

ETON RAMBLERS

NOTICE 2016

2016 Season

It is very satisfying to be able to report that The Club continued its good form from 2015 into 2016. Most wandering Clubs are happy with a season that produces a close number of wins to losses, although we do have the advantage of enjoying many of our matches being played at Eton and we are very grateful to the School for this support.

2016 resulted in 13 won, 14 lost, 7 drawn, a tie and 3 matches cancelled – none by us. Two of our losses were by 1 run and there were many close finishes. As with last year drawn games were a relative rarity.

Great credit must go to the new secretarial team of Ed Bruce and Freddie Fox for continuing the good work of their predecessors in helping, cajoling and doing whatever else is necessary to ensure that the Match Managers do such a good job for us.

Jack Halstead was our leading run scorer with 348 at 38.75 as well as heading the Fielding statistics with 14 catches and it is excellent to report that he played in 10 games. However the averages were topped by the evergreen Ed Farley with 225 runs at 75. What a pity (for us) that he spends so much of the summer in Jersey. It is also noteworthy that our Hon Asst Sec, Freddie Fox batted 11 times and for someone who has been considered a lower order batsman (until now, that is!) scored 184 at 26.

Rupert Stanning headed the bowling averages with 10 wickets at 10.30 and the previous Hon Sec, Fergus Boyd matched his haul of 10 wickets. However the outstanding bowling award must go to Freddie Fox who bowled 150 overs, snaring 31 victims at 18.29. It is some years since any bowled so many overs or took so many wickets for the Club.

The Cricketer Cup

For reasons that no one can put their finger on, every time we get to the final of the competition we seem to go out in the first round the following year. So it was to be again. We perhaps over performed in getting to the 2015 final, nonetheless, we did so and therefore the usual jinx could be expected. This time, however, there were extenuating circumstances in the form of the weather. It was a really miserable day when we played the Old Alleynians at Dulwich and it was a surprise that play was possible late in the day, but with the game reduced to 25 overs per side. It seems to be the usual practice in the professional game to want to chase a target in the 20 over format and it is no different at club level. Sadly we lost the toss and were put in. Even so, on the face of it, 152/7 didn't look a bad total. This score was attained after the early loss of Farley and Abbott, an excellent steadying partnership between Gnodde and Vanderspar, a collapse and a late revival overseen by the veteran Chetwood which added 33 in the last 3 overs.

The Alleynians owed much to MacVicar who batted through most of their innings for an excellent 75 not out and saw them home relatively comfortably with 4 wickets and 3 overs to spare.

We do battle with the Old Cliftonians away in the first-round next year on June 11th and I will send around a reminder nearer the time in the hope that we can attract some members to come and support us.

The loss at Dulwich marked the retirement of Harry Chetwood from the Cricketer Cup side some 25 years after making his debut in 1991. During this period, he has played in each of the Ramblers' four appearances in the Final (1992, 2001, 2011 & 2015) and finishes as one of the competition's leading wicket takers (62 wickets at 25.92 apiece).

All of those who played with Harry during those 25 years would testify the quality Harry brought. This not just as a competitive off spinner who scored a Cricketer Cup hundred, but as a teammate always willing to support either out in the middle, or in the nets promoting the spin academy, or in the pavilion over a beer. His enthusiasm for cricket is only surpassed by his enthusiasm for the Ramblers and the Cricketer Cup. As a club, we are enormously grateful for Harry's continuous support. Whilst we still expect to see him play for the Ramblers this summer (he is match manager for the match against the school), no doubt Kate and the family are happy they can now consider 2nd weekend June as a time to go on their family summer holiday.

We asked Harry to select the best Ramblers XI from those he has played with over this time (no easy task). Whilst selecting such a side will always lead to some debate, the quality of the team below highlights the excellence of Eton cricket and the importance today that both the school and Ramblers are able to sustain this. Perhaps the hardest decision was to name a Captain from a group with so many strong leaders. After due consideration, Matthew Fleming has been chosen to lead this side (in batting order). Harry doesn't select himself, which those who know him would understand. I am in no doubt that the side would be strengthened by his inclusion.

Rory Macleay (Cricketer Cup winner 1992 and 2001)

Astute thinker, strong cricket brain and excellent opening batsman. Marshalled us expertly to our win in 2001 and key performer in 1992 win too.

Matthew Fleming *

Formidable all-rounder; destructive batsman, clever bowler and gun fielder. Exceptional experience both on and off the field as Captain of Kent, England ODI cricketer and now as President of M.C.C..

Will Vanderspar (Cricketer Cup finalist 2011 and 2015)

The current Cricketer Cup skipper who has both the ability and run scoring appetite to beat all the competition's batting records. Fine batsman, skilful bowler and has every chance of following in the steps of Barclay and Macleay.

