

Summer
2007



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NEWS FROM OUR CHAIRMAN- David Robson

It is such a refreshing change to report on success after success as far as the Club is concerned. The phoenix has arisen from the ashes. Our 1st XI are top of their table with a 100% success record at present. The 2nd XI are mid-table with 4 wins under their belt and there were few who would have expected such at this stage of the season, but it shows what willingness and hard practise can lead to. The Sunday Heathens have a mix of results but I believe they have enjoyed all their games. The Colts at all levels are enjoying success too (you can read more on this elsewhere in the Newsletter), often against opponents who would have been considered too strong only a few years ago. Friday nights continue to support this and other activities with a strong contingent of parents and villagers. For the first time whilst I've been a member of the Club, the committee has had to consider the impact of too many players and guests. Better that though than considering our past near demise.

This, as always, is down to a great effort by those who coach, provide the Friday service and maintain the ground. There are too many to mention in this small space but there is still room for more volunteers, as I believe one or two are carrying too much of a burden.

I also sense that the relationship between Club and Village is improving with both parties recognising the importance of a good partnership in providing a vibrant village community. More villagers than ever before are now involved with the Club – whether as players or helping out in many different ways.

So what for the future? Well, a working party has been assembled to look into the improvement of our facilities both within and around the pavilion, including a larger bar and kitchen, refurbishment of the clubroom and changing rooms, and an increase in and improved netting facilities. Future newsletters will provide more details as we are at quite an early stage on this matter.

And in the near future on 22nd July is a special event, including the Tangle Trophy match between the U9's and U10's and (very importantly!) my match, when the Occasionals will make their first appearance of the season. The day will finish with a barbecue and barn dance. It will also be a testimonial day to recognise the immense efforts of our senior groundsman, Terry Brockman, who continues to do a tremendous job, particularly when one considers the additional usage which the square is now getting.

Cricket week (see details elsewhere) starts on the 6th August, and finally we hope to hold the senior (adults and older Colts) awards ceremony at the end of the season rather than at the annual dinner. Again more details in the next Newsletter.

So I'm out of space, but will end on a big thank you to all, both players and helpers. You have all made this a marvellous season to date and the spirits at Blackheath CC are once again high.

CELEBRATION DAY AND BARN DANCE
Sunday 22nd July 7pm BBQ, 8pm Barn dance
A TESTIMONIAL DAY FOR TERRY BROCKMAN
Barn dance tickets £5-adults. Kids free
Contact Kathy Wilkinson on 01483 890425

News from the Captains

It's a perfect 10 for Blackheath 1's!

Blackheath 1st team have started the new era at the club in fantastic form.

Out of the 9 scheduled matches this season, which unfortunately 4 have been missed due to bad weather, we have won all of our 5 games batting first giving us an average of 10 points. This is currently the highest points average for any team in all 5 divisions of the I'Anson and is generally unheard of at this stage of the season.

The spirit of the team has been great and everyone is thoroughly enjoying their cricket.

At the start of the season the bowlers were generally having to do the hard work with not only the ball, but also making important contributions with the bat as well.

The first game of the season was a good match against Grayswood with Tim "Timbo" Seebold top scoring with a well made 57. Paul "Pampers" Nash made 30 and a crucial last wicket partnership between Graham "Spider" Webb 35no and Clive "The Menace" Ennis 21no turned out to be very important indeed giving us a total of 181 for 9. We bowled and field well with Webb taking 5 for 58 off 13.1 overs bowling Headley out for 145 runs.

The second game was against Headley and we only managed 154 with Nash top scoring with 45, looking set for a classy 50, before becoming the victim of a dubious lbw decision. A devastating bowling display saw Headley dismissed for only 52 with another master class of spin from the evergreen Webb taking 5 for 13 with good support from Ennis, Ed "Wonderboy" Allen and Dallas "JR" McDermott.

The third match against Cranleigh St Andrews saw us struggling badly. We were looking doomed at 57 for 7 when Webb strolled to the crease. We ended up making an impressive 150 on a sponge of a wicket with Webb top scoring with a majestic 53. Earlier Nigel "Watto" Watson had made an impressive 25 making his debut for the club.

Cranleigh St Andrews had no answer to our bowlers and were dismissed for 43 runs with Ennis finishing with the amazing figures of 4 for 9 off 10 overs. McDermott took 3 wickets with Webb failing to take his usual 5 wickets due to the fact that he didn't bowl until they were 8 down.

Our fourth match against Woodstreet Village was our closest so far and saw us bowled out for 120 runs with McDermott playing a sensible innings for once making a valuable 36, which included an important last wicket stand with Allen.

Woodstreet Village came close but were eventually bowled out for 109 runs. Richard "The Tail" Smith providing a match winning performance with figures of 3 for 6 from 5 overs and Allen continuing his consistent form with 3 for 17 off 7.1 overs taking the final wicket.

Our fifth, and who knows, maybe our last match of the season the way the weather is going, saw a comprehensive win away to The Bourne. The top order finally clicked and we made an impressive 248 for 3 off only 42 overs. The consistent Nash top scored with a solid 83no, Chris "Howsy" Howells made a well earned 54, Terry "Tezza" Brockman was cruising before being caught off a high full toss for 41 and Smith made an impressive 39no.

The Bourne were bowled out for 99 runs with McDermott taking 4 for 17 off 7 overs. Allen again bowled impressively taking 2 for 17 off 14 straight overs.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Richard Smith on making his first ever hundred finishing with 131no against Abinger on Sunday 10th June - well done "The Tail".

Apart from the weather the season is going very well indeed and would like to thank everyone for all their hard work both on and off the field.

COLTS NEWS

Despite the terrible weather over the past few weeks, this season already looks like being the most successful ever for the flourishing Blackheath colts section.

The Under 14s have led the way with some great performances. They have outclassed several opponents and so far have been defeated only once this season. The Under 12s took a little longer to get into their stride, but have recently begun notching up league victories, including against Dorking and in their most recent match against Albury, where they successfully chased down a formidable target at around 8 runs an over. The Under 10s, meanwhile, have been the surprise package of the season, defeating several larger clubs in nail-biting finishes.

In the younger age groups, too, there has been tremendous enthusiasm, with several Under 9s matches coming up and a first Under 8s match resulting in a narrow victory for the Blackheath Lions over the Blackheath Tigers. The U8's had a fantastic victory over Farnham and the U12's beat Albury in a friendly. Next year, it looks like we will be running no fewer than 5 colts league sides at age groups between Under 9 and Under 15.

Many thanks to all involved for their efforts in achieving all this. Long may it continue!

Nick Harrison