

Cricket

Review

Cricket fights a continuous battle against enormous pressure placed upon our students during the summer examinations, especially at the top end of the school. Having said that we have a band of determined and dedicated pupils who still look on representing the College as an honour. Thank you for all your efforts, on and off the field.

At 1st team level this was a season in which we were looking to the future. Unfortunately three players key to next year's progression have moved on to pastures new. My best wishes and thanks go to Anil Mahey, Asam Mohammed and Nathan Giles.

Elsewhere we are also losing three quality players from Mr Lea's Under 13s – James Nott, Rushil Bhanderi and Simon Hunter; you will all be difficult to replace. However their departure will offer others the opportunity to represent the College.

Congratulations go to Anil Mahey, his brother Aran, James Murray and Naveem Saleem on gaining county honours.

My thanks as usual go to my colleagues for their dedication in managing their teams. Messrs Stevens, Lea, Bodenham, Duckworth, Kitchingman, Chadwick and Alderman. A special mention must go to Mr Bodenham for his time and effort with the Under 14s which saw such a significant improvement in playing performances.

We are the envy of many schools with our excellent pitches and thanks go to Paul Moran, head groundsman, and Trevor and Steve, his assistants, for producing such good surfaces to play on. Now we need to raise the quality of the nets!

Also thanks to Clive Ryan and his catering staff and Lorraine and Sam for all their understanding and help with the food and travelling arrangements.

Finally to all the parents who support their sons and daughters, without question a big thank you.

NRT

1st XI

At the end of our first match of the season I really believed this year was going to be special. Having thoroughly outplayed a strong Trinity XI, with them hanging on for a draw with 9 wickets down, I thought the potential shown last year was about to be fulfilled. How wrong! The number of times we got into strong positions only to throw them away were too numerous to count. Our bowling in the seam department was severely weakened with the absence of Paul Roscoe with a neck injury. We wish him all the best for a full and speedy recovery. The remaining seamers failed to find any consistent line and length and therefore rarely threatened. This only put more pressure on the spinners and try as they might they found it hard work without the early breakthrough. The batting also lacked consistency and rarely functioned as a unit.

Back to the Trinity game. The team had practised hard and were well prepared for the first match of the season. A score of 200 was excellent and the bowling and fielding nearly brought the victory the performance deserved. So near. To see the Trinity XI punching the air because they had avoided defeat was very sweet.

At a 160-3 chasing Eltham's 240 things were looking promising. 20 minutes later 180 all out. Alex Darroch made a super 75 and Johnnie Yirrell took three wickets with his left arm spinners. The slide had begun.

A most disappointing defeat by 6 wickets to Colfe's continued the slide. With the exams approaching practices became infrequent and the team's performances suffered as a result. There were so many things to work on and very few seemed prepared to put in the necessary work to correct these faults. Very frustrating but something we have to put up with during the exam period.

A dreadful start in both innings against Caterham left us with a mountain to climb and yet a victory was still within our grasp. A partnership of 103 between Anil Mahey (57) and Will Taylor (47) gave a total to defend. Nathan Giles bowled superbly but eventually the home team won by 5 wickets.

A draw at Sutton Valence with Alex Darroch posting another half-century stopped the losing run as did the draw with Alleyn's. Johnnie Yirrell again bowled well with 4-36. But in neither game did we threaten the home sides totals.

The worst performance was saved for King's, Rochester. They made over 300 and we were dismissed for 150. There was very little to say afterwards. The high point of the day was Will Taylor's six which struck the school mini-bus setting off the alarm!

Two five wicket defeats at the hands of Bancrofts and Westminster continued the losing sequence. Captain Stephen Giddins showed a welcome return to form in both matches. The Westminster game had to be seen to be believed. Wanting 120 runs with 5 wickets left in the remaining 15 overs the home team cruised to victory with 3 overs left. Matthew Kitchingman, brought into the team from the Under 15s was the pick of the bowlers.

The next match, against the XL Club, was unfortunately abandoned because of the rain, as was the game against the Headmaster's XI. Sandwiched in between was the most remarkable performance of the season and left Mr Stevens and myself pinching ourselves. A strong MCC posted 200 and at 90-5 Dan Kitchingman strode to the wicket. In a breathtaking exhibition of clean hitting coupled with James Murray's mature innings, a four wicket victory was achieved. Cue for unbridled celebration. At long last I could get my victory speech out! What was so frustrating was to see the team play so well so late in the season. The ability was there; we just needed to show it more often. Matthew Kitchingman's figures of 9-6-18-0 were outstanding. His first six overs were all maidens.

