

## **Chorleywood Cricket Club Captain's Reports 2012**

### **Cricket Manager – Rohan Lee**

The obvious highlight of the season was the unbeaten run by the Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> XI in Division 1 of the Saracens Herts League. However this shouldn't detract from some of the excellent performances in our other XIs throughout the season, and our Indoor VI in winning Redbourn Indoor League Division 2 at the end of 2011.

Thank you to all the captains for their outstanding efforts in getting out a team each week, sometimes in extreme difficulties. In particular Tom in his first season leading the 1<sup>st</sup> to Division 1 Champions!

Thank you also to all of our fantastic volunteers who make our matches possible and (more often than not) all of our days all the more enjoyable, in providing our teas, scorers, and umpires.

Quite what next season will hold for the club remains unclear, both in terms of the league structure and our own set up, but we are in a great place to take on whatever challenges and opportunities come our way.

### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> XI – Tom Smithson**

Going into the 2012 we were looking to build upon a strong 2011. Primarily the aim was to enjoy our cricket with the hope that this would translate into performance on the pitch. My feeling prior to the season that it would be harder to lose fewer games than 2011, but my hope was that we would be able to turn some of the draws from 2011 into victories by playing a more positive brand of cricket.

Not in my wildest dreams could I have imagined what a successful season we would have. Finishing as champions by a massive 77 points, winning 13 of the 15 games that were completed and going the whole season unbeaten was just an unbelievable year.

As much as stats are important personally, making game changing performances is what defines a season and everyone who played this season made vital contributions which won us games and I think everybody in the side can look back and take great pride from their own personal performances.

The bowling attack was brilliant, Ryan Evans, who will be a massive hole to fill, not just on the pitch but in and around the club as a whole, led the bowlers union; Will Pendered, Duncan Watson, Peter Dunning, Pat Fullarton, Johnny Rice and 16 year old Josh Ryan, who took to first team cricket like a duck to water. All bowled some crucial spells this year and there are far too many stand out performances to mention, it was an absolute dream as captain to have an attack that bowled so well all year.

When the bowling attack is knocking over the opposition for less than 100 most weeks, it was tough for any of the batsmen to make many runs, and Ed Lye and Rohan Lee made sure that no one else had to bat, scoring the lion share of the runs. When needed though, the rest of the batsmen stood up and made important contributions, from Freddie Dare scoring a vital 24\* to get us over the line in the first game of the season after a bit of a wobble, to Andrew Dunning guiding us to victory against runners-up Knebworth in a tight one wicket win with an excellent 49, Scott Aspinall dragging us up to a defendable score in tough conditions at Totteridge and Chris Tweedie scoring 88 after being inserted on a green wicket at Flitwick.

I would like to thank everyone who played this year, who made my first season as captain such a pleasure and helped me along the way. I think that at the heart of any successful side is enjoyment of the game and enjoyment of each other's company. I feel this was a big part of our success this year and I hope this will continue as we move forward as a team.

#invincibles

#### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> XI – Jeff O'Dwyer

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Prior to season commencement, goals included:

- Stay in League 5
- Finish ahead of last year
- Have at-least one player progress to 1's
- Have 2 batsmen and 2 bowlers appear in end of season averages

Goals one and two achieved, albeit unconvincingly, as we finished 13th, two better than last year. Statistically our season comprised 19 Games, 6 wins, 8 losses, nil draws and 5 washouts for 274 points. We avoided relegation by 46 points and promotion by 129! Like last year, we had circa 40 players contribute with some notable (ball led) performances from Russell Hodgkinson (7 for 24 v West Herts (we lost!)), Lyndon Ryan (6-17 v Clifton (won - just)), Simon Moore (6-33 v Hitchin (won)) and Johnny Rice (6 – 49 v Broxbourne). Whilst with the bat, a rather underwhelming effort with only 4 fifties (versus 10 in 2011) – two from Matt Rose (92 v Datchworth and 51\* v Old Chom II) and one each from Josh Hodson (50 v Preston debut) and skipper (70 v Preston).

