed everything. The first ball went for a leg-bye and Syd was bowled by the second, Dan Nicholas by the third and Josh Holland by the fourth to see us slump to 150 for 6 and worse was to follow as, one over later, we were 152 for 7 with ODCUACO’s hat-trick hero clutching the ball in eager anticipation

He then bowled Ollie Willis with his first ball and although David Pilgrim defied him, even taking a single from his fifth ball, he promptly bowled Shehan Sivaranjan with his sixth to finish with 5 for 1 – all bowled – and when David was stumped two balls into the following over, we were all out having slumped from 141 for 2 to 153 all out and we had lost by 24 runs

Your correspondent was somewhat taken aback earlier in the game when informed that one of the ODCUACO opening bowlers was ‘Worseley’

“Isn’t he your 1st XI skipper?” I inquired, an inquiry that was confirmed
So who was this other quick bowler who had just taken 5 for 1 in 12 balls?

Turns out he was the other opening bowler when our 1st XI played today’s opponents on July 18th – must pay more attention – and Jon Rodda welcomed him to the game by hitting him for three 4s in his first over, the start of an opening spell which saw him finish with figures of 5-0-31-0

So should a Development side include the Club’s 1st XI opening bowlers?

There is nothing in the rules and regulations to say otherwise and you can argue that had he opened the bowling with his regular partner – as opposed to being fourth change – we could have been dismissed for an embarrassingly small total

The purpose of the Development side is to ‘develop’ young players and by fielding senior players this helps enormously as the youngsters learn from these senior players and, to be fair, it had been the visiting ‘youngsters’ who had batted well to see ODCUACO finish on 177 for 3

Three of today’s OW side had also played in that 1st XI game last month whilst virtually all of that XI have played for the Development side within the last two years, so we really have no grounds for complaint. We need to learn lessons from each and every game and the lesson our bowlers should learn from this one is that if you bowl full and straight then you will take wickets

And the batsmen? Get in line and speak to Jon Rodda – he is not our head coach for nothing - and he will explain how to combat such pretentiousness

MOM: Dan Seston - Dominated his fine partnership with Syd and put us in a dominant position before his dismissal and joined the distinguished ‘500 runs club’ as the consequence of the runs scored in this innings (Velsen) Devarajulu (Syd) Sherlock Pomeroy.A (Dan) Seston Phillips.J Nichols,D Holland (Shehan) Sivarajan Willis Pilgrim Adams.R

Final Sunday Development Averages for 2020

Batting

	<u>Inngs</u>	<u>N.O</u>	<u>Runs</u>	<u>HS</u>	<u>Avge</u>
(Syd) Sherlock	4	0	121	56	30.25
(Dan) Seston	4	0	83	61	20.75
J. Sims	1	0	19	19	19.00
J. Phillips	3	0	46	41	15.33
(Velsen) Devarajulu	3	0	42	26	14.00
J. Lawrence	2	0	25	25	12.50
A. Pomeroy	4	0	36	12	9.00
D. Nichols	3	0	21	21	7.00
S. Lawrence	1	0	6	6	6.00
N. Carpenter	2	0	11	11	5.50
(Shehan) Sivarajan	4	1	16	15*	5.33
J.Sellar	2	1	5	4	5.00
O. Willis	4	0	10	5	2.50
D. Pilgrim	1	0	1	1	1.00
A. Bolton	1	0	0	0	0.00
J. Holland	1	0	0	0	0.00

Also batted: M. Carruthers 0* & 0* R. Adams 0* *Not out

Bowling

	<u>Overs</u>	<u>Mdns</u>	<u>Runs</u>	<u>Wkts</u>	<u>Best</u>	<u>Avge</u>
J. Lawrence	3	0	23	1	1 for 4	23.00
(Shehan) Sivarajan	25	0	117	5	2 for 12	23.40
D. Pilgrim	4	0	24	1	1 for 24	24.00
A. Pomeroy	10	0	77	3	3 for 42	25.66
O. Willis	20	4	78	3	2 for 9	26.00
J. Sellar	12.2	0	36	1	1 for 13	36.00
N. Carpenter	15	0	84	2	1 for 30	42.00
J. Holland	5	0	49	1	1 for 49	49.00

Also bowled: M. Carruthers 11-0-88-0, (Syd) Sherlock 6-0-37-0, J. Sims 1-0-6-0, R. Adams 5-1-20-0, S. Lawrence 0.2-0-9-0