The Old Boys' 'hospitality' proved too much for a quickly tiring team. Although there was still time for the spin twins Giddins and Bell to take four wickets each. Nathan Giles was named Man of the Match.

So a very frustrating season finished with only one win and that was against the strongest team we played all season. You can see why I am losing my hair! But I still approach next season full of confidence as we have the ability to do well. Players with the skill of Darroch, Murray, Taylor, Yirrell, McMillan and the Kitchingmans should see some greatly improved performances next season.

Many thanks to Stephen Giddins for all the sterling work he has done for the 1st XI over the last four years, the last two as skipper. We will miss your punishing stroke play. Good luck to Nathan Giles and Anil Mahey who leave for pastures new. Keep up the good work.

NRT

2nd XI

For the second successive year this team proved to be the surprise package of all the cricket teams put out during the

summer. However after the first match of the season one would hardly have expected the seconds to remain undefeated for the rest of the year.

The game against Trinity was awful. A heavy defeat in which John Yirrell's 3 wickets were the only bright spot. Not one batsman reached double figures in our reply.

The next match was undoubtedly the most exciting of the season. Chasing a total of 121, set by Eltham, consistent batting from Sameer Patel, Thy Hoang and Richard Hall left the scores level with three balls left and two wickets in hand. But two run outs left a remarkable game tied.

Sameer Patel dominated the game versus Colfe's. Batting first he scored half of the total of 132 and then took two crucial wickets in Colfe's reply. Asam Mohammed also gave a glimpse of his potential with two early victims. Winning the match by 15 runs was an excellent result.

Good bowling from Matt Kitchingman, John Yirrell and Asam Mohammed restricted a strong Caterham XI to 140. Johnnie Greene and John Yirrell both with 50s saw the team through to a 4 wicket win.

In the final game of the season a strong 2nd XI strengthened with several first teamers from Year 12 heavily defeated a game Dulwich team. Kemal Tuccaroglu in his last match for the College produced a blistering innings of 67 not out. Great support from Xavier Wing-Hing and Will Taylor ensured a winning total of 172. In reply Retin Patel and Asam Mohammed claimed three victims apiece to see us through to a comfortable win.

Congratulations to all in this team and especially captain Richard Britten who led the team superbly. My thanks to Mr Lea and Mr Stevens for their help with running the team.

NRT

U15 XI

Managers : R A Duckworth, P Kitchingman
 Played: 10 Won: 4 Lost: 6

Throughout the season we struggled to get runs. We obviously missed the batting of James Murray, who was playing for the 1st XI, in our Saturday games. The bowling was generally good, as was our fielding and effort. The availability of the players, apart from 1 game, was excellent and we often had 13 players regularly reporting for duty.

Our leading run scorers were M. Kitchingman 193 runs, I. Upson 153 runs and D. Woolgar 143 runs. Our leading wicket takers were L. Hunter (14 wickets), B. Wakefield (11



wickets) and M. Kitchingman (10 wickets).

Matthew Kitchingman skippered the side well in his first year as captain. It is a hard job to captain and also to be the leading all-rounder, but he managed it very well. I have enjoyed taking this side for the last few years and I hope that a few of them will graduate to the 1st XI in the next couple of years. I wish them every success.

RAD

Under 15 Results

SDC	82	(M Kitchingman 36*)
Trinity	83-3	
Eltham College	107-9	
SDC	34	
SDC	77	
Colfe's	52	(Sanjay 3-4)
Ravensbourne	38	(M Kitchingman 3-14)
SDC	39-1	
SDC	76	
Sutton Valence	81-1	
Alleyn's	104-5	
SDC	65	
SDC	198-3	(Woolgar 56, M Kitchingman 42, Upson 68*)
King's (Rochester)	93-6	
Eltham College	95	(Hunter 3-7)
SDC	70	
SDC	200-9 dec	(Upson 32*, Woolgar 31, M. Kitchingman 55)
Dulwich	165	(Hunter 3-39)
SDC	99-6	(Taro 33)
Bancrofts	101-6	

