

# Belhus

Cricket Club

50th Anniversary



Part D

# Belhus CC

1960 - 2010

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## Foreword

*"I am very honoured to be asked to provide a short foreword to this 50th anniversary commemorative booklet. The recreational game in the county is the lifeblood of the game, and from a county perspective it provides us with the platform to produce our next generation of Essex and England cricketers.*

*There is no doubt that much of our development work would be impossible without our close links with those working at the grass roots level.*

*Running a club in these challenging times is no mean feat, and to have reached an admirable 'half century' is a testimony to the commitment and dedication of Belhus Cricket Club members and committees.*

*You should all be congratulated on this achievement and I wish you the very best of luck for the future".*

**David East**

**Chief Executive, Essex County Cricket Club**

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## The Record Winning Run-Chase

Not surprisingly, Southend-on-Sea chose to bat first in the First XI's match at North Stifford on 20th June 2009. And their decision proved justified as they raced to 130 without loss. Philip McIntosh made a fine century, but Billy Winter's spell of 5 overs for 11 runs restricted the Southend total to 275 for 2 declared from 52 overs.

There was no real debate among the Belhus team at the tea interval. Our players, and visitors too, are well aware of the quality and consistency of our pitch on which big totals can easily be chased down. So we set about our task in an unflustered way, with all of our batsmen making respectable contributions. When 160 runs were required from the final twenty overs, and with five wickets down, we knew that the target was reachable. As we upped the tempo and measured our chase, it was left to Scott Bayford's 53 not out to see us home to victory with nine balls to spare, thereby achieving the club record winning score when batting second. Impressive.



**Richard Day (2009)**  
1st XI Captain in the record run-chase



**Scott Bayford (2009)**  
Hit winning runs in the record run-chase

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## 299 and Two Centuries - But We Still Lost!

The Second XI put in a fine batting performance against Noak Hill Taverners on 5th August 2006 when they rattled up 299 for 5 off 45 overs. Sharing a club record second wicket partnership of 202, Nathan Turner and Mason Wren scored 111 apiece before both were bowled by Mohamed Kayani. And in defending one of the highest team totals in the club's history, we were expecting maximum league points.

*'...club record second wicket partnership...'*

But Noak Hill had other ideas. They smashed our bowlers to all quarters of the ground, requiring only 37 overs to reach 300 for 2. Opening batsman Murleedharan was particularly severe on our bowlers in making 145 not out. After the match, our dazed skipper, Peter Clark, commented, "umm.....well.....er".

## Despair to Jubilation

Belhus Second XI 95  
Cantonians 61

Against Cantonians on 30th May 1993, the Second XI were expecting an early bath when, batting first, they found themselves at 34 for 6. But they had forgotten that Jim Robertson was yet to bat. Coming in at number eight, Jim's renowned determination to occupy the crease enabled us to reach 95 all out and he top-scored with 52. Only two Cantonians bowlers were deployed for the 46 overs that they bowled.

Whilst our guys were less than optimistic of a favourable result, Jim still had other ideas when he was brought on to bowl first change. Within a wink, he produced the match-winning goods yet again, taking 5 for 11 from just eight overs to dismiss the shocked Cantonians for 61. Terrific.

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## Highest Individual Scores for Each Team

1st XI	<b>158</b>	Wayne Read v Basildon & Pitsea	27th September 1997
2nd XI	<b>173*</b>	Aaron Tan v Eton Manor	23rd June 2001
3rd XI	<b>181*</b>	Wayne Read v Rainham	27th August 1984
4th XI	<b>104*</b>	Jim Robertson v Brentwood	27th June 2009
5th XI	<b>85</b>	Jack Thomas v Goresbrook	4th July 2009

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## 7 Wickets in 14 Deliveries

All members of the Lewis family have put in memorable performances over the years, but none better than that by John Lewis Snr for the Second XI on 6th June 1982. Batting first, Tilbury lost a wicket in the first over to Mike Thomas. 'Mr Lew' opened at the other end (customarily removing his sweater after his first delivery) and started with a maiden. Tilbury reached 12 for 1 and then JL produced one of the club's best bowling spells, sweeping up seven wickets from 14 deliveries for 10 runs, including a hat trick. We toppled Tilbury for 26 in 4.4 overs and won by ten wickets.

JL's final analysis read - 6 overs, 2 maidens, 10 runs, 7 wickets. "Astonishing" as JL would say. It was the highlight of his distinguished career. To show that his match-winning effort wasn't a freak, he took 3 for 3 off 5 overs in the following match against Stanford-le-Hope, and 3 for 3 off 4 overs just a couple of weeks later. Bravo.

## Spare a Thought

It is disappointing to get out in the 90s and some forty Belhus batsmen have suffered the fate. But it was particularly frustrating for Chris Dreher who, in 1987, was twice dismissed on 98 in a matter of weeks. Nathan Turner would have enjoyed the Norfolk Tour in 2006 rather more if he hadn't been dismissed twice in the 90s in the space of three days. First he was caught and bowled and then he was stumped - his intentions quite clear. Hard luck Nathan.

John Lewis Jnr fell just short of a century on three occasions in seven innings in 1984 and twice he finished Not Out. He too mulls over what might have been. And although Wayne Read has more 90s to his name than any other Belhus player, he has scored more centuries than any other - so we shouldn't feel too sorry for him!

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## Most Belhus Batsmen Bowled in an Innings

10	1st XI v Pinchin Johnson	1st May 1966
10	2nd XI v Norwood	20th June 1982
10	1st XI v Orpington	20th September 1998

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## Youngest and Oldest

The youngest player to score a century in senior cricket was Matt Vallis who, at 15 years 64 days, scored 103 not out against Woodford Green in July 1999. As for the oldest, we hope that Barry Ruck won't mind us mentioning that he was 49 years 160 days when he made a well-deserved 106 not out against Orpington in July 2008.