Wicket-keeping: 3 - D, Nichols (2 ct, 1 st) 1 - J Phillips (1 st)

Catches 2 - (Velsen) Devarajulu, (Shehan) Sivaranjan 1 - (Dan) Seston, A. Pomeroy, (Syd) Sherlock, M. Carruthers, J. Phillips, J. Lawrence

WE CAN BE HEROES, FOR 'MORE' THAN ONE DAY 1st XI 263, Beckenham 196 for 8

Foxgrove Rd is the home of the current Kent League Premier Division champions, namely Beckenham. David Bowie used to live in the same road but there is no indication that he played cricket, although he was a good darts player, despite suffering severe eye damage during his school days, and there is a David Bowie who played for Woodcutters CC in 2015 during which time he scored 99 runs in 12 innings and took eight wickets for 150 runs, but he is not the same one

We came into this game just three points behind Beckenham, on the same number as Bickley Park and one ahead of Hayes with all four sides knowing that victory would secure them one of the two semi-final places as the league programme came to an end and it was Beckenham who drew first blood for, after 20 balls, we had lost two wickets with only five runs on the board.

However, if the champions thought they were in for an easy afternoon then they were very much mistaken as Jon Rodda and Matt Abbett and then Jon and Louis Pryor turned the game around to the extent that when the latter was fourth out the score had progressed to 209 and there were still over 14 overs left of our innings

Jon has had a magnificent season, and has looked in control from the first ball he receives. Today he played the role of the archetypal opening bat, the anchor, offering security to his batting partner and his team mates on the boundary

In the first of his two major partnerships he had the perfect foil in Matt Abbett whom, as we know, can destroy any bowling attack but has a tendency to do so from the very first ball – see the Hayes report – which strikes alarm bells if you are an OW and hope if you are an opponent

In this game he was far more circumspect and waited until the fourth ball he received to hit a boundary and that was merely a four!

Matt was eventually caught at extra cover – the only surprise being that it was at short extra cover – having scored 50 of his 58 runs in boundaries- eights 4s and three 6s – and, as ever with Matt the frustration was that he could have scored at least three times as many runs as he did; still convinced that the Club record individual score of 181 has his name on it and it is only a matter of time before he reaches it

Matt's departure saw the arrival of Louis Pryor, playing this year as a batsman now that Jake Phillips has taken over wicket-keeping duties. In the game against Bickley Park Louis demonstrated that Premier Division attacks have no fears for him and he again showed this but even more so as he and Jon put on 122 for the fourth wicket.

Louis hit 54 in an innings of great maturity – we need to remind ourselves every so often as to how young this 1st XI is – and he is batting with a lot more confidence than he did last year and can be proud of the fact that he has scored a total of 86 runs in two games against sides that finished top and sixth in the Premier Division last year

We lost a fifth wicket almost immediately which brought the skipper and vice skipper together and they put on 26 together before Jon's long vigil came to an end and, like Matt, somewhat tamely, with a gentle catch with his score on 91. I have seen fewer innings where someone deserved a hundred and did not get it. His stay at the wicket was full of authentic cricket shots and he barely played a false one and he left the crease knowing that he had put his side in a very strong position

'Mitch' then took over and did his best to guide the tail - DEW hit a defiant 6 – and was last out for 30 with our score on 263, which would take some beating; how would Beckenham respond?

To be honest, and apart from their opening bat, somewhat disappointingly. In our heart of hearts we all know that we do not have a particularly dynamic attack – we are missing Matt Golding and Ishmail September, our intended overseas player who opened the bowling for HSBC last season and although we have quality bowlers in 'Mitch' and DEW, the others are still all learning their trade, but we all know that they will all bowl their hearts out and will be backed up in the field by players who will give their all – Beckenham must have been particularly disappointed by their performance in the field

One of their openers – the skipper – looked a quality player but although their number 4 hit 60 he always looked likely to get out and his innings did not bear comparison with those of Jon, Matt, Louis and ‘Mitch’

As already inferred the host’s hopes seemed to depend on their skipper and when he fell to another fine catch by Elliot – his fifth of the season and he later took another, more straightforward one – it seemed that we were on the verge of an historic victory and, even if he had stayed, the balance of the game was swinging our way for they were well behind the required run rate being 159 for three at the time in the 34th over and therefore needing 105 runs in 11.3 overs or, if you prefer, 69 balls and, from this point we took complete control