Alex Loudon (Cricketer Cup winner 2001 and finalist 2011 and 2015)

Talented all-rounder; first-class hundreds and five wicket hauls, sublime slip catcher and an impressive leader. Played one-day cricket for England in addition to Warwickshire and Kent. Match winner in 2001 final.

Ed Farley + (Cricketer Cup finalist 2011 and 2015)

Our answer to Gilchrist; explosive batsman and wicket keeper. T20 international cricketer with Jersey and the senior professional of the best Ramblers side today.

Hugo Loudon (Cricketer Cup winner 2001 and finalist 2011)

Versatile batsman and a fine player of spin. Capable slow left arm bowler and a key member of the Spin Academy. M.C.C. committee member.

Johnny Barclay (Cricketer Cup winner 1992)

Fine all-rounder; off spinner, batsman and excellent captain. Great cricketing pedigree; Captain of Sussex, England Tour Manager, former President of M.C.C. and now the Director of Cricket at the Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation. Beyond this, he will always be much heralded for having broken the Ramblers' Cricketer Cup duck in leading us to our inaugural win in 1992.

Matthew Rudd (Cricketer Cup winner 1992)

Brilliant athlete and very useful all-rounder who bowled rockets, scored runs and was a great fielder. Formed a key part of the unrivalled bowling attack of 1992.

Charlie Redmayne (Cricketer Cup winner 1992)

Another fine all-rounder; skilful seam and swing bowler, big striking batsman who is too good to bat as low as this (but such is the strength) and excellent slip catcher.

James Bruce (Cricketer Cup winner 2001 and finalist 2011)

Excellent seam and swing bowler who played 100 games for Hampshire before retiring. Great competitor and key contributor to many Cricketer Cup wins; none more so than his match winning innings in partnership with his brother, Rob, in the semi-final win at Wellington in 2001.

Jont Whittington (Cricketer Cup winner 1992)

Top drawer slow left arm spinner who was good enough to make his first-class debut for Middlesex as an 18 year old. A multi-talented individual who stopped playing cricket shortly thereafter and what was cricket's loss has been music's gain.

Lord's

The 2016 match will go into the record books as a draw. I am bound to say that, for the first time in my life, I felt a little sorry for Harrow. Last year we won the match, perhaps slightly fortuitously through the use of the Duckworth/Lewis method. This year the game was abandoned as a draw. I had to enquire of the Eton cricketing hierarchy why this was and, apparently, the D/L method is only used in such matches when there is a resumption of play after a rain break, but not when play is abandoned. My sympathy for Harrow subsided quickly and, happily, I can write about a most creditable draw!

Eton won the toss and put Harrow in to bat. The Eton bowling was generally very tight and only Reid for Harrow made a score of significance with 43. Eton used 6 bowlers 4 of whom conceded less than 4 runs per over and Ellison (2 for 28 in 9.5 overs), O'Brien (2 for 24 in 11 overs) and Rogers (3 for 21 in 9 overs) meant that Harrow were bowled out in 45.5 overs for only 163. However conditions were clearly not easy for batting and Eton quickly lost 2 wickets before 10 runs had been scored and all the Eton batsmen found the Harrow bowlers just as miserly as our own had been, with Nazir being particularly effective with 4 for 24 in 11 overs. Wickets were lost at regular intervals with only the Captain, Russell, (following in his father's footsteps as Captain) making a good contribution with 33. With just over 9 overs to go and 50 still needed with 2 wickets left, the rain came down. It would not be quite fair to say that Eton were saved by the rain, as, on the evidence available, the not out Ellison looked a very competent batsman. Nonetheless with 50 needed off 9 overs Eton were surely 2nd favourites at that point.

Finances

The finances of the Club are strong. The annual income is reliant on new members joining and paying their Life Membership subscriptions. This is topped up by the match fees paid by those playing in our matches, which, in theory, should cover the cost of putting on the match. Whilst we had a relatively low intake of new members last year, the Treasurer is content to leave all income payments unaltered.

We are very fortunate to have received a number of Legacies over the years, in particular, of course, the Cartwright Legacy which has formed the capital base of the Club for many years. I make no apology for again reminding members how important, long term, Legacies are for the Club.

Yet again I would strongly draw Members' attention (particularly new Members) to our stock of ties and sweaters held by the Treasurer. Every year I receive complaints from members about the cost of these items, if purchased elsewhere. This suggests that not everyone reads these pearls of wisdom! By all means check with other suppliers, but I can guarantee that you will be most pleasantly surprised by how much you will save by purchasing through the Club.

The Eton Rambler Fund

There are continuing discussions with the cricketing hierarchy at Eton about the most urgent requirements and members will be kept informed of any major developments on this front.

Club Dinner

It will be five years this October since our last dinner at Lord's. That was a major event, celebrating our 150 years. This year will be a rather smaller affair and will take place at Queen's Club on Wednesday, October 11th. There is a limit of about 110 at Queen's. Members will receive a circular with details of how to register for a place nearer the time and I would urge you to respond quickly to ensure a place.