## Short but Sweet

Mandrake Khan was a friend of Ali Nagir. He hailed from St. Lucia in the West Indies and was on holiday in the UK during the summer of 1985. He was looking for a game and the selection committee was told, "He bowls a bit and bats a bit". So Mandrake was selected for the Second XI for the match against Becontree on 20th July at Belhus Park. After winning the toss, we put Mandrake in at number five and he came to the crease with the score at 24 for 3. He then proceeded to stroke 64 to take us to 135 all out. Mandrake could 'bat a bit'.

***'He was very, very fast...'***

After tea, Mandrake opened the bowling. He was very, very fast and frightened the life out of the Becontree batsmen. Taking 8 for 27 (including a hat trick) he clean bowled all of his victims. We won. Mandrake certainly could 'bowl a bit'.

The following week, we promoted Mandrake to the First XI for the league match against Stanford-le-Hope. He opened the bowling and soon disposed of the first four batsmen. We had Stanford on the run at 42 for 5, but unfortunately for us there was a limit on the number of overs per bowler. To the relief of Stanford, Mandrake finished his 12-over spell (5 for 23), and Stanford scrambled to 134 all out. Sadly, our batsmen didn't quite perform, and we fell short of victory by just six runs.

Mandrake played one more match for us (against Britannic Lodge) and took just one wicket after John Rowell and Bill Taylor did most of the damage and Mark Winter mopped up the tail-enders. We never heard from Mandrake again. Those who played with him in those matches say that, "he was quick, he was b\*\*\*\*y quick".

### **Six Belhus Batsmen Run Out**

We've had some good runners between the wickets and some not so good - quite a few of the latter! But the day when there was a total lack of communication between our batsmen was 21st June 1960 when the First XI played Thames Board Mills. Six (yes, 6) of our batsmen - a record that will hopefully not be beaten - were run out in our innings of 109. Fortunately Bob Prickett bowled accurately to take 8 for 39 (he clean-bowled six batsmen) to dismiss TBM for 80.

Interestingly, Derek Etchells played for Thames Board Mills on that day and was a member of the Belhus tour party to Barbados in 1991 - thirty-one years later.

### **Reading (or not) the Pitch**

The First XI played Noak Hill on 20th August 2005. We won the toss and asked the opposition to bat. Two quick wickets by Chris Didd justified our decision, but Tanweer Alam and Gulfraz Muwas put on 219 and Noak Hill declared at 305 for 6.

Belhus has never shied from chasing big scores, but despite attacking 50s by Richard Day and Richard Waters, we fell woefully short of our target and were dismissed for 168. On reflection, perhaps it was not the best decision to bat first.

On the 9th August 2003 the temperature soared to nearly 100°F, but still the Second XI decided to insert the opposition, Eton Manor. After a sizzling opening partnership of 182, Mahmood bludgeoned 168 that took EM to 398 and our captain's decision was questioned! We then crumbled to 178 all out.

In 1983, we asked Little Thurrock to bat first. They amassed 244 for 8. Unhappily our Second XI were rolled over for 52 - Nigel Lewis was top scorer with nine runs. And we are far too considerate to reveal the names of the unfortunate captains.

But the same fate has happened in our favour. On 10th September 2005 at North Stifford, Sidcup won the toss and surprisingly asked the Second XI to take first knock. With Tony Lincoln, Martin Guilbert and Dave Gibson all making 50s, we racked up an impressive 320 for 6. Somewhat shell-shocked, Sidcup replied with a 26-run partnership for the first wicket but then totally collapsed to 59 all out. We won by 261 runs - our second largest victory margin by runs. Against Rainham in 1998, we were invited to take first knock and Dave Aldridge smashed 155 not out as we made our way to 305 for 2. Pity we couldn't get them out; they finished on 184-9.

### **Records, Records, Records**

It was a new fixture for the First XI as they travelled to Offham in Kent on 23rd May 2004. On a very hot day, Jim Robertson bowled their opener, J. Rothwell, for a duck. But then came a phenomenal stand of 369 as M. England smashed a staggering 197. Offham closed at 376 from their 40 overs.

We made a good fist of the chase though. Nick Marns made 125 and Peter Clark stroked 58. We finished on 269. More records fell in this match than in any other in the club's history - most centuries in a match (3); highest individual score against us in a senior match (197); highest score against us in a 40-overs match (376); most runs scored off a Belhus bowler in a match (105); highest wicket partnership against us (369); highest aggregate runs in a match (645). Blimey, what a day.

### **Tough Going for Bowlers**

Since 1960, only one Belhus bowler has taken all ten wickets in an innings and just seven bowlers have bagged 9-wicket hauls. About what one would expect? Obviously there have been many more 8-wicket hauls over the years - in the 1960s our bowlers managed 13, in the 1970s they achieved 10 and in the 1980s, a mere 8.

But as the limited-overs format was applied in the various league competitions in the 1980s and 1990s, the number of 8-wicket performances, not surprisingly, dropped dramatically. Only three of our bowlers managed the feat in the 1990s and it was to be another ten years before it occurred again - this time by, then, fourteen years old Billy Winter for the Third XI against Havering-atte-Bower in 2007 with 8 for 22 - the only such occasion in the noughties.

With only seven '8-fors' being performed in the past 25 years, we wonder when we will witness the next occasion? The playing regulations of the Shepherd Neame Essex League (which we joined in 2009) allow bowlers to bowl as many overs (subject to limitations for young fast bowlers) as the captain will allow (in one half of the First XI fixtures), perhaps the day is not too far away?

## **Lost and Found**

There were some memorable moments on the first tour to Northern Ireland in 1966, particularly after the game against Armagh on 28th July. On the journey back to our guest house, our Chairman and minibus driver, Don Sievright, pulled over to the side of the road for a call of nature, due to the excess of Guinness consumed by all.

Upon returning to the minibus, skipper Les Perry tripped and his false teeth fell out. After an unfruitful search of the hedgerow in the pitch dark, we returned to our billet with an unhappy Les, who had earlier in the day been bowled for a duck.

