

The Bugle



Newsletter by Bledlow Village Cricket Club | February 2017



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The Bugle Returns

Happy New Year and welcome to the first Bugle of 2017! Avid readers may have noted a short gap in publications, but The Bugle is back and no better than ever! Thankfully however, I can bring you news that those skilled and dedicated people working on our clubhouse extension have been far more productive over the winter months than this Bugle editor. We'll give you a full update on progress on this work later on in this edition. If you have yet to visit the club since last season, get yourselves down there to see the transformation! Also, as the new season approaches fast and last summer is now a far distant memory, we will briefly recap last seasons ups and downs as well as profiling the annual award winners.

This year we are introducing a new section to the Bugle called 'Light on a Legend'. Each month a different BVCC legend will give us their view of the club, it's history and a look to the future. This month we have the *privilege* of Steve 'Willo' Williams treating us to his memory of the time when the introduction of Saturday league cricket at Bledlow was more than a little controversial. Hope you enjoy the new graphics irrespective of the content!

So let's kick things off with a quick review of the 2016 season which saw three new captains take helm of the three senior weekend teams. Tom Moore can be very pleased with his first season as Saturday 1st XI skipper, leading the team to 2nd in the league and gaining promotion to Division 2. He led the team with a strong minded attitude and enthusiasm. The challenge will take another step up this year, but we are all behind Tom to continue his great work from last year.

Harry Bartlett returned to play his first full season with us and starred with the bat, destroying many Cherwell league bowlers confidence with his destructive batting approach. He was well supported by the rest of the batting line up, with good contributions from the Woodward brothers, the skipper, and the 'old timers' Charlie Downes and Matt Bolton.

The early season bowling performances were dominated by the sharp, skiddy and often unplayable Dave Pearce. Opening the bowling alongside his brother Matt, the oppositions top order was rarely troubling the scorers. With Dave leaving to focus on his football career, his wickets were picked up by James Hawkes and Matt Bolton who both made use of the mirky British summer conditions to get the red ball swinging.

2016 Results: P18 W9 D4 L3 A2

2016 Top Run Scorer: Harry Bartlett 787 @ 66

2016 Top Wicket Taker: Matt Bolton 29 @ 17

Dates for your diary

Feb 11 th	Indoor Nets start (Senior and Junior) @ Princes Risborough Sch	3:30-5pm
Feb 26 th	Sunday Quiz @ Clubhouse	3 - 6pm
Apr 1 st	Senior Signing on night inc. Chilli Feast and Live Band	4- 11pm

The 2nd XI season started with a quick change of captains with Andy Reclik taking charge of a team containing a wide range of experience. Andy led the team with passion and energy and made an impact with his batting and bowling. The team found themselves in a tough division consisting of strong 2nd XIs and 3rd XIs of some of the larger clubs in the area. They struggled to put consistent performances together, and sadly ended up being relegated to Div 7. As with the 1st XI last year, sometimes it's best to go down to rebuild and come back as a stronger team the following year. Geoff Tombs will led the 2nd XI this year and we wish him the best of luck in his first captaincy role at BVCC.

Two stalwarts of BVCC were the key performers for the 2's during the season. Graham Keens was the linchpin batsman having his best season with the bat for many years. Not for the first time in his BVCC career, Jim Spooner topped the wicket takers thanks to his consistency and canniness.. Lets hope his body holds up for a few more seasons yet!

The Leg Spin of Geoff Tombs

2016 Results: P18 W3 D1 L13 A1

2016 Top Run Scorer: Graham Keens 466 @ 29

2016 Top Wicket Taker: Jim Spooner 25 @ 26

Sunday competitive cricket now only consists of the National Village Cup. Yet again this year we fell at the hands of local rivals Dinton in the semi-finals. The Sunday Friendly XI had some great fixtures over the season and plenty of promising performances from some talented young players. Oscar Frost showed he has a bright future with the ball and Sam Mudie put in some dominant batting displays. Marcus Goodchild and Will Woodward love a Sunday batting session and both put in some impressive batting numbers. Congratulations go to skipper Martin Bloomfield for getting teams out each week and playing them in the best spirit.

2016 Results: P16 W7 D1 L4 A4

2016 Top Run Scorer: Will Woodward 366 @ 52

2016 Top Wicket Taker: Oscar Frost 8 @ 21

A big thank you to all those who supported the league season last year; scorers Bish and Tish, Tea Ladies, and of course all the efforts of Groundsman Andy Harman. Any support we do receive during our games at home on either Saturday and Sunday is greatly appreciated so please do keep coming along.

