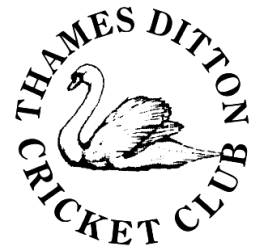


# THAMES DITTON CRICKET CLUB

Founded: 1833

President: St. John Farley



Clubhouse and Ground: Giggs Hill Green, Thames Ditton Surrey

Telephone: 020 8616 3470 (Match days only)

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## Club Captain's Report 2019

This time last year I wrote of my pride in what the 1<sup>st</sup> XI had achieved in gaining their first league title in over a decade. I also wrote at my pleasure as to how the club was evolving, and my hope with regards to how we would continue to move forward on a year to year basis. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine what 2019 would have in store for TDCC!

To have one team promoted is an achievement. To have two teams promoted is a highly successful season. To have three teams promoted is nothing short of staggering (and completely unprecedented in TDCC history). Only Penzance CC down in the Cornish leagues could match our amazing season. I'm not going to go in to statistical detail (and you know how much I love that) as all of the teams captains have their own reports to send out, but I will say as a club we scored more runs, took more wickets, held more catches and won more matches than in any season in the history of the club. Modern day records tumbled, and more players wore the famous swan this year than in any year gone past.

For the first time in a decade the 1<sup>st</sup> XI are heading back in to the Surrey Championship. Huge congratulations go to Chris and his team for making it back to back promotions. That is a brilliant achievement and firmly puts TDCC back on the map. Amrik did a sterling job earning another promotion for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, who will contest in division 4 in 2020. Chris Harding and the 3s had a miraculous season. In 2018 they won just 1 game. In 2019 they administered a damn good thrashing to pretty much every team that came their way, winning the league title at an absolute canter. What a difference a year makes! Andy Jones lead the 4s back in to the league for the first time in nearly a decade. After a tough first half of the season things got better and they finished me a commendable mid tabled finish. My thanks also to Geoff Dryden who looked after the side half a dozen times in Jonesys absence. For the first time in the clubs history we fielded 5 (FIVE) teams on a Saturday afternoon. Tom Coulson Smith, Pete Benham and Liam Mcandrew all did a wonderful job looking after the side. As always Jonny Annable ran the Sunday team with a mix of youth and experience, blooding new players and developing skills as he went.

Finally some thanks. My thanks to Wes, Devesh and Chaz for umpiring over the course of the season. To Sue, Becca and Clare for providing wonderful teas throughout the season. To Ollie Park for arranging the fixtures. To all the captains for their relentless hard work. To Justin and Dave for organising training. To the committee for all of their hard work, and to the trustees for always being there when we need advice and guidance. I'm aware that reads a little like an Oscars acceptance speech, but I do mean it from the bottom of my heart. The club is nothing without the people who make it.

So after 5 promotions in 3 seasons where do we go from here? Well, as a wise man said "I don't make predictions and I don't think I ever will".

Here's to a brilliant 2020.

**Mike Dixon**  
**Club Captain**

# 1<sup>st</sup> XI Report 2019

With the hangover's just about cleared from league winning party at the end of last season it was time for us to turn our heads to a new challenge, The Fullers Premier league. This was the first teams first campaign in the premier league since relegation back in 2013 and we sure would be hoping for a slightly better result.

## Pre-season

Pre-season, as always, is where you see the biggest changes around a team. Who looks good with the bat, who's improving, who's bowling well, who's new? All the things as a team we have to look for in each of the sessions and matches. Not as much as last season but we still saw a number of changes to the squad. We had lost Max Manley to studies abroad, and Hamza had announced he would only be able to play at home, as long as the twos are at home. The good news was we saw a number of new faces and one returning old one, Ian Rotsey (Batsmen-Keeper) joined us from his time in the Cayman Islands, Daman Chugh (Batsman) who had played his career at Old Ruts, whilst on the thanks of Old Ruts due to an Admin error we saw an overseas back at TD for the first time in 6 seasons - Blaine Archibald (V Quick bowling all rounder). The final "new" player came in the form of a former 1<sup>st</sup> team captain Andy Hicks a good allrounder if he could stop his back from crumbling.

- TDCC 239 OA Vs Shepperton 142 OA ( M Dixon 86, D Chugh 50 , M Dixon 4-40 S Bennett 3-27)
- TDCC 142 OA vs Morden 144- 4 ( J Opie 32, A Waqar 2-25)

After a mixed bag for pre-season and everyone knowing each other a little better we were ready for the league season.