Given the phenomenal efforts of the 1's, goal 3 proved difficult. Ryan Toms and Jamie Smithson were rewarded with games in the top side. Matt Rose's dominance of second eleven cricket should soon see him move up, should he wish.

Goal 4 resulted in one player (Matt Rose) making the averages book (246 runs at 35) with rain the main spoiler for others. Or in the case of Simon Moore, a slight case of the yips! However he finished with 19 wickets (at 16.6).

Worth noting the performance of some of the younger kids (Gavin Brown (6 wickets at 7.2 average), Lyndon Ryan (12 at 9.6) Josh Hodson (classy debut 50), and the not so young guns: Russ (16 wickets at 12.6), JR and Pat (both circa 10 wickets at 10).

Special thanks to Mike Reeve, Alex Hodgkinson and Jeremy Hinds who as a result of my knee lameness, picked up the skippering pieces. Staying up has a lot to do with them. It is great that we stayed up but we should be achieving better. Hopefully stronger availability from the younger brigade will ensure this for 2013.

Huge thank you to our stalwart John's (Chadwick / Jenkins) who's umpiring and scoring efforts are hugely appreciated. In addition, great to have the services of Steve Ord, John Watkiss and Ken Moore who gratefully made themselves available to fill in.

## Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> XI – Jeremy Hinds

Instead of running through each game I thought I would pick out some season highlights.

We saw 2 centuries this year; a superb hundred from Darey away at Hertford nearly brought us an unlikely win. Typical pull shots and solid cover drives on a good deck reminded us (not for the only time in the season) how good he can be on his day. The 2<sup>nd</sup> century was one that pleased me the most, Matt Rose's hundred against Preston was chanceless and measured beyond his years. Again, similar to Tom I hope he can make the step to the 2's and 1's next year.

Tom Bindloss showed us what he can do with the bat with a stylish half century against Flamstead, I'm hoping he can make a bigger impact next year in the 2's and the 3's.

Steve Dunning was another solid performer over the season. What was most impressive was the fact he scored his runs when everyone else seemed to fail, stepping up to the plate on a number of occasions. His 40 at Potters Bar won us the game after being 4-4 and his 57 at Datchworth from all accounts was even better. Martin Tyler popped in with 2 big scores (play more Saturday cricket Junior!) as did our resident Kiwi Geoff who sadly has returned down under.

On the bowling side, the most pleasing part of the season was seeing Rosie back playing (and I think he even enjoyed himself at times). The smile on his (and Darey's) face at Potters Bar after we had defended 90 and he'd taken 4 wickets was probably the highlight of my year! Highlights also included Simon Moore's 5 wickets on an interesting astro at North Mymms which got the team off to a flying start. Nige also popped in with a cheeky 5 for at Potters Bar, bowling with unerring accuracy.

The skipper's first ever 6 wicket haul at home to Flamstead, helped by the team actually catching everything that came towards them were the best figures of the year, however Will Bryant's 4-16 at West Herts was in my view the best bowling performance of the year. Will bowled with flight, turn and variation to confuse many an adult batsman!

The team this year has had an excellent balance of youth and more experienced players. Players like Gavin Brown, Josh Bungard and Will Bryant have a big future at this club and their mature performances at times over the season show what the 3<sup>rd</sup> team is all about. A special note should go to Ed Rogers, who at the age of 14 (and about 5 foot!) kept wicket for more than half the games, taking 4 catches and scoring a decent 38 at home to Welwyn. He was even beginning to learn how to sledge by the end of the year thanks to the skipper's murmurings from first slip.

All in all a decent season; this team can get promoted, if we'd had some luck (certain people not walking from Abbots) and taken our catches who knows where we could have ended. Thanks should go to the stand in skippers, tea ladies, the scorers and umpires over the year and to everyone who has played for taking their Saturday's out to listen to me rambling for 7 hours non stop.

Much Love

Beans

#### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> XI – Charles Hardcastle

The fourths finished top of league 13....after the first weekend, with a win and only two games being played across the county!