*‘...dentures sparkling and smiling...’*

The scheduled match the following day was against the Royal Ulster Constabulary and we decided to make a pit stop en route, just on the off-chance that the missing dentures might be found. And, would you believe, after a quick search in the bushes and much to the joy of dear old Les, there were the dentures - sparkling and smiling at us betwixt a bunch of bright yellow dandelions.

## **In the Family**

The club has had many families among its membership. To name but a few: brothers (Dave and Chris Francis); fathers and sons (Richard, Connor, Ewan and Jack Day; Alan, Andrew and David Cayless; Harry and David Medlock; Colin and Alf Adams); fathers and daughters (Mike and Amy Squires; Cliff, Penny and Libby Cansdale). And a number of grandfathers and grandsons (John Lewis Snr and Mathew Lewis Jnr; Geoff and Daniel Dreher and Gerry and Tom Thompson).

But the only twins we can recall who have played for the club were Peter and Ray Clark (the former was a batsman, the latter a bowler - or was it the other way round?). They played in the late 1970s/early 1980s and, being identical twins, our captains and other players had much difficulty with identification. And spare a thought too for the scorer when Peter and Ray were batting together.

Both Peter and Ray were very keen cricketers and popular with other players. They may have had slightly different batting and bowling techniques, but they shared many other similarities. On the day that they independently set off to buy cars, little did they know that they would return home having bought exactly the same make and model and, would you believe, exactly the same colour.

## **Baby Due?**

On the inside cover of the 1976 Second XI scorebook appears the handwritten note ‘Colin Towler, Orsett Hospital 815100 Ext 319. Ask for Sister Towler - maternity’.

### **“It’s All Under Control Son”**

On the 26th August 2007 the First XI played Old Southendian & Southchurch. Spinner Cliff Cansdale had just been hit for five consecutive sixes when his son, Michael, suggested that he might reorganise his field placings. “It’s all under control son” barked Dad, whose next delivery, much to his relief, was nudged for a single.

### **‘It’s a Knockout’**

This was the ‘Thurrock Gazette’ headline following the Fourth XI match against Benfleet on 16th August 1983. It was a memorable day in that the fourteen years old Jim Robertson took his first hat trick that was, at the time, only the second hat trick in the club’s history. But just as memorable was the fact that wicketkeeper Colin Adams was taken to hospital with breathing difficulties after being hit in the throat. Subsequently, while batting, Roy Stillwell was knocked out after being struck on the head by a rising delivery.

### **“May I Borrow Your Boots Please?”**

The Second XI played Midland Bank in Kent on 16th May 1981 and declared at 198 for 5. Norman Beaney, the forever enthusiastic captain, made 89 and Brian Adams hit 49 not out in his usual swashbuckling style. We then rolled the Bank over for just 19 - ‘Mr Extras’ contributed 12, and seven of the bankers made ‘ducks’. Richard Harvey caused the damage with 7 wickets for 3 runs having earlier arrived at the ground without his cricket boots - so he borrowed Andy Armit’s!

### **The White Braces**

Paul Appaloosa played for us in the mid-1970s. A West Indian who lived in Brixton, he travelled to matches by public transport, often with cricket boots tied together by their laces and swinging comfortably around his neck. He flicked the ball in from the outfield with typical Caribbean trajectory and speed, and bowled quick seamers off of six paces, usually without marking a run up. He batted in the middle/late order, didn’t bother to ask the umpire for a guard and specialised in boundary sixes.

***‘...cricket boots swinging comfortably around his neck’***

On one occasion when brought on to bowl, he removed his sweater to display bright red clip-on braces. Not surprisingly, voices of disapproval were heard from colleagues around the field. When brought on to bowl the following week, he removed his sweater once again - but this time proudly revealing gleaming white braces and seeking approval from his captain. What could he say?!

A hugely popular character was Paul.

### Dismissed First Ball of the Match

We had planned to produce a list of those batsmen who have been dismissed by the first ball of a match or innings. However, when we started to ask around for recollections, we soon discovered that such a list would be far too long!

Dick Bignell started the fashion in 1960 against Great Burstead; Jim Donovan made an early return to the pavilion against Barking in 1980; Trevor Pighini was out to the first ball of the Belhus innings on the first youth tour to Sussex in 1977; Norman Beaney succumbed in 1980 against Billericay; Richard Day against South Ockendon in 1991. Stuart Morris seemed quite proud to admit to his achievement and Tony Lincoln (always a difficult batsman to dislodge) told us "Oh, I had at least three!"

Steve Huckstepp went one better - he was run out off the first ball of the match without facing - and he skilfully repeated it again on another occasion. And it can happen to the best of us. Despite his many achievements with bat and ball, Mason Wren joined the party with a first-baller against Mulberry on 24th April 2005.

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### Most Caught and Bowled in an Innings

3	John Rowell	1st XI v Chadwell Heath	5th September 1976
3	John Forrest	1st XI v Sturdee	1st July 1984

### Most Catches in an Innings

5	Dean Bettles	1st XI v Downshall	7th August 1983
5	Scott Bayford	3rd XI v Upminster	30th May 1998

### Most Opposition Batsmen Bowled in an Innings

8	Mandrake Kahn	2nd XI v Becontree	20th July 1985
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### Most Runs Conceded off an Over

32	Gary Plane	Tour X1 v Dover (Barbados)	21st October 1991
31	Cliff Cansdale	1st XI v Old Southendian & Southchurch	26th August 2007
30	Jim Banner	2nd XI v Ardleigh Green	28th September 2002

### A Paddling of Ducks

Andrew Merton was not best pleased with his start to the 1967 season. His first six innings for the Second XI resulted in six successive ducks, a feat equalled only once in first class cricket - by A. Wright of South Australia in 1905. In subsequently years, Andrew successfully opened the batting for the First, Second and Third XIs.

