

# ETON RAMBLERS

## NOTICE 2013

### 2013 Season

The first thing that stands out in the results is the very high number of lost matches and that there was only one drawn game. The very simple reason is that more and more of our games, understandably, are played under limited over rules. In some ways this is sad as some of the very best and most exciting games that I have played in were close draws. In addition many of the arts of captaincy disappear as well as negating the wonderful moans that so often occurred when a cautious declaration took place.

Over the years we have drawn only a few less games than we have won and lost and, if this had been the case last season, normality would have prevailed. Therefore no cause for alarm in the results, I suggest.

Members will also note a tied game. This was the inter club T20 game played to celebrate the opening of the revitalised pavilion. The building is now restored to its former glory, largely thanks to the generosity of Johnnie Boden and several other notable donors. This was long overdue and the School have assured us that the preservation of its condition will be a high priority.

The game was a triumph and both sides made 163. It has to be admitted that the result was influenced by some hooligan-like behaviour by your President who ensured that John Dunnington-Jefferson was hampered whilst fielding the final delivery, thus allowing 3 runs rather than the rather obvious single that would otherwise have been the result. Enough said!

The batting averages are headed by Alex Ball with 253 runs at 84 and included a very good hundred against The Old Hurstjohnians. There were two other notable batting performances, both from those who batted in less than 4 innings. Will Vanderspar scored 223 runs at 111 and the hundred he got in the Cricketer Cup was in a losing cause but certainly none the worse for that. In addition Ben Cowen only dealt in centuries. His two appearances for the Club both resulted in 109 not out. More appearance, please Ben.

The individual bowling performance of the season came from Will Vanderspar who had the remarkable figures of 6 for 21 against the Bradman Foundation from Adelaide. Sadly, not an omen for the England bowlers when they went to Adelaide. Rory Macdonagh and Fergus Boyd were our hardest working bowlers with Rory being the top

wicket taker. However further mention should be made of the Hon Secretary's performances taking 13 wickets at 20.5 and scoring 160 runs at 40. He certainly leads from the front and deserves great support.

## **Cricketer Cup**

Our first round match against the Whitgift Mitres was a relatively straightforward affair against opposition who had given us a real scare 3 years previously. Our total of 293/8 was based round a most accomplished century by Alex Loudon and at no stage during their innings did they look like threatening to get close. An extremely efficient all round bowling and fielding performance restricted them to 159.

The second round took us to Cheltenham. Over the last 10 years the Old Cheltonians have produced increasingly good sides and there was no complacency. They batted well all through the order and we were not quite at our best in the field, neither was our bowling quite at full strength. Nevertheless their total of 254/8 was within our reach if we batted well. It would be unfair to say that we batted badly and, indeed, Will Vanderspar played beautifully for his 122. However, as so often happens in a long run chase, every time we looked like getting things under control, a wicket fell and knocked the innings off track. From halfway we looked to be coming second and our total of 233 left us 21 runs short.

**This season we have, yet again, been drawn to play The Old Malvernians away on Sunday, June 15th.**

## **Lord's**

Harrow won the toss and batted. Their openers got them off to a good start against testing bowling from Roy and Griffin and it was not until Mould came into the attack that first wicket fell to an excellent catch at cover by Carleton-Smith. Eckett was next to get a wicket with his first ball and soon after one of their stars, White, played no shot and was LBW to Mould. At lunch Harrow were reasonably placed at 100 for 3 with 30 overs to go.

After lunch Harrow tried to accelerate the scoring rate and wickets began to fall on a regular basis and, with Griffin ending up with 4 wickets, they were bowled out for a relatively modest 201.

Eton batted very sensibly throughout knowing that the run rate was unlikely to be a problem chasing 201. Langen and James set the trend with a steady start with James being particularly circumspect and scored a valuable 54 to add to the centuries in his two previous innings. Boyd, son of Jonathan who played for Eton in 1973 and 74, bowled well for Harrow and took the first wicket. This brought in Gnodde who proceeded to hold the innings together with an excellent 65 not out. Wickets fell at the other end, but

Eton continued to advance the score and an aggressive 37 by Halstead reduced the deficit sufficiently to enable us to weather a superb second spell by Boyd despite him taking 2 wickets. In true England, Their England style Roy was sent in to block out Boyd's last two overs and proceeded to hit him for 14 in one over including a six into the Tavern stand. This marked the end for Harrow and Eton had won by 5 wickets.