## The League

On a cold Saturday afternoon all the way back in May we saw our league campaign begin over at Chaldon, safe to say it could have gone better. With a less than par bowling line up and an Hussain moment from myself I stuck Chaldon in, 3 cold hours and 280-5 later it was a day to forget only Mike 58 and Daman 34 could hold their heads up.

Moving past week one we were onto Godalming (considered one of the best tracks around). Just our luck we get stuck in on a pudding of a pitch. After 5 overs we found ourselves an impressive 8-4 and 24-5 a few overs later. Maybe this league wasn't for us? Well, to accompany Justins hard fought 27 off 58, Myself (25) and Sunny (21) managed to drag us to 117.. When they found themselves 73-1 a few heads started to drop, until two impressive bowling displays from Mike (4-33) and Dave Morgan (5-33) saw our opposition stumble 7 short.

We were on the board

Week three saw us take advantage of a Guildford City who were struggling to find their feet.

TD 255-8 ( Mike 85, J Annable 42) vs Guildford city 88 oa ( A Waqar 3-4, M Dixon 3-36, C Dixon 3-36)

Recovering well after the mishap of the opening day we saw ourselves traveling to the old enemy for one of the biggest games of the season, Long Ditton Away. A game that no one really enjoys due to the un-necessary rivalry they bring to the table. A brilliant 63 from Ian saw us post an impressive 185 (one of the highest totals the conceded last season). Still this would not be easy. After a good start by Long Ditton we dug deep and destroyed their middle order, including a great spell of 4-21 from Jon Opie. A worrying last wicket stand was finally broken when Matt baker looped a full toss straight to cover giving us the win 164 OA.

Home to merrow saw them post 195-6 ( J Opie 3-32 Hicks 3-27). Starting well at 95-1 (Justin 62) a stumble saw us drop to 134-6. The 7<sup>th</sup> wicket partnership between J annable and C Tune saw us over the line.

For the most part June was a month to forget. Losing three consecutive games against Lingfield, Battersea Ironside and Newdigate saw motivation low and our promotion hopes in tatters sitting in 6<sup>th</sup>. After much discussion with senior players around the team we decided what we needed to do if we had any chance of going up.

Just don't lose again.

So we didn't.

Never have I seen a team rally on the back of 3 back to back loses like this.

- A demolition job away at Wandgas saw us post 275-3 having been sent into bat. (B Park 127\* and Blaine 100\* in a record 224 unbeaten partnership for the 4<sup>th</sup>) and 5-38 from A Hicks seeing them fall for 125.

The Thursday between these two games saw me introduced to a gentleman by the name of Matt Smith, having never seen him play cricket he was played as a wild card in the upcoming game.

- Home to Godalming allowed us to put to bed the batting display ghost from earlier in the season. 260-9 dec (Mike 94, Blaine 47, M Smith 36). Dismissing them for 190 (Justin 2-18, Myself 2-25)
- A heavily rain effected game over at Guildford (78 overs) saw us fall inches short needing just one wicket from the final 3 overs. We would have to settle for the draw. TD (145-6 Daman 41, A Hicks 41) Guildford 97-9 ( M Dixon 2-3 Blaine 2-18)

The biggest shame of the season was our game against a depleted Long Ditton team be abandoned due to a wet pitch despite the valiant efforts of our boys. Still we were into the top 4. As I was away for three weeks, I left the team in the more than capable hand of Mike and he did not disappoint

- Merrow Away: TD 254-7 ( M Smith 78, M Dixon 44) played Merrows 164 oa ( R Spiler 3-32 B Archibald 3-33)
- Lingfield Away: TD 179 (M Dixon 27, M Smith 26) a thunderous display from Blain (6-17) saw them blown away for just 89.
- Battersea Ironside: TD 158-9 (M Smith 35, A Hicks 31) Battersea 154 oa ( M Dixon3-15, B Archibald 3-33)

These three wins saw us sit in an impressive 2nd with an 8-point gap against Newdigate in 3<sup>rd</sup>, with us traveling there the coming Saturday. With a number of different equations, we decided to concentrate on the most important one. We win and we are up

With mike pulling up injured before we left Thames Ditton, we saw Daman come back in to strengthen the batting. Winning the toss, I decided to bat as across the last two seasons this has been our biggest strength and on a hot day it would hopefully drain the oppositions motivation. A mixed bag in the batting saw us post a very competitive 204 with a classical 80 from Oli Williams (sniffing another promotion photo) 36 from Justin at the top and a Maiden 1<sup>st</sup> XI 54 just 17 years in the making for Jon Opie.