## **Jackboots at Harold Park**

The venue was Harold Park circa 1964. Our First XI won the toss and elected to bat. Major Patrick A. Pooler-Williams was padded, capped and ready to open the batting - his traditional role; part of the Belhus DNA.

As PW strode to the wicket, a look of horror came over his face. A product of the pre-war public school system and Sandhurst, he was the epitome of cricket sartorial and disciplined correctness. A stickler for dressing the part, he had spotted a fielder wearing 'civvies' - a coloured shirt, denim jeans and black, calf-length jackboots.

*'...the epitome of cricket sartorial and disciplined correctness...'*

PW's face and body-language quite clearly demonstrated what he was thinking: 'good heavens', 'poor show', 'an eleventh-hour stand-in', 'surely to be consigned into the depths of the third man boundary'. But no, as PW took guard, the 'civvie' took the ball. 'Good grief, he was to open the bowling!' Then, after the man measured his run up, he removed his jackboots and placed them neatly behind the stumps. 'He was going to bowl in stocking feet!'

PW was apoplectic, and marched down the wicket to address the umpire. He complained bitterly that the sentinel-like boots were a hazard and a distraction and must be removed. The umpire conversed with his colleague at square-leg, to determine if the situation was covered by the Laws of Cricket. Then, after some delay, a compromise was agreed. The bowler's-end umpire, so often bedecked with caps and sweaters, would that day add jackboots to his inventory. This proved grudgingly acceptable to PW and play finally commenced.

*'...he removed his jackboots and placed them behind the stumps.'*

It would be poetic to record that PW stroked the first delivery to the boundary, or that the middle stump was knocked to the ground. Sadly, however, this good story has to be blighted with the truth: neither event occurred. A good few runs were made in the match that day, but eventually fizzled out into a tame draw.

PW always emphasised that cricket was not merely a game of bat and ball but a game of empire, with every match to be pursued as a postscript to Agincourt, Waterloo and El Alamein. His Jardinesque approach added that day's game to cricket's great historic encounters.

First there was bodyline, then jackboots.

**Bill Brooks**



**Chris Baker (2009)**

'All-bowled' hat trick



**Owen Jefferies (2009)**

Youngest bowler to take 50 wickets  
in a season and a hat trick

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**Best Bowling for Each XI**

<b>1st XI</b>	Bert Freeman	9 for 23 v Marshalls	25th May 1969
<b>2nd XI</b>	Albert Braybrook	10 for 18 v Heathcotians	24th September 1961
<b>3rd XI</b>	Billy Winter	8 for 22 v Havering-Atte-Bower	16th June 2007
<b>4th XI</b>	Paul Whitlock	7 for 29 v Old Southendian & Southchurch	23rd May 2009
<b>5th XI</b>	Barry Ruck	4 for 17 v Goresbrook	4th July 2009

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**Ben Marns/Richard Dopson (2009)**

Record 3rd XI 10 wickets win v Southend 2009



**Alan Maidment (2009)**

Record 10th wicket partnership in 2007

### Lowest Innings Totals

5	4th XI v Bexley	28th July 2007
14	2nd XI v Great Burstead	7th August 1960
14	1st XI v Tennyson	2nd May 1965
15	4th XI v Orpington	12th May 2007
16	4th XI v Chevening	2nd June 2007
17	1st XI v Greenleaf	24th May 1975
20	2nd XI v Corringham	3rd July 1966
20	2nd XI v Roydon	13th August 1966
22	2nd XI v North Ockendon	12th May 1962
22	2nd XI v Essex United	25th May 1980
23	2nd XI v Harold Hill	28th August 1966
23	1st XI v Leyton Great Eastern	3rd September 1967
24	2nd XI v Fords	8th May 1960
25	2nd XI v Harold Hill	28th August 1966

### Lowest Opposition Totals

14	Pinchin Johnson v 1st XI	1st May 1966
19	Midland Bank v 2nd XI	16th May 1981
21	Ockendon Hospital v 2nd XI	22nd September 1960
21	Southend Hospitals v 1st XI	7th May 1979
22	Green Lodge v 2nd XI	23rd June 1962
22	Procter & Gamble v 1st XI	20th May 1982
23	Aveley v 1st XI	13th August 1960
25	Ockendon Hospital v 1st XI	30th April 1960
26	Walworth v 1st XI	18th June 1961
26	Kennedy v 1st XI	3rd May 1966
26	Panalpina v 2nd XI	6th June 1977
26	Tilbury v 2nd XI	6th June 1982
27	Fairlop Oak v 1st XI	23rd July 1988
29	St Johns v 1st XI	10th May 1975

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### 100 Years Ago

In 1910, the Grays and District Cricket League comprised seven clubs - Wouldham, Stanford Petro, P & O, Tilbury, Aveley, Whitehall and West Thurrock, and cricket match reports regularly appeared on the front page of the '*Grays & Tilbury Gazette*'. Playing for Aveley CC, W. Low took 54 wickets in the season at an average of 3.74.

### **“How is Sir Frank?”**

Given the ground-breaking nature of the club's tour to Barbados in 1976, the tour party was invited to attend a Reception at the official residence of the British High Commissioner, along with various cricket personalities including Test legends Sir Clyde Walcott, Wes Hall, Charlie Griffith and senior government dignitaries.

Upon being introduced to Lady Worrell by Sir Clyde, our then President, Bill Line, enquired, “How is Sir Frank?” A silence of disbelief fell over the immediate vicinity as Ben Hoyos, Secretary of the Barbados Cricket Association, whispered to Bill that the great Sir Frank Worrell, the first black cricketer to captain the West Indies, had died more than nine years earlier. As members of the English press were also present at the Reception and within earshot, it wasn't surprising that quotes of the faux pas appeared in *'The Guardian'* and the *'Daily Mail'*. Bill must surely have known.....?!

### **Lewis Galore**

John Lewis Snr made his debut on 14th July 1962 against Great Burstead, striking a solitary 6, and it whetted his appetite for the next 30 years (captaincy, chairmanship and the presidency between 1986 and 1992). He sired 4 sons, John Jnr, Mathew, Nigel and Graham, all of whom have played or still play for the club.

