

# ETON RAMBLERS

## NOTICE 1998

When Kent played Oxford University last summer each side was captained by a Rambler - Matthew Fleming and James Fulton.

It is believed that this last happened in 1962 when Hampshire (Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie) played Gloucestershire (Tom Pugh).

### *SEASON 1998*

A number of Ramblers were present on a cold and wet evening in April when the new pavilion on Upper Club was officially opened by Field Marshal Lord Bramall. The Ramblers had contributed to the cost in the form of an unmanned scoreboard at the opposite end of the ground operated by electronic remote control.

A successful season brought 15 wins against 6 losses; the weather again took a heavy toll with 9 matches rained off, including the Fourth of June. Luckily our season did not start until 10th May, or the toll would have been far higher: the opening of the pavilion took place two weeks after the start of the summer half, at which date not a ball had been bowled on any ground at Eton.

Rory MacLeay returned to the top of the batting averages with 591 runs, including three centuries, at an average of 79: Chris St George again headed the list of those who batted in less than 5 innings - but this year only averaged 74.

Among the bowlers "Magoo" Giles edged Rupert Gouriet out of first place, while Ben Cowan performed the first hat-trick for the Club for many years, against the Old Wykehamists. Reports have reached me that all three victims were caught, not all very close to the bat; whether or not that is true, a hat-trick is still a hat-trick and I am sure that I am not the only past Rambler bowler who would gladly have settled for such a result!

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### *CRICKETER CUP*

At last there is some success to report. Against the Old Blundellians on Agar's the Rambler bowling was too steady for our visitors, who quickly found themselves behind the clock. At the time when they should have started accelerating, at 68 for 2, instead they lost 7 wickets for 35 and, despite a spirited last wicket stand, were all out for 123, with 4 wickets for Dean and 2 each for Millar and Loudon.

MacLeay and Loudon put on 80 for the first wicket, and we won by 7 wickets with 17 overs to spare.

In the second round, played on Upper Club, where the electronic scoreboard seemed to work well, the Old Malvernians got off to a bad start by arriving one man short. My old friend George Chesterton, who had been with me on the original Cricketer Cup committee and who had organised Malvern's affairs so successfully in the early days of the competition, could not believe that they had come without a twelfth man: it is rumoured that he volunteered to take the field himself.

Neither the wicket nor the bowling seemed to hold many terrors for the Rambler batsmen, and everyone made a useful contribution, led by Fulton who hit the last ball of the innings for 6 and finished on 99 not out. When Malvern batted a wicket fell in the first over and, despite a good 60 from their other opener, the target was never threatened. Millar got 4 wickets, Dean 2 and Fleming, Loudon and St George 1 each.

All other things being equal, most sides in this competition, the Ramblers included, prefer to bat second. We played the Waifs at Bradfield in the third round on one of the hottest days of the summer, which might perhaps have been a reason to think twice. In any case the Waifs, with a strong batting side, took full advantage of a splendid wicket and scored 296 for 5. Their opening bowlers then restricted the Ramblers to less than 20 runs from the first 10 overs and their total was never seriously in danger. Fulton, St George, Morgan and Brooks all made useful contributions, but we could only muster 231.

Having broken the run of 5 years without a win, Rory MacLeay is confident that we can progress from here. In 1999 we are playing the

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Shrewsbury Saracens at home on 30th May, when support will be very welcome.

### *LORD'S 1998*

The debate about introducing a limited overs match continues; in an attempt to cater for all tastes a Gentlemen's Agreement was made whereby the side which batted first would limit its innings to no more than 65 overs; going by recent statistics this would leave slightly less than 60 for the side batting second. There was a good deal of optimism that this would prove to be a satisfactory formula, but the weather took a hand and, after five overs, no further play was possible before lunch. I do not know whether a recalculation was done, but such arithmetic is seldom satisfactory when so much time has been lost.

During the afternoon Bruce looked a distinctly hostile fast bowler, taking 6 Harrovian wickets for 40. The final Harrow total of 195 for 7 was out of reach after Eton had been reduced to 50 for 3, but Loudon and Maan brightened a miserably cold evening with a stand of 115, leaving Eton 30 short.

Next summer the match will be on Tuesday 29th June.

### *OVERSEAS TOURS*

While these notes are being printed the Ramblers are on tour in South Africa and Zimbabwe, under the management of Bruce Powell and Rory MacLeay. A report will be circulated to all members, but whether it will catch this mailing is not yet certain.

### *FINANCE*

As a result of reprinting the Address List the accounts show a loss for the year. The Hon. Treasurer assures us that this gives no cause for alarm.

### *RAMBLER DINNER*

This will be held on Thursday 21st October at the Inner Temple Hall, courtesy of their Treasurer, who was one of our speakers two Dinners ago, and on the introduction of another of their recent Treasurers, who spoke at the last Dinner. Please make a note of the date in your diary; details will be circulated in the summer.

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*FLOREAT ETONA*

Cedric Gunnery  
*President*

January 1999.