

Belhus

Cricket Club

50th Anniversary



Part C

The Belhus Badge and Colours

We are often asked why Belhus Cricket Club should have two medieval archers emblazoned on its badge. Well, *'The Archer'* pub in South Ockendon has been frequented by our members as far back as anyone can remember, and some members continue to do so today. In fact, an article was included in the club's first Constitution, *'The Headquarters of the club shall be The Archer'*.

Apart from a brief change of our regular drinking haunt to other local hostelrys on a couple of occasions, *'The Archer'* became the meeting place for post-match gatherings as well as management committee meetings and social functions.

An early landlord of *'The Archer'*, Fred Jackson, became President in 1979, and another landlord, Barry Waller, sponsored the club on a number of initiatives. Tony Udell not only supported the club, he also played, captaining the Third XI, scoring a couple of centuries and taking five wickets in an innings on a number of occasions.



But to make it quite clear, we have no connection whatsoever with the ancient sport of archery. Nor will any of our members be competing in the Olympics Archery event to be held at Lord's in 2012. So although *'The Archer'* is no longer the club's official headquarters, it played a significant part in our history and it is appropriate, therefore, that due reference to it is entwined in our club badge.

With regard to the club colours of green and gold, our extensive enquiries have failed to establish precisely why we should have adopted similar colours to those of the national cricket teams of Australia, South Africa and Pakistan.

We do know, however, that green and gold were the colours of the legacy Belhus Park Cricket Club, and a number of members have surmised that the colours simply represent grass and the summer sun. In the absence of any other credible explanation, that sounds quite plausible. So there we have it: grass and sun it is.

Saturday First XI

Shepherd Neame Essex League

Fixtures 2010

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6th May	Epping	Away
15th May	Ongar	Home
22nd May	Old Parkonians	Home
29th May	Walthamstow	Home
5th June	Southend-on-Sea & EMT	Away
12th June	Woodford Green	Away
19th June	Old Brentwoods	Away
26th June	West Essex	Home
3rd July	Billericay	Away



Match at North Stifford Village Green

10th July	Old Parkonians	Away
17th July	Ongar	Away
24th July	Epping	Home
31st July	Walthamstow	Away
7th August	Southend-on-Sea & EMT	Home
14th August	Woodford Green	Home
21st August	Billericay	Home
28th August	West Essex	Away
4th September	Old Brentwoods	Home

Barbados Tour 1976

It had been eight years since the club's last tour and the subject cropped up whilst waiting in the dressing room during the rain-interrupted First XI's match against City of Ely on 11th May 1975. Fits of laughter rang out when, among other ideas, Denis Reed suggested the West Indies as a possible tour destination.

Being the 1970s, many of our members had not even travelled abroad, so the prospect of a cricket tour to the West Indies was viewed as a pipe dream. But didn't people gasp when we first went to Northern Ireland? After all, a flight is a flight is a flight. So we made a few enquiries and within a matter of weeks decided to visit Barbados, home of Sir Garfield Sobers and the famous Kensington Oval.

'...was little more than a pipe dream'.

We made contact with the Barbados Cricket Association who expressed delight at the prospect of entertaining a club side from England. And over the next eighteen months all the necessary arrangements were made at a final cost of £259 per person, whilst messages of congratulations were received from HRH Prince Philip, as well as Tony Greig and Clive Lloyd, the England and West Indies captains.

Thirty-two members of the tour party left Gatwick on a cold, 15th November 1976 on an International Caribbean Airways DC10 (an aircraft with a record of doors falling off in mid-air). At the airport, it was announced that we would be stopping in Luxembourg which, of course, is eastward - and we were supposed to be heading west! After another stop in the Azores for refuelling, we eventually arrived, exhausted, in Bridgetown. The importance attached to our visit became apparent when we were ushered through a side exit enabling us to avoid passport control. Then on to our headquarters, the Seaview Hotel opposite the Garrison Savannah where Sir Garfield Sobers had been knighted by HM The Queen the previous year.

'...ushered through a side exit avoiding passport control'

Our first scheduled match was against St. Catherine. Eyebrows were raised at breakfast when it was announced on the radio that Wayne Daniel (who had only recently played in four test matches against England in that very hot summer of 1976) would be playing for St. Catherine "against the English touring side."

The playing strength of our party had clearly been over-estimated! On their small ground amongst the sugar cane, St. Catherine scored 229 but we could only manage an embarrassing 79 in reply. Not a very impressive start to the tour.

YMPC (Young Men's Progressive Club) was our next match, but against the test players Joel Garner and Roland Butcher we scored a miserable 108 to suffer another defeat. Against the British High Commissioner's XI, we almost pulled off a victory. Chris Francis made a dogged 32 and spinner Paul Garrud took 7 for 59, the tour's best bowling return. But we lost by just one wicket. Les Collard took five wickets in the match against Barclays Bank, but we lost again. The match against Leeward was abandoned after heavy rain that attracted dozens of frogs on to the pitch.

We thought we stood a pretty good chance against the schoolboys of Lodge School, but in chasing their total of 221, a disastrous 'Belhus Collapse' saw us crumble to 6 for 5 without a single run being scored from the bat. John Bacon secured a degree of respectability in making 54, but we were all out for 99 (six of us were dismissed for ducks). It was a disappointment for the hundreds of pupils who had been allowed the afternoon off to watch the English touring side. It was a bit humiliating.

We nearly pulled off a result against Wanderers at Dayrells Road when dismissing them for 132, but the former test bowler, Richard Edwards, proved too quick for us. And we fared no better against Banks Breweries whose captain was the legendary test fast bowler Wes Hall who, fortunately, kept wicket that day.

The highlight of the tour was the match against Pickwick at the test ground. Although we lost, it was an unforgettable experience for Belhus players who were more accustomed to playing Sunday afternoon cricket on council recreation grounds.

