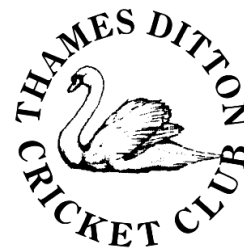


# THAMES DITTON CRICKET CLUB

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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## 1<sup>st</sup> XI Report 2022

In terms of what we are ultimately measured on as a club.... results... we came 7th in the league, which feels a little harsh for the level of cricket we played. For context, it's only 2 wins off 4th! Losing to Cobham on the last ball (probably one of the lowest moments in my life), not managing to chase a few low totals, just missing 1 or 2 wickets in stupid timed cricket, and somehow losing to Staines twice... that's about 80 points right there, which would have seen us promoted. But that's cricket.

However we beat 1st, we were 1 wicket away from beating 2nd, we beat 3rd, we beat 4th, we beat 5th and we beat 6th. We are at home in the Surrey Champs, and we will do all we can to challenge for the top next year.

Despite overall league position, I am extremely proud of the cricket we played this year and importantly the atmosphere amongst the lads. I'll go through some of the key highlights in a bit, but overall the way we rallied together, scoring over 200 eight times, and over 300 once, the partnerships we created, the tight lines we bowled, the pressure we built, the screamers we took, the concentration and resolve we showed in the spicier matches. All of this contributed to an amazing year - the atmosphere was impeccable, I can't remember having more fun. Thank you to you all.

Key Moments - and I'm sure I've forgotten some

- first and foremost....we RELEGATED LONG DITTON. A good old fashioned hog roast
- that first win at Trinity, with Spiler's 2 wickets in the first over, Cameron's screamer and golden arm OJ cleaning up at the end
- Cameron and Ryan putting on 194 against Ashford, to set up a mammoth win
- DK's 5fer against Staines
- Away at Cobham, chasing 205 in the diciest and spiciness of matches. One of the best wins
- Cameron's 140\* against London Gym
- Daman's 99 and then Max Newbold taking the wicket to beat Egham by 1 run. This firmly sits up there with the biggest highs of my life. (Oh and Spiler's screamer at short cover)
- Mike's spell in beating top of the league Sinjuns, taking a 6fer including the infamous Sikander ball
- Max Taylor's opening spell at Long Ditton, Rash's middle spell, and then supported my Max Newbolds death bowling. Then chasing their total of 150 in 13 overs, with Dicko 97 not out and hitting the runs to relegate them!

And some milestones:

- 1st team debuts for the 'infamous' Mak Gill, Josh Vergunst, Dan Roberts, Maneesh Patel, Khiz Moti, Max Taylor and in his 5th attempt, Windy
- Spiler bowling his 400th maiden for the club

- Not a milestone, but the chat especially from Max Newbold, Rash, Ed G, Smithy was sublime all year. My personal favourite being with Spiler bowling, Smithy reminding the bat that you don't set the bowling machine up to facing this in the nets

- Parky hitting his highest 1s score - but importantly I'm sure, and he wouldn't forgive me for not saying, taking his first 1st XI wicket

Thank you everyone for the effort you've put in, the infectious enthusiasm, for trusting the process and for making it a thoroughly enjoyable year. I've loved every minute of it.

Finally a few thank yous:

- Pat, Jilesh and Liam for umpiring. We've seen the standard as low as it has ever been, and you managed to raise that bar

- The other captains for making it a smooth year, whatever trials and tribulations we had

- Lessy for running a superb year as club captain. You've done a stunning job, and I think everyone here has benefitted from the effort you've put in

Finally - a thank you to all the supporters. Winning is an amazing feeling – it's even better when you look over and a group of people are celebrating too, and maybe were even more nervous. And when you lose, a pat on the back (not saying it's only a game or you did your best!!!), but a kind word makes it a slightly-less bitter pill to swallow. So thank you everyone who came and watched.

Following all the highs, and the lows, we stayed in the Surrey Champs - which was aim 1. We are a fantastic club, and we belong here. One job done, and I hope to be the one who can help us challenge for the title next year.

Right....on to POTY.

Whilst there have been some amazing and heroic individual performances this year, there has been one player who has consistently done so. I mean he almost consistently, he did get a duck in his first game, just to keep us interested.

With 943 leagues runs (topping the league by 198 of them, and on the receiving end of some shocking decisions), 25 wickets (leading taker for the club), and 12 catches while setting up residence at short cover, the obvious winner of 2023 1st POTY is.....oh and he's a bloody good keeper too....Cameron C-Dog Tanner.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> XI Report 2022

*"Surrey Championship Division 3 West is where the magic happens" \_ Anon. 2022.*

A summer of cricket can either feel too short if you're having a great season, relentlessly long if you're not, or somewhere in between which is the case for most amateur Saturday cricketers. The summer of 2022 fell somewhere in that grey area where the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI comfortably stayed in the league finishing mid-table whilst falling agonisingly short in a couple of games which halted our promotion push with only a handful of games left in the season. We started the season with fresh optimism and hopes of going straight back up after being relegated the season before. A strong team with a few new faces to freshen up the squad, we arrived at the cabbage patches of East Molesey 4<sup>th</sup> XI and then a few hours later, that optimism and hope started to fade as we got bundled out for 60-odd (64/AO in 17.4 overs). I'd like to say that never happened again, but it did indeed against East Molesey and this time at home. Once again, it was for a similar 60-odd (58/AO in 25.5 overs).

