

Monthly Newsletter

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May 2024



Chesham vs Edinburgh University, Peffermill, Edinburgh

Don't let the weather deceive you, the cricket season is here!

Welcome to our newsletter! This is the first of what we envisage to be monthly newsletters, keeping you updated with all things Chesham CC.

Plenty of us over the winter take some time away from the game, but there's been a lot going on behind the scenes.

For your committee, the work never really stops. Hopefully we will all see the benefits of it through the season.

Pradeesh Surendran and John Holloway have tirelessly organised winter nets, with some great turnouts and good standards set.

Despite the weather, there has been some cricket played, with some reports below.

At Lord's in April there was history made as Raph Weatherall made his first-class debut, taking on fellow Chesham junior alumnus Tom Helm. A proud day for the Club indeed.

Meanwhile, heading north and over the Tweed the 2s got the season underway with the Club's first senior tour since the 1980s.

Junior leagues are beginning imminently, with the senior men and women getting underway on the weekend of 11/12 May.

All in all, the Club feels in good shape heading into the 2024 season. Let's hope for some good weather and better results.

See you down at The Meadow.

In this newsletter you can expect:

Raph Weatherall

The 2s over the border

New Women's softball league

Volunteers needed!

Season preview

TVL re-organisation



Women's Cricket

2024 sees the start of a new women's softball league. Aimed at casual players and complete beginners, hopefully this provides another pathway into the sport.

All are welcome, no experience or kit is needed.

Softball training will take place on Sunday mornings from 10:40am.

The women's hard ball league gets underway on 12th May with the Super 8 Development League. Chesham will take on local sides including Tring Park, Beaconsfield and High Wycombe.

Later in the summer, they will be competing in Division 1 of the Home Counties Women's League.

We have a great and friendly squad, but there's always room for more! Please contact Helen if interested - cheshamcc.women@gmail.com



Raph Weatherall

It was great to see Raph Weatherall make his first-class debut for Northants in April, including a debut showdown with Tom Helm, a Chesham junior of an earlier vintage.

With Dom Goodman returning from injury, three Chesham players are currently playing first-class cricket, a phenomenal achievement.

Raph is taking to pro cricket like a duck to water, with some superb dismissals in his first few games.

We wish him all the very best for a long and successful career.

Availability

We are running the best part of 30 sides this summer, some undertaking!

Please make the job of your captains/managers/coaches easier by putting your availability on the website and making sure it is up to date as and when your plans change. It takes seconds for you, but makes life so much easier.

Subs Due!

Subs are due! In the interests of John Holloway's sanity/blood pressure, please pay promptly.



League Preview

Senior Leagues get back underway on 11th May. All five sides will play in the same league as last year, and all five captains have signed up for another season:

- **1st XI** Matt Rance (Home Counties Premier Division 2)
- **2nd XI** Theo Weatherall (Thames Valley Division 2a)
- **3rd XI** Vish Vaidyanathan (Thames Valley Division 5a)
- **4th XI** George Udall (Thames Valley Division 10b)
- **5th XI** John Holloway (Thames Valley Division 10b)

The 1s get started by hosting Thame Town, whilst the 2s visit High Wycombe. The 3s host Farnham Common at Coleshill, the 4s make the short journey for a local derby vs Amersham, and the 5s travel to Gerrards Cross.

As ever, we're very proud of the amount of familiar faces that you'll see wearing Chesham colours on a Saturday afternoon, many of whom came through the club's junior section.

Returning this year to join them in the 1st XI are Nouman Aslam and Dan Ward, both known quantities who will slot straight back in where they left off.

Across the Club we also have new recruits in the shape of Chamal Arachchige, Charlie Adamson, Keiran Patel and Mosaddeque Hossain, who no doubt will all strengthen our sides across the board. I'm sure we'll all make them feel very welcome as they get settled into the Club.



All Stars & Dynamos

All stars and Dynamos cricket returns Sunday 12th May, with a lot of youngsters starting their cricket journey.

There are still a couple of spaces for the girls Dynamos (Year 3-6), sign up here:

<https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/Course/501fc712-352e-404c-885c-54e38e8b311e>

Dates for the Diary!