There were many special moments on that ground-breaking tour. The Reception given in the club's honour by the British High Commissioner; the Wanderers' centenary celebration lunch party; the match at the test ground. But the moment that sticks in the memory of every member of the tour party occurred on the return flight.



At Queen's Park Oval, Barbados 1976

Ten minutes after take-off, the co-pilot made his way down the aisle to peer out of the window and shine a torch on the undercarriage to check if it had retracted. Alarmingly it hadn't. So for the next thirty minutes, the aircraft slowly circled the island ditching hundreds of gallons of fuel in to both the Atlantic and the Caribbean.

'...an unforgettable experience...'

Upon landing back in Barbados we were ushered through to the airport lounge and waited while the undercarriage problem was repaired by local engineers. After a three-hour wait, we nervously re-boarded the very same DC10 and took off again at 2 a.m. On this occasion, thank God, we were up, up and away without further hitch.

Barbados 1991

Fifteen years passed before we returned to Barbados. Many other clubs had been to the Caribbean in the interim, but it was still an exciting trip for those who hadn't previously been on an overseas tour. BWIA was the airline of choice and accommodation was booked in villas and apartments at the Sunset Crest Resort in the parish of St. James on the West coast. Fixtures were arranged by Richard Webster of the sports tours operator, Sunliving.

So, shortly after the end of the English season, our party of players, wives and some partners flew out on 13th October. Although we had gathered together a stronger playing squad to the previous, 1976 tour, our First XI players had just experienced a disappointing season in the Smallcombe Sports Essex County League - playing 15, losing 12 and winning just three games. We weren't, therefore, in the best of form and our Bajan fixtures were sure to provide pretty stiff competition.

'We weren't in the best of form...'

The first match was against St. Johns and we experienced a torrential tropical downpour during the drive across the island in our mini-mokes. Had we been in England, a match simply wouldn't have taken place on the drenched pitch, but being in Barbados, and with eager-to-please hosts, a 20 overs match was agreed. We did well to make 86 for 3 with Mathew Lewis Snr opening his tour account with a fine 52. St. Johns knocked the runs off in just 12 overs. Welcome to Barbados!

For our second match, we moved on to Wanderers, founded in 1877 and one of the island's great clubs. The Wanderers' score of 231 off 29 overs proved far too many for us despite an impressive 4 for 29 by Gary Plane. We lost three early wickets in five balls and crumbled to 95 all out. Mark Winter top scored with 45.

The pitch against Dover (many villages and towns in Barbados have English names) looked a batter's dream, and so it proved when our opposition posted 348 in just 32 overs. Gary Plane took two wickets, but his seven overs cost 75 runs (including 32 off one over - a club record) and Doug Harding will want to forget his three overs for 53 runs. In our reply, only Richard Waters had any answer, making a determined 50 before being caught. We lost of course.

The highlight of any tour to Barbados is a match against Pickwick at the Kensington Oval. But Pickwick scored 266 off 33 overs despite our dismissal of the test player Vasbert Drakes for a duck. In reply, we could muster only 149, but enjoyed after match drinks at the test ground, an experience that few club players have enjoyed.

In the next match, we restricted Banks Brewery to 218 for 8 but then collapsed to 42 all out - and five of our batsmen made ducks. The following day was free for our players to recover and regroup; sadly they didn't, and the next match resulted in YMPC amassing 275 - yet another total that was way beyond our reach.

We should have won the match against Windward. After a good all-round bowling performance, we only had to chase 159. Well poised at 105 for 4, we capitulated at 132 to suffer another defeat. We were still enjoying ourselves off the field of play, and if you're not going to play well, you might just as well do it in Barbados. Life could be a lot worse: you could be in England during a grey November.



Kensington Oval, Barbados 1991 v Pickwick CC

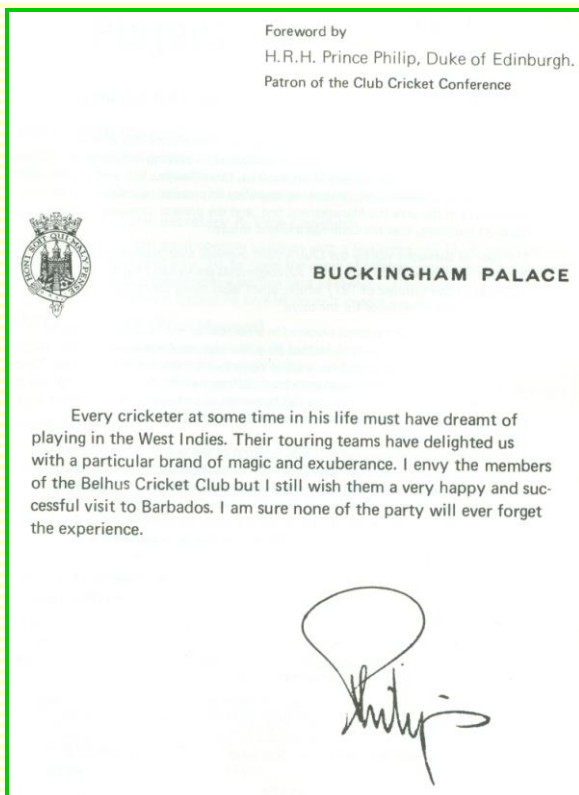
Back: Jim Banner Jim Robertson Mathew Lewis Snr Derek Etchells Chris Adams
Robert Waters Gary Plane Doug Harding Ali Nagir
Front: Wayne Read Steve Liddiard Richard Waters Mark Winter Richard Wakely
Colin Adams David Cayless

So on to the final match of the tour against Conrad Hunte CC in Shorey Village, the home of our very own Bajan, George Riley. Robert Waters was our skipper for the day, but he wasn't feeling too well after a rum-tasting session at Marshalls Bar in Holders Hill the previous night when his mates had to carry him home. His request to withdraw from the team fell on deaf ears and he was obliged to lead the side.

