

## Wanstead & Snaresbrook CC

### Review Season 2013

The successful 2012 season, when the 1<sup>st</sup> XI won the Premier League and reached the final of the ECB National Club Championship season, was always going to be a tough act to follow. However the club overall probably had an even more successful 2013 season. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI retained their Premier League title, the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI were runners-up in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Premier Division, the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI won the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI Premier Division and the 5<sup>th</sup> XI won the 4<sup>th</sup> XI Premier Division.

The year started with a fantastic tour to Jamaica in February supported by Ark plc. The aim of the tour was to support the Courtney Walsh Foundation and one of the highlights was a game in Kingston Prison against the inmates!

It certainly looked as though the 1<sup>st</sup> XI were suffering a hangover from the 2012 season when halfway through the 2013 season they were lying mid-table in the league and had been knocked out of all cup competitions. However the strength of character in the side enabled them to put together a run of five wins, a loss and an abandoned game. Victory in the last game of the season against top of the table Shenfield meant the 1<sup>st</sup> XI retained their Premier League title. The stars of the team were Joe Ellis-Grewal, the leading wicket-taker in the league with 53 wickets - he took five or more wickets on five occasions - and eighteen year-old Kishen Velani, who averaged 52 including two superb match-winning hundreds against Upminster and Chingford. Captain Arfan Akram again led from the front, scoring 695 runs at an average of just under 50. Thanks must again go to scorer Henry Chambers for all the support he gave the team during the season.

Halfway through the season, the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI also looked like they were going to have an indifferent season. However five victories in the last eight games of the season saw them finish runners-up. This really was an all-round team effort with the 146 run victory over Chingford exemplifying this. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI scored 252-6 with no batsman scoring a fifty and then bowled Chingford out for 106 with all six bowlers used taking at least one wicket. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, led by Joe Palmer, always played entertaining cricket with Mahesh Velani the leading runscore with 467 run. The wickets were spread around with Jack Lord leading the way with 19 wickets.

The 2013 season was a one of mixed feelings for the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI. The success in winning the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI Premier Division following promotion the previous season was soured by what happened in the penultimate game of the season. Following a defeat in the second game of the season, the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI were undefeated in their next ten matches, with nine straight wins and a draw, which took them to the top of the table. The penultimate game of the season was against Ilford 3<sup>rd</sup> XI, who were in the runners-up position, 35 points in arrears. The game was the most bizarre the club has ever been involved in. Ilford 3<sup>rd</sup> XI won the toss, batted and declared on 262-7. Wanstead 3<sup>rd</sup> XI were then bowled out for 68 with the last five batsmen being given out LBW! Unfortunately, following the match, Alan Lord, the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI captain, could not contain his anger and filed an inappropriate match report, which resulted in the club banning him for two league games. The club made a formal complaint to the League Committee about the game but is still awaiting a response. Fortunately the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI won their final match and the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI Premier Division title. The season highlighted the stream of young talented emerging players within the club, namely Feroze Khushi (344 runs), Jay Williams (336 runs), Mohammed Shahriyar (304 runs and 21 wickets) and Mehad Khan (30 wickets in 7 games).

The 4<sup>th</sup> XI, promoted back to 3<sup>rd</sup> XI Division One, held second place for the majority of the season before losing it at the end to a stronger Brentwood 3<sup>rd</sup> XI. Nonetheless finishing third was a great achievement making Wanstead 4<sup>th</sup> XI the highest placed 4<sup>th</sup> XI in the league. The ever reliable Barney Mead, Danny Mead and Duncan Southcott all had very solid and consistent seasons with the bat, while Naail Dar was a much improved youngster. Player of the year Dev Patel was the leading wicket taker with 24 wickets and he was well supported by young bowlers Rahib Hoque, Abubakar Janjua, Joel Morris-Ley and the evergreen captain Ron Fitzgerald.

Wanstead 5<sup>th</sup> XI enjoyed their best ever season as they remained undefeated and lifted the 4<sup>th</sup> XI Premier Division title. Simon Osborn's side beat every other team during their championship winning campaign and will now be the first 5<sup>th</sup> XI to play in a 3<sup>rd</sup> XI Division next season. Michael Griesel led the way with the bat scoring 406 runs while Sriram Pathmarajah (339 runs), wicket-keeper Andrew Osborn (285) and Asif Khan (245) all made important contributions. All-rounder Khan also enjoyed a vintage year with the ball, claiming 26 wickets. Walid Sherzai (23 wickets) and Peter Apps, who took 20 wickets on his return to the club, formed a deadly opening partnership. Once again the team benefitted from a number of talented young players emerging from the club's flourishing junior section, with Finlay Chesney-Brown and Afrasiyab Malik in particular suggesting they have bright futures at the club. As ever the team thank Pauline Osborn for scoring throughout the season.

The 6<sup>th</sup> XI ably captained by Chris Ley finished a very commendable fourth in 4<sup>th</sup> XI Division One. A number of junior players performed extremely well during the season but the highlights were the hundreds by young Aryan Gupta and Bilal Patel while the leading runscorer was another junior, Aman Ali with 348 runs. Aman was also the leading wicket-taker with 18 wickets.

Wanstead Ladies XI, led by Hannah Newman, finished runners-up in the first division of the North London Women's League in the first year of the league's new two-tier format. Congratulations go to Saba Nasim, Alicia Titre and Sadie on their Club Cricket Conference (CCC) appearances, with Saba captaining the CCC side to their first Vauxhall Trophy victory. Wanstead Ladies also went on their first ever tour, to Somerset, playing against Weston-Super-Mare and Minehead across the May bank holiday weekend.

The club's juniors had another good season, with more than 225 juniors playing in excess of 240 matches. The U16s went out in the quarter-final of the Matchplay, while the U15s had a nearly year, losing in the semi-final of the Peters Cup and the final the MECB Cox & Kings trophy. The U13s too came close but not close enough, losing to a strong Fives side in both the final of the Len Stentiford and the semi-final of the David Bradford Cups. The U11s retained their Haydn Davies Cup title again and finished second in the MECB mid-week League.