Even with 204 on the board we knew this would not be easy, a good track and short boundaries would make this a tough second innings. Despite a hard fought 51 for Newdigates overseas we rallied. Some brilliant catches and another 5 wickets for Blaine saw our opponents fall for 176, 21 points behind with just 20 available. For some it was not all fun and games, a freak injury due to a dropped caught and bowled saw me off to 10 hours in Hospital with a; "Suspected Broken Finger" Mike Dixon 2019

But even that could not stop me from seeing our boys finish the game off and with that...We were up (again).

Wandgas at home gave a 1<sup>st</sup> team cap to young Kian Farr and an opportunity to tinker the batting line up a tad. A demoralising 290-8 including 73 from Mike, 40 from Jonners and a Maiden hundred (103) for Matt Smith. Fighting back with 192, just wasn't enough. 3-37 from up and coming Ollie Johns sunk an already relegated Wandgas.

Once again, I couldn't have asked much more from my players this season, they supported one another brilliantly and gave motivation for those colts coming through our ranks.

Many thanks to Sue who did a wonderful job of keeping us fed during the home games.

Thank you to Wes who stepped in to the void left by recently retired Chas. Even if there is always that fear of you appealing and him joining in. Of course, thanks to Chas who couldn't resist stepping in when Wes wasn't around, and coming up for every game.

#### Stat Bunker

##### **Run Scorers**

Mike Dixon	592 @ 42.49
Justin Pretorius	454 @ 26.71
Matthew Smith	278 @ 55.60
Jon Annable	255 @ 18.21
Blaine Archibald	254 @ 28.22

##### **Wicket Takers**

Blaine Archibald	30 @ 11.97
Mike Dixon	21 @ 17.62
Justin Pretorius	17 @ 19.24
Chris Dixon	15 @ 24.87
Andrew Hicks	15 @ 17.33

##### **Catches**

Blaine Archibald 12, Justin Pretorius 10, Ian Rotsey 10, Chris Tune 9, Mike Dixon 8, Andrew Hicks 8

##### **Stumpings**

Chris Tune 1

**Chris Dixon,  
1<sup>st</sup> XI Captain**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Report 2019

Amrik Natt continued his storied reign as captain of the 2XI for the 2019 season, with the team looking to build on having consolidated their place in the 2XI Surrey Championship Division 5 the previous year. A strengthened 1XI meant Natt had a stronger squad at his disposal and hopes were high at the start of the season that promotion was achievable.

The season opened in late April with a pre-season friendly against Shepperton. A strong TD side put Shepperton to the sword with Masood Zain's 73, backed up by O.Park's 81 not out and cameos from Natt and Saleem Akhtar as TD racked up an impressive 270-6 off just 40 overs. In reply Shepperton could muster only 139-7, with three run outs and Spiler showing he remained at his economical best. The second and last 2XI pre-season friendly, against Old Wimbledonians, was ruined by rain but Salman Munna showed his all-round class by picking up two wickets and scoring 44 not out with the bat before rain intervened after just 18 overs of the TD innings.

The season then got underway in earnest on 11 May 2019 with a home league fixture against perennial rivals/ friends Hampton Hill. Munna produced the 2XI's best innings of the season in this very first match scoring a sublime 126 not out (13 fours and 3 sixes) as he carried TD to 202 all out. Against a good side, TD's bowlers ensured Munna's performance was not in vain, bowling out Hampton Hill for 163, Hamza Butt the undoubted star with figures of 9-3-27-4, including two bowled as he ripped the heart out of the Hampton middle order. This encouraging start was however tempered by two defeats. The first to Old Paulines (eventual league champions), saw Javed Khan (23), Tom Pickup (28) and O.Park (32) all contribute with the bat as TD limped along to 172 all out. TD almost pulled things back in the field, but being a bowler short took its toll as despite an excellent performance by Spiler (10-6-11-2) Old Paulines won on a lovely sunny day by 3 wickets. A very disappointing performance then followed, with Cobham Avorians, one of the leagues weaker sides, being allowed to score 269-6 off their 50 overs. Faced with a large total TD batted well, with 44 for Daman Chugh and a half century for Hamza Butt, but fell 28 runs short.

