

WIN WIN start to the season - both on and off the pitch

The competitive season got under way on 3 May when the cricket club fielded teams across various divisions of the Cotswold Hills league.

The 1st XI were at home to FISSC and when bowling first, restricted the opposition to 154 runs all out, with the bowling highlights being James Carey who took 4 for 28 and Taz with 2 for 28. In reply, TACH achieved 158 for 4 to secure a fine victory on opening day. The highlight was a true captains innings of 83 not out from Chris Barber, who with support from James Carey and Del Maitland amongst others saw us safely home

The 2nd XI traveled to Bretforton and when batting first scored 158 all out off 42 overs with the main contributions coming from Dave Hill who scored 33, Dan Williams with 30, Colin Jones 24 and Karl Astley 21. In what then developed into a close and exciting finish we bowled the opposition out for 154 to secure a 4 run winning margin. Our bowling highlights were Neil Wright with 3 for 33, Chris Whale who took 2 for 45 and Neil Aston with 2 for 24

The 3rd XI were due to star their campaign at our Rumbush Lane ground but this match was called off due to a shortage of players with many not being available due to the bank holiday weekend.

On 10 May the 1st XI traveled down to Kineton to take on what is traditionally a strong side and on a day when matches elsewhere were abandoned due to rain, the strong breeze kept the showers at bay and a full days play took place

We lost the toss and so it was no surprise to be asked to bat on a damp wicket and outfield, where runs were hard to come by. Chris Barber and Del Maitland opened, but neither looked very convincing and soon the scoreboard was showing 20 for 2 with both dismissed. James Carey followed before Andy Turnbull and Chris Mason staged a mini revival taking the score to 70 before they also fell in quick succession. The tail offered occasional resistance but soon crumbled to a disappointing 119 all out. Andy T top scored with 28.

With the drying conditions aiding the batting side, it was no surprise to see the run chase being easily achieved and for the loss of only 3 wickets. It did not help to lose the toss but on the day the better team won. Where is the rain when you need it!!

The 2nd XI made a start to their match at Tanworth Lane but the elements intervened and rain caused abandonment soon after half way. The highlight was 4 wickets for John Robb. The 3rd XI match was called off without a ball being played which unfortunately was the same fate that befell the under 11's and senior team on Sunday 11th May

The following week saw a clean sweep of defeats for all three teams, with the outstanding match being the 1st XI who went down by a single run in a tense and dramatic finale. Andy Turnbull top scored with an impressive 73, but as the overs reduced we could never establish authority. So, we needed 9 off the last over then 5 from 3 balls and then 4 from the last delivery. With the opposition spread around the boundary we got 2, which wasn't enough. After 6 hours of endeavour it came down to 1 run! It was so disappointing to lose.

The 2nd XI went down in another close finish to local rivals Earlswood and although the 3rd XI bowled exceptionally well, failings with the bat saw them also come off second best

Thee bank holiday rain then washed out the following weekend and the last weekend in May saw another round of losses. We continued to bowl well but fell short with the bat.

May also saw the start of the Twenty/20 fixtures and a match report for the first match is set out below, to whet the appetite.

Off the pitch, the big news story is that following a great deal of hard work by Phil Webb and Mike Shaw, we have been awarded a very large grant by Sport England to redevelop the clubhouse at Rumbush Lane. There are a number of significant areas we will be able to improve including new heating, electrics, changing facilities, shower and wash facilities, disabled access and a new storage building for our ground equipment. It will also enable us to have a modern heated clubhouse which gives us greater scope for fundraising throughout the year and a better environment to play in.

We have been granted this money in no small part due to the fact Leaffield Ladies Football Club are involved in our plans moving forward, as they use the ground during the winter and the fact that we rent the ground out to other local cricket clubs through the summer. The football club is keen to forge a permanent home and is involved in the implementation of the grant to ensure we are compliant with what is needed for Ladies changing facilities.

I am pleased to announce we have been awarded £47,116 to our refurbishment and building plans. These awards are not easy to get and it demonstrates the faith that Sport England has in us and the strength of our bid.

On top of the Sport England award we have secured further funding for improved drainage on the football pitches at Rumbush Lane through the Protecting Playing Field fund. This in excess of £33,000

Following last summers fire when the old wooden scoreboard burnt down (and

Tanworth had its own ashes for a while!), Tim Watts and Pertemps have stepped in to fund an electronic replacement. This is also likely to include advertising hoardings at the ground and the Pertemps logo on the playing kit. All in all it is valued at £4,000 and is hugely appreciated. A drink will be waiting for Tim any time and there may still be a secondary benefit for him if we have to source someone to work the scoreboard! A watt is a unit of measurement for power, which seems very appropriate, so lets hope the teams can keep the new scoreboard busy.

In 2013 we were awarded £1,500 by Tanworth Parish Council to help with the costs of our junior coaching projects and we have now managed to secure further funding from Dickens Heath Parish Council of £1,000 towards the costs

We have also received a grant from Solihull Council of £600 to send two of our junior coach's on a level 2 coaching course at Edgbaston.

With the help of CSW Sport we looking at setting up 3 senior satellite clubs (ages 14 to 18) at local schools using qualified coaches for Cricket & Ladies Football They will finance it up to £5,000 per year and will help to ensure we have new members filtering through every year

The extra revenue from Rumbush Lane will enable it to stand on its own two feet and will make more money available for Tanworth Lane in the future

Twenty/20 Match Report - 21 May 2014

Cricket is savoured by statisticians. From the relatively simple concepts of run rates and averages to the unfathomable complexity of Duckworth-Lewis, there are facts to be documented. Indeed Wisden, probably the most famous sporting book in the world, which has been published every year since 1864 owes much of its success to the comprehensive records that it incorporates. However, as the midweek Twenty/20 season burst into life there was one simple statistic about the first fixture, away to Old Edwardians, which was at the forefront of the mind. In all the previous seasons we had assembled with optimism and hope but had always trudged away at the end, vanquished again. Quite simply, we'd never won at this ground!

Team captain Andy Turnbull had put together a youthful side. Thank you to everyone who played and especially to Matt Beech for stepping in at the 11th hour.

We lost the toss and the opposition chose to bat. And as we ran out to field it was

visually obvious that we were up for this. There was a spring in everyone's step, there were cries of encouragement, energy levels looked high and the body language was very positive. Everyone knows the importance of a positive mental attitude and we just looked like a team pulling together and with the intention of doing their best. And you can't ask for more.

This impetus continued as the match got under way, with our bowlers troubling their batsmen from the start and never giving them a chance to settle.

In the first over Dan Wright secured a run out, off his own bowling before Rory Turnbull picked up the baton with 3 quick wickets which saw him end his spell with an impressive 3 for 18 runs. Sam Jones then claimed wicket number 5 before Chris Barber kept their tail quiet, ending with a fine 4 for 20. Old Edwardians closed on 117 for 9 and with us taking regular wickets and being sharp in the field, we really had given ourselves a chance. But theory doesn't win matches and we now had to deliver with the bat. It was only half time, after all.

James Carey and Chris Mason opened the batting and in text book style demoralised the opposition by putting on 73 for the first wicket before Chris fell to a fantastic catch on the boundary. Dan Wright was run out cheaply and Adam Rogers added 11, so that when James was joined in the middle by Chris Barber, only 4 runs were needed. And when Chris hit the winning 4, James was undefeated on 58. It was a terrific innings which included 3 x 4s and 3 x 6s

Overall this was a most impressive performance from a young team who played with spirit and belief.....and no small degree of ability. Well done lads.

As always, full details including fixture list can be obtained on our website www.tachcc.co.uk or on twitter: @tachcc