'...required his best friends to carry him home'

Unfortunately, our George didn't excel with the ball in taking 1 for 45 off seven overs, but skipper Jacko returned 3 for 26 despite his fragile condition. Although a run-chase of 181 was achievable, the weary Belhus tourists collapsed to 18 for 6 and the curtains were drawn at 49 all out. And poor old George got a first-baller. That marked completion of the cricket - "at last" said some! But, all-in-all, it had been a fantastically enjoyable tour. Another overseas tour is long overdue.

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Letter received from HRH Prince Philip prior to the tour to Barbados in 1976

Our Tour History

The club has undertaken twenty five senior domestic and overseas tours in its fifty year history (and our youth section has visited Sussex on no less than eleven occasions since 1977), ranking us one of the most adventurous clubs in Essex.



Tom Thompson (left) and Paul Whitlock (2009)

No play at Ingham, Norfolk

Northern Ireland	1966 1967
Barbados	1976 1991
Hampshire	1981
Devon	1982 1983 1984 1985 2000
Yorkshire	1998 1999
Lancashire	1994 1995 1996 1997 2002
Norfolk	2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010

The Veterans

Our Veterans have been playing an increasing number of matches due to the demand for occasional gatherings for the older brethren of the club, and the fixture list is fast expanding. Jim Banner scored the Veterans' first century when he made 101 against Great & Little Warley on 20th September 2009. Our old boys were beaten by Pegasus & Corringham in the local Veterans' Knock-Out Cup final in 2008.



Veterans Mike Squires (left) and skipper Peter Clark (2009)

Youth Cricket

*Recollections from **Cliff Cansdale**. President 1993-1995. Chairman 1986, 1987, 1996. Secretary 1975-1985, 2002, 2003. Treasurer 1989-1991. Fixture Secretary 1974-1976, 2004. Youth Chairman 2005-2009. First XI Sunday Captain 1984. First XI Saturday Captain 1985. Second XI Saturday Captain 1984. Second XI Sunday Captain 1980, 1996. Third XI Captain 1977. Third XI Saturday Captain 1978. Third XI Sunday Captain 1979. Fourth XI Captain 2007, 2008.*

With its original ground situated between two housing estates, it is no surprise that youth cricket has been very popular at Belhus CC. Traditionally, youth sections and their teams were referred to as 'colts', but in these politically correct times, the term is declining in use. This is fair enough - our junior cricketers are not young horses!

'...youth cricket has been very popular at Belhus CC...'

'Colts' fixtures date back to 1968 and the late Les Perry, being a youth worker at the former Barretts youth centre in South Ockendon, was ideally placed to manage these teams. The site is now occupied by Beacon Hill school, which offers support and education to children with special needs, and a venue where our coaches visit on a regular basis. These colts teams were not like today's youth squads; they invariably included a few senior players who were car-owners and provided transport to away games. In today's recessionary times, the transport situation hasn't changed!

Following a difficult year in 1974, when the club almost disbanded, a genuine youth section started in 1975 under the management of a teenaged Cliff Cansdale, guided by some experienced senior members including, Andrew Merton, Jim Donovan, Geoff Marrant and the late Bob Garner.

'...a genuine youth section started in 1975...'

The first game was against Essex United Under 15s at Belhus Park on Wednesday 9th July. Paul Eagon was captain and Malcolm Cooper vice-captain. No surprise then, that Paul and Malcolm opened the batting as they stormed to a nine-wicket victory in the 20-overs evening fixture. Paul was run out for 31 but shared a 58-run opening stand with Malcolm, who was undefeated on 22. Brian Adams claimed the last four Essex United wickets in six deliveries, narrowly missing out on a hat trick.

The Belhus line-up on that historic day was: Paul Eagon, Malcolm Cooper, Mark Davies, Brian Adams, Bob Clarke, Anthony Mallon, John Lewis Jnr, Gary McGuire, Barry Jones, Mark Naretti and Geoff Grieff.

In the next game on 16th July, Essex Taverners were bowled out for 22, with Mark Davies completing a hat trick. The emergence of a thriving youth section began to reap handsome dividends - an increase in membership numbers resulting in three regular teams being fielded on most Sunday afternoons.

It was on Rockley beach, Barbados, during the club's West Indies tour in 1976, when Denis Reed suggested a tour for the club's youth section. It was decided there and then that this would provide an excellent opportunity for our juniors who, along with their kit, were packed into a hired minibus in August 1977 with Cliff Cansdale as manager and John Rowell the driver. Little did we know that touring Sussex would become a tradition of the Belhus youth section to the present day.

For the inaugural youth tour, the party was based at the Braemar Guest House at 68 Seaside, Eastbourne. The squad played four games and watched Australia and a Rest of the World XI at Arundel to mark the centenary of Australia's tours of England. Later, accommodation was hired at Brighton University's halls of residence, followed by stays at Patcham Place, a facility managed by the Youth Hostels Association. For the two recent tours, in 2007 and 2008, Belhus juniors stayed at Roedean School.

Three Belhus juniors have scored centuries on youth tours. On 12th August 1981, David Webb scored 120 against Worthing Forresters, in a fixture which also recorded the best bowling analysis by a young Belhus tourist - John Forrest's 7 for 12. In 2003, Mason Wren found that the 13th August was not unlucky as he struck 111 against Horsham - watched by (then) England International Matthew Hoggard and a gathering of Sussex CCC members, who turned their deckchairs towards the Belhus game from the Sussex and Yorkshire Second XIs playing on the adjacent ground. The most recent centurion on a youth tour was Michael Fogg, who stroked 101 at Henfield CC in 2008 - five years to the day of Mason's landmark innings.