Needing to get the season back on the straight and narrow, TD next faced the 'long' journey to Merrow on 1 June, looking to put an under-performing May behind them. TD scored an early psychological win with Merrow's opening bowler being taken off for bowling two beamers without bowling a legitimate ball. However a familiar bright green shoed foe bowled well, and TD were in some danger at 59-4. Chugh, who scored exactly 50 and A.Lessiter steadied the ship, before Lessiter and O.Park put the depleted Merrow attack to the sword with Lessiter scoring 70 not out and Park 73 not out, in a partnership worth 145. That left TD in a strong position, posting 263-5 off 50 overs. TD's bowlers were back on song, with Sampad Sengupta taking 2 wickets and bowling well, and Awais Waqar taking 3. With Lessiter taking 3 catches behind the stumps, TD triumphed by over 120 runs for a much needed win.

TD then won a thriller against Maori Oxshott. Having bowled Oxshott out for 123 thanks to 3 wickets for Hamza B and Dave Morgan claiming 13.5-5-14-5 in a devastating spell of in-swing (off the wrong foot) bowling. TD made matters difficult for themselves in response, subsiding to 35-5. However an exciting innings by H Butt who scored 43 off just 27 balls with 3 sixes turned the momentum in TD's favour. Last pair Natt and Spiler (with the help of some byes) got TD over the line by the narrowest of margins.

A more comfortable win followed the following week against Alleyn. Spiler was the star performer with the ball bowling 14-4-20-4 as Alleyns scored a turgid 158-9 off 54.2 overs (timed cricket at its worst). TD wasted little time in chasing this down, Morgan scoring 30 and Munna continuing his good form with 83 not out off 80 balls as TD won by 5 wickets. A harder fought win against Battersea Ironsides followed, with TD again in trouble at one stage on 45-4. However an accomplished 51 from Hamza Hamid, and a resilient innings from O.Park (33 off a lot of balls), together with a cameo from the always exciting Saleem Akhtar (20 not out) meant TD posted a competitive 182 all out. Saleem then starred with the ball as well, bowling fast and claiming 5 wickets for 41 runs. The highlight of the spell was a toe-crushing yorker which was too good for Battersea's number 11 to wrap up the game.

A far easier game came 7 days later against Mitcham, with Mitcham being skittled for just 74. Spiler did the most damage claiming 6 wickets for 34, while he was well supported by Waqar who took 3 wickets of his own. In reply H. Butt and D. Chugh knocked them off in just 10 overs, Hamza scoring 37 not out and Daman 29 not out. With only 36.1 overs played it was all over by tea.

A key win then followed against Sinjun Grammarians, in a predictably bad tempered game. Sinjuns rode their luck and made the most of their small boundaries by racking up 225 off just 46.4 overs, (D. Morgan was particularly unfortunate going for 3-0-40-0), with Tamil Senthilkumar and Spiler bowling well. TD got off to a stuttering start, until Ian Rotsey and Spiler (35 and 42 respectively) got TD back in the game. When they both fell, things looked bleak, but a swashbuckling Warren Blumire carved and scythed his way to 60, and was well supported by the much more dour O.Park (29 not out). After 50.3 overs Park and Tamil edged TD over the line, sparking a pitch invasion from the jubilant Natt (timed cricket at its best).

A return fixture against Hampton Hill was next, and TD were sloppy in letting Hampton Hill get 217-9 off 55 overs. Tamil again bowled well claiming 4 wickets, and matters were lightened by some bizarre sledging of Spiler for being 'too nice'. TD struggled in reply, but Blumire's pugnacious 47 off 36 balls looked to have got TD back in it. Some disciplined bowling however meant the rate was always out of reach, and O.Park (32 not out) and Natt (7 not out) blocked out for the draw. The next game was a rain influenced draw against Old Paulines. Thames Ditton mustered 145-9 off the 38 overs they were allocated, with runs for Munna (42) and Spiler (36 not out). With an over to go of Old Paulines' reply, all three results were still possible. Old Paulines' last pair managed to hold out for the draw however as they scored 139-9 with the wickets being shared around.

The rain continued to cause problems the weekend after (27 July) against Cobham Avorians. Some good work from both teams enabled a game to go ahead, and on a slow sticky wicket TD scored 150-9 off their 37 overs with only Munna (40) and O.Park (35 not out) getting going. Cobham looked to be well on course for the win but some good bowling from H.Butt and Tamil who took three wickets each, coupled with four catches for Lessiter (in the unusual position of being in the outfield) meant that Cobham finished on 125-9.