**The match in 2014 will be at Lord's on Saturday, June 21st.**

## **Finances**

For some years it has been the policy to ensure that the main costs of running the Club are covered by the entrance fees of new members. We have no annual subscriptions and, therefore, rely on new members for income. Match fees cover the costs of the umpire and ball for each match. Last year saw a small intake and there are inevitably variations year on year, but overall the policy works. Our Treasurer is content with the current situation and no changes are required.

Members, over the years, have been generous to us in their Wills and this year we received a Legacy of £5,000 from James Leonard (see Obituaries), and this will be recorded in next year's accounts.

**The Treasurer holds a stock of Club ties and sweaters, which are available to members at extremely attractive prices – try it and see.**

## **Obituaries**

The good news is that we have lost very few members this year, but this is counterbalanced by four of them probably having contributed as much to the Club in different ways, as any other four people over the last 40 years. There is no order of precedence here, alphabetical order seems right.

**Sir Mervyn Dunnington-Jefferson Bt.** Merv to everyone. From 1962 until the late 80s Merv played over 15 games per season on a regular basis and frequently over 20. He was an extremely effective slow medium in swing bowler, very accurate and of a type that few batsmen face and are, therefore, nervous of. His batting was better than he was normally prepared to admit, certainly good enough for him to have scored more than the single century, which was against Hurlingham. Fielding was perhaps his weakest discipline, but captaincy was not. He was a most enthusiastic Match Manager and an astute captain. He will be long remembered for the encouragement he gave to so many players younger than himself.

**Lord Kingsdown KG, PC.** Robin (Leigh-Pemberton) was an outstanding man in every sense of the word. Those lucky enough to have attended his Thanksgiving Service in Canterbury Cathedral will have heard what an exceptional leader of men he was

throughout all his business life. They will also have heard of his enormous contributions to the Cathedral and to Kent life in general. However, to Ramblers, he will be remembered primarily for the Tory Hill weekends, at which he and Rose entertained legions of variably behaved Ramblers year on year. For many of us that weekend (Match Managed for many years by Merv) went into the diary as soon as the new diary was available. Robin was a more than adequate wicket keeper and played for the Ramblers, Band of Brothers and I Zingari on a regular basis.

**James Leonard.** What can one say!! An eccentric, without doubt; unbelievably rude, particularly in his youth, to young Ramblers, without doubt; when he got to know you, a very loyal friend, without doubt; in his later years an enormous supporter of young Ramblers, without doubt. This latter point may surprise some, but, nevertheless, the leopard changed its spots in his late 30s when he suddenly realised what fun it was to be liked by those younger than himself. James was a brilliant Rackets player, only Geoffrey Atkins stopping him being World Champion and a very capable batsman. He was at his best in difficult situations on poor wickets, when his hand to eye co-ordination came to the fore. He played as many, if not more, games for the Club as Merv, made many more runs, but I trust never took a wicket, other than by talking the batsman out.

**Christopher Parsons.** The Vicar – so called only in part due to his name, but more because during his time at Eton his father was Vicar of Eton. At various times in his life, The Vicar was an Airline Pilot, Stockbroker, Wine Merchant and Estate Agent. I don't believe he did them all at the same time, but frequently two at a time. He rather tried to hide the fact that at Eton he was a "Tug", why, I am not sure as he was clearly very bright, well read and extremely good company. He was even thought to have bought a round of drinks at some point! He was a left handed bat, who liked to open, as, in his words, "the nicks go quicker to the boundary". He topped the Club's batting averages one year and regularly played over 10 games a year for us.

I have taken up a lot of space with just four members, but they were all an integral part of the Club's post war history. I have been asked if I could list all the members who we have lost during the year and the others of which I am aware are:- AKI Mackenzie-Charrington TD (CES 1936), Lord Plunkett (JHLL 1943), Col RA Coxwell-Rogers DL (JDU/DCW 1950), AF Raikes (PSS 1952).

*Floreat Etona*

PG Lowndes  
President