*"Still in this, boys" \_ Nobody against East Molesey.*

Now that that's out of the system, let's focus on the positives. Despite having a few shaky fixtures throughout the year, we managed to win the majority of our games and stayed competitive all through the campaign. We had 48 players play and contribute this year, ranging from club stalwarts like Mike Dixon, Paul Campbell and Mike Robinson to young and incredible promising talent like Jack Steedman, Jack Robertson and Owen Jones. It was a pleasure to give some Colts their first experience of competitive senior cricket and how easily they fit into the starting XI is a testament to youth cricket at the club.

*"It's just not coming out right" \_ Christopher Dixon*

Speaking of stalwarts, former 1<sup>st</sup> XI captain, Chris Dixon decided to try his hand on the dustbowl that was Colet's Health & Fitness cricket grounds this year and played a huge role in getting us vital breakthroughs throughout the season, notably against Hampton Hill and Malden Wanderers. A self-proclaimed mercenary, Chris played in most league teams this season and it was a pleasure to have him around whenever he was available. Hampton Hill, one of the teams to get promoted this year, lost both games to us and that is obviously going into the positives column for this season. Twice against Hampton Hill we managed to get scores of 262/4 and 267/6 at home and away respectively. This was largely down to brilliant knocks from Robbo and Khizar Moti at Colet's, and then Rohit Thota and Paul when we were oppo. Paul and Rohit's partnership was one of the most sublime passages of batting I have seen at our level of cricket and will remain one of my highlights for the season. Rohit finished third in our Player of the Season votes, managing 256 runs in 5 games at an average of 85.33 striking at 93.77. (Yes, numbers do matter when they're that good!)

*"Have a blow" \_ Sampad to Mak after he'd picked up his 6<sup>th</sup> wicket against Hampton Hill (away) even with overs in the bank.*

We've been fairly solid with the bat throughout the season, often on tricky pitches, and it is largely down to the foundation set up by our top order. In an ever-changing XI, some of the consistently available top order batters were Henry Weir and James Rutter. Henry managed 236 runs in just 7 games and never once complained about me not bowling him much, even though he was down as an all-rounder on fantasy cricket. Jimmy managed to bring his previous "Sunday Rutter" form with him and translated that to league cricket this year and scored 326 runs. He

finished second in our Player of the Season vote. It was an absolute pleasure having them around for as much as we did throughout the season.

*"Sorry."* \_ Henry to James in the middle of the pitch at Colet's whilst proceeding to run him out.

You've made it this far into the season's report so might as well keep going. Don't worry, I'm not going game by game. I'd rather focus on the players. As I said earlier, we had 48 players play throughout the season and everyone played a vital part. Behind the stumps, we started the season with new TD recruit, fresh off the Imperial College cricket conveyor belt, Harry Freeman. Harry was brilliant in the few games that he played and then form with the bat and the lack of keeping options in 1s and 2s (who only had 4 between them) meant he moved up and found a new home in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and subsequently went onto become their Player of the Season. We had Steve Wallace return behind the stumps and aside from not being a massive believer in warming up with the bowlers before a game, played a massive role for us throughout the season having played most of our games whilst contributing behind the stumps. We also welcomed back Chris Tune for a couple of games and was a pleasure having him back in the mix. Neil Farr, forever the team man, played a few games and on some really difficult wickets such as Egham's early season away ground and kept beautifully. Egham away also saw the rise of Steven Chalk's second coming, from swashbuckling opening batter to wiley off-spinning all-rounder.

*"I'll have another slip in, thanks."* \_ Steve Chalk.

We had invaluable contributions from several others, namely Rob Henderson, Alex O'Reilly, George Moroz, Eddy Hogg, Nic Corvi and of course, former skipper Chris Harding. All these fine gentlemen, whenever available, played a massive part in games and provided me with incredible support throughout the season. In the bowling department, we had myself (Sampad, in case you were wondering) with 15, Matty Parkinson with 11, Maneesh Patel and Will Turner with 9, and Chicky with 8 wickets. Matty and Maneesh were brilliant all season and were readily available whenever called upon. The more these two play, the better they will get, and I'm certain they'll have plenty more to contribute to TD going forward. Will, the walking sight-screen, was incredibly unlucky all year and deserved to bag many more wickets. A highlight for me was him bowling at the speed of light and beaming (again, no harm in that) kids and some (1<sup>st</sup> XI) women in our friendly against Beaconsfield 5<sup>th</sup> XI. I'll have to mention my two loopy wrist-spinning all-rounders Tom Hunt and Ahad Riaz, both of whom had their moments throughout the season picking up crucial wickets and Tom even got his first league 50 against Farnham!

*"I can only bat at Colet's and bowl away"* \_ Ben Freeman.

I was asked by Harry at the start of the season if his brother can come down to training. He said he bowled a bit of off-spin and batted a bit. Thankfully, I said of course. Since then, Ben has scored 382 runs and taken 17 wickets, including one 50, two 100s, and a 5-for. He was our leading run-scorer and wicket-taker, and unsurprisingly was our Player of the Season. Having Ben at the top of the order and ready to call upon to bowl had been a massive positive this season and hopefully something he can continue to do for TD in the future. Overall, it's been a good season for the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI. This being my first season as a captain of the club, it was made hugely easier for me with the support from other players and captain, and the performances everyone put up throughout the year. Next on the agenda is to go that one step further, and I have no qualms in saying that we will not only push for promotion but will challenge for winning the league next season.

*"We're gonna win the league"* \_ Sampad (for 2023).