

WINCHMORE HILL SPORTS CLUB

REPORTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Reflecting after my second year as chairman of the section, at least the rot has been stopped, we did not have any of our league sides relegated in 2016, but unfortunately, none were promoted either. The first and second teams both finished fourth on 98 points, while the first team were in the mix throughout the season for promotion before falling away in the final stretch, the second team, although finishing strongly, were never quite in the promotion race and never really threatened the top two spots, but considering the second team played over 30 different players in the season, not a bad effort overall.

In regards to our overseas for 2016, the pace and wickets of Scott Burkinshaw (45 league wickets) will be sorely missed by the first team in 2017, but I am sure it is not the last that we have seen of Scott and I'm sure Dela will be looking to some of the younger players to step up into Scott's shoes for season 2017. Many thanks to Scott for all the effort and commitment that he gave to the section in 2016.

The 3rd's after a promising start, struggled mid season and finished 5th with 75 points. The 4's, with a mixture of colts, dads, new and old members, after flirting with relegation, managed to hold on to their place in the league.

Availability was once again poor and made selection difficult for the majority of the season. Quite often the section had more members unavailable for selection than were available to play, if we are to progress as a club back to the higher divisions (where I believe we belong), we have to take responsibility for our actions, if we're happy as a club playing at the current level, then fine, if not, show your commitment to the section by being involved and by making yourself available on a more consistent basis for the upcoming league season in 2017.

I would like to thank Terry Braithwaite for his role as Chairman of Selection and I certainly appreciate the ongoing difficulties that are involved in this role.

On a positive note, we managed to play a fifth team on three occasions last season, looking forward to 2017, we have already planned 6 home fixtures for a fifth team, starting late June.

The MDL team, after a strong performance in the league winning 5 out of 6 matches with the other match being abandoned, came unstuck in the quarter-final stage at North London, a very disappointing result after a faultless league campaign. The Chess Valley League continues to provide a decent standard of cricket to those that enjoy their Sunday cricket, with our CVL side finishing respectably mid table.

Cup competitions once again took a back seat, 2 cup matches and 2 defeats, hopefully we can manage to put together a decent cup run in the near future....

It is with great sadness to report that the club lost two ex first team captains this year, two magnificent stalwarts of not only the cricket section, but the sports club in general, Denis Metson and Lionel Rogers. Both will be sadly missed, two true legends of WHCC.

As you can see from Jim Clarke's report (later in the section), the effort made by the committee to increase colts numbers by going into schools, has been a great success. This initiative will continue into 2017 and beyond as we try to forge a stronger working relationship with Middlesex County Cricket Club through our ongoing work in schools in the borough of Enfield. I would like to thank Jim Clarke for the effort and enthusiasm he has brought to the cricket section and long may it continue.

Two long standing committee members will be standing down this year and I would like to thank both Guy Saunders and Neil Innes for the tremendous amount of hard work and time that both have given to the section, both are taking a well earned rest from the cricket committee and hopefully it is not the last that we have seen of the pair, their input will be missed in regards to the running of the section.

Another new initiative for last season was the re-introduction of the weekly newsletter, I would like to thank Alex Ludlam for producing an informative newsletter that kept the section abreast of our results, socials and other newsworthy items.

Winter well and look forward to seeing you all in 2017.

Best regards,

Neal Avent

1st XI REPORT

After finishing strongly in third place last season we were cautious of making the same mistakes and we knew we had to start this season the way we ended the previous. Pre-season nets took on a different approach where it was a short, sharp burst instead of the usual 3 month long social. I believe this was more dynamic and purposeful, albeit the fact that on one occasion there had been a very poor turnout (only myself and Siran attending) and in my opinion it was too late (starting at 21:00).

It was here where we managed to secure the services of Alex Greig for the season (and beyond) and it has proven to be a valuable addition to the side.

Preseason fixtures were not to well attended by the majority of the 1st XI but this didn't prove to be too much of an issue once the season started. 2016 was also the first season where both timed and limited overs formats were going to be played, a positive shake-up of the structure which would ultimately challenge us throughout in terms of selection and performing consistently with bat and ball.

We started extremely well by dominating the first 4 weeks. Jim Gattling, myself and Morgan Prior scoring the bulk of the runs and winning by comfortable margins. North London away was the first fixture where our batting didn't fire. The next fixture against Bessborough everything seemed to be restored with a massive win at home.

