

# ETON RAMBLERS

## NOTICE 2000

We welcome Eric Anderson back to Eton as Provost. During his time as Head Master he was a good friend of the Ramblers, and we look forward to re-establishing that relationship.

We offer congratulations to two Vikings, Matthew Pinsent and Andrew Lindsay, who won gold medals at the Sydney Olympics. I wonder whether any member can tell me if a Rambler has ever won an Olympic gold medal.

2001 is Matthew Fleming's benefit season. He has given great service to Kent and not a little to the Ramblers, and I hope that many members will wish to support some of the events about which they will read in the papers.

### *RESULTS*

Once again we won more matches than we lost, but by the narrowest of margins, 12 to 11. The Hon. Sec. played most innings without quite producing his form of old, when he came top of the averages for 5 or 6 years running; let us hope that 2000 will prove to have been just a temporary "blip". Huntington, aided by a few "not out"s, just beat St. George and Loudon to head the batting averages, while Chetwood, the leading wicket taker, also had the best bowling average.

It is good to see that the Cricketer Cup team feature prominently in both sections of the averages for those who played in at least five matches.

Among our five centurians two, Vigors and Steel, only played that one innings for the club; I hope that Match Managers will spur them both to greater activity next summer.

### *CRICKETER CUP*

In the 1st round we played St Edwards Martyrs on a beautiful day at Oxford, when the spectators were well entertained by their President, my old friend John Woodcock. The Martyrs lost two early wickets to Bruce and Millar; despite a 3rd wicket stand of 79, the steadiness of the Rambler bowling kept the scoring rate below 3.5 per over throughout their innings, and 179 did not look like a winning score - and so it proved. MacLeay, Dixon, Loudon and

Next year we are drawn to play Highgate away on Sunday 10th June. The Hon. Sec. has been re-appointed Captain but has hinted that this will be his last year in the latter role. It is known that he wants to emulate John Barclay and win the cup and the experts seem to think that the draw is in our favour in 2001. He has promised to send me a map showing how to get to Highgate, and I am sure he will gladly do the same for any other member who asks; so I hope that considerable support will be present to start the Ramblers on a successful campaign.

### *LORD'S 2000*

The old order has finally yielded, 164 years of tradition have been sacrificed at the altar of progress and the Eton and Harrow has become an "overs" match. One should not judge such a change too quickly; if, after 5 years, this one has brought about an improvement in the skill of the boys and an increase in the attendance figures at Lord's then it will have proved a success. Let judgement be reserved.

Heavy overnight rain reduced the match to 40 overs, and Eton did well to restrict Harrow to 143/7, Aubery - Fletcher with 3 for 19 off his 8 overs being the pick of the bowlers. At 98 for 2 Eton seemed to be well placed with Ferreira going well, but one-day panic set in and Harrow emerged comfortable winners.

This year the match is back to a weekend - Saturday 16th June.

### *FINANCE*

Members will notice that in a year when we received no legacies or other donations, the accounts showed a healthy surplus. It is the committee's policy to keep the cost of playing for the Ramblers as painless as possible, particularly for the younger generation and the formula worked out by the Hon. Treas. a year ago seems to have got the figures just about right. Once again we elected a good number of new members in which operation the Master-in-charge continued to play a leading role.

### *OBITUARY*

The Earl of Cottenham (XI 1966/7 Capt 67) was one of the fastest bowlers Eton has produced since the war, with an action straight out of the coaching manual. He was one of the main stays of the Rambler attack in the early days of the Cricketer Cup when he often preferred to bowl after the early shine had been taken off the ball. More than a few opposing batsmen, congratulating themselves on having seen off the new ball attack of George Meyrick and Michael de Grey, were surprised to find, to their cost, that Charlie, coming on as first change, was a couple of yards faster.

Lord Cullen of Ashbourne was better known on the tennis court than on the cricket field. He was twice Amateur Champion in the years shortly after the war and his stroke was thought by many to be the best in the modern era.

*COMMITTEE*

In an uneventful year our thanks are due to Rory MacLeay, Michael Brooks and Piers Inkin for all they do for the Ramblers; and I should like to mention how grateful I am to my co-trustees, Brian Stevens and Peter Lowndes, for the support they give behind the scenes (in all respects bar one: I have not yet persuaded them that ten years is time enough for a President to serve).

*FLOREAT ETONA*

Cedric Gunnery  
*President*

January 2001.