Sussex Youth Tour 2003 at Horsham CC with Matthew Hoggard

Left to Right: Mathew Lucas Bradlee Sharpe John Roberts Jr Matthew Hoggard
Chris Didd Alex Priddle

Matthew Hoggard was not the only first class cricketer to become involved in a Belhus youth tour. Inevitably, there were frequent visits to the Sussex County Ground at Hove, often as invited guests of the club, resulting in meeting professional players such as Bob Willis, Imran Khan, John Barclay and Darren Gough.

One of the most remarkable youth tour fixtures occurred at Keymer and Hassocks on 15th August 2006. The game ended in a tie with both teams being dismissed for 208. Gavin Jefferies scored 59 and Connor Thomas 30, but it was left to Tony Ellis to claw Belhus back into contention with four late wickets. John Forrest holds the record for best all-round performance in a Belhus youth tour game. Against Clymping on 11th August 1981, John scored 79 then took 5 for 7.

These achievements were no mean feats: youth cricket in the host county is exceptionally strong and well organised by the Sussex Junior Cricket Festival. The Belhus youth section remains indebted, not only to the volunteers of the festival who have helped us over the past thirty years, but also the constituent clubs and their management for making these youth tours so successful and enjoyable.

While the Sussex tours have always been regarded as the pinnacle of the club's youth section, local fixtures have provided regular activity across a range of age groups. For many years, the club has entered teams in various competitions organised by the South Essex District Cricket Board, as well as the Essex under 16 Matchplay competition and National competitions at under 15 and under 13 levels.

'...regular activity across a range of age groups...'

Belhus never enjoyed regular progress beyond the group stages of the 40-overs Matchplay competition, though against Great Burstead in June 1999, Belhus scored a record-breaking 272 without loss (Matthew Vallis 118 and Nick Marns 124).

Two other notable achievements in this competition involved opposing players. First, on 26th July 1998, Arfan Raja scored 273 not out for Ilford in our 'home' fixture at Wellstead Gardens, Westcliff-on-Sea. He often tells the story that he edged his first ball to our wicketkeeper. Despite the catch being taken, no-one appealed. Raja stood his ground; the rest is history. The Ilford team manager was the late Joe Hussain, who preferred to be at the Belhus game rather than watch his son, Nasser, play in the test match against South Africa at Trent Bridge. However, Joe did seek solace part-way round the boundary and was tuned in to the radio when Nasser went out to bat. The future England captain finished with 58 to help England level the series. Closer to home, Ilford closed on 387 for 5 with Belhus 137 all out in reply.

More recently, on 17th June 2007, Alan Ison of Uppminster scored 206 not out in a total of 343 for 3 on a perfect pitch at North Stifford. He shared an opening stand of 217 with Harry Jenkins, who scored 104 before being caught and bowled by Michael Fogg. To their credit, Belhus reached 170, with Dale Kenyon top scoring with 46.

Other Belhus youth teams have fared rather better outside of Matchplay. The club reached the Essex semi-finals of the Under 15 National Cup in 1976, 1981 and 1983, but lost all in differing circumstances. In 1976, a visit to Langdon School in East Ham to play Old Esthameians saw the hosts score 140 for 3, despite a bright Belhus start. Opening bowler Robert Waters gained a first-ball dismissal, then, three balls later, had Chris Gladwin caught and bowled for a duck. Gladwin went on to play for Essex and Derbyshire, while his team won this encounter, dismissing Belhus for 76.

The second semi-final appearance in 1981 saw an uncharacteristic batting collapse. There had been some bright omens going into the game, with David Webb scoring 73 not out and 99 in the two previous rounds at Leigh-on-Sea and Hutton respectively. Against a Chelmsford team which included Neil Burns, later to become wicketkeeper with Essex, Leicestershire and Somerset, Belhus succumbed to a very disappointing 23 all out, chasing the hosts' score of 124 for 3.

The semi-final tie against Clayhall in 1983 was a much closer game. Belhus, batting first, had scored 68 for the loss of nine wickets with Michael Phillips the leading run scorer with 28. Clayhall reached their target in a tense finish with only two balls to spare, but lost five wickets in the process.

While Belhus has provided occasional venues and hospitality for the Essex Primary Schools' Cricket Association, a more recent fixture has been the annual staging of the South Essex District Cricket Board's under 11 cup final. But one event stands out above all others - the so-called 'Belhus One-Day International' when the club hosted the Zimbabwe under 15 match against a Thurrock Under 17 team at Belhus Park on Sunday 4th August 1996.

‘...the club hosted the Zimbabwe under 15 match...’

Belhus had four members in the Thurrock team - Gary Benson, Roy Heffernan and Stuart Morris, plus Paul Bennett who had only played for the club at under 17 level. The all-day 55-overs match drew around 200 spectators. The Zimbabwe team was in the UK for the inaugural under 15 World Cup and this was their first warm-up match in preparation for their challenges ahead. Zimbabwe batted first and scored 281 for 7. Gary Benson took two catches in the innings.

In reply, Stuart Morris top scored with 25, but Thurrock were dismissed for 79 after 35.5 overs - a gallant effort against such lofty opponents, many of whom went on to play first class cricket. Four of the Zimbabwean team - Gavin Ewing, Travis Friend, Mluleki Nkala and Alester Maregwede - went one stage further by representing their country at test level. Sadly, the tourists' wicketkeeper, Tafadzwa Madondo, was tragically killed at the age of 27 while on holiday in Indonesia in November, 2008.



Stuart Morris (2009)



Roy Heffernan (2009)

Belhus representatives v Zimbabwe Under 15s in 1996

It is worth noting Paul Bennett's achievements in the few youth fixtures he played for Belhus. In the same year as the Zimbabwe match, Paul struck two centuries just six days apart. On 13th June, he hit 117 not out against Gidea Park and Romford in a 20-overs Havering Cricket League match, then scored 173 not out (ten sixes) against Stanford-le-Hope in the Trevor Bailey Shield under the same format. This achievement, on 19th June 1996, is still our highest individual score in a youth game.

