

ETON RAMBLERS

President's Report 2018

I am delighted to report that Freddie Fox has agreed to become our new Hon Secretary. He succeeds Ed Bruce who I would like to thank for his time and commitment to running the Club over the past 4 years.

Felix Hartley Russell has agreed to become our new Hon Asst Secretary and James Hopton joins the Committee in October as our Hon Treasurer in waiting.

Our fixture list for 2019 is a good and varied one. Two Twenty20 Competitions, a welcome return of Rambler Cricket to the Borders (our last tour was in 1987 and we last played at Manderston in 1953), two games against touring Australian teams, some 2pm starts, some all day games and plenty of the matches on Upper Club, not a bad place to while away some hours.

May I encourage any member keen to play to contact the relevant match manager, Freddie or Felix. They will all be delighted to hear from you.

2018 Season

Of a scheduled 41 matches the Ramblers won 15, lost 13, drew 6, with 6 matches abandoned because of rain or cancelled. We also won by concession the first round of the Cricketer Cup.

Jack Halstead was our leading run scorer with 341 at 42.62 but top of the averages is Hector Hardman with 321 runs at 80.25.

We had 6 Rambler centurions in the season:

Hector Hardman 147 & 109 v Gloucestershire Gipsies & The School

Nick Harrington 148 v Earl of Carnarvon's XI

Olly Bradley 146* v Cryptics

Pete Eckersley 120 v Old Hurst Johnians

Jack Rogers 111 v Old Brightonians

Hugh Walters 100* v Old Seagullians

We also had 2 Rambler centuries for the opposition (playing with consent from the Match Manager):

George Loup 108 for the Earl of Carnarvon's XI

Alfie Gibbs 102 for Christ Church

Freddie Fox was again our leading wicket taker, snaring 21 wickets from his 73.2 overs at 16.76 but top of the averages is Frankie Ashworth with 8 wickets from 25 overs at 12.87.

We had 4 Rambler 'five-fors' in the season:

Freddie Fox 7 for 48 v Old Amplefordians

Nick Harrington 6 for 55 v Sherborne Pilgrims

Frankie Ashworth 5 for 50 v Sussex Martlets

Justin Langen 5 for 99 v The Guards

The Ramblers came out on top again in the quadrangular Twenty20 competition featuring the Harrow Wanderers, Marlborough Blues and the Old Wellingtonians.

The Fourth of June saw victories for the Ramblers against the XI and XXII, a rare occurrence, and for the first time in many years both East Anglian matches were won.

The Cricketer Cup

We had a decent run in the Cup this year defeating Brighton and Tonbridge before losing our quarter final match against an excellent Cranleigh side, the eventual winners.

We travelled to Brighton and batting first put on 320 for 7, with Jack Rogers making 111. He is the youngest Rambler to make 100 in the Cricketer Cup and the first to make one on debut. When the rain arrived Brighton were 122 for 5 and play was abandoned. Recently rewritten Cricketer Cup rules had not allowed for this situation (play abandoned at the first rain interval) but only for an abandonment if the game had had a restart. Brighton sportingly conceded the match.

We played Tonbridge on a baking hot Upper Club, lost the toss and unsurprisingly were in the field. A very good bowling performance restricted Tonbridge to 180, with Will Vanderspar 4 – 28 and Ed Fenwick 3 – 24 the pick of the bowlers. After a good start, 63 for 1, we wobbled a bit, 79 for 4, but then partnerships between Nico MacDonagh, Jamie Gnodde, Felix Hartley Russell and Ed Bruce saw us home for the loss of 6 wickets. A fine win.

We travelled to Cranleigh on another hot day, won the toss and elected to bat on a quick bouncy track. 15 for 2, 41 for 3, 81 for 5.... and then an excellent stand between Will Vanderspar and Jack Halstead, both batting beautifully. The first 50 of their partnership came off 67 balls, the next 50 rather less and things were looking up at 188 for 5. But then the dreaded Rambler collapse – Vanderspar played on for 97, Halstead holed out for 45 and we were all out for 214. Cranleigh made it look easy making the runs in 40 overs for the loss of 2 wickets. They looked a very good side and it was no disgrace for the Ramblers.

We play the Shrewsbury Saracens at Shrewsbury on Sunday June 16th and as ever any support is most welcome.

Lord's

On a beautiful day at Lord's the Eton XI surprised the pundits by beating the favoured Harrow side with a wonderful team performance.

Eton won the toss, elected to bat and settled the nerves with a 45 run opening partnership between Anscombe and Elias. Elias and Lyons took us to lunch at 126 – 1 and on resumption, having just reached the 100 partnership, Elias was lbw sweeping Ali the off spinner for 70. Adair (24) and

Lyons (56) upped the pace before both falling to Chohan, the impressive Harrow wrist spinner, 195 – 5. Thistlethwayte (29*) tried to keep the momentum going but the Harrow bowlers made it increasingly difficult with Eton finishing on 237 for 7 from their 55 overs.

Our opening bowler Gammell was a handful from the Nursery End but it was Penny, coming on first change at the Pavilion End, who made the breakthrough, trapping the Harrow opener lbw. Next over Penny clean bowled the Harrow number 3, Sheopuri, with a fine inswinger, 37 – 2 and the Eton tails were up. Gammell's efforts were justifiably rewarded when he had the left hander Wijeratne trapped in front and the other opener lbw shortly after. 49 – 4 with Harrow's two best batsmen back in the pavilion. Eton did not allow the Harrovians any way back, with the left arm spin of Elias (4 for 11) and off spin of Mathur (2 for 28) finishing them off in 39.4 overs with 123 on the board.

A terrific victory and congratulations to Tim Roberts, Cricket Professional and Richard Montgomerie, Master in Charge of the XI for preparing the boys so well.

Tim Roberts is also the Master in Charge of Cricket and it is fair to say that Eton Cricket has been under resourced on the coaching front as a result. It is very good news therefore that Eton have secured Merwe Genis as Assistant Cricket Professional for the Summer Half. Merwe is a South African and was previously Head Coach at Oundle.

This year the Lord's match is being played much earlier on Monday May 27th (Bank Holiday) due to the ICC World Cup being staged at Lord's in June. Do come along and support if you can.

Finances

The Club finances are in good order, returning an overall net surplus for the year of just over £1,400. This is due to an increase in the number of new members and a reduction in expenditure re the contribution to the Club dinner and Rambler Cricketer Cup memorabilia.

May I point out that our Hon Secretary holds a good stock of Rambler Sweaters and Ties at extremely competitive prices. If you need either or both please do order from us.

RIP

1945	J.D.I.S. Beardmore-Gray Esq
1951	Sir Roger Gibbs
1954	P.S.S. Hill-Wood Esq
1944	Sir Julian Lloyd KCVO, DL
1953	M.O.J. Nickerson Esq
1966	M.N.F. Proudlock Esq
1977	A.C.J. Stormonth-Darling Esq
1967	R.W. Turner Esq
1956	D.A.J. Vaughan Esq CBE, QC
1949	M.J. Wilbraham Esq
1953	P.S. Wilmot-Sitwell Esq
1968	A.C. Wilson Esq

Other

The Ramblers will be touring South Africa in February 2020 and all playing members will receive details during the summer. It may be possible for a few non-playing members to join the party and anyone who might be interested please contact the Hon Sec.

The Fourth of June is on Saturday 15th June and for any Ramblers attending may I point out that Tea is generously provided by the School in the Agars Pavilion.

And to close may I congratulate Mark Davies on his appointment as Chairman of British Rowing – a definite first for a Rambler!

Floreat Etona

M H Brooks
President