John's brother, Ken, made his first appearance for the 2nd XI against Shoreditch NALGO in May 1971 (striking a 6 and making the top score of 19) and his brother Tony played a few games too. Ken's son Marc joined the list and still plays for us today. Mathew Jnr continued the tradition by joining the Under 13s in 2009, scoring his first 50 against Rainham. And let's not forget Mum, Eve, who produced the very best home-made cakes and biscuits for tea.

### **Tomorrow's Another Day**

In the opening match against Filleigh on the Devon tour in 1982, Peter Thompson and Cliff Cansdale were feeling quite pleased with themselves after sharing a first wicket partnership of 123, scoring 58 and 52 respectively. But they came back down to earth with a bang the following day, when both were dismissed for ducks.

### **Nightingale Stopped Singing**

There has been only one incident that we can find of an opposition batsman being dismissed under Law 37 (Obstructing the Field). In the 1st XI match against Hornchurch on 3rd September 1983, Bob Clarke appealed when the opposition batsman, Nightingale, deliberately stood in the way when 'Johnny' threw the ball at the stumps for a run out. Our appeal was upheld. But we still lost. Only once has a batsman been dismissed OTF in test cricket - Len Hutton v South Africa in 1951.

### **“Taxi”**

People were not exactly prosperous in the 1960s. Many of our members didn't own cars and the availability of transport had a bearing on the Selection Committee's decision when selecting teams for away fixtures. Taking a bus or train or even cycling or walking to a match was not uncommon. So it was to ease this transport problem that Bill Line decided to invest in a taxi - a London black taxi cab.

The taxi was about 25 years old with many miles on the clock. We could cram in seven or eight people and a bag of equipment (few players possessed their own bats or pads or gloves). The taxi occasionally broke down - as occurred in 1969 on the way to the first match of the season against South Ilford. When we pulled over to the side of the road due to a snapped fan-belt, some wag opined that a ladies stocking would fix the problem. And without a word, bachelor Bill made his way to the boot and unashamedly produced a pair of tights to ask if they would suffice! They did, and without further question, the journey continued. And we won the match.

### **Harry Potter the First**

The Annual General Meeting of 1989 was held on 23rd October in the Belhus Park Golf Club conference room. The Minutes of that meeting state, 'It was proposed that Mr Harry Potter be appointed a Life Vice President. No decision was made with regard to this'. And unfortunately that was the last we ever heard of Harry Potter until, that is, a certain J K Rowling.....

### **Nice Teas**

Warley Hospital, near Brentwood, was another psychiatric institution against whom we played in the 1960s. Having chalked up a respectable 186 all out, the First XI bowled out the Warley doctors, staff and patients for just 31. It wasn't the most competitive match in which we played that season, but a note was scrawled in the scorebook, "The tea was very nice."

### **No Dogs Please**

After the death of his white boxer dog, Bob, Bill Line bought a replacement - a Shih Tzu breed. On the day of a match at Belhus Park in the late 1970s, Bill brought the dog with him. As the Second XI took the field, Bill decided to tie 'Pugwash' to a bench in the changing room. Now nearly three hours in a confined space for a puppy dog is likely to cause a problem. Sure enough, the blooming dog deposited his natural waste, leaving a stench that council cleaners were unable to remove for weeks. The club's management subsequently barred dogs and other animals from the changing rooms and pavilion ('the bunker' as it became known).

### **Dropped Chance When Scores Level**

Against Rayleigh Fairview in the mid 1990s, the First XI was well placed at 160 for 5 - but then came the 'Belhus Collapse'. Jim Robertson started the rot and Scott Bayford and Cliff Cansdale got first-ball ducks (in a hat trick) as five wickets fell for 5 runs. All out for 160! But was that sufficient to make a game of it? It certainly was, and the scores stood level with nine Rayleigh wickets down. And memories recall that Jason Caparn dropped a chance (Jason might have a different view) off Paul Hall's bowling that saw Rayleigh squeeze home to victory. A great game.

### **Visit of Prague CC**

We have undertaken twenty-five senior domestic and overseas tours, but have entertained only one team from overseas (apart from hosting a Thurrock Representative match v Zimbabwe U15s in 1996). Prague CC from the Czech Republic visited us on 11th May 2009 but despite a 70 from Roy Heffernan, we lost.



### **Skippers at the Toss (2009)**

Roy Heffernan (left) and Paul Myers of Prague CC

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### **“Bowler’s Name?”**

The First XI's match against Stork on 8th September 1980 was memorable for two reasons. First, no less than five of the Stork players were named 'Clark' and another was named 'Clarke'. Second, we collapsed from 27 for 4 to 28 all out. We lost.

### **Where Are They Now?**

A number of members have left our shores for business or personal reasons including, Jim Donovan to Ireland, Richard Marns to Greece, Danny Evans to Argentina, Richard Harvey and Bob Bramble to Australia, Roy Pearson to New Zealand, John Rowell to Kuwait, Bob Clarke to Dubai, Ray Sheridan to France, Graham Cunliffe to South Africa. And David Webb moved to Milton Keynes.

### Oldest Batsmen to Score a Century

Barry Ruck	49 years 160 days 106* 4th XI v Orpington	5th July 2008
Tony Lincoln	49 years 110 days 103* Tour XI v South Walsham	8th July 2005

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### Oldest Batsman to Score a Fifty

Don East	59 years 243 days 68* 4th XI v Chelmsford	1st August 2009
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### Oldest batsman to Score 1,000 Runs in a Season

Jim Banner	43 years 61 days	on 30th September 2009
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### Youngest Batsmen to Score 1,000 Runs in a Season

Billy Winter	16 years 22 days	on 30th September 2009
Michael Fogg	16 years 133 days	on 30th September 2007

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### Youngest Bowler to Take 100 wickets in a Season

John Forrest	17 years 79 days	on 30th September 1983
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### Youngest Bowlers to Take 50 Wickets in a Season

Owen Jefferies	14 years 107 days	on 30th September 2009
John Forrest	15 years 76 days	on 30th September 1981

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### Youngest Batsmen to Score a Century

Matt Vallis	15 years 64 days 106* 3rd XI v Woodford Green	10th July 1999
Mason Wren	15 years 85 days 103 2nd XI v Stanford-le-Hope	30th May 2004
Mathew Lewis Snr	15 years 142 days 139 2nd XI v Norwood	24th June 1984
Billy Winter	15 years 314 days 122* 1st XI v Roydon	19th July 2009

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N.B. It is not always possible to precisely establish when a 'seasonal' record was achieved. The 30th September has therefore been adopted as the standard date for calculation.