Five centuries were achieved by Belhus juniors in the 1996 season. Roy Heffernan struck 123 not out against Havering-atte-Bower on 15th May, while Gary Benson made 104 against Harold Wood on 14th August, both matches in the Havering under 17 league. With Jagjit Johal scoring 125 against Pegasus on 29th June in the Essex Peter Coe Under 13 Cup, 1996 became the year in which the most centuries were scored at youth level. The highest score by a Belhus under 13 player is 134 not out by Michael Canavon against Chelmsford at Chelmer Park on 10th May 1997.

Roy had scored two previous youth centuries for Belhus U15s in 1995. On 8th May, he scored 106 against Basildon and Pitsea followed on 10th August with 128 not out - after being dropped first ball! On 17th August 1981, David Webb (who went on to represent Essex at U19 level) hit 153 at Chadwell Heath in 58 minutes, while Nick Marns made 129 not out in a Thurrock Youth Knock-Out Cup fixture with Orsett on 18th July 1999. The first century in a Belhus youth match occurred on 26th July 1977, when Mark Winter scored 109 against Canvey Island at Belhus Park.

There have been some outstanding performances with the ball. On 25th May 2004, Mason Wren took 7 for 0 from four overs (finishing with a hat trick) for the under 15s against Pegasus and Corringham who were dismissed for 43 with all ten batsmen being bowled. Young Mason had also taken a hat trick in the same fixture the previous season and Warren Keeble took 6 for 4 from three overs including a hat trick against Pegasus on 21st August 1997.

Meanwhile, leg-spinner Owen Jefferies took a hat trick and claimed 6 for 1 against Stanford-le-Hope under 13's on 20th May 2008. The one run was conceded as the umpire at the striker's end called "no-ball" due to encroachment by the wicketkeeper!

Earlier, in the Essex Cricket Association's under 15 Peters Cup on 6th July 1976, Robert Waters took 5 for 0 from 5 overs as Grays were shot out for 30. Apart from the hat tricks previously mentioned, the feat was also achieved by Ritchie Loveridge (1986), Simon Lighten, Jagjit Johal (1996), Tony Cobb and Warren Keeble (1997).

The Under 13s became the South Essex District Cricket Board's champions in 1985 at a time when much of the cricket at under 13 level was played in pairs format. In 1996, against Old Southendian and Southchurch, Belhus had a seemingly impossible target of scoring 33 runs off the final three overs, but the final pairing of Michael Canavon and Matthew Goodman ensured a Belhus victory by just two runs.

With many of the team still qualifying for the same age group the following year, it was felt that there would be a good chance of retaining the title - and so it proved. We again travelled to Benfleet for the district final but it was a grey, sombre day as the death of HRH The Princess of Wales was announced. After observing silence, Belhus scored 276 for 2 and Westcliff-on-Sea were restricted to 225 for 9.



**David Webb
(1981)**

Two youth team centurions



**Michael Fogg
(2009)**



**Ben Kent & Brian Edwards
(2009)**

Under 13 and the Chairman

The under 15s became South Essex champions in 2003. In the play-off cup final, Hadleigh and Thundersley were dismissed for 70 and despite losing both openers without score in reply, Belhus eventually came through without further loss as Bradlee Sharpe aborted any dressing room panic with 43 not out.

Like many major clubs in the UK, Belhus has been able to develop valued partnerships with various organisations. The club is involved with the Essex Boys and Girls Clubs, who have a prestigious fixture list that includes visits to Eton College and Harrow School for which Belhus junior members are often selected. The club has been supported by the Jack Petchey Foundation and remains in partnership with 'Chance to Shine', a charity which furthers education through cricket.

Youth Section Established	1975
First Youth Tour to Sussex	1977
First Youth Century (Mark Winter)	1977
Best Youth Tour Bowling Analysis (John Forrest)	1981
Highest Individual Youth Score (Paul Bennett)	1996
Best Opening Partnership in Matchplay (Mat Vallis/Nick Marns)	1999
Best Youth Bowling Analysis (Mason Wren)	2004

The club has developed a section for those with special needs, establishing strong links with Beacon Hill and Treetops schools. Earlier in 2010, Beacon Hill school, accompanied by our own Ian Wright, became the Essex Table Cricket champions.

Over the years, youth team managers have included, Francis Baptiste, George Brooks, Michael Canavon Snr, Cliff Cansdale, Lisa Cansdale, Richard Day, Charles Didd, Geoff Dreher, Brian Edwards, Michael Fogg, Alan Green, Paul Hall, Gavin Jefferies, John Lewis Snr, Richard Marns, Les Perry, Harry Potter, John Roberts Snr, Barry Ruck, Steve Sheridan, Mike Squires, Roy Stillwell, Richard Waters, Mark Winter and Ian Wright. A more encouraging trend is for youth players to qualify as cricket coaches and mentor the younger players joining the club.

Raise your glasses please to toast the golden jubilee of Belhus Cricket Club and all the members, parents and supporters, past and present, who have contributed so much to the success of our youth section over the past half-century.

Cliff Cansdale



Under 11s at County Ground, Chelmsford 2005 - Mini Matchplay Competition

Left to Right: Sunil Sangha William Carter Duncan Brown George Gainsborough
Owen Jefferies Billy Winter (Capt) Libby Cansdale Rebecca Holyoak



Under 15s 2009

Back: Sam Hall Connor Ramsey Iniyam Anbalakan Tony Ellis
Daniel Dreher Owen Jefferies
Front: Lee Shipton Ellis Stevens Amy Squires Connor Stevens Max Scott