Shehan had taken this important wicket, i.e of their opener, and three balls later he took his second – a smart stumping – and another three balls later he took his third, Elliot’s second catch and not long afterwards DEW joined the party and the home side were soon 192 for 7, and when ‘Mitch’ claimed a caught and bowled from the last ball of the game we had won by a substantial 67 runs, whilst Shehan finished with 3 for 33, his best figures of the season, and DEW 2 for 27

To be fair to Beckenham they were generous in defeat and did not bemoan the absence of key players and we had certainly beaten them fair and square and shot to the top of the table where we stay, Hayes having beaten Bickley Park.

‘We can be heroes, just for one day’, bemoaned/claimed David Bowie, but he obviously never encountered Old Wilsonians Cricket Club. There were certainly 11 heroes out their today but they do not understand the concept of ‘just one day’ and we look forward to welcoming Bexley next week when we will be confident of a repeat performance; after all, they were only runners-up in the Premier division last year!

MOM: Jon Rodda – probably the best innings I have seen this season, although Chris Webster of ODCUACO may challenge that assertion. He has now scored 271 runs in five innings – including just six in one of them – and has oozed class on every occasion; have I mentioned the virtues of playing on the front foot before??

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

An alternative view

After the inclement weather of the previous Saturday, this week was much more like summer as Beckenham descended on an arid Foxgrove to contest the final Group match with Old Wilsonians in what was to be a winner-takes-all scenario, such was the tightness of the group points.

Having welcomed opposition scorer Mike Pike and informed him that he was the third this scorer had worked with who had completed 50+ years ‘in the saddle’ along with Jean Rumsey and Norman Banfield, the result of the toss was that Old Wilsonians had won it and would bat. Probably not such a good idea as the bustling Alex Purwar drew first blood by bowling Josh Lawrence for 2. Mahi Mahfuzul then trapped Velsen Deverajulu in front without scoring to put Beckenham on top at 5-2. This was not to last however, as the brawny Matt Abbett immediately launched a savage attack on the home bowlers. With Jonathan Rodda prepared to play second fiddle for a while, Abbett raced to a brutal fifty in 31 balls. He was finally snared by leg-spinner Mudit Dayal for 58.

The punishment did not stop there as Rodda began to go through the gears with some excellent front-foot driving in partnership with Louis Prior and together they continued to push the run rate along rapidly as the home fielding and bowling became ragged. Both batsmen preformed splendidly with both notching fine fifties in a 122-run stand before the returning Purwar removed Pryor for 54 and then Syd Sherlock for a duck. As well as Purwar bowled, runs continued to flow from the other end and skipper Alex Senn was forced to employ some tidy but little-used spin in order to apply the brake. With Rodda a whisker away from a well-deserved ‘ton’, Purwar enticed him in to holing out to Finn Bryan for 91 with the same fielder holding another catch to send back Jake Phillips without scoring. Visiting skipper Mike Mitchell kept the score moving as Senn took a couple of wickets to leave Old Wilsonians in a very healthy position at 263 all out. Purwar bowled very well for his 5-36 but was crucially let down by lack of support (Senn excluded) from the other bowlers.

The home reply started brightly enough with Senn scoring rapidly against Bettridge and Lawrence. Bryan was trapped in front at 33 and then James Fear slipped into gear and helped Senn add 48 before the introduction of Abbett who promptly landed a full toss at the base of the stumps to send Fear back and the score 91-2. Batting beautifully, Senn found a willing partner in young Harry Jones who, after a cautious start, began to force the pace as Senn completed a fine fifty in 45 balls.

The innings was now nicely placed with wickets in hand when a superb spell of spin bowling by Shehan Sivaranjan changed the game to put Wilsonians firmly in control. Firstly Senn holed out for a splendid 82 but

then disaster struck with Mahfuzul and Gethin Roberts sent back shortly afterwards. Jones, meanwhile, completed a mature fifty as Ellicott-White put the game out of Beckenham's reach by dismissing Michael and Balmforth quickly. Jones himself was last out for 60 from the final ball of the innings to put Old Wilsonians through to the play-offs along with Hayes and Beckenham to play off for third spot with Bromley Common Peter Wiseman, Beckenham CC

A BRIDGE TOO FAR Bexley 269 for 3, 1st XI 149 for 5

Having topped their league - I'll repeat that - Having topped their league the 1st XI faced another Premier Division side, Bexley, in the semi-final of the Corona Cup on a cold and Autumnal afternoon threatening rain it was no surprise when, having won the toss, 'Mitch' inserted our visitors, a decision that was soon vindicated when Josh Lawrence took a wicket with the fifth ball of Bexley's innings

However, we had to wait another 146 runs for our second wicket and then another 106 for the third as Bexley piled on the runs and ended on 269 for 3, 68 runs coming from the last four overs - could we respond?