## Best All-Round Performances

Richard Harvey	121 and 5 for 14 2nd XI v Norwood	18th May 1980
Tony Udell	87* and 5 for 50 3rd XI v Roding Valley	26th May 2001
Pat Pooler-Williams	84* and 6 for 39 1st XI v Great Burstead	5th August 1962
Tony Udell	80 and 5 for 28 3rd XI v Roding Valley	8th June 2002
Jabir Sarwar	69 and 6 for 44 4th XI v Orsett	25th July 2009
Scott Bayford	69 and 5 for 53 2nd XI v Rainham	29th July 2006
John Forrest	66 and 6 for 52 2nd XI v Eastwood	31st May 1982
Ron Smalley	64 and 7 for 30 2nd XI v South Woodford	21st May 1977
Brian Cross	64 and 6 for 10 3rd XI v Eton Manor	28th July 2001
Mathew Lewis Snr	63 and 6 for 5 2nd XI v Brittanic Lodge	8th June 1994
Barry Ruck	59 and 6 for 17 2nd XI v South Weald	6th May 2007
Colin Adams	56* and 6 for 53 1st XI v Mulberry	23rd September 1990
Bill Taylor	55 and 5 for 37 1st XI v Rettendon	3rd September 1977
Mark Winter	55 and 6 for 34 2nd XI v Hainault & Chigwell	12th May 1985
Tony Udell	55 and 6 for 45 3rd XI v Eastwood	15th August 1998
John Forrest	53* and 5 for 40 1st XI v Bow Rovers	11th September 1988
Bill Taylor	52 and 6 for 19 2nd XI v Rise Park	12th September 1971
Jim Robertson	52 and 5 for 11 2nd XI v Cantonians	30th May 1993
Pat Pooler-Williams	51 and 5 for 39 1st XI v Pauters	18th May 1963

## Highest Scores at Each Batting Position

<b>No 1**</b>	155*	Dave Aldridge 1st XI v Rainham	8th August 1998
<b>No 2**</b>	149	Mark Winter 2nd XI v Broomfield	10th August 1991
<b>No 3</b>	181*	Wayne Read 3rd XI v Rainham	4th August 1984
<b>No 4</b>	178	Wayne Read 1st XI v Goresbrook	19th July 1990
<b>No 5</b>	116*	Wayne Read 1st XI v Goresbrook	4th August 1999
<b>No 6</b>	124	Nick Marns Tour XI v Norwich	3rd July 2006
<b>No 7</b>	73*	Mathew Lewis Snr 2nd XI v North London Muslims	11th September 1993
<b>No 8</b>	123	Scott Bayford 2nd XI v Kingfisher	27th April 2003
<b>No 9</b>	101	Paul Whitlock 2nd XI v Mountnessing	3rd June 2007
<b>No 10</b>	84*	Richard Dopson 2nd XI v Havering-atte-Bower	4th September 1999
<b>No 11</b>	35*	Robert Waters 1st XI v Abridge	30th April 1988

\*\*Aaron Tan scored 173\* for the 2nd XI v Eton Manor on 23rd June 2001 but we have been unable to establish whether he batted at No.1 or No. 2

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### “Would You Like a Cup of Tea?”

We are grateful to all mums, wives, girlfriends and partners who have generously given their time in providing sandwiches, cakes, onion bhajis and tea. Thank you.



**Janet Jefferies, Carol Edwards and Tracey Topp (2009)**

## **Administration and Captaincy**

Anyone who has been involved in the administration of a cricket club will be well aware of the amount of time that has to be devoted to its day-to-day running, as well as any given management/administrative role within it. Compared to other sports, the organising and staging of a game of cricket demands many more man hours being devoted even before the game gets under way.

Dozens of members have served the club in some official capacity or other over the past 50 years, and others have sat on committees or contributed to various tasks and projects, whilst others have carried out coaching, scoring, umpiring, match management or catering duties. We have been fortunate in having a good number of volunteers who have given their time to our cause - without reward or medal.

***‘...a good number of volunteers have given their time...’***

We are indebted to them all and although we are not a club that singles out individuals for special praise for their volunteering efforts, some of our members have dutifully served in office for a number of terms.

Just two Chairmen sat in the hot seat between 1960 and 1972 - Major Patrick Pooler-Williams (a key figure in the merger between Belhus Park CC and Belhus Association CC) and Don Sievwright (who secured regular use of the Senior Citizens' Club in Deveron Gardens, South Ockendon for club meetings).

Thereafter, the chair was taken by various members for varying periods, until 2001 when Brian Edwards (a member since 1983) took up the reins. Brian was a pivotal figure in the acquisition of the facilities and lease of North Stifford Village Green in 2004 and has worked tirelessly and passionately during a decade of growth and development. Deservedly, Brian was made a Life Member in 2005.

***‘...a pivotal figure in the acquisition of facilities and lease...’***

The role of Secretary was all-embracing in the early years and Andrew Merton was an efficient and effective administrator for six consecutive terms in the 1960s. Postholder continuity has obvious advantages, and it has been beneficial to have had just four secretaries since 1988, with Jim Robertson serving for seven terms and Barry Ruck, the present incumbent, serving since 2004.