Record Wicket Partnerships

1st	249	Martin Guilbert (146*) and Nick Marns (74) 1st XI v Eastside	16th May 2004
2nd	202	Nathan Turner (111) and Mason Wren (111) 2nd XI v Noak Hill Taverners	5th August 2006
3rd	238	Paul Wiltshire (62*) and Richard Waters (159) 2nd XI v Little Thurrock	8th July 1989
4th	238	Wayne Read (178) and Richard Waters (58*) 1st XI v Goresbrook	19th July 1990
5th	139	Andy Armit (47) and Brian Edwards (83) 2nd XI v South Ockendon Hospital	25th June 1989
6th	173	Nick Marns (124) and Steve Huckstepp (36) Tour XI v Norwich	3rd July 2006
7th	145	Steve Huckstepp (56*) and John Forrest (82*) 1st XI v Pegasus	26th June 1988
8th	151	Gavin Jefferies (50*) and Paul Whitlock (101) 2nd XI v Mountnessing	3rd June 2007
9th	162*	Francis Baptiste (70*) and Richard Dopson (84*) 2nd XI v Havering-Atte-Bower	4th September 1999
10th	73	Danny Chandler (31*) and Alan Maidment (31) 2nd XI v Dartfordians	22nd July 2007

*Unbroken



Nick Marns (2009) Richard Waters (1990s) Steve Huckstepp (2009)

Have all featured in two record wicket partnerships

Memorable Ties

Ties are rare - there have been two instances in test cricket (in 1960 and 1986 both involving Australia). However, Belhus teams have experienced a number including;

Belhus Second XI	126 for 3
Lloyds Sports	126 all out

Bill Line was a founder member of the club. He was elected captain of the Second XI in 1975 and opened the batting in the away match against Lloyds Sports on 24th May. A left-handed batsman, Bill usually went to the crease wearing his wristwatch and often without batting gloves. And he didn't always take a guard. At number one in the order, Bill carried his bat through the innings for a patient 66 not out and we declared at 126 for 3 after 42 overs - not the most exciting of Belhus batting displays.

After tea (which cost 25p), Malcolm Page opened the bowling and took a wicket in his first over. But despite a stand of 46 for the second wicket, wickets fell regularly until the scores were level after 30 overs, with opener Weal sitting also on 66 not out.

And it was to be captain Bill's day when he took a catch off the bowling of Phil Hunter to dismiss the last Lloyds batsman to clinch a memorable tie.

Belhus Second XI	86 all out
Little Thurrock	86 all out

At Belhus Park on 9th July 1977, the Second XI found themselves in trouble at 42 for 7 (six ducks) and the prospect of a wasted afternoon. But 14 year old John Lewis Jnr came in at number nine and stroked a stylish 25 not out to take us to 86 all out.

It wasn't the highest of totals to defend, but Brian Adams bowled accurately that afternoon. With the scores level, he clean-bowled the last Little Thurrock batsman to force a well-deserved tie and returned a personal career best of 8 for 29. Great stuff.

Belhus First XI	219 for 4
Old Commoners	219 all out

Belhus Park was the scene for this tie. On 6th August 1995, the First XI reached 219 for 4 declared as Mark Winter (116 not out) and Kevin Stone (63) shared a third wicket stand of 147. Thanks to 5 for 32 by spinner Cliff Cansdale, the scores stood level with the last two Commoners at the crease and the number six batsman, Bentley, perched on 101 not out. But Belhus players always seem to field well when the chips are down and we run out the last batsman to earn an exciting tie. We are unable to identify the sharp fielder on that day (the other, ageing, members who played on that day cannot remember!). Whoever you are/were Mr Fielder, well done.

Lordswood
Belhus First XI

157 all out
157 all out

In this 40-overs match on 27th September 1998 (the First XI's last game of the season), Jim Robertson took a creditable 4 for 21 in the dismissal of Lordswood for 157. A fine 62 from Wayne Read took the scores level with 9 wickets down, but Dave Aldridge was run out off the very last ball of the match. Blast. Exciting though.

Goresbrook
Belhus Second XI

174 all out
174 for 9

On 22nd August 2005 in a limited overs game, Jim Robertson took 6 for 17 in dismissing Goresbrook for 174 - a target easily achievable on the 'road' at North Stfford. At 138 for 9, we were staring at defeat, but Chris Baker (63*) and Jim Robertson took us to 173 - just 2 runs required to win off the last ball. Unhappily, we could only scramble a bye against a club with whom we enjoy a close relationship.

Belhus Fourth XI
Barking

58 all out
58 all out

On 7th June 2008, the Fourth XI entertained Barking and, perhaps sensing that history was in the making, a pre-match team photo was taken. Skipper Cliff Cansdale won the toss on a hot afternoon, and although not best pleased when we were dismissed for just 58 (only Lee Hawkes reached double figures), he was still optimistic, knowing only too well that, 'the game ain't over 'til it's over'.

After an early tea, and with Barking probably underestimating the tenacity of Belhus fight, Ricki Ellis (4 for 15) got our response underway. Tom Wood (3 for 6) and Mike Randall (3 for 27) supported the cause. With the scores sitting level after 25 overs, Tom Wood's lbw appeal against Hinds was upheld and a tie was secured. Brilliant.



Fourth XI v Barking CC 2008

Back: Gary Hayers Steve Wood Cliff Cansdale (Capt) Mike Randall
Lee Hawkes Ryan Prendergast
Front: Alfie Rowley Tom Wood Danny Chandler Ricki Ellis Daniel Dreher

No. 11 Batsman the Highest Scorer

In the Second XI match against Fords on 8th May 1960, Richard O'Riordan top-scored with 6 not out in the Belhus total of 24 which included five ducks. It is the only instance that we have been able to discover of a number eleven batsman being the highest scorer in an innings. Excellent.

Most Opposition Batsmen Bowled in an Innings

8	Mandrake Kahn	2nd XI v Becontree	20th July 1985
7	Don Pegler	1st XI v Fairfield	9th May 1964
7	Bert Freeman	1st XI v Marshalls	25th May 1969
7	Richard Waters	1st XI v Abridge	4th May 1985

Over and Out

In the mid-week match against Locksbottom on 1st July 2009, skipper Peter Clark bowled a concoction of wides and no-balls in his record 13-ball over. That was a relief to Chris Didd who had previously held the record for the most deliveries in an over (12) against Goresbrook on 21st June 2008. The Management Board has requested, however, that Belhus bowlers should not deliberately attempt to surpass this performance in order to be the distinguished holder of a club record.