Like Bexley we lost a wicket in the first over but there, initially, the comparisons ended as we slumped to 18 for 4 and although we rallied to a degree, the scoreboard read 43 for 5 as the skipper joined Syd Sherlock knowing that, not only had we lost five wickets, but the run rate required had already reached 9.86 an over and Bexley were scenting a convincing victory

However, we had other ideas and 22 overs later Syd and 'Mitch' were both still there, had shared in the third 100 plus partnership - 106, and unbeaten - of the game, the only bad news being that they had scored at 4.81an over, less than half the required run rate

However, there had been a great danger that we could have been bowled out for less than 100 and in our third game against a Premier Division side we have done ourselves proud - victory against Beckenham, a narrow defeat against Bickley Park and although we were well beaten on this occasion, we were certainly not disgraced

So what have we learned over the last six games? The quality of the batting is certainly better in the higher divisions but we can cope with the bowling

And of course it is still not all over as we play Hayes next week in the play-off for the bronze medal; and we all know what happens when we play Hayes

MOM: Syd Sherlock - Came to the wicket with the score on 18 for 4 and was still there when the last ball was bowled

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

Footnote: In a game that contained three partnerships of over 100 - 146 and 106 for Bexley and 106 for the OWs - they were all beaten by the fact that the combined ages of both scorers was 155!

HISTORY FAILS TO REPEAT ITSELF Hsyes 207 for 5, 1st XI 171

This was a case of the 1st XI ending their season with a whimper rather than a bang but it could have been so much different. Fielding a side showing four changes from the previous week it was one of the new boys, if you can describe Tom Sullivan as a 'new boy', who initially took the eye as Hayes struggled against his pace and accuracy and they had been reduced to 52 for 4 by the time he finished his eight over spell, in which he took 3 for 26, which soon became 61 for 5 when Shehan, his replacement, took a wicket in his first over

But, after that, the OW wheels fell off as an unbeaten sixth wicket stand of 146 saw our hosts finish on 207 for 5. Of the other 'new boys' James Sellar bowled tidily but without success in the wickets column, and conceded 45 runs, not unreasonable for a leg-spinner and I have to confess that I have not seen enough of him to make a judgment but he has many admirers, all of whom I respect, and it is always a joy to see a leg-spinner and good ones will always succeed

Andrew Pomeroy has a fluent and smooth action but today suffered from an uncharacteristic, albeit brief, spell of sloppy fielding from the side whilst the fact that he came on to bowl when two batsmen were well set did not help his cause. Doug Forbes speaks highly of him, which is always a good sign, and Andrew should listen to him and will learn a lot as a consequence, which is more than I ever did from listening to Doug!

Andrew also batted well, as did Dan Seston, who cannot really be described as a 'new boy' as far as the 1st XI is concerned as he flits between the 1st and 2nd XIs and can always be relied upon when he comes into the side

So we were facing a total of 207 which could, and probably, should, have been half of that but that's

cricket and the mind-set at the changeover should have been 50s from our top four batsmen, more than possible, would see us claim the bronze medal in the Corona Cup

Jon Rodda, who has scored more runs than anyone this season, and in a majestic way, was dismissed by the first ball he received thanks to an out-standing catch but no matter as Syd Sherlock and the aforementioned Dan Seston immediately restored the damage and took the score to 54 before Dan was trapped lbw for 25

Enter Matt Abbett who, in the first encounter between the two sides at this ground this season, hit the first ball he received for 6 and was then bowled by the next. It is always a worry when Matt hits the first ball he receives for 6 – unless he goes in with six runs needed to win and only one ball of the game left – and since then he has become a little more circumspect, see also the report on the Beckenham game, and today he hit three singles and a two before adopting his boundaries mode and he and Syd took the score to 109 before Matt fell to a good running catch to depart for 41

