

## May 2015 Newsletter

After suffering withdrawal symptoms for the best part of 8 months, since the end of last season, at long last the calendar confirmed it was the 2nd of May and so time for the new season to get under way. And after enjoying a virtually rain free April with above average temperatures, we awoke on the 2nd with threats of rain and plummeting temperatures, as a bracing wind set out to convince us it was November rather than early May. And as the crowds assembled at Catherine de Barnes, the cars were all parked facing the pitch so that the inhabitants would not miss any of the action, but were also spared direct exposure to the elements by remaining sheltered behind the protective glass. And the picnics would also be consumed in these private individual dining rooms. A friendly wave and very brief chat were enjoyed by all who had not seen each other over the winter but the proper catch up would have to wait for better weather.

The strength of the wind reminded me of a story that brought infamy to W G Grace, who was undoubtedly a very talented cricketer, but who is equally alleged to have bent the rules whenever possible for his own personal gain. The story goes that when playing on a particularly windy day, he was bowled by a peach of a ball that just clipped the bail at the top of the off stump, sufficient for it to be dislodged. W G then bent down and placed the bail back on the top of the stumps, with a cry to the umpire "that it was indeed a very windy day, even causing the bails to fall over." A weak umpire may have succumbed to this gamesmanship but thankfully on this occasion W G met his match as the umpire agreed that it was indeed windy and that "you need to be careful not to lose your cap on the way back to the pavilion."

The 1st XI are again captained this year by Chris Barber and he got the new season off to a good start by winning the toss and putting the opposition in to bat. Andy Turnbull and Kully opened the bowling and despite bowling tight and tidy and giving few runs away, neither could make the breakthrough with a wicket. After 6 overs each and with the score on 28, it was time for a change and Chris and Tom Finn took up the challenge. And after a great deal of perseverance the change eventually worked with Chris taking 3 wickets, to raise everyone's spirits. The Catherine de Barnes middle order then took command however and the fielders were having to make regular visits to the boundary as the score board accelerated. Eventually their innings closed at a very respectable 246 for 7 at the end of the 45 overs. The bowling highlight was 3 wickets for Chris Barber whilst Kully and Tom Finn contributed well.

Now it was the turn of our batsmen, as Chris and Andy marched out confidently to open. They played themselves in nicely and seemed well in control with Andy hitting 2 sweet fours as he started to get his eye in. Then, he received probably the worst ball to be bowled all day, which seemed to take him by surprise, to the extent that he simply spooned an easy catch to the nearest available fielder. James Carey was literally caught out by the first bowl he received and then a run out quickly followed and things were not looking good. But Captain Chris was still there and slowly but surely he started to put a real captain's innings together. Aply assisted in particular by

Adam Rogers who scored 47, Chris went on to score 80 before holing out. We closed our innings on a very honourable 199 and although this was second best on the day, it is still a very gutsy performance.

It has to be said that Saturday evening was subdued as this was not the start we wanted, but this was all forgotten by Sunday morning as optimism returned and the good parts of the game remembered with the poorer parts conveniently forgotten. The first team would be at home the following week to Winchcombe. So, it would not be long before we would know if the optimism was misplaced

It did not help that the 2nd XI also lost their opening match when Badsey proved just too good and responded to our 105 for 9 with 108 for 4 and so secured a 6 wicket victory.

Saturday 9th May dawned a beautiful day for cricket and the 1st XI welcomed Winchcombe to Tanworth Lane. However, the welcome was too generous as the visitors strolled to 121 for 0 wickets, with both openers well ensconced at the crease and scoring freely. Thankfully there then followed a flurry of wickets included a fine catch on the boundary, but the batting side then staged a recovery and ended their innings on 201.

Chris Barber and Andy Turnbull again opened for the home side and looked very comfortable until Andy was well caught for 12. Things didn't improve as Winchcombe worked their way through the team with a steady stream of wickets and in the end the visitors ran out comfortable winners as we were bowled out for 120.

Played 2 lost 2 was not the intended script and it looks as if it's going to be a long tough season for the 1st XI. But when the going gets tough the tough get going and it is important that despondency does not set in so early in the season. We have a young side, in the main, and this is a character building time. As is the norm with sport, there will be many twists and turns as the season unfolds and it is important that the players retain belief.

The 2nd XI also came off second best but there was a good win for the 3rd XI, which included a fine century for Ian Jordan.

As always, full details including fixture list can be obtained on our website [www.tachcc.co.uk](http://www.tachcc.co.uk) or on twitter: @tachcc

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