But it is Cliff Cansdale who takes the prize for most (fourteen) terms of office as club Secretary. His first spell stretched from 1975 to 1985 and he gallantly returned to hold the post from 2001 to 2003. Absolutely marvellous.

In 1973, to relieve the burden of the Secretary, it was decided to appoint a dedicated Fixture Secretary. Both Cliff Cansdale and Joe Waters arranged fixtures for three years, and Jim Banner for four years. Since 2007, Fred Taylor has expertly arranged our programme of matches (a total of 218 in 2009). The longest-serving fixtures chief was Alf Adams, who arranged matches for thirteen consecutive seasons and was honoured with the club presidency in 1996 and 1997.

It is not necessary for the club Treasurer to be a qualified accountant (although Bill Brooks, Graham Cunliffe and Danny Carroll were) but he must have a certain discipline and an eye for detail - and a calculator. Dick Bignell served for ten years and Richard Wakely clocked up eleven years' service, while Jim Robertson not only looked after the books since 2004, he has been responsible for steering our various applications for financial grants and awards.



**Brian Edwards and Cliff Cansdale (2010)**  
Life Members

Team captains have a seasonal rather than an all-year-round job, but they nonetheless have a heavy time commitment - and the job of trying to please everyone. It is a thankless role: a no-win post where you don't take the credit if the team wins, but you usually take the flack if it loses! But win or lose, to be successful, you need to command respect both on and off the field.

Until 1977, captains led their teams on both Saturday and Sunday. The system changed in 1978 when captains were elected for each XI for each day so as to spread the workload and responsibilities.

Cliff Cansdale made his playing debut on 17th July 1971, and skippered the First, Second, Third and Fourth XIs in ten seasons between 1977 and 2008. His exceptional service to the club, in various capacities, was recognised in 2007 when he was awarded a Life Membership. And Mark Winter captained the Saturday and Sunday First XIs in eleven seasons between 1981 and 2002.



### First XI 2009

Back: Marc Lewis Scott Bayford James Terry Kevin Harber Roy Heffernan Billy Winter  
Front: Steve Huckstepp Mathew Lewis Richard Day (Capt) Michael Fogg Michael Cansdale



### Second XI 2009

Back: Chris Baker Danny Norris Dale Kenyon Bradley Walker Mark Sansom Mat Lucas  
Front: John Forrest Jim Banner Tom Thompson (Capt) Owen Jefferies Nick Marns



### Third XI 2009

Back: Scott Bayford Peter Clark Richard Dopson Stuart Morris Alan Maidment Lee Webber  
Front: Mike Squires Paul Huckstepp Paul Hall (Capt) Danny Norris Connor Day



### Fourth XI 2009

Back: Steve Wood Paul Whitlock (Capt) Cliff Cansdale Jabir Sarwar Taz Ali Don East  
 Front: Aftab Ahmed Ryan Prendergast Mathew Lewis Jnr Jack Panteli Ian Wright



### Fifth XI 2009

Back: Mike Squires Robert Connell Jack Thomas Robert Panteli Connor Thomas Alfie Rowley  
 Front: Mitchell Arthur Jim Robertson (Capt) Daniel Dreher Jack Panteli Mark Thomas

### Leading Run-Scorers in Senior Matches 2009

Gavin Jefferies	1,987	Billy Winter	1,323
Roy Heffernan	1,099	Jim Banner	1,075

### Leading Wicket-Takers in Senior Matches 2009

Owen Jefferies 75. Michael Cansdale 56. Paul Whitlock 50.

## Chronology

**1960**

Formation of **Belhus CC**

1st and 2nd XIs fielded

First 100 wickets in a season  
(**Don Pegler**)

Most run outs in a **Belhus** innings  
(6 -1st XI)

**1961**

Most wickets in an Innings  
(10 - **Albert Braybrook**)

**1962**

First century for 2nd XI  
(**Stan Matthews**)

First hat-trick  
(**Graham Cunliffe**)

**1965**

New pavilion at **Belhus Park**

**1966**

First tour to Northern Ireland

**1968**

First century for 1st XI  
(**Denis Reed**)

First youth match

**1969**

3rd XI fielded

**1971**

Most overs in an innings  
(27 - **Don Pegler**)

**1973**

Entry in to league cricket

**1975**

First 1,000 runs in a season  
(**Jim Donovan**)

**1976**

First tour to Barbados

Most wickets in a season  
(139 - **Bob Garner**)

**1977**

First youth tour to Sussex

**1978**

Thurrock & District Knock-Out  
Cup Winners

**1980**

Best all-round performance  
(121 and 5 for 14 - **Richard Harvey**)

**1981**

First tour to Hampshire

**1982**

First tour to Devon

**1983**

4th XI fielded

Most catches in an innings  
(5 - **Dean Bettles**)

Youngest bowler to take 100 wickets  
in a season (**John Forrest**)

**1984**

First century for 3rd XI  
(**Wayne Read**)

Highest individual score  
(181\* - **Wayne Read**)

**1985**

Most batsmen bowled by a **Belhus**  
bowler (8 - **Mandrake Kahn**)

**1988**

Most sixes in an innings  
(14 - **Wayne Read**)

**1989**

Highest team score  
(341 for 6 2nd XI v Downshall CC)

**1991**

Second tour to Barbados

**1994**

First tour to Lancashire

**1997**

First 'Home' match at North Stifford  
Village Green

## 1998

First tour to Yorkshire

Most catches in an innings equalled  
(5 - [Scott Bayford](#))

## 1999

Most stumpings in an innings  
(5 - [Paul Huckstepp](#))

Most fours in an over  
(6 - [Scott Bayford](#))

Youngest batsman to score a century  
([Matt Vallis](#))

## 2003

First tour to Norfolk

## 2004

Purchase of clubhouse and facilities  
at North Stifford Village Green

## 2006

Highest opposition innings total  
(406 for 6 Barking 3rd XI)

## 2007

Lowest team score  
(5 – 4th XI v Bexley)