TD's 2XI got August off to a flying start, completing a satisfying season's double over Merrow. Merrow posted 168 all out batting first, with Tamil claiming 3 wickets and Natt and Akhtar getting two. In response, led by a return to form for Tom Pickup, TD chased it down in under 40 overs. Pickup scored 76 not out, Waqar 27 and Lessiter 30 as TD won by 5 wickets. In the following game, Maori Oxshott were again skittled for just 90, Hamza B taking 3 wickets, Akhtar 2 and Natt 2. In reply TD avoided completely collapsing, Lessiter scoring a dogged 41, before Warren Blumire took TD over the line with typical élan, scoring 26 not out at over a run a ball.

This good work was however quickly undone, as the 2XI lost a very close game to Alleyn. Batting first, TD could only muster a disappointing 146, which itself represented a recovery from 81-8. Hamza B at number 10 saved TD's blushes with 53. TD bowled well in reply, but Alleyn limped over the line by a solitary wicket. Hamza B completed an excellent game by taking 5 wickets for 34 runs, after Tamil produced a sensational opening spell which returned figures of 10-6-6-2.

This reversal meant that while TD were still in the promotion mix, a strong finish to the season was required. Momentum was regained with a crushing win over Battersea Ironsides. Battersea scored 161 all out, well restricted by T. Sweeney (7-4-7-1), Akhtar (8.3-0-39-2) and Munna. Tamil and Butt also chipped in with two wickets each. TD made light work of the reply, Pickup continuing his late season resurgence by scoring 86 not out, scoring 141 in an opening partnership with the returning Max Newbold (57). Pickup and Munna took TD over the line for the loss of just one wicket in a superb display of batting.

An away fixture at the historic Mitcham was next, and TD's bowlers again delivered bowling Mitcham out for just 71. Hamza B with 8-1-13-3 and Saleem Akhtar with 8-0-26-4 were the standouts, well supported by Morgan who took 2 wickets. TD stuttered badly in reply, but an assured innings from Munna (37) got TD in reach before O.Park and Lessiter saw TD to the win. Other results meant that TD just needed to avoid a crushing defeat in the last game of the season to be promoted. A huge game was made even bigger by the fact that the final game was against the third placed Sinjun Grammarians.

Natt won the toss and trusted his bowlers by putting Sinjuns in to bat. TD's attack rewarded their captain's bravery bowling superbly and restricting Sinjuns to just 113 all out. Spiler was economical (10-3-20-1), the younger Sweeney bowled with zip (9-0-18-3) and Hamza B continued his fine season with the ball taking 4 wickets for just 18 runs. A potentially nerve-wracking chase was avoided thanks to 58 for Daman, and Butt and Lessiter scoring 26 and 27 not out respectively (Hamza's was rather faster).

TD finished just 2 points behind Old Paulines but crucially had achieved another promotion. TD won 12 games, drew 3 and lost just 3, an excellent season. Congratulations to Natt and his players, and thank you to Devesh Patel and Wes Steyn for umpiring.

7 players scored over 200 runs (the five below and Lessiter and Blumire) demonstrating the strength in depth of the squad and the huge number of runs scored. Hamza led the way superbly with the ball, well supported by Akhtar, Spiler and Tamil.

## Top 5's (league only)

### Batting

S. Munna – 383 runs at an average of 38.30

T. Pickup – 313 runs at an average of 26.08

O. Park - 289 runs at an average of 72.25

H. Butt – 266 runs at an average of 24.18

D. Chugh – 211 runs at an average of 26.38

### Bowling

H. Butt – 37 wickets at an average of 14.46

R. Spiler – 22 wickets at an average of 14.36

T. Senthilkumar – 22 wickets at an average of 16.00

S. Akhtar – 21 wickets at an average of 11.29

A. Natt – 14 wickets at an average of 21.86

### Fielding

S. Munna – 18 dismissals

W. Blumire – 17 dismissals

A. Natt – 13 dismissals

A. Lessiter – 12 dismissals

S. Akhtar – 9 dismissals.

**Ollie Park,  
2nd XI**

## 3<sup>rd</sup> XI Report 2019

Safe to say going into the season, we didn't have the highest expectations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI. Despite an influx of new players across the board and a seemingly strong team, confidence was still low from some harrowing previous seasons (4 wins in the previous 2).