The first time game against Brentham could not have started better with a series of quick wickets. It was here where we had the first of our disciplinary issues with two players cited for unsportsmanlike conduct. With the dismissal of myself and Jim Gattling there was a dreadful collapse and a disappointing end to the day.

Osterley, I don't think I need to say more because we all know what happened and we had to go and defend our actions at a tribunal.

A rain affected day against Tamils saw us setting a decent run rate, however too easy a target to chase down in 20 overs for them to get 4 points. Scott Burkinshaw claimed a hat trick of wickets and sparked a recipe that would serve us well over the coming weeks.

Last of the first round fixtures saw us play away to South Hampstead with a severely depleted side (no Gattling and minus two because of discipline), or so I thought. The game plan was for the remainder of the timed series to bat all of the overs and then open the bowling with myself and Henson and then let Scott loose. Plenty of youngsters (Ross Forrester - Chris "Volleyball" Richards) came into the side and we saw a refreshed approach and attitude with great results following.

The next blip came against Harrow Town (away). A long cricket week had taken its toll and it was clear from the lacklustre performance that too much cricket (and beer) was to blame. This was followed by a strong performance against Uxbridge.

Like the previous season I had been away for two weeks (on holiday) and we failed to beat Bessborough yet again as well as losing badly to Brentham.

Another dismal performance against Osterley pretty much sealed our fate for the season.

A strong performance against Tamils gave us a glimmer of hope but at this point we were relying on others for favors and for others to lose.

The final game of the season saw us in a commanding position when the rains came down, having the final say.

It was another season that saw us perform better in parts and we are well on our way to becoming a very competitive side. Patience is what is required as well as an almost 'schizophrenic' ability to consistently adapt our game to the demands of the situation.

I would like to thank my teammates for another season. To Julia, thank you for the huge role you play as part of our team. You are way more than a scorer and administrator!

To the selection and cricket committee, thank you for your support and understanding as well as your continuous support. Neal, a special thanks for your friendship, support and for hosting the one and only Dingo (Scotty B). Can we have him again next year?!

I did drop a hint that I will be back for another season and I am happy to lead the side again.

De la Rey

2nd XI REPORT

The season started off on a bit of an unusual note with WHCC fielding 8 to start against Kenton due to late drop outs and some members getting lost. This wasn't an omen however with the team pulling through and finishing with 10 and a big win! A great way to start the season and hopefully more of the things to come. With this in mind though the second team struggled with having a consistent team. The constant rotation of players proved a struggle on our league position with us constantly slipping between the top half and bottom half of the table.

This was the story of the season after some brilliant displays against most teams we would flounder against mid table teams as we wouldn't have our best team out for selection. With strong season from Nick O'Laughlin, Scott Forrester, Rob Sobers and Will Irwin we were able to finish in fourth. If we did have our full selection of players for the full season then there is no doubt in my mind that we would have achieved promotion.

Hopefully next year we can achieve this.

Harry Avent

3rd XI REPORT

This was our first season in the 1987 League, and to be honest I don't think there was any discernible difference in the playing strength of the opposition....I happen to believe we were stronger this season than last.

We started well and after 4 games we were top of the table with Southgate but as we know, it is around that time we normally lose players in the top 2 sides and the likes of Savio and Amar play a couple of games in the 2's and then return back to the 3's when the University lads come home ...another observationno one in the 3's or 4's ever get invited to weddings!

From then on we drew too many matches to keep pace with Southgate who ran away with the League title. So it was a year of consolidation, we ended in 5th place.

No one scored a hat full of runs, but there were some significant scores by individuals, Dom Philp 92, Ed Sobers 84 and 111, Jake Paris 96, Peter Calder 116 and Ben Garrad 89.

In the bowling stakes, 3 players got 6 wicket hauls....Mahithan Vimal, Alex Jessop and Amar Hayat. In total wickets taken Amar led the way with 21 wickets and unfortunately he was quite some way ahead of the pack 10 wickets was the next best! This may go some way to explaining our lack of victories.

With a view to the future I would suggest we have had some success, both Scott and Ross Forrester have established themselves in the higher sides and others such as Jake Paris, Nic Starck, Mahithan Vimal and Malachi Bardouille have all shown ability that may well take them higher.

In conclusion, we did not bowl well enough.....the batting and fielding were ok.....as for the 3rd XI player of the season I have no hesitation in awarding it to Amar Hayat.

Thanks

Terry W Braithwaite

4TH XI REPORT

If I were to summarise the 4th team season this year in three words it would be this: same as usual. We finished 7th out of 10 - same as last year, we had a great run of mid-season wins - same as last year, and we had a disappointing/nail-biting finish to the season due to lack of availabilities - same as last year.

