



OLD WHITGIFTIANS CRICKET CLUB

THE CLUBHOUSE, CROHAM MANOR ROAD, SOUTH CROYDON, SURREY CR2 7BG

www.owcc.org

Hon. Secretary's Report to 2020 AGM

First Eleven

The disruption caused by COVID-19 had a significant impact on the season of all our league sides - this reduced the season to 7 games against local sides, with the added novelty of each team playing the same opponents, albeit not always on the same Saturday.

The clubs in our conference were participants in the 1st XI's normal division (Purley, Addiscombe, Streatham and Marlborough), old acquaintances (Cheam, Trinity Mid-Whitgiftian) and others (Alleyn and Merstham).

The 1st XI finished third in Group 6 - with five wins, one loss and one cancellation (due to weather). This was a strong performance from a young side who could have finished top had they batted better against local rivals Purley. They were led, again, by Adam Clarke who was ably assisted by Shaz Rana.

The season started with disappointment - a washout against Division 5 Merstham, who we were unable to agree a revised date for the fixture. A close win followed against Trinity Mid-Whitgiftian, the OWs restricting TMW to 152/7, before chasing the target down in just over 30 overs but for the loss of 8 wickets.

Disaster followed next weekend as the OWs were bowled out for 80 by Purley, on a stunning day. The team bounced back the following week, bowling Streatham and Marlborough out for 167 (Zain Pacha taking 4-32) and chasing the target down in 34 overs, led by Shaz Rana's unbeaten 51. Addiscombe were beaten comfortably by 4 wickets in a bad tempered affair; Shahrays Nazim's 3-20 as pick of the bowlers as Addiscombe were restricted to 150 in their 40 overs, and Krish Patel hit a six to win the game.

In the most exciting game of the season, Cheam scored 221/9 in their 39 overs before bad light stopped play with 2 overs to go after Zain Pacha hit two huge, consecutive sixes. Aamir Raza's unbeaten 100 had put the OWs in a good position by this point and the OWs won by 4 runs on Duckworth/Lewis as play was called off.

Finally, Alleyn, whose ground is next Dulwich's main ground, were swept aside for 106 by Shahrays Nazim's pace (4-15) and Aamir Raza's leg spin (5-14), though the OWs lost 3 wickets in the chase.

In the truncated season, our leading batsman was the returning Aamir Raza who scored 173 runs at 86.50, including an unbeaten century and an unbeaten fifty, who was ably supported

by Shaz Rana (136 runs, including one fifty), and Adam Clarke (101 runs). Three bowlers, Shahrayz Nazim, Nikhil Patel and Shaz Rana ended with 10 wickets over the season with Zain Pacha also taking eight wickets.

2021 brings fresh challenges – the side will look to strengthen and push for promotion once again, back to Division 2.

Second team

The side finished third in Group 19, winning four games, losing two and with one cancellation (again due to weather).

Leading run scorer was captain, Arun Ramamurthy, with 173 runs, followed closely by Sujit Dadar (144 runs, including an 113 not out vs Streattham and Marlborough), Pardeep Chatwal (127 runs) and Jon Higgins (107 runs). All-rounder, Akshat Kacker took 8 wickets and Izzet Khan 6, as the wickets were shared around.

Thanks to Arun Ramamurthy who continued to captain the side during 2020.

Third Eleven

The 3rd XI dominated their group buoyed by improved availability. They won 6 games and had one cancelled and topped Group 32, finishing 20 points above Cheam who they bowled out for 45 in their head to head game. Leading runs scorer was Nelson Anbalagan (157 runs), closely followed by Jon Higgins (155 runs) whilst Upendra Parimi took 16 wickets at 8.50.

Thanks to Balaji Ekambaram who captained the side in 2020.

Other teams

The 4th XI continued to provide an environment for colts to learn about adult cricket under the leadership of Stuart Barradell. On Sundays, the friendly XI continue to play relaxed games under the leadership of James Schad.

The colts continue to field sides at a number of age groups and the section continues to provide talented youngsters to play in adult sides. The Surrey Development League side won the tier 2 trophy, bringing the Brian Harris Trophy back to the club where Brian had such impact as Colts chairman. We would like to thank chairman Shirish Patel, the manager of colts' teams, the coaches and the parents for their continued support. The colts continue to provide vital income for the club and the winter programme is already underway ready for next season.