U14 XI

We always knew that it was going to be a tough season as the group had had little success over the past two years. We all sat down together and we outlined our aims for the year. To be reliable; to be a team player; to be committed to the cause; to encourage each other in all the games; to have fun! Some of the boys did not feel that they could fulfil the criteria set out and so they left the group but those who stayed did a great job throughout the year. The squad set out to achieve their best performances that they could and to a man they did not let anyone down. Our first game against Trinity was a trial as their batsmen proved too powerful for us, however, Dan Wiseman turned in a good spell of bowling and as captain set an excellent example. On to Langley Park, where the wicket favoured the bowlers. We set a very low total of 42 and did not look comfortable but nor did their batsmen against Arun Mahey who took 5 wickets. Unfortunately, the opposition crept over the winning line with just 2 wickets to spare. Up came the Kent Cup against Bexley GS, and resilient batting by both Arun Mahey and Alex Taylor allowed us to achieve a total of 84-7 in 20 overs. Once again, our bowlers turned in an improved performance and Dan Wiseman (3-9), Adam Clarke (2-7) and Arun Mahey (4-6) gained the team their first ever win! On to Colfe's; a side against which we have hardly scored a run or taken a wicket. Once again the boys achieved new highs

scoring a respectable total but were unable to claim the necessary wickets. Never mind, the players were breaking new ground and enjoying cricket. The next two games against Sutton Valence and Dartford GS proved too difficult for one reason only; both teams had an outstanding batsman who scored the vast proportion of their runs. However, to the boys' credit they never once gave up. Allyn's amassed a good total though once again the boys proved themselves capable of achieving their individual targets with Tom Stilwell playing a strong innings coming in the middle order. King's Rochester gave Arun Mahey (50) and Dan Wiseman (20) a chance to build their confidence at the crease. Once again despite posting their best ever score the team lost to two excellent opening batsman who on a flat track and fast outfield proved too powerful for our out-cricketer. For the third time the team posted 100+ runs, something they had never achieved in previous seasons, against Bancrofts. Mahey again proved difficult to play but our back-up bowlers proved less accurate. Finally to Dulwich College – obviously a tough game for us but one which we approached in a positive mind. The opposition scored well though Adam Clarke came good, taking 4-26 to curtail their innings. Once more the team scored 100+ runs with Dan Wiseman top scoring; Arun Mahey looked at ease but was senselessly run out and Sean Dean made his top score of the season.

All the boys deserve mention for how they approached the season and how they stuck at it and undoubtedly improved as the weeks passed. Robert Musselbrook took to wicketkeeping and produced some fine performances behind the stumps and Alex Taylor looks promising as a left arm seam bowler. There is a lot to do but they have proven to themselves that it is possible to develop as long as you set goals and you are prepared to work hard to achieve them. I thank the team for all their efforts and for entertaining me and giving me fewer grey hairs on my head than I expected. Well done to all of you!

Squad: Dan Wiseman ©; Arun Mahey; Robert Musselbrook; Alex Taylor; Tom Badminton; Tom Stilwell; Adam Clarke; Sean Dean; Pierre Tailleux; Alex Andrews; Sundeep Patel; Sami Hussein; Efe Igharoro; Seran Ziya; Tom Kemp

RDB

U13 XI

The U13A cricket team played a total of eight matches during the season. Unfortunately, they were only able to achieve two wins amongst some heavy defeats.

After an encouraging season last year, this is very disappointing. The high points of the year were the 20 run win over Langley Park (thanks largely to the 70 run partnership for the second wicket between the captain Rashil Bhanderi and Julian Addo) and the 50 run victory over Sutton Valence after scoring 189-6. This match saw the only half century by a St Dunstan's batsman in the season (Calum Sharma 54 not out).

The team cannot be faulted for enthusiasm or commitment. They practised assiduously. However, every piece of advice tended to go out the window once battle commenced. If they are to become a successful side in future years they must be prepared to listen and take heed of the words of experience.

The one real cricketer in the team was the Captain, Rashil. He had the highest aggregate of runs for the year with an average of 25 (many not outs to help). He was also

by far the most economical bowler. Although he turns his off-breaks less than last year he has developed greater variation of flight and pace. It is this skill which could enable him to achieve representative honours in future.

James Nott this year played a batsman only and by the



end of the season he was making the scores of which he is capable with a fine 41 in the last match of the season. The other major batsman was Simon Hunter (who also kept wicket). His defence has come on considerably and on most occasions reached double figures without going on further. These three pupils left the College this summer for pastures new. This means that next year Calum Sharma, Julian Addo and Karim Johnson will have to be more consistent in their performances. It also provides opportunities for Jack Allery, Jack Hand and Newcome Edwards to move up from the 'B' team.

The bowling, Bhanderi apart, was very disappointing. They lacked consistency of line and length, which meant that we were unable to experiment with Daniel Nightingale's chinamen and googlies. I absolve Javan Pyne from criticism, as he has not been playing the game for long and with the potential pace that he has at his disposal once he gets everything under control he could become the mainstay of future sides. The other bowlers who have been playing since they were in the Junior School need to ask themselves did they really knuckle down to the task properly.