Only Four Bowlers

Pauters	79
Belhus First XI	68

An unusual event occurred on 16th May 1964. Pauters batted first and were dismissed for 79 in 32 overs with only two Belhus bowlers used (Patrick Pooler-Williams 4 for 24 and Graham Cunliffe 5 for 28). In reply, our Second XI were dismissed for 68 in 31 overs, with C. Ford and M. Bragg the only Pauters bowlers.

Best All-Round Performance in a Season

Bill Line played for the club for over 25 years and 1975 was his purple year. In playing for the Second XI, he was the highest run-scorer; the highest wicket-taker; returned the best bowling figures; made the highest individual score - the best ever all-round season performance by a Belhus player. Bill was also Second XI captain.

Unfortunately, the team's performance over the season did not quite match up to Bill's - the final analysis: Played 41, Won 6, Lost 26, Drew 7, Abandoned 1, Tied 1. This was, undoubtedly, one of the least successful teams in the club's history.

So it was a season of mixed feelings for Bill.

Holding the Team Together

Opening the batting for the First XI in the match against St. Mary Cray on 5th May 2002, Richard Waters scored a classy 101 out of a total of 165 for 9 (61% of the team total). The next highest scorer was Mark Winter who made 12.

Kingfisher scored 193 against the Second XI on 27th April 2003. After too many cakes for tea, the 'Belhus Collapse' ensued as we stood at 6 for 7! Scott Bayford then produced an astonishing display of hitting to score 123 (a club record for a No. 8 batsman) - 66% of our 186 all out - seven runs short of a near remarkable victory.

The First XI played Harwich & Dovercourt on 2nd July 1995. We batted first and scored 190 for 9 thanks to Mark Winter who stroked 125 (65% of the team total). Our next highest scorer was Kevin Stone who scraped 14. We then bowled out H & D for 155 (Cliff Cansdale 6 for 44), so making the long journey well worth the effort.

On 30th August 1981 against South Woodford, Danny Evans scored 107 (69% of the team total) for the Second XI, but the only other batsman to reach double figures was Dick Forrest with 13. We were bowled out for 154 and lost by 8 wickets.

On 7th July 1985, Downshall mustered only 151 for 8. In reply, our First XI easily chased down the runs thanks to 100 not out (66% of the total) from Terry Lambert Jr. The next highest scorers were Mark Winter and Dick Bignell with 13 apiece.

Wayne Read's score of 181 not out against Rainham on 4th August 1984 accounted for 75% of the third XI's total score of 240 for 6. But Rainham held out for a draw.

The record contribution to a team total was made by Keith Davis for the Second XI against Mile End Old Boys on 1st July 1973. 'Plod' made 82 out of 103 - 79.61% of the total. Our next highest scorer was Ron Smalley who made 9. Sadly we lost.

Most 6s in an Over

5	Wayne Read 3rd XI v Rainham	4th August 1984
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Most 4s in an Over

6	Scott Bayford 1st XI v Broomfield	30th May 1999
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Most 6s in an Innings

14	Wayne Read 1st XI v Midland Bank	27th August 1988
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12	Chris Dreher 2nd XI v Thameside	2nd August 1998
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The Big Hitters

Cricket coaches of days gone by positively discouraged batsmen from hitting the ball in the air (until the advent of one-day cricket). Boundary sixes tended to be the forté of tail-end batsmen who were required to 'hit out or get out'. A total of only 20 sixes were registered by our batsmen during the entire 1960 season in no less than 65 matches. Today, it is highly likely that one batsman alone will score, or get close to, such a number in a single season. How times have changed.

The more notable six-hitters of the 1960s included Bill Rowell and Les Perry (who often batted without gloves and didn't much care for quick singles), along with pace bowler Keith Davis who followed his six hits with a throaty, schoolboy chuckle. Schoolmaster Gerry Thompson, (who chose to play in flimsy plimssoles) also regularly dealt in sixes and once scored 50 when batting at number ten.

And Andrew Walker and Peter Ferns (both opening pace bowlers) could often be relied upon to liven up the end of an innings to the frustration of opposing captains.

'...with a throaty, schoolboy chuckle...'

The 1970s brought about a change in attitude towards batsmanship as the 40-over John Player Sunday League was introduced by the Counties. It took the game by storm. It certainly wasn't for the purists, but it drew large crowds and arguably rescued our national game that had become a wee bit stale. It had the same effect then, as Twenty20 has had in more recent times. And the new approach towards batting filtered down to club level, including Belhus.

The days of holding out for a draw when a win was all but lost, were overtaken by a drive to win - however difficult or seemingly impossible the task. The result, of course, was that many matches were lost that might otherwise have been drawn. It had suddenly become more honourable to strive for a win, however futile and whatever the outcome, than to secure a hard-fought draw.

'...fairly bludgeoned bowling attacks...'

In his nonchalant style, Ken Lewis produced a six on his debut for the Second XI on 15th May 1971, and Vic Davies pioneered the 'charge' strategy. Brian Adams' permanent grin and cavalier approach wasn't much appreciated by opposition bowlers, and John Rowell fairly bludgeoned bowling attacks.

And beefy Dave Hewitt is fondly remembered for despatching his six hit blows with disdain, and most of our other batsmen of the era joined in the fun.

The real big hitters appeared from the 1980s onwards. David Webb targeted the mid off and extra cover boundaries, and Wayne Read blazed 14 sixes in an innings (a club record) for the Third XI in 1984. Chris Dreher was able to achieve height as well as distance, and smashed twelve impressive sixes in an innings in 1998.