Saturday 11th May - First senior league games

Wednesday 29th May - Sparks vs Southern Vipers (Day 1)

Thursday 30th May - Sparks vs Southern Vipers (Day 2)

Wednesday 3 July - 1st XI vs MCC

Sunday 23 June - Bucks vs Berks

Sunday 7th July - Junior & Women's soft ball festival

TVL re-organisation

Over the winter the long discussed merger between the Thames Valley League and some of the local village leagues became a reality.

The proposal was put to a vote at an EGM and was carried with a substantial majority.

The Club Committee discussed this at length and consulted with a lot of players. Our **long-standing opposition to the merger** remained our position and we voted as such.

Nonetheless, the proposal passed and the TVL will merge with the Berkshire and Chilterns Leagues at the end of the season. This will have a substantial impact on promotion and relegation.

From 2025, there will be significantly more member clubs and divisions in the TVL, watch this space for more.

Training

Monday – women & girls

Tuesday – 3rd, 4th & 5th XI

Wednesday – 1st XI, 2nd XI, invited 3rd XI players

Thursday – Under 13 – 15

Friday – Under 10 – 12 & Girls cluster

Sunday - Under 5s – 9s

Volunteers Needed!

The Club is run by a volunteer committee, giving their time outside of work and other commitments, free of charge. We are supported by some other volunteers from across the club.

We think we are doing a pretty effective job, with results you can see on and off the pitch. However, we really are desperate for more people to get involved and help out! *You don't need to join the committee or take on an ongoing commitment to help out.*

If you have some ideas you'd like to see implemented, we'll give you the support to do so. If you're not quite sure how to help but would like to get involved, **please have a chat with Brendan in the first instance.**

As a starting point, we would love:

- Volunteers to help coach Under 5-9 sessions on a Sunday morning
- Volunteers to run the tuck shop during junior training/matches. Please get in touch if you can spare a couple of hours – we'll even throw in a coffee on the house!
- Volunteers to run barbecues during/after junior training and senior matches on a Saturday evening.
- Volunteers to help with scoring/umpiring.

We are happy to, and have previously, signed off voluntary work round the club as part of Young Leader programmes/for UCAS applications.

We're a friendly bunch and appreciate any help!

Your Committee

Your Club Committee for 2024 might seem familiar:

Jonathan Royals (**Chairman**)
John Holloway (**Junior Chairman**)
Brendan O'Donovan (**Grants & Donations**)
Helen Crawley (**Women & Girls Lead**)
Paul Hughes-D'Aeth (**Chairman of Senior Cricket**)
Lee Wiles (**Secretary**)
Chris Royals (**Fixtures Secretary**)
Terry Newsome (**General**)
Martin Wheeler (**General**)

We'd always welcome a fresh face! Talk to Jonathan if you'd be interested.

1st XI Cup campaign

The 1st XI have been rare in managing to successfully get some cricket past the bad early season weather.

Their season started in frozen conditions at Thame Town, in the opening round of the Home Counties t20 Cup.

In tough conditions, Chesham batted first and managed 136-6, Jason Rance top scoring with 41 off 29 balls.

Thame's reply got off to a very fast start, but wilted just as quickly. All the bowlers performed well, but it was Umar Aslam's 3-23 that caused them the most difficulty.

Thame were bowled out for 94.

Banbury awaited in the next round. One of the strongest teams in the area, this was always going to be a tough ask.

Chesham reached 132-6 off their 20 overs, Matt Rance top scoring but all batsmen chipping in.

Banbury made light work of the chase however. Waqas Hussain hit 75 off 35 balls as Banbury raced to a 9 wicket victory.

Chesham's cup campaign is now over, with all focus on the league.



The 1s leaving the field after a comprehensive win at Thame Town

Code of Conduct

It's a shame that it became necessary, but as a reminder:

Just like last year it is **mandatory** for all juniors at U9 and above to have had at least one parent/guardian read and sign our Parent & Junior behaviour policy.

We will once again take a strong line against any infringements of this policy.

Net Usage

We love seeing the nets used as much as they are!

Please be considerate of others when doing so. Do not attempt to use the nets whilst a formal training session is ongoing.

Please respect our neighbours, do not net at unsociable hours.

At all times exercise your common sense as to whether conditions (light/rain/other participants) are suitable.