However, we bagged our first win in the first game of the season against Kempton, clinching the win in the last over with a partnership of 64 between Wallace and Harding. We then managed to match the total victories in the previous season in the second game of the campaign against Shepperton, in a 66-run victory. I am obliged to mention that Wallace scored 56 in the game despite said lippy wicky describing the artificial pitch as "appalling, scandalous, disgraceful". FYI – no, they didn't have a fine leg. Sampad used the facilities to pick up 4-25, the indomitable M. Annable with 3-14.

Comfortable victories followed against Teddington and Whiteley Village, with great contributions from Henry Weir, Dave Morgan and 'Trousers' Corvi. Max Tammick's brief bowling spell at Whiteley was brought to an abrupt end, as exploits from the previous night were deposited on the bowler's run-up. Delightful. Thankfully, Owais came on and took a wicket first ball, taking 3 wickets all together and batting at number 3 with restraint not seen before or since!

Following Paul's obligatory 40, there was a miraculous rear-guard action from Cassie, Mak and Ollie Johns which saw us scrape past Hampton Hill "*by the barest of margins!*". Craig had a slight disagreement with a few of Hampton's more vocal individuals about the definition of a wide – pick your fights wisely lads. The next week we hammered Byfleet by 141 runs, Dan Kennedy with a miserly 4-9 in six overs. Choruses of lager fuelled *TD on Fire* were becoming increasingly prevalent back at HQ.

6 games unbeaten and comfortably top of the table, the next 3 games were against the 4<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> teams in the league. To come out of this with only 1 (narrow) loss to Chessington was sensational. We'll gloss over Dicko's 124\* and 4-37 against Ripley; safe to say I think he found his level (Ripley may disagree). The fielding exhibited in the nail-biting victory against Kingstonian was staggering – Sam Bennet's slip catch had to be seen to be believed. Robbo's return to 3<sup>rd</sup> XI action saw him pick up 3-25 and a match winning partnership of 52 with James "I bowl 90 mph" Sweeney.

Chasing 244 against Kempton, we fell to only our second loss of the season despite a bruising 77 from Stj and 44\* from Stevie. Given only one of their batsmen scored more than 20, this may have been the reverse of "Dicko V Ripley" with their opener scoring 153.

The next six games saw two games conceded by the opposition and one rained off; frustrating as this was, we now looked dead set for promotion. In between the abandoned matches included a 10 wicket victory against Whiteley, with Dave Morgan starring, 5-15 and 44\* and a comfortable win against Shepperton with Sam Bennet taking 5-36 and Stj hitting 63.

We now find ourselves at the business end of the season; two games to go against the two teams directly behind us in the league. Win one of these and we were Champions. Ripley were first up and we lost the toss on wicket best referred to as: bit spicy, that. Trousers and senior debutant Dan Roberts put on a strong 50 opening partnership before wickets began to fall regularly. A solid partnership between Alex O'Reilly and Robbo was ended with the latter being spectacularly run out by the former. Neil Farr (wherever you are) deputised for Wallace and continued his hot streak of not troubling the scorers. We finished 191 all out and felt fairly confident.

The fielding started brilliant with Ripley 20-odd for 5. Sweeney finally starting to make those Jofra Archer comparisons a reality with a fiery opening spell and Ben Johns bowling with unerring accuracy – 3 wickets apiece. Following a brief (read nerve-wracking) rain delay Frosty Moroz (amid accusations of being a 1<sup>st</sup> XI ringer...) and Alex O'Reilly picked up a couple of wickets apiece and we were deserving champions. In the midst of this, Neil Farr (wherever you are) took an absolute blinder and is hot favourite with the bookies to oust the long standing Wallace behind the stumps – plenty of murmuring of "he's actually a nice bloke as well".

It's impossible to give credit to everybody who contributed without this going on for 15 pages. It was a season of exceptional contributions from every one of the 43(!) who turned out for the 3's this year. Thanks to all of those who made the effort – what a season!

Games played:	15
Games won:	12
Games lost:	3
Opposition conceded:	2
Abandoned (No play):	1

### **Leading run scorers**

1.	Chris Harding	328
2.	St John Farley	244
3.	Paul Campbell	178
4.	Steve Wallace (?!)	172
5.	'Trousers' Corvi	159

### **Leading wicket takers:**

1.	Dan Kennedy	27
2.	David Morgan	13
3.	Owais Ahmad	13
4.	Mike Robinson	9
5.	Ben Johns	8

### **Catches & Run outs:**

1.	Steve Wallace	12
2.	Chris Harding	5
3.	Sampad Sengupta	4
4.	Ollie Johns	4
5.	'Trousers' Corvi	4

**Chris Harding,  
3<sup>rd</sup> XI Captain**



## 4<sup>th</sup> XI Report 2019

After a hugely successful 2018 campaign of friendlies, mainly against one of the 20 Kingstonian sides, the foray into a full season of league cricket in the Surrey Championship was going to be like Frankie Goes to Hollywood's follow up to Welcome to the Pleasuredome.....a tough challenge.

