

The rain clouds have drifted past and the sun has set on a glorious summer of cricket. The only regret is that it all seemed to pass so quickly. So what are the memories?

On the pitch, the highlight was the 1st XI retaining their position in the First Division of the Cotswold Hills League, with a thrilling win on the final day, securing their status by a single point. The 2nd XI, Sunday and Midweek teams also retained their respective league positions but the 3rd XI were unable to provide a full set and face relegation, having finished second from bottom in their league. It should be remembered that team captain Ian Jordan faces a thankless task in getting a team on to the pitch. If the 1st team need a player(s) they simply raid the 2nd team, who in turn raid the 3rd team. Which then leaves Ian with the headache and nowhere to turn.

Reflecting on the season, 1st team captain Chris Barber commented as follows:-

- There was a fantastic togetherness as a team despite losing a number of games very narrowly early on. As a young side we kept our spirits up magnificently and were rewarded at the end of the season.
- We had some memorable moments in the field. Dave Hill's one handed catch away at Ashton Under Hill was one of the best I have seen in a long time, Rory Turnbull's caught and bowled in the last match was also a superb effort!
- There was a theme of younger players contributing big scores regularly through the season (Andy T 73 v Ashton, Fred 76 v FISSC, James chanceless 110 v Alcester and Ragley, KP 61* v Rowington, myself 83* v FISSC (if I can still be classed as a younger player!))
- The bowling was tight and the best spells included Assam (4-15 v Norton Lindsay), Andy T (6-17 v Alcester and Ragley) and Rory (3-25 v Rowington). Notable mention should also be made of Kully and Assam who got through a lot of overs during the season and bowled at crucial times.
- Also Andy Braz was a fabulous influence at slip for much of the season, often giving timely advice on field changes and bowlers.
- Teamwork was strong and there was a fantastic club effort across the teams, with particular gratitude to Dave Hill who had his second team raided once or twice, especially early on in the year!

The 2nd XI were captained by Dave Hill (when he was not called up for 1st XI duty) and in his summary of the season, made the following points.

- 2014 was certainly a season of highs and lows for Tanworth and Camp Hill 2nd XI.
- The season started with a 'regulation' win over Bretforton, who needed just 6 to win when Chris Whale bowled a peach of an in-swing to their star player capturing him leg before wicket. We then had to wait until the end of June to taste victory once more...
- A run of three defeats during July where most commentators would have considered the game to be won, by one wicket to Woodbourne,

two wickets to Bretforton and 5 runs to eventual league winners Leek Wooton, left this captain exasperated like never before and considering his future!

- A flirtation with relegation duly followed but a rousing win against arch local rivals Earlswood and a run of three consecutive victories at the end of the season consigned such thoughts to distant memory and we ended looking up the table rather than down.
- There have been solid performances throughout the year from the players, both young and not so young! Dave Winsor and David Baines were consistent performers with the bat helping to ensure we posted competitive totals more often than not.
- With the ball Chris Whale and John Robb were similarly consistent and Dan Williams and Dan Fern have developed during the season, the former becoming a very reliable and tight 'death' bowler when defending a total.
- Individual highlights include Alex Prosser's hundred to win the Earlswood game and Sam Jones's quick fire 50 to take the game away from Catherine de Barnes and thus ensure a victory that started our end of season run.

Inconsistency was the over riding theme of the 3rd XI, Sunday and Midweek teams with availability varied throughout the year.

The 3's had a very young side and played very well, winning their last game, whereas the Sunday side avoided relegation with 3 wins. The midweek T20 side again competed very well this season, in what is a very tough league. We won 2 matches and finished 5th out of 6 teams, retaining our place in the top division for next year.

That then leaves us with our junior side, the under 11s, whose progress has previously been highlighted in this column. If their enthusiasm is anything to go by then the long term future of the club is bright.

But of course, it's not just the players who contribute to the club and whilst a very big thank you is rightly reserved for them, all the captains have asked me to make sure that the army of support and help, behind the scenes, is recorded. In no particular order this includes

- Steve Hartley and John Whale for their devotion to umpiring
- Every one who did teas (especially Pete Carey who stepped in a few times at the last minute to rescue the 1st XI and Emma Hill who did likewise for the 2nd XI and who supported Dave throughout the season and made his life as captain just that little bit easier.)
- Ground staff for all the hard work behind the scenes which make us the envy of most
- Geoff, John and Liz for being devoted 1st team scorers.
- Social event organisers and attendees
- Fundraisers.
- Supporters and spectators.

- All of the juniors' parents and families for their help and support.
- And the new scoreboard has been a great success. Thanks to Pertemps for your support.

Like most similar organisations the club relies on support and contributions from as wide a circle of friends as possible and the joy is the camaraderie that ensues. That's what makes the club what it is.

We have also missed some friends this summer. Oh how Rex would have purred over Sam's 50 (especially as it was against Catherine de Barnes)

And finally, mention should be made of the Tour which took place on it's normal date over the weekend of the August bank holiday. The base this year was Newcastle-on-Tyne and incredibly this was the only part of England that remained dry over the weekend which meant that all 3 matches were played resulting in 2 wins and a narrow defeat. Newcastle is very much a party town with its famous Bigg Market and Waterside venues keen to entertain the revelers. It is normally anything but dry!! But, of course, our heroes were not distracted and focussed purely on the cricket with early nights a must.....and if you believe that you'll believe anything. As they say "What goes on tour stays on tour"

Here's to 2015 !!

Alastair Turnbull