These guys, along with Mathew Lewis Snr, had a natural gift for the 'big one' and their match-winning skills were replicated by the likes of Brian Edwards (referred to as 'Basher' in one newspaper report) and Scott Bayford. Kevin Stone had the effrontery to alert bowlers of his six hit intention before receiving the next delivery - and carried out his threat on numerous occasions.

Witnesses claim that Richard Day has stroked the longest six to the 'Road End' at North Stifford Village Green, although not quite clearing the houses on the High Road. The Aussies Mark Baker and Danny Hyndman could produce sixes virtually to order and, of the current younger generation, both Chris Didd and Ben Marns regularly prompt umpires to raise both arms. But make no mistake, these guys are not brainless sloggers - they time the ball sweetly and can bat a bit.

The Record Score of 181*

Wayne Read was just 16 when he scored 181 not out for the Third XI against Rainham on 4th August 1984. It is still the club record today. Having been dropped from the First XI the previous week, he batted for just 80 balls, moved from 50 to 100 in 18 deliveries and struck five sixes in one over (another club record). It was an astonishing performance. Unfortunately, Wayne's effort was all in vain as we couldn't bowl out Rainham and had to settle for a draw.

Wayne (who represented the Club Cricket Conference's President's eleven) soon came back down to earth the next day - out for a second ball duck. As they say, "It's a funny old game."

Bowl at the Stumps!

Richard Waters lived up to his philosophy of 'bowling at the stumps' when, for the First XI against Abridge on 4th May 1985, he clean-bowled all of his victims in a magical spell of 7 for 11. Belhus won we're pleased to say.

Sheer Domination

Bow Rovers must have been satisfied with their 254 for 7 against the 1st XI on 14th May 1995. But with support from Shanti Popat and Chris Horsey, Wayne Read was in blistering form as he smashed 130 not out in 31 overs, finishing the match with a towering six to see Belhus race to 259 for 1 and a nine-wicket win. Magnificent.

A One Man Show

Against Norwood for the Second XI on 18th May 1980, Richard ('Henry') Harvey scored a superb 121, sharing a fourth wicket partnership of 184 with Andy Armit (61 not out) to close the Belhus innings at 231 for 3. Not content with his afternoon's work, Henry then opened the bowling and took 5 for 14 from ten overs to dismiss Norwood for 114. A marvellous one-man show and the best ever all-round individual performance in the history of the club. Tiptop.

Best All Round Performances

Now although Richard Harvey performed his marvellous one-man show, it has to be mentioned that two players have achieved a match 'double' (a fifty and a '5 for') on two occasions - Patrick Pooler-Williams and John Forrest. But Tony Udell holds the record of three 'doubles' - each time for the Third XI. Tony played for the club for only a handful of seasons - had he played for longer, who knows...?

The Most Dramatic Belhus Collapse?

The Second XI match against Roydon on 13th August, 1966 was extraordinary. We clean-bowled all of the Roydon batsmen (a joint club record), and in dismissing them for 121, we proved that Belhus bowlers can bowl at the stumps when they make the effort! Despite losing an early wicket (Bill Line), we were doing just fine at 17 for 1, but then came perhaps the most dramatic ever 'Belhus Collapse' as we proceeded to lose nine wickets for three runs to be all out for 20. Oh dear, oh dear.

Highest Team Total and Largest Victory by Runs

In the 45 overs match against Downshall on 22nd July 1989, our Second XI batsmen were in fine form as they amassed the highest team score of 341 for 6. Shanti Popat made 119 and Tony Lincoln and Steve Huckstepp each contributed 58. It then took us only 15 overs to dismiss Downshall for 47 (three wickets apiece from David Cayless and Jason Caparn) to secure our largest victory by runs - 294. Outstanding.

Most Runs in a Season

Gavin Jefferies	1,987 (48 Innings, 8 not out. Average 49.68)	2009
Wayne Read	1,677 (46 innings, 9 not out. Average 45.32)	1999
Richard Day	1,639 (43 innings, 11not out. Average 51.21)	1989

Most Run Outs in a Belhus Innings

6	1st XI v Thames Board Mills	21st June 1960
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Honourable (or Boring?) Draws

All of our teams have been involved in many unexciting matches over the years: to earn a draw when staring at certain defeat is very much a part of the game. And although some draws have been honourable, others were just plain boring:

19th July 1960	Upminster 182 for 3 dec (29 overs) Belhus 2nd XI 86 for 4 (47 overs)
13th June 1965	Walworth 146 (65 overs) Belhus 1st XI 100 for 6 (50 overs)
11th September 1965	Belhus 1st XI 93 (37 overs) Cranham 67 for 4 (32 overs)
28th May 1966	Belhus 1st XI 103 for 9 dec (45 overs) Craven 62 for 4 (33 overs)
12th September 1971	Northend 199 for 3 dec (45 overs) Belhus 1st XI 104 for 0 (42 overs)
13th August 1972	Belhus 1st XI 177 for 6 dec Gidea Park & Romford 104 for 1 (42 overs)
10th September 1972	Belhus 1st XI 104 Brentwood 89 for 6 (40 overs)
17th September 1972	Belhus 1st XI 148 Anson St George 116 for 2 (40 overs)
25th May 1975	Fives & Heronians 170 for 5 Belhus 2nd XI 87 for 3 (50 overs)

“Time Gentlemen Please”

.....a cry that members dreaded to hear in the days when pubs were required by law to close at 11.00pm. It was, and still is, customary to share a pint with the opposition after a match, and we have visited many pubs throughout Essex over the years. After home matches, we would invite the opposition back to our ‘regular’ which, in 1960, began at *‘The Archer’*. We switched briefly to the *‘Jack O’Lantern’*, *‘The Prince of Wales’* and the *‘Royal Oak’*, until returning to *‘The Archer’*. And for almost 40 years, ‘The Jack’ was the meeting point for teams before away matches.