We started off with a strong conceded ten points from Lohana, which managed to tide us over for the first 3 fixtures. In these first few fixtures the schools hadn't broken up for any holidays yet, so we were left with a rotating cast of guest players and colts too young to play secondary school cricket, as well as yours truly. Towards June, things started to

pick up - a run of winning draws followed by 3 consecutive wins in late June/July and some great individual performances meant that we managed to take 20 points from Lohana in a season - my crowning moment as a captain.

Towards the end of the season, summer holiday syndrome started to kick in. Although we had some brave performances from colts playing well above their ability level and some strong performances from the older team members, we entered a period of consistent losses. A few conceded fixtures meant that we went into the last match of the season tied for bottom, with a win needed to keep us in the running, provided the teams nearest us took one point from their matches. If he existed, God would be a WHCC fan - our opposition conceded (10 points for us in the bag) and all other fixtures were rained off, meaning all other teams walked away with one point. This was enough to catapult us from 10th to our usual 7th position, even if it was at the last minute.

So to summarise, we managed to pull something out of the bag this year, but when 20 of our 57 league points were given to us it suggests that luck is as important in cricket as skill.

Jack Avent

COLTS REPORT 2016

This year has been an amazing year for me a massive change for me coming to an amazing club in London that has made me feel so welcome. I would firstly like to thank everyone for making me feel so welcome in my first year within the role.

It's been a very busy year on the colts front, it started with some great indoor sessions in Ashmole when I first realised what an amazing pool of talent we have at the club but some of the things that we have achieved this season

1. We have built up a schools partnership within the Winchmore Hill, Edmonton and Southgate area where we have provided structured coaching within **12 schools**. The schools have really encompassed what we are about and really bought into what we do at WHCC, being very happy to promote the club in all areas as any information that we have about what's on at the club is sent out to **ALL** parents in minutes.
2. Within those 12 schools we have had 6 opens days in the schools in which we provided a 1 hour coaching session to all children between the ages of 7-11 . Which accounted for the fact that we coached 2,000 children within primary schools in 2016
3. We also did cricket talks within schools and outreached to over 8,000 children trying to spread the word of cricket
4. At the summer camps of which we ran 4 of them we managed to get over 70 different children attend the camps of which we had a day high of 44 for the camp.
5. The culmination of this was a sharp rise in numbers at membership at the club seeing a large increase in memberships for 2016. The largest rise was with the Under 8 squad which saw the colts figures double in 2016
6. All of the hard work of the team culminated in the club winning an award at the Middlesex Cricket Association dinner where we won an award for building partnerships within schools and growing colt numbers within Middlesex . A great honour for everyone at the club ..
7. A ladies section has been resurrected with a total of 25 different ladies coming down and taking part in the sessions in 2016

On the playing side we had a good season with most of the age group teams getting through to league stage of the colts league , with The U15 getting all the way through to the finals day when which we lost to a very strong Eastcote side in the semi finals but a great effort .

It has been decided by the committee and myself that we will try and play friendlies on most Sundays with teams/clubs outside the local area . 16 clubs have been contacted in regards playing games as we feel that we need to play against some tougher opposition so we improve the standards .

What will be happening in 2017

1. We shall be extending the Schools partnership to 18 schools in 2017 .
2. We are extending the cricket summer camps to 5 in 2017 due to the large demand .
3. A partnership with Middlesex where we will be going into 5 schools with "Chance to Shine " in Term 4 , I will be heading the coaching in the schools . We will be going into 3 secondary schools and 2 primary schools (It is hoped that if we do a good job then we will get a blanket coverage of Enfield Borough Schools)
4. We shall be having a Winchmore Hill Schools Partnership cup on July 7th where all schools we go into will be invited to enter a team in each section.
5. Pinkies Pavilion (Middlesex CC) Themed cricket tent will be coming down the club on the 18th May from 5pm.

Plus lots of other new incentives so it will be a busy time for me and the coaches at the club next year pushing the club onto the next level

Finally as stated at the top of the piece I would like to express thanks to everyone who has helped make the year so successful it has been a lot of hard work by a lot of people to ensure that the club is moves up to the next level so a huge congratulations to you all, we could not have done it without you all

BANG THE DRUM

Jim

Peter Richards and the Colts Section would like to add 'thanks to Jim for all his hard work and all the coaches for their support during the summer and the winter indoor league'.