The season started with us top of the league without having to take the field, with Kempton conceding the first fixture, I feel this set the standard for the other 3 teams in the club and gave them the confidence they needed to go on and do what they did!! We should have won the next game against a strong Walton-on-Thames side, chasing 156, only 20 runs needed to win and 4 wickets in hand, we were cruising along until Pete Benham decided to tickle one round the corner and somehow managed to dislocate his shoulder, the usual TDCC collapse then ensued and we (sorry Pete) ended up losing us the game. However, this did then provide us with one of the many comedy moments of the season with Pete's shoulder at a very funny angle 8 blokes tried to work out what to do, with only 2 cars between us and the chance of getting an ambulance absolutely zero, Mr Cassie offered to act as said ambulance, although was heard hysterically shouting....'I don't know where the hospital is' When we pointed out that since he were a lad they had invented sat nav, GPS, road signs, electricity & mobile phones, he should be OK.

The next fixture against Staines & Laleham was also conceded...at 5:30pm on a Friday (cue gnashing of teeth), however, it did mean after 3 matches we had won 2 and one player had lost us 1, so not a bad return!! Into June and lets just say our cricket resembled Pete's shoulder.....dislocated and disjointed, with 4 back to back losses and like many of the team, heavy ones!! The only bright spot during this month was the tea at Hampton Wick, which we dealt with very well. However, the month ended well with our 3<sup>rd</sup> win of the season as Egham conceded. So 2 months into the campaign we had played 8 lost 5 & won 3 without a bead of sweat having been wiped from our brow.....and no we don't have one of the Queen's sons playing for us!!

With the stress of captaincy taking its toll, yours truly went off on a 4 week sabbatical and handed the reins over to Mr Happy himself, Geoff Dryden, who as a result was granted access to the holy grail of the Captain's WhatsApp group. And a what a great decision as we managed to record our first 'real' victory of the campaign with a resounding win over Kempton, thanks to a magnificent 137 from Masood. The end of July saw Geoff doing his rain dance and the next 2 matches were abandoned, however, as became the norm for the 4's this year, not playing meant points....so all good!! By the end of July we had played 12 really played 7 won 4, really won 1 & lost 6....leave you to work that out!!!

The rain obviously helped us because August saw us hit our stride with 3 real wins out of 5 with one of those against Ashford which could have been a win....had we batted first, as advised by Mr Dryden!! The final game against the eventual champions, Malden Wanderers, was over before it started, however, we finished with Kian Farr & Matty Parkinson bowling which I hope we can build upon for next year.

So in the end we were the black sheep of the Thames Ditton family, finishing up in mid-table mediocrity. However, we definitely have something to build upon. There is no doubt the 4XI league is one of the stronger leagues in the division and there are no gimmies. As skipper I would like to thank the 44 players who gave up their Saturday to represent the club, I would especially like to thank my Director of Fielding, Geoff Dryden & deputy Director of fielding, and well deserved player of the season, Mak Gill for ensuring that when players were on the pitch, no names, they were just about in the right place and Neil 'so near so' Farr for his infectious enthusiasm. It really was a team performance all season, with no real stand out performers this year, so here is the top 20:

NO.	NAME	PLAYED	RUNS	WICKETS	DUCKS
1	Neil Farr	10	37	0	3
2	Kian Farr	9	37	5	2
3	Andy Jones	9	59	10	3
4	Geoff Dryden	8	96	0	2
5	Andy Cassie	8	44	11	0
6	Mak Gill	8	163	8	0
7	Matty Parkinson	7	45	2	2
8	Martin Annable	7	29	8	0
9	Steve Chalk	6	175	0	0
10	Nad Ahmed	5	21	4	2
11	Pete Benham	5	49	5	0
12	Francois Piriou	4	25	0	1
13	Ram VS	4	26	2	1
14	Javed Khan	4	97	0	0
15	Dave Packington	3	29	1	1
16	Lukas K-M	3	19	3	1

17	Ben Johns	3	11	0	1
18	Devon Chakroboty	3	19	2	0
19	Owais Ahmed	3	3	1	1
20	Akash Kapoor	3	31	0	0

So as the leaves fall from the trees and the smell of mince pies (I should know I have bowled a few) is in the air, what did we learn from the 4XI's foray into league cricket:

1. We **MUST** bring the younger age groups through the system, as we cannot rely on the oldies forever, this was a common sight amongst the other teams we played in the league but unfortunately was too rare a sight for us.
2. The club has never been in such great shape, for the first time as 4XI captain I was often handed 20 names to pick from, instead of being sent 9 by Dicko – this needs to continue as we want players fighting for their place in the team.