The good news was that less than 100 runs were required for victory when he left and there were still 18 overs remaining. The bad news is that Matt is a better player than that and had he stayed another 10 overs he could have more than doubled his own score and seen us within touching distance of victory. His dismissal also gives the opposition a lift and when Syd departed in the following over for a well crafted 42, Hayes realised that they were in the driving seat

And so it proved, and although the last six wickets put on 69 runs, Andrew Pomeroy (22) in particular playing some fine shots, the last 10 overs or so just seemed to be batting practice, although Shehan, in a defiant attempt to hit the 37 we needed from the last over, was bowled whilst doing so

So another season comes to an end, one in which the 1st XI topped their league table before falling to a strong Bexley side in the semi-final stages of the cup competition, which Bexley then went on to win by defeating Bromley in the final. A number of players have been blooded in the side on a regular basis - Shehan and Jake Phillips in particular – whilst others, like today, have been given a taste of the big time

‘Mitch’, as always, has led the team by example, with enthusiasm, and perhaps most importantly, given everyone a game, adopting the philosophy that the results will look after themselves and achieved victories against the Premier Division champions and a First Division side as a consequence as well as a narrow defeat against another Premier side and a more straightforward victory against one from Division Three

Yes, Bexley were better than us and, Yes, this game was a disappointment but the overall report of the 2020 season has to be:

‘The competitiveness of this side continues to impress and inspire. They are capable of giving any side a good game and if they can only address occasional lapses of concentration, both collectively and individually, there is no limit to what they can achieve’

MOM: Tom Sullivan – his 3 for 26 from his eight over spell accounted for their top three batsmen and put us in a position to bowl Hayes out cheaply. He would have been justified in muttering to himself, “Dammed silly rules of the game forcing me to come off after only eight overs. If I had been allowed to bowl another five they would have been all out for 80”

(Syd) Sherlock Rodda, J (Dan) Seston Abbett Pryor Pomeroy, A Mitchell Bettridge (Shehan) Sivaranjan Sullivan Sellar

Final 1st XI averages for 2020

Batting

	<u>Inngs</u>	<u>N.O</u>	<u>Runs</u>	<u>HS</u>	<u>Avge</u>
M. Mitchell	7	3	276	70	69.00
J. Rodda	7	1	283	91	47.16
(Syd) Sherlock	7	1	200	59*	33.33
M. Abbett	7	0	233	89	33.28
L. Pryor	7	0	115	54	16.42
J. Phillips	4	1	46	42	15.33
(Dan) Seston	2	0	26	25	13.00
J. Lawrence	4	0	48	33	12.00

A Pomeroy	2	0	22	22	11.00
S. Dandeniya	1	0	7	7	7.00
(Veslen) Deverajulu	4	0	22	15	5.50
T. Sullivan	1	0	4	4	4.00
D. Ellicott-White	3	0	11	8	3.66
Shehan (Sivaranjan)	4	2	7	7	3.50
E. Bettridge	5	1	12	6	3.00

Also batted: J. Sellar 0*

Bowling

	<u>Overs</u>	<u>Mdns</u>	<u>Runs</u>	<u>Wkts</u>	<u>Best</u>	<u>Avg</u>
T.Sullivan	8	1	26	3	3 for 26	8.66
D. Ellicott-White	42.2	1	213	12	4 for 21	17.75
(Syd)Sherlock	9.1	0	67	3	3 for 40	22.33
S. Sivaranjan	49	3	241	10	3 for 33	24.10
J. Lawrence	32	1	154	5	2 for 36	30.80
M.Mitchell	51	2	253	5	2 for 13	50.60
M. Abbett	18	0	112	2	1 for 19	56.00
E. Bettridge	48	0	283	4	1 for 21	70.75

Also bowled: A. Pomeroy 9-0-87-0, J. Sellar 8-0-45-0

Wicket-keeping 3 - J. Phillips (1ct, 2st)

Catches: 6 - Bettridge 3 - Ellicott-White, Mitchell, Lawrence 2 - J Rodda. J (Veslen) Deverajulu (Syd) Sherlock, Abbett 1- Dandeniya, (Dan) Seston, (Shehan) Sivaranjan

Get well soon, Peter

Peter Wakeford, a former President of the OWCC, prolific opening batsmen and top class slip fielder has been suffering from pneumonia and recently entered hospital where he had his lungs drained. Pleased to report that the procedure was successful and he will soon be returning home. Get well soon Peter; we all miss you

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