



OLD WHITGIFTIANS CRICKET CLUB

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

www.owcricket.com

Chairman's Report to the 2020 AGM

Dear Members

The 2020 season was an incredibly successful season for OWCC on the field of play despite the obvious setbacks, restrictions and effects of the pandemic. As Chairman, I was proud to see the reach that the club had, with members past and present, overseas, and friends of the club donating to our GoFundMe page to help us survive the testing times experienced as a consequence of the pandemic. Raising approximately £8,500 prior to the season was an amazing effort. Thank you to all.

With COVID-19 reducing the cricket season to just half the usual fixtures, the club did superbly well in terms of results and in terms of participation. In a restructured league, the 1st XI played 7 matches, won 5 and lost 1 with one match cancelled to give them a 3rd placed finish in their Challenge Cup group. A youthful 2nd XI led by Arun Ramamurthy, had a similar record playing 7 matches, winning 5 and losing 2 matches to finish 4th in their group. The 3rd XI had a superb season beating all before them to win their Challenge Cup group. Congratulations to Balaji Ekambaram and his squad of players for their achievement whilst playing a tough, and at times, passionate brand of cricket. The 4th XI had a season like no other, playing every weekend and having unbelievable availability causing selection headaches for their captain, Stuart Barradell! They struggled for fixtures in 2019, but how things changed in 2020! Again, and importantly, Stuart was able to blood a number of youth players in the season. Thanks to Stuart for his tireless efforts. With the 4th XI now in the Surrey Championship, there will be even more cricket for him and his squad to play.

Each adult team had a depth of personnel to select from and this was really pleasing to see. Growing our adult membership was a priority for the 2020 season and being able to field four teams on a Saturday, with two teams on a Sunday, with a regular surplus of players was evidence of this. We had approximately 40 full (adult) playing members. We hope to continue this improvement in membership.

The season for OWCC colts was outstanding. Having been forced into remote learning and deprived of the game they love, the colts stormed into the season with matches galore! Our aim (as for many clubs) was to ensure as much cricket as possible for our young players. Some played a match every week, some played matches every 2-3 days and some played every day! Thanks to Shirish Patel as Colts Chairman and thank you to Tejas Joshi and all age-group managers for organising the countless fixtures from U7s to U14s. We also saw the emergence of a few parents dusting off their whites and playing the game once again. Some rusty technique was on show, but fantastic scenes nonetheless, especially in the 'Children vs Dads' match.

The season before last saw long and deep discussions about our ambitions and expectations of our younger players as well as installing a player pathway to adult cricket from U15 onwards. I am glad to say that we made great strides with this. In his first full season playing 1st XI cricket, Arjun Gill scored 337 runs at an average of 28.08. Myran Patel showed great potential as an all-rounder with a cultured innings of 61 in the Sunday Trust and a full season playing and taking wickets in 2nd XI cricket. Izzet Khan spearheaded the 2nd XI attack taking 31 wickets at a strike rate of 19.97. His energy and love of the

game shines through with every performance. Aryan Kohli showed glimpses of his undoubted potential as a left-arm spinner capable of fine cameo performances with the bat. These performances, amongst others, led us to silverware in the Surrey Trust League, beating Walton-on-Thames CC in the final at Croham Road.

With no cricket played for most of the season, our grounds looked immaculate and once again drew huge praise and admiration from all visitors once fixtures were underway. We will continue to ensure that our ground is one of the most picturesque grounds in Surrey and one of the best playing tracks around in club cricket with high class net training facilities. My personal thanks goes to Head Groundsman Daniel Ratling and his Whitgift ground staff for their brilliant work and their flexibility and willingness to assist in getting as many matches 'on' as possible last summer. As always, thanks to Jonathan Higgins for his work in charge of the grounds and to Suzanne Piscina, the club manager.

Off the field, OWCC had some successful additions and changes. In August we had the first of our Club BBQs. The attendance from all our members (colts and adults) and their friends and families was truly great to see on what was a glorious summer's day. With this being so successful, we decided to have an end of season BBQ which was yet another triumph. These will now be annual events so keep a lookout for future dates. We also launched our new website www.owcricket.com with some new features, photos and the usual links to play-cricket. Sponsorship opportunities for 2021 and beyond are detailed on the website. We also became social media savvy with our twitter and instagram pages. The website has proved to be a more efficient way to collect membership and member information and our twitter page was significant in our monumental fundraising quest in May.

Thank you to all of our committee members as always, I look forward to working with you next season.

Adam Clarke
Chairman