Junior Cricket

By the lengthy list of award winners in 2016, there is no doubt the junior section is continuing to grow and get stronger. Friday nights at the club are definitely the place to be.

Rolfe Trophy for Young Player of the Year: Josh Franklin

Colt of the Year: Fred Neighbour

U13's: Logan Craker, Annie Wooster, Taine Sims

U11's (Blue): Jacob Pillinger, Charlie Cullen, Hayden Beadle

U11 (Red): Emma Dickson, Annie Wooster, Kate Corcoran

U9: William Fawkner, Owen Evans, Jack Gregory

U7: Teddy Purushothaman, Darcy Skinner, Henry Barlow

Pavilion Extension

Work on the clubhouse has been the main focus for the club in the off season. Another very successful Bledfest Rock and Ale festival in September meant we raised enough money to do a lot of the major structural parts of the project.

The low ceiling and pillars in the main clubhouse have now been removed and in their place two new steels have been fitted. This has transformed the room, giving a huge improvement to the light and space. On the back of this the whole place has been re-plastered, plumbed, electrified and painted.

In the past months or so things are really starting to take shape within the bar area and kitchen. The old kitchen has disappeared and a brand spanking new one now sits in its new home, ready to starting whipping up a few early season teas. The new bar is under construction, and from early views in going to rival any across the Cherwell league. We have had a conversation with Greene King brewery who will be willing to help us fit out the bar when it is built.

Again we must thank all those who give up their time and resources to help us in this project and we can now start to see the changes taking shape.

Other News

We've only gone and done it again....Our beautiful ground has made it onto the front cover of Wisden The Cricketer calendar for the 2nd time in 10 years! Look at this beauty of a picture captured by photographer Alastair Cowe during our Village Cup semi-final vs Dinton:



You can buy it online here:

<https://shop.thecricketer.com/product/CALENDAR2017/calendar>

Players of the Year

2016 Annual Award winners for Saturday Cricket:

1st XI

Harry Bartlett

At the start of the season he was an unknown quantity to the league. His travelling, partying and general AWOL-ness meant he'd never really shown his full talents over a prolonged period for the club. Well it's fair to say that by the end of August the league was well aware, and many a confident bowler had been put in their place by Harry's dismissive dominance. His finest moment of the year was against Wallingford and Blewbury at home. With 90% of the 1st XI away on a stag do, chasing 180 to win, Harry scored 131*, enough said.

Matt Bolton

Starting life as an opening batsman and seam bowler, he spent 6 years in the off-soin wilderness before realising it was time for a rethink. With one of our opening bowlers leaving, he knew he had some unfinished business as a seam bowler. Used as both as an opener and first change bowler, he has ability to swing the ball in all conditions and sharp enough to beat the odd batsman. He also contributed regular runs in his new middle order role.

2nd XI

Graham Keens

You name it, this man has done it for the club on and off the pitch...BVCC Legend!. The silver fox in appearance and in performance, Keeno was back to his elegant best last season. His return to wicket keeping over the last couple of years seems to have worked wonders on reviving his classy top order batting style.

Geoff Tombs

Tombsy is a recent Bledlow acquisition. After applying his trade at a few other local clubs and often being the thorn in the side of many BVCC teams, he finally saw the light a couple of years ago to come join us. He's a player you always want to have on your side rather than play against due to his determined mindset and great reading of the game. Last season his leg spin bowling consistently notched up wickets and it's fair to say he's the best leg spinner in the club right now (not that cross the 1st XI skipper chucks up).

Light on a Legend: Willo's Warbling's

Steve 'Willow' Williams has seen a lot go on at BVCC since he joined in 1975. That's why this month we've got him in to share his memories of our club and its history:

I joined our beloved BVCC in 1975. At that time, the only other Bledlow player I knew was Bob Floyd. I had already played colts cricket and senior cricket with Bob and Graham Keens at High Wycombe CC.

At that time the only competitive cricket played at Bledlow was the National Village Knockout. In 1980 we reached the quarter final of this competition, having won the Bucks section.

The club decided to join the Chiltern Cricket League in 1982. At the time there was great debate within the club about whether playing league cricket was the right thing to do. In fact it caused so much outrage to some that on the dry, sunny morning of the first league match against Ridings Park, the players were surprised to arrive to a sodden wicket due to the Groundsman leaving the sprinkler running all morning in protest. All was eventually forgiven, and over time it has been proven that it was the right decision.