Finally I would like to congratulate the other captains on their success this year and for all their support during the season. I hope you all have a fantastic Christmas and look forward to seeing you all again the New Year.

Jonesy

Oh and in case you were wondering the answer was:



**Andy Jones,  
4<sup>th</sup> XI Captain**

# Sunday XI Report 2019

First of all, I must give quick well done to the captains - each year I'm privy to their selection conversations, and you're all in very good hands, and this has clearly flowed through into the results.

We had a glorious start to the first half or so for the Sunday season, and we thought the invincible year was on. A few TDCC collapses sadly put an end to this dream, but it wouldn't be Thames Ditton without a few of those. We even had two ties in a row, something I don't ever recall! In fact, in one which was against old rivals Long Ditton, there were quite a few memorable moments. Big John hit a six! Dimith dropped 3 catches! And our loveable Frenchman dropped 5! And perhaps the most memorable, opening the batting, Chicko was run out by Mike without facing a ball!

Over the course of nearly 20 games, we had 50 players. The Sunday team has been a fantastic mixture of all ages, teams, brothers, fathers and sons and even this year a mix of genders as Meg made her debut. From my side, it's great to see players from all over the club playing, getting some runs or wickets which then translates into league form. And next year again, I'd love it to be the same.

Some quick highlights to rattle off, and sincere apologies if I have missed any off –

- The main highlight is that we had any fixtures at all, given the organisational skills of the fixture secretary
- Neil Farr, George Moroz and Liam McAndrew established themselves as regulars, providing a keeper, quick bowler and a batsman to the midst
- Liam took his first wicket for the club
- The Pickup brothers, Tom and Tim, opened the batting together
- And one of the best, and definitely my personal favourite, Trousers got the nickname Trousers. And then just the emoji

Importantly, we won the Swans! Max took his eye off the prize temporarily, and fractured his cheek. However this did mean a very boozed up 'Trousers' came on to play in his stead! And we won stumpy! Own very own Jorge came through at the end for us!

Martin took his usual stance at the Martin Annable end, bowling 8 overs for sweet FA. Amrik stood at mid on and waited for the catches to come to him. It is also worth adding how well Amrik has batted this year. Franny brought his infectious enthusiasm, and fielding to the team - and dare I say it, a few lo lo los.

Of course...one performance stands out from the rest, and it would be criminal to not highlight this mammoth effort. Against a slightly weaker than usual opposition, shall we say, one player had the game of his life. One of the club's favourites, he does lots in the background, and is someone who will always buy you a beer after, Parky took 6 wickets! Bowling 4.5 overs, 6 wickets for 9 runs! A truly remarkable performance, and even though it hurts to say it, the best figures at the club so far this year.

Just to touch on Parky again, he did get his first 100 this year against the John Malins xi. So well done Parky. Let's hope for more free yards next year. And some more fixtures too!

Jokes aside, on 19th May, Mike got 300 (out) against the Chudleigh Ales. Dropped twice by much loved and now cult status "Fingers", the second time being whilst holding ice from hurting his hand on the first drop, it was a brutal display on strength, power and contempt for bowlers. Given that he usually pours 2/3 of it down him, I think we settled for 1 full yard of the 3. As that it's a record which I can't imagine will be broken. Also one more success, in that game, our titanic favourite, Neil Farr, got 8 runs!

A final few thanks. To Claire and Bex for doing the teas - it makes life a lot easier, and I've since found out Amrik has been making personal requests! So thank you guys.

Again, Mike, Amrik, Francois, Martin and John. Week in week out I can rely on you to play, to help set up, and to arrive late (John and Martin). It really is appreciated.

Finally to Sunday Player of The Year - with his highest batting average (11.25) in 7 years, and best bowling figures of 5/28, 1 catch and a season economy of 3.11, it's my pleasure to get to play every week with my old man, the award went to Martin Annable.

**Jonny Annable,  
Sunday Captain**