As usual this season the oldans did the batting and the youngans did the bowling and ran around the field with boundless energy sweeping up in the covers, diving around, and tag teaming to save twos and threes. Sam Hatfield, including a magnificent 80 against Hertford, and Robert Wheal contributed solidly with the bat. Will Bryant, Martin Henderson, Cieran Lad, Harry Hardcastle, Bexley Andrew, Rohan Dua, Alex Wheal, Robert Kennedy, Matt Hodson, and Vikash Dodhia toiled mightily with the ball throughout the summer.

The notable exceptions to this rule were Callum Neal, who accumulated an impressive 64 against Parkfield, and on the bowling front, Neil Hodson, whose economy rate for the season remained under 3 whilst leading the wicket take. Neil has become a stalwart of the fours putting his not inconsiderable body on the line time and again, playing with pulled muscles, and always keen to bowl that extra over.

The left arm seamer action can be a beautiful thing and against Old Elizabethan's it was poetry in motion with three young left armers, Bexley Andrew, Cieran Lad, and Michael Brown giving us an impressive display of in-swing and off-cut.

In all, 17 colts played for the 4s and there is plenty of future potential for the club coming through. It was particularly encouraging to see the skill and determination of Will Bryant rewarded with his first five-for for the Club against Datchworth followed by a regular call up to the thirds.

As is our mission we had many father-son combos playing, on occasion we had 8, and once ten players being father-sons. Thanks all for mucking in since we have to do all our own scoring, umpiring, and general humping around of equipment. It has been fun, but all too short – roll on next season!

#### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> XI – Fred Dare

The usual challenges faced the Sunday first XI, availability was a constant struggle when the 1sts and seconds were playing on the same day (getting one side out was considerably easier). However despite this we managed to win two good close games against Harpenden and Cockfosters, also put in an exceptional performance against Brondesbury winning by 10 wickets with an extremely young side. On the flip side we also were on the receiving end of some large loses by Chingford (6 wickets), Chesham (9 wickets) and Holtwhites Trinibus (236 runs) not great for the young players confidence. Over the course of the year there were some good individual performances:

- Rohan Lee 97\* vs. Cockfosters
- Josh Hoson 43\* vs. Brondesbury
- Will Pendered 4-6 vs. Brondesbury
- Will Pendered 4-18 vs. Bessborough

A few thank you's for the season firstly to Rohan Lee and Nigel Tyler for the help in selecting the side on a Sunday. Also to Will Pendered and Jeremy Hinds for skippering the side during the second half of the season.

John Chadwick also did a great job in co-ordinating the umpires and made sure every Sunday we had an umpire and deserves massive credit for this.

## Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> XI – Nigel Tyler

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As most of the Sunday friendly season was decimated by the rain I will concentrate on the league season only. In contrast we managed to play 8 of the scheduled 9 games in division 6 this year with varying degrees of success, although the overriding feeling was one of the season being a successful one.

So, we played 8, won 5 and lost 3 ... the wins generally being convincing and the losses generally being equally convincing in reverse. This led to us yet again having the possibility of promotion at the end of the season however, with West Herts losing unexpectedly, we ended up in 4<sup>th</sup> place and missing out on promotion by one place. Clearly this will have little impact on where we end up playing in 2013 anyway.

Highlight of the season was the exorcising of the Chingford ghost from 2003 (when we lost by 202 runs on the hottest day of the year) by winning a close game with what was originally considered to be a weakened side. The emergence of Will Bryant was particularly pleasing as he bowled with great control and variation to confuse batsmen who assumed they should be bashing him to all parts! The lowlight was yet again being smacked around by West Herts 1<sup>st</sup> eleven players in division 6.

Player of the season for me was Retty who hit 278 runs @ 55 and consistently bowled far too well for the batsmen to hit, which unfortunately resulted in a lack of wickets but also kept the runs down. He was ably supported by a cast of other players however, including Martin Tyler, Simon Dare and, latterly, Andy Elsmore on the batting front and Nigel Tyler and Jeremy Hinds on the bowling front. Andy Orange also had a pretty good year behind the stumps.

An enjoyable season all in all.