



THE MITRE

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTFORD CRICKET CLUB

Welcome to the new season

A damp and chilly welcome to the new season. You will have noticed that The Mitre has undergone a change since it was last published. We would welcome your comments on the new design and content. Ideas and articles for future editions should be sent to stephen.ballard@virgin.net.

Subscriptions, excluding Colts, are now due. We are pleased to announce that we have been able to keep subscriptions at last year's levels and we would appreciate prompt payment. Please send cheques (Senior Member £35, Junior Member £10) payable to Otford Cricket Club to John Hilder, 30 Dippers Close, Kemsing.

Equestrian Evening

Following last year's success we will be holding an equestrian night on Friday 25 June. Please put this date in your diary. If you would like to help with the organisation of the event please contact Mark Stevens on 01959 523881. Tickets will be available shortly.

Village Fete



The Club will again be running the "Wheel of Fortune" at the Village Fete on 31 May. This has been a good fund raiser for both the Fete and the club in previous years

and we hope to better the £400 we raised last year. Whatever we raise is split equally between the club and the Fete. As ever help is always appreciated in running the stall. If you can help, even for only half an hour or so, please contact John Hilder on 01732 762217 or turn up during the day.

Colts Cricket

This year the Club has entered the Mid Kent Youth League sponsored by Bat & Ball Sports. For the first time we will be putting out teams at Under 11, Under 13 and Under 15 levels. The League commences on 17 May with the Under 11s away to Addington. Fixtures will be played at each age group against the following Clubs:

Under 11	Addington, Leybourne, Offham and Platt
Under 13	Addington, Leybourne, Offham, Pembury and Yalding
Under 15	Addington, Leybourne, Offham, Pembury, Platt and Shoreham

Additionally the Under 15s will participate in the League Cup. You can visit the League website at www.mkyl.play-cricket.com. We are delighted that Johnny Owen and Mike Harris have agreed to manage the Under 13s and Anita Yates will be looking after the Under 9s. However, Managers are still needed for the Under 11 and Under 15 teams. If you would like to take part please contact Mark or Angie Stevens on 01959 523881. Following last season's success in the Kent Mini Super 8s, the Under 9s will again be entering the competition.

Colts coaching commenced on 9 May and runs to 25 July (excluding 30 May due to Fete requirements). Coaching



starts at 1030 and finishes around 1230. Our coaches will again be Tony Rose and Mark Stevens and this year we welcome Adam Jones to our coaching team.

Congratulations to Leo Harris and Alex Jones who have respectively been selected for the District Under 14 and Under 12 sides. Marcus Owen (Under 12) and Alex Mersh and Matthew Stevens (Under 10s) are on the reserve lists.

David Gilbert

It was with great sadness that we learned of the sudden death of David Gilbert on 10 February. David was a member of the Club for over 25 years serving on the Committee, Vice-Captain of the Saturday side in the early 1980s and recently donning the umpires coat in League matches. David was a hugely popular Club member whose infectious giggle and wicked sense of humour will be sadly missed. In 2002 David's contribution to the Club was recognised when he deservedly won the Clubman of the Year award.

Colts Cricket Report

Last year saw the Colts go from strength to strength with membership approaching fifty. Fixtures were arranged in age groups ranging from Under 9 to Under 15. The Under 11s won the Plate competition at the Holmesdale Under 11 Cricket Tournament. In the finals of the county wide Mini Super 8s our Under 9s won bronze medals.

On a glorious September day we held a highly successful Family Day with juniors and seniors playing together in a 6-a-side tournament. Parents and non-playing members were able to bask in the sunshine while enjoying the barbecue and chilled drinks (re-hydration on a hot



day being very important of course!) Thanks go to John Boyden for organising the tournament and Angie Stevens for the food. We are hoping to repeat the Family Day again this year. The tournament was won by Page's Pirates

Website

We are currently setting up a website on play-cricket.com. The website address is www.otford.play-cricket.com. Club members, both Colts and Seniors, should register when first entering the site. Once your registration has been accepted you will have full access to the website - fixtures, reports, news, etc. Please let us know what you would like to be included on the website.

E-mail address

Please let us have your e-mail address. We plan to use electronic communication wherever possible as this will allow members to receive information more quickly and will help reduce the costs of running the Club. You can either include your e-mail address when registering on our website (preferred) or by sending an e-mail to stephen.ballard@virgin.net with full contact details.

Club Awards - 2003

Congratulations to the following Club members for their performances both on and off the field:

Saturday Batsman	Peter Richardson
Saturday Bowling	Roger Selleck
Sunday Batsman	John Boyden
Sunday Bowling	Alex Smith
Ted Hewitt Clubman Award	Steve Ballard
Chariman's Award	Angie Stevens

Under 15 Player of the Year	Nick Leach
Under 13 Player of the Year	Leo Harris
Under 11 Player of the Year	Justin Angus
Under 9 Player of the Year	Alex Mersh



Match Report

Stonewall Park v Otford

In the first game of the season, an undefeated century by Adam Jones (pictured) laid the foundation for Otford's 166-6 against Stonewall Park. Only Peter Richardson with 18 and Steve Lemmon with 16 reached double figures. With Roger Selleck taking 3-6, Leo Harris 2-10 and Kevin Page 1-6 Stonewall Park never recovered from 19-5 and were eventually all out for 77 leaving Otford the victors by 89 runs. New boy Phil Oldroyd ripped out the late order batsmen claiming 3-22 in his first match for the club.



Match Report

Wadhurst v Otford



With only 9 men the prospects of the Sunday XI against Wadhurst were not promising. Batting first Wadhurst totalled 215 - 4 on a slow pitch. Wickets were shared between Alex Smith 2 - 52, Matt Young 1 - 32 and Sam Smith 1 - 28. Mike Carter playing his first game since the 2002 season bowled tidily and was unlucky not to take a wicket with several catches not going to hand. In reply Sam Smith and Mark Flemington opened the batting. Once Sam departed Thomas Cobb with 26 and Mark Flemington (62) kept the scoreboard ticking over. As we entered the last 20 overs the scoring rate had increased to over 7.5 runs per over. Enter Matt Young (left) who quickly found his timing and was soon flaying the bowling to all parts of the boundary. His 61 contained 3 sixes and 7 fours. Mark joined in and an Otford victory was not an impossibility. With the departure of Mark and once Matt was out the 14 runs required off the last over proved beyond us and we settled for the draw at 206 - 5. A very credible effort with only 9 men.

Club contacts

Chairman	Steve Ballard	01732 762463
Saturday Captain	Mark Stevens	01959 523881
Sunday Captain	Richard Smith	01732 764078
Secretary	Jon Pyman	01732 465629
Treasurer	John Hilder	01732 762217
Fixture Secretary	John Lewis	01959 522887
Colts Administrator	Angie Stevens	01959 523881
Club Welfare Officer	Angie Stevens	01959 523881
Head Groundsman	Geoff Hilder	01737 243730