## 2008

Oldest batsman to score a century  
([Barry Ruck](#))

## 2009

Entry to Shepherd Neame League

First century for 4th XI  
([Jim Robertson](#))

Youngest bowler to take 50 wickets  
in a season ([Owen Jefferies](#))

Oldest batsman to score 1,000 runs  
in a season ([Jim Banner](#))

Youngest batsman to score 1,000  
runs in a season ([Billy Winter](#))

Record number of runs in a season  
(1,987 - [Gavin Jefferies](#))

Highest winning score batting second  
(279 for 8 1st XI v Southend-on-Sea)

5th XI fielded

## Fixture Secretaries

[Bob Young](#)  
1973

[Cliff Cansdale](#)  
1974-1976

[Tom Waters](#)  
1977

[Joe Waters](#)  
1978-1980

[Lisa Cansdale](#)  
1981 1982

[Alan Cayless](#)  
1983

[Bob Clarke](#)  
1984

[Alf Adams](#)  
1985-1987

[Jim Banner](#)  
1998-2000 2005

[Tony Lincoln](#)  
2001 2002

[Richard Dopson](#)  
2003

[Michael Ings](#)  
2006

[Fred Taylor](#)  
2007-

.....

## Presidents

David Sayer  
1960-1961

Ken Merton  
1964-1967

Tim Clemes  
1968-1969

Bill Brooks  
1970-1973 1980-1985

Bill Line  
1974-1978

Fred Jackson  
1979

John Lewis Snr  
1986-1992

Cliff Cansdale  
1993-1995

Alf Adams  
1996-1997

Bill Taylor  
1998-2000

Richard Marns  
2001-2006

Denis Reed  
2007-

.....

## Trustees

Brian Edwards  
2004 -

Richard Marns  
2004 -

Barry Ruck  
2004 -

.....

## Patron

Ken Merton  
1970-1971

.....

## Chairmen

Patrick Pooler-Williams  
1960-1965

Don Sievwright  
1966-1972

Harry Medlock  
1973

Jim Reed  
1974

Bob Garner  
1975

Andrew Merton  
1976-1977

Bill Brooks  
1978

Jim Donovan  
1979-1980

John Lewis Snr  
1981-1983

Bill Line  
1984-1985

Cliff Cansdale  
1986-1987-1996

Mark Winter  
1988-1992-1993

Gary Plane  
1989-1990

Jim Robertson  
1991

Tony Lincoln  
1994-1995

Alan Cayless  
1997-2000

Brian Edwards  
2001-

.....

## Secretaries

John Britton  
1960

Stan Page  
1961-1963

Andrew Merton  
1964-1969

Denis Reed  
1970-1971

Jim Donovan  
1972

Andrew Walker  
1973

Harry Medlock  
1974

Cliff Cansdale  
1975-1985 2001-2003

Alan Cayless  
1986

Lisa Cansdale  
1987

Richard Wakely  
1988-1990

Kelvin Carter  
1991-1993

Jim Robertson  
1994-2000

Barry Ruck  
2004-

.....

## Life Members

Brian Edwards

Cliff Cansdale

.....

## Treasurers

Bill Brooks  
1960-1963

Graham Cunliffe  
1964-1967

Danny Carroll  
1967-1969

Dick Bignell  
1970-1975 1981-1985

Les Unsworth  
1976-1977

Bob Clarke  
1978-1980

Alan Cayless  
1985

David Cayless  
1986-1987

Chris Dreher  
1988

Cliff Cansdale  
1989-1991

Neil Carter  
1992

Richard Wakely  
1993-2003

Jim Robertson  
2004-

.....

## Life Vice Presidents

Dick Bignell

Bill Brooks

John Lewis Snr

Richard Marns

Roy Stillwell

Richard Wakely

Barry Waller

.....

## **Taking a Fresh Guard**

It was perhaps fitting that our fiftieth season (2009) was, overall, our most successful - a new electronic scoreboard; new first-class pitch covers; high praise for the quality of our pitch and playing area; the erection of a marquee in which to enjoy our celebrated teas. And our entry into the Shepherd Neame Essex League as its youngest member, resulted in highly satisfactory performances by all of our teams.

*‘...high praise for the quality of our pitch...’*

Numerous records were broken in almost every quarter. Nine players scored fifteen centuries between them and 125 fifties were posted. Jim Banner, Roy Heffernan, Gavin Jefferies and Billy Winter all reached 1,000 runs, and Gavin achieved the record number of runs in a season (1,987). Owen Jefferies, a fourteen year old spin bowler, took 75 wickets in senior cricket, the First XI registered the club's highest ever successful run-chase and many record wicket partnerships were surpassed.

Our membership number swelled to its highest ever level and we fielded a Fifth XI for the first time (on one occasion we fielded two senior midweek teams on the same day). We were invited by the Essex County Cricket Board, as one of only five founder clubs, to establish a new Essex Disability Club League, and we participated in the re-establishment of a local ladies cricket side. It was quite a year.

Success is not just about achievements on the field of play - it is what happens outside the boundary rope that is the vital ingredient in the recipe for a happy and successful club. Many members have contributed to our success since 1960, but for fear of omission, we will not attempt to serve praise on any individual in particular. Rather, we say to you all, “thank you, thank you very much indeed.”

*‘...many members have contributed to our success...’*

Undoubtedly, it will be our continuing focus on youth and their development that will ensure a healthy future. And in building upon what has already been achieved, we hope that they will continue to display the necessary loyalty and dedication that will successfully carry the club to a centenary celebration in 2060.

Although a booklet of this kind can only scratch the surface of a club's personality, many outsiders have remarked upon our adventurous and ambitious spirit. And in commenting that Belhus Cricket Club is deserving of its place within the category of 'special' clubs in Essex, they deliver a fitting compliment upon which to close.

Howzat?!

# Belhus

Cricket Club



**The Village Green  
High Road  
North Stifford  
Essex RM16 5UG**