



OLD WHITGIFTIANS CRICKET CLUB

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

www.owcc.org

Hon. Secretary's Report to 2017 AGM

First Eleven

After a bright start to the 2017 season, washouts against two of the weakest teams in division and a failure to close out tight games throughout the season led to the side finishing ninth, relegate to Division Two. Mumtaz Talah and Chris Thompson returned in 2017 and led the batting, while rising star Shaz Rana had his season cut short by an unfortunate finger injury sustained in July. The OWs badly missed strike bowler Harshil Patel, who moved to Ashted, and former captain Luke Fisher, who moved to Banstead.

The season started with a convincing 9 wicket win against Walton-on-Thames - a tight bowling performance bowled them out for 138 and attacking innings from Mumtaz Talah and Chris Thompson saw the target knocked off in just under 17 overs.

Defeat followed against a strong Chipstead side, who later in the season were genuine promotion contenders. The batting struggled against a high quality spin bowling display, with Joe Murtagh top scoring with 39 out of a total of 145. Chipstead quickly knocked off the runs required, winning by 9 wickets.

A tight game against Farnham was won by 2 wickets – the batting was led by Chris Thompson, whose 69 saw the side most of the way to their target of 189. A high scoring game against Camberley fell out of the side's grasp when Mumtaz Talah was dismissed for 94 with 77 runs left to score. The side ended up 16 runs short.

With a change in format, the side were hopeful they could start a winning run. An attritional game against Beddington saw the side emerge with a winning draw after Mo Raza's 5-65 bowled Beddington out for 202 and 62 from Shaz Rana helped the side finish 174/7 from their overs.

Five heavy defeats followed against Leatherhead (the OWs were bowled out for 98 batting first on a damp pitch), Sutton (who amassed 312/4 in 58 overs), Chipstead (who scored 343/4 in 57 overs), Banstead (who knocked off 180 in 35.3 overs) and Spencer (who bowled the OWs out for 103). The latter four teams finished well clear of the remaining six teams in the Division, and so the OWs were hopeful when they faced Farnham, a fellow struggler. On a wet, rainy day, Farnham ground their way to 193, which looked attainable. However, the OWs lost wickets at key moments against some tight bowling and fell 12 runs short.

Washouts followed against Walton on Thames and Camberley, both of whom were struggling at the foot of the division. Rain interrupted the following week's game with

Beddington, but this time to the benefit of the OWs. The OWs lost 28 overs of their innings, and thanks to having lost only 1 wicket prior to the break, Beddington were set a target 155 of 22 overs. This proved beyond their reach and a first win in ten games. Another win followed against Leatherhead – Adam Clarke’s 80 and Harshil Shah’s unbeaten 59 saw the OWs set a target of 216 which Leatherhead fell 95 runs short of.

Defeats followed for the last 3 games. The OWs failed to break Spencer’s 8th wicket partnership, who added 43 runs to get to their target of 178, before a heavy loss against Sutton (who again surpassed 300) sealed the OWs relegation. A weakened side then lost against Banstead by 10 wickets.

The batting was again led by young overseas player Mumtaz Talah, who scored 395 at an average of 30.38, including 2 fifties. Chris Thompson made 346 runs at an average of 43.25, including 3 fifties and Shaz Rana scored 244 runs at an average of 24.40.

Leading wicket taker was Suliman Younas who took 22 wickets at an average of 28.77 followed by Mo Raza who took 20 wickets at 29 and Nikhil Patel who took 14 wickets at 33.36. Dan Kenton also took 11 wickets at 33.18, which vastly understates the contribution he made with the ball.

The 2017 season was played in good spirits and featured many home grown players who continue to develop. The side should be a strong Division Two side and should look for a top half finish in 2018.

Second team

The Second XI started the season with hopes of promotion under skipper Arun Ramamurthy but issues with player availability (including one week with nine players who weren’t available) and a drop in form saw the side fall away towards the end of the season. The side finished 8th with 163 points, after a fall in form towards the end of the season.

The team won 6 matches, including a convincing win against Oxted & Limpsfield who were beaten by 221 runs in the third game of the season and a 35 run win against eventual champions, Esher, at home.

Overall, the batting was led by Sumit Jain who scored 263 runs in 13 innings at an average of 20.23. All rounder Pardeep Chatwal scored 197 runs in 5 innings and Mo Basit scored 185 in 5 innings.

Leading wicket taker was Sumit Jain who took 24 wickets at an average of 15.33, followed by Mo Basit who took 13 wickets at an average of 15.77.

Third Eleven

The third eleven won a second successive promotion into the Premier Division, finishing 2nd with 267 points.

Highlights of the season included the side chasing 261 in 45 overs against Valley End in the first game of the season, a high scoring draw against Oxted and Limpsfield (including an

unbeaten 103 by Mo Basit), chasing 228 with only 2 wickets down against Banstead and a Jon Higgins century as the OWs set Oxted a target of 284 to win in the return fixture.

Leading run scorer Maqsood Rana scored 595 runs, one more than last year, at an average of 45.77, followed by Bilal Muhammad who scored 257 runs. Mo Basit scored 205 runs on the occasions when he wasn't required by the 2nd XI while Kunal Solanki (190) and Simon Goatcher (171) contributed when available. Leading wicket taker was Mo Basit who took 17 wickets at an average of 14.53 followed by Siddharth Bhatia who took 16 wickets at 10.88 and Moiz Rana, who took 15 wickets at 19.60.

Other teams

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

The colts enjoyed another successful season. 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.

