

Consolidation, One More Wicket, Flanning and Walthamstow...

Old Rutlishians 2nd XI Season Review.

There's no shadow of a doubt that 2013 brought around one of the most memorable and successful seasons for the Old Rutlishians Cricket Club. The 1st XI being promoted, 3rd XI promoted as Champions and the Sunday 1st XI winning the Surrey Trust League for the second year in succession after a low scoring final against and at Valley End (all within the same weekend)! Sadly, the 2nd XI could not get in on the act as they managed a mid-table finish, however half way through the season even this looked unlikely....



LMFAO enjoyed the Ruts champagne showers so much he decided to get in on the act!

Just like the season overall, the first few games appeared to be a tale of two halves for the team, with a bowling unit that could restrict the best sides to low totals, yet a batting unit short of confidence, lacking in runs and the act of Flanning spreading across the side like the London Plague. Ultimately this resulted in the Ruts struggling to get the W's on the board early on and hovering precariously just above the relegation zone as we made our way to Walton on Thames (going neck and neck with Spencer at the summit).

Having won the toss and batted first in a rain affected game, the Ruts made their way to a total of 146-9 from their 30 overs, leaving Walton 147 to win from 20 overs, definitely achievable, even more so when the first over went for 9. Enter Steve 'Ledley King' Chicky, who took the game to Walton, bowling one of the best spells seen in recent times in 2nd XI cricket to finish with 5-29 from his 10 overs and almost carry the side over the winning line (he's tried to use that excuse for his end of season injuries).



Chicky couldn't quite get us that last wicket

2 Weeks and a regular victory against Bank of England later, Esher came to town with roles reversed. The batsmen amassed a total of 276-3 from 45 overs, with Dinesh Thakore (87) and George Tidey scoring his maiden hundred (109) managing to obtain a nose bleed in the process when he realised he scored runs against a side other than Bank of England! The Esher innings, although aided by non-players at times through scenes reminiscent of the Stuart Broad incident, managed to chase the total down for the loss of 8 wickets with their Stuart Broad bludgeoning his way to a hundred in the process. The Ruts dropped into the relegation zone for the first time.



Should've gone to Specsavers...

When you enter the relegation zone, the last team you want to play next is a side that is top by a country mile, unbeaten all season and consists of ex 1st XI Premier Division players!

They say you learn something new every day, and at the Spencer game we learnt a few new things, first off was that Geography didn't seem to be Mad Dan's strong point at school, shown by his Friday night trip to Walthamstow Bus Station! But that's another matter...

Secondly, that when we put our minds to it, we can field exceptionally well and finally that we can chase down scores of over 220... Just...

Needing 226 to win the ruts were cruising at 209-4 when Tidey, who must have been suffering from his second nose bleed in successive weeks, found the only man in the deep off a part time bowler on 99. Then came a collapse that has come to be far too common, with Corey 'tank' Nelson (57) and O'Neil Lindo (0) falling without further runs added. Squeaky bum time was present until Kevin Foster (9*) and Daisy (8*) steered us home to lift us back out of the relegation zone which we were not to see again.



No words needed...

Within 7 games the 2nd XI went from relegation candidates to having a realistic chance of promotion following 4 wins out of the last 7 games. However, other results, a shock defeat against Woking (at least Daisy's car survived this time) and the weather went against us in the end giving us a mid-table finish. A fine effort from all 30 players involved over the season.



Daisy's Woking nemesis...

Throughout the season there were some stand out performances with the bat and the ball. George Tidey scoring 437 runs at 29 was ably supported by Nick 'NatWest Piggy' Pryce (341 at 26), Liam 'are you only wearing a grill' Flanagan (262 at 22) and Jon Mapp (260 at 29). The bowlers stood out even further with Daisy leading the way with 26 wickets at 22, Kam 'killer' Khan following behind with 20 at 25. Other notable performances with the ball include Fawad Anis (16 at 16), Dan De Leon (15 at 16) and Evan Watson (11 at 14).

The future of the club is definitely a bright one with many of the current colts and colts graduate appearing this season. The Foxies, Errol, Richie, Henry, MVP, Isaac, Eshen, Rossco and Corey all played vital roles in the games they played and made a good account of themselves at this level.

Onwards and upwards. Our turn to get in on the act next year?

Jon Mapp

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