Nets must be booked via:

cheshamnets.zingmagic.com

Clubhouse Hire

As you all know, we have a fantastic clubhouse, well equipped and stocked. This is your club and we would love for you to host your events here! We've hosted just about everything and are happy to have a chat to cater to your arrangements.

Our members rate for events gives a very generous discount, we are similarly happy to discuss rates with any friends/family that you introduce. Please contact Jayne – 07813 828121

New TVL website

If you've been struggling to find fixture lists, you haven't been going mad.

The TVL has decided to move over to play-cricket (www.tvlcricket.uk).

This website is still a work in progress.



Chesham's senior sides hadn't been on tour since a trip to Bradford in the 1980s. In April, that all changed...

After over a decade of discussions, a tour committee of **Chris Royals, Matt Clifford, Alex Watson** and **Matt Watson** finally got a club tour out of the group chat and into reality.

The destination - Edinburgh. Three games were organised against local opposition on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Most of the side travelled up on Thursday, and it was with some relief that Friday morning dawned bright and sunny.

The first opponents were Edinburgh University, at their Peffermill ground. With Arthur's Seat as a backdrop, Chesham bowled first and bowled well.

Ollie and Jamie Anderson kept things tight early, and Chris Royals picked up two wickets before drinks. Edinburgh fought back with a strong partnership, and started to cut loose. Ollie Walter stemmed the flow of runs with four wickets in the final ten overs, Edinburgh finishing on a competitive 200-9.

The reply got off to a bizarre start, Henry Moore bowled off a no ball first ball of the innings! Edinburgh's bowling was strong, no surprise given the presence of four Scotland U-19s in the side.

It took hard graft from Luke Dawson (56) and Theo Weatherall (31) to steady the innings, but run-rate was becoming an issue.

Alex Holloway changed all that with a quick fire 35, supported by similar cameos from Alex Watson and Jamie Anderson.

The game was well and truly in the balance, Chesham needing seven to win off the final over. Monty Weatherall fell to the first ball, a few singles were scrambled, and 3 were needed off the last ball.

Chris Royals played and missed, and despite a scrambled bye Chesham had lost by one run. An excellent game of cricket played in great spirits, with both sides socialising and discussing a great start to the season long into the Edinburgh night.

On Saturday, despite the sunny weather Penicuik's ground was still underwater. The two sides instead played football and 'one hand one bounce' and then enjoyed what Penicuik have described as a 'social for the ages'...

Sunday saw a more casual t20 vs Carlton CC, one of Edinburgh's premier clubs, at their picturesque Grange Loan ground.

A Chesham side somewhat under the weather from a few days of 'team bonding' bowled first, and Carlton reached 145 off their 20 overs.

Monty Weatherall was the pick of the batsmen in reply, scoring a rapid 51. Chesham fell 20 runs short in a chase that never quite gained the momentum needed. The undoubted highlight of the day was the spectacular tea laid on by our hosts.

The Scotland tour really was memorable, on and off the pitch. Everyone entered into the spirit of it, we played out a cracking match on the Friday, and got some much needed pre-season training in.

Our thanks must go to the three clubs that hosted us so magnificently. On the evidence of that April weekend, I very much doubt that we'll have to wait another forty years for a repeat...

Touring party:

C.Royals, M.Clifford, M.Watson, A.Watson, T.Weatherall, M.Weatherall, J. Anderson, O.Anderson, H.Moore, O.Walter, A.Holloway, L.Dawson, J. White, G.Swaby



All in all, the club feels in a strong place right now and everything looks set for a good summer of cricket.

It's really heartening to see so many people enjoying their cricket in Chesham colours, and some high quality cricket on display.

Last season didn't go quite as planned on the pitch, with a few new recruits and better availability we're hopeful of giving a better reflection of the talent we have available to us this summer.

As the summer goes on, we'd love to feature stories from across the whole club. With the amount of cricket being played, no one can stay abreast of it all!

If you have any stories/reports/pictures etc you'd like to feature please get in touch with me directly and I'll happily include it next month.

I can generally be found sulking in the 2nd XI outfield or at the bar. Alternatively drop me a line: chrisroyals123@hotmail.com, 0771 7797 693.

Whatever your role, go well this season. Enjoy it, I have a feeling it will be a good one.

Thank you for reading!