Having had my gripes, they are still very young and with hard work will surely come success in the future.

RWL

U13B XI

The U13B team only played two of the scheduled four matches through rain. Yet again they failed to record a victory but their commitment in matches is to be praised. The team was captained by Edward Craggs who played as an off break bowler. Hamesh Patel opened the attack with Michael Twerdochlib. The former bowled accurately the latter with a very suspect action. The back up was provided by Danny Nightingale's left arm chinamen. Edward, Hamesh and Danny all appeared for the A team at various times. The batting was dominated by two players – Jack Hand who averaged 22 for the matches played and Newcome Edwards who had a highest score of 32 against Eltham. David Gray somehow managed to keep wicket soundly to the assortment of bowlers the team called upon. With the top of the 'A' team leaving the College at the end of the academic year a number of the above will be asked to fill in places in the senior side next summer.

U12 XI

A fairly successful season for the A squad, who recorded two wins, four losses and one draw. The team lost its first three games, and was still very much learning how to play the sport. The first game, against Trinity, was slightly one-sided merely because their opponents had obviously played the game before. For many of our team, this was their first proper experience of cricket and some of them froze, getting themselves out cheaply. Saleem and Hinton made our score look respectable, whilst Burnard bowled very well.

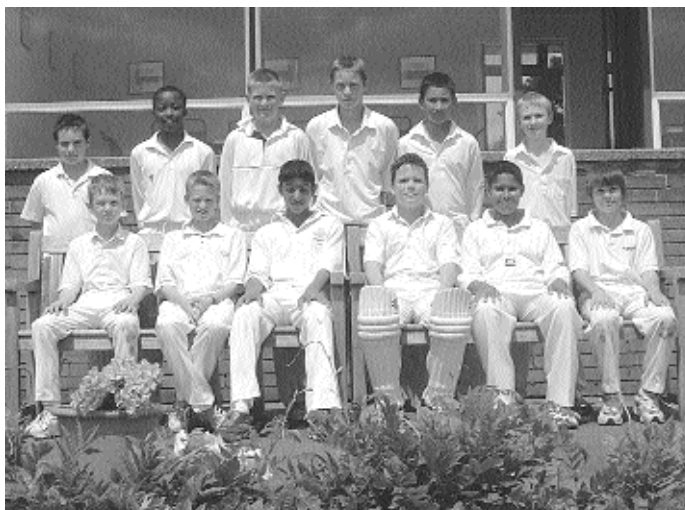
Our next match against Langley Park was a bit more disappointing. This was a match we ought to have won, but

learn and improve.

The B team played three matches but was unfortunate not to win any of them. Notable amongst this squad of players are Brown, who though erratic shows much promise and Howells, who batted very well at times.

I would like to thank the parents who attended the matches and provided the team and myself with much needed support. The team has the potential to go far.

ABC



unfortunately many batsmen again failed to deliver. A spirited knock from Saleem again made us look better than we were, having managed to bowl Langley out for a very cheap total. Hinton, Burnard and especially Tolaram, as well as Saleem, bowled well.

We lost to Dartford in the Kent Cup, had our match against Colfe's cancelled, and so the team went without a match for several weeks. When we eventually played Dulwich, it seemed that hours of patient coaching and practice had paid off. Saleem took a hat-trick in this match and he and Jefferys both batted exceptionally well. The fielding was good and we captured a well-deserved win.

We defeated Alleyn's in a limited overs match, due in most part to excellent bowling, but Jefferys again batted extremely well, ably supported this time by Tolaram, who came close to proving his ability with the bat in addition to the ball. In fact Tolaram's bowling in this match was his best performance.

We managed to scrape a draw against Bancroft's despite some terrible fielding. The team had worked and worked on this aspect of the game, and it was quite appalling to view the many mistakes that occurred on the field. Quite frankly, I was embarrassed. However the batting was game and the team held out for a draw. Much better was our performance against Eltham, which we failed to win, but at least we fielded like a cricket team.

There is a core of talented players in the squad. Saleem, the skipper, is obviously a very good cricketer. Tolaram, his deputy, also has much skill and potential, but must discipline himself more to do himself justice. Out of the batsmen, Jefferys showed much improvement throughout the season, and perhaps Berber and Williams have the ability to cement their positions in the team next year. In the bowling attack, I have already mentioned Saleem and Tolaram, but Hinton and Burnard also performed well throughout the season and demonstrated a willingness to