



# OLD WHITGIFTIANS CRICKET CLUB

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

[www.owcc.org](http://www.owcc.org)

## Hon. Secretary's Report to 2021 AGM

### First Eleven

2021 saw the return of the Surrey Championship with the OWs looking to get promoted back to Division 2. After the interruptions caused by COVID-19, it was great that the season started on time and was largely decided by play on the field. However, there were a number of noticeable changes - the communal tea interval returned at only one game, thanks to the hospitality of Old Hamptonians, and the format of the season was revised so that 50 over cricket was played for the first seven and last two games (normally four and five, respectively).

After a bright start and spending a substantial period of the season in or around the promotion spaces, the team finished 3rd with performances in the latter part of the season falling away from the high standards set in the first half. The team won eight games, drew three, lost five and two games were abandoned. Adam Clarke, once again led the side, with Shaz Rana continuing as his deputy.

The side started the season unbeaten in its first five games with wins against Addiscombe (who were bowled out for 148), Kingstonian (in a rain affected games, the OWs chased down their revised target of 161 in 38 overs), Old Rutlishians (who were beaten in a last ball thriller) and Churt, and an unfortunate abandonment against Cheam. The Cheam abandonment came after some torrential rain which meant the OWs could not face a minimum of 20 after they had bowled a weakened Cheam side out for 108 and would have been chasing a nominal total.

The first loss came against the side that would eventually pip the OWs to promotion, Old Hamptonians, losing by over one hundred runs. The team bounced back to winning ways against Woking and Horsell - the OWs scored 253 in their innings, led by Fawad Syed's 103 before bowling out Woking for 143.

Timed cricket saw the return of the draw, with the OWs drawing three on the trot against local rivals Sanderstead (losing draw), Streatham and Marlborough (heavily rain affected game) and Addiscombe (winning draw). The OWs finally returned to winning ways chasing 169 against Cheam, but this was followed by another 100+ run defeat after conceding a mammoth 279 against Kingstonian. The long awaited return fixture against Old Rutlishians, at the time first vs second, was abandoned due to rain but the OWs triumphed again over Churt, defending just 127 thanks to a fearsome spell of bowling from Krish Patel at the start of their chase.

A loss against Old Hamptonians sealed the OWs conceded the side's ability to control their destiny in the race for promotion and losses followed against Woking and Sanderstead to conclude the season.

As with the 2019 season, Fawad Syed led the run charts with 599 runs at an average of just under 40, including one century and four fifties, with Shaz Rana scoring 390 runs (averaging 27 with three fifties) and Adam Clarke scoring 343 (averaging 21, including two fifties). It was also pleasing to see significant contributions from both club stalwarts, with Harshil Shah scoring 222 runs and Vishal Khetia (200), and youngsters, with Ben Karpal contributing 199 runs from seven innings and Ahsan Salim 181 runs from eight innings.

The wickets were shared - Mo Raza took 29 wickets at an average of 15, Shaz Rana's off spin took 28 at an average of 15 and Nikhil Patel took 21 at an average of 19.

2022 will see the side mount another challenge for promotion - key will be delivering consistent performances every week.

### Second team

In a tight finish to the season, the side achieved a well deserved promotion to Division One. Finishing second, they accumulated 237 points having won nine games, drawn two, lost five, one abandonment and one COVID related cancellation.

Leading run scorer was Akshat Kacker who scored 344 runs at an average of 26, followed by Amar Patel, who scored 259 at 28 and captain Arun Ramamurthy scored 244 at an average of 18. All-rounder, Akshat Kacker led the bowling too, taking 27 wickets at an average of 15, with young prospect for the future Mudassir Mian taking 26 at an average of 11 and Joe Russell 24 at an average of 13.

Thanks to Arun Ramamurthy who continued to captain the side during 2021.

### Third Eleven

The 3rd XI finished second in the Division Two - East, just four points off the top promotion spot and so were unfortunately denied promotion by Dulwich's 4th XI. Playing limited overs cricket, they won eleven games, lost two and had two abandonments.

Imad Shah was the leading batsman scoring 336 runs at an average of 21, Farooq Rajput scored 300 at 21, Anirudh Ramadurai 211 at 26 and stalwart Jon Higgins 210, also at 26. Upendra Parimi led the bowling, taking 27 wickets at 14 and young Srithan Chanda took 25 at an average of just 9 runs, with a best performance of 6/25 against local rivals Purley.

Thanks to Balaji Ekambaram who captained the side in 2021.

### Other teams

The 4<sup>th</sup> XI took part in league cricket for the first time in 2021 and continued to provide an environment for colts to learn about adult cricket under the leadership of Stuart Barradell. They finished with 100 points, after winning three games. Leading batsmen were Anjai Patel

(287 runs @ 26) and Rukesh Patel (283 @ 23). On Sundays, the friendly XI continue to play relaxed games under the leadership of Reece Etwaroo.

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. 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.