

## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> team season report

As we all know this has been the most successful year the ruts have ever had, not only were the Saturday's teams successful, it was also the case for my guys on a Sunday who play in our pajamas and in the exciting old boys league.

The season saw us defend out old boys trophy in a very damp final play off against Trinity Mid Wives, as well as defending out Surrey Trust League trophy. The season saw a few new faces make their name in the Sunday first team. The usual faces were ever present but it was great to see Alex fox play regularly, as well as the addition of Corey nelson, Brad Spiby and Isaac Braithwaite.

The old boys league is a league in which we have always dominated, this year was a slightly different story, with an early loss to Sinjun grammarians it was always going to be tricky to maintain a hold on the trophy, this was made even trickier when we were skittled out for 74 by Trinity at their place. With the early losses we knew that we would have to win out remaining games to have any chance of defending out title, I'm sure we all remember the fine game away at old Emmanuel, in which we were graced with Geoff, "ahhhhhhhh the old 60 degree jobby", and me being told to have a word with brad because of his behavior, tut tut Bradley, shocking.



The second half of the season saw us finally get out of first gear and produce some good cricket. With that we won our remaining games convincingly, trinity also proceeded to win the majority of the games, by doing so it caused for a tie at the top of the table. This then sent the chairman of the league (Lance Keen) running for the hand book, in which gave us the news that a play off was to be played by the two top teams, ourselves and Trinity Mid Wives.

This was played on a beautiful day in early September which in turning up their were sigh screens blown across the ground and a lot of rain around as well as most of the team feeling a little worst for where after the first teams final game the day before. Once we had smartened ourselves and the ground up I won the toss and decided to have a bat, which was a great relief to my team. Mr. Spiby opened up and we expected fireworks due to it being his last game for the Ruts, but we were treated to yet another SOLID knock from Bradders. Surprisingly we scored 226, with valuable runs from Ollie fox and Mr. Freeman, but I am pretty sure they were the only two who weren't out the night before celebrating the last Saturday league game.

In Trinity's innings they started positively but Rich and Ross were able to peg them back, to get us back on track. The heavens then opened, in which was not a light shower, it was absolutely pouring down. We fielded the last 10 overs in gale force winds, single figure temperatures and a hailstorm. But even with Barn bowling seem up as he couldn't grip it we managed to restrict Trinity to 182, which saw us be presented as the Old Boys League Champions for the 139<sup>th</sup> year running (thanks Lance).



Right on to the Surrey Trust League, where do we start, after last year's heroics I thought if we gave a good account of ourselves in the qualifying campaign then I would be happy. This wasn't the case, we went on to win every game in the league qualifying process, usually by a 100 run margin. The two matches in which we had to up our game was when we travelled to Normandy and Guildford, both these fixtures were closely contested and forced us to play a high level of cricket.

What I did enjoy was our day out at Guildford, "So have you guys played in this Surrey Trust League before". This was a game which we were forced to get out of first gear, on giving their warm up a steady 7 out of 10 we thought they were going to be strong, and they were. We batted first and a fantastic opening partnership of 103 set us on our way to a score of 203, we still thought this wasn't enough. But some seriously tight bowling from the spinners, especially Kam early up saw us pile the pressure on them, we caught well and managed to bowl them out for 137.



**GCC warm up**

**66 run victory**



**ORCC warm up**

By winning our group we were drawn away to play Streatham and Marlborough in the play off for the final. This again was a game in which we rated their warm up, we gave it a lousy 3 out of 10, there were balls flying every where and people running for cover, thank god health and safety didn't turn up. As per we decided to bat first on a green one, again a fantastic opening partnership from Dom and Mappy of 130 helped set up an explosive finish from Isaac and Joe and saw us finish on 219, a score we were more than happy with. They really did have a jolly chap that day, a pleasure

to play against, as Isaac discovered when he was dismissed, even though he just sent them all around the park.

We took the field knowing we had to keep quite, Barn and Ringo opening up with superb opening spells, both going for less than 20. A day again where we had to up our game saw us bowl superbly and field sharply, this resulted in S&M being dismissed for 123 and a place in the final for ORCC for a second consecutive year.

As it worked out the final was to be played away at Valley End against Valley End. When we arrived we did the usual routine, had a seat, judged the oppos warm up, and for some reason sat very close to the square. Which resulted in my team acting as an on looking crowd for the toss, in which I lost, after some indecision valley end decided to bowl, perfect. We set off like a train, but then we proceeded to lose regular wickets, resulting in us being in trouble at 83-6. We then let Mr. Barnicott loose, in what was an inning of not the most elegant of hitting or even hitting at all, just a lot of swiping, he managed to play a match saving innings scoring 33, with valuable runs from Rich and Kam to, we went from 83-6 to 158 all out, a score we were now able to have a bowl at.

After some inspirational jazz and a pumped up team talk we took the field, Kameron and Ringo started the proceedings and both bowled to the level of the great milks, with Kam going for 15 off his 8 and Ringo 27. This gave us the start we needed as they were reduced to 38-3. With our usual defensive fields they found it hard to score and we continued to peg them back. A partnership did begin to build with their captain and No.5 but Rich had different ideas, he thought he would impose a bit of fire into the game, by bowling a ball that spat up and went through their captains grill to hit him in the eye resulting in him having to retire. This unfortunate occurrence changed the game and we were ruthless by taking the remaining 5 wickets for 17 runs and valley end being bowled out for 97, ruts winning by 61 runs, with Rich finishing with 4. This meant we were crowned Surrey Trust champions for the second consecutive year.



Any way I hope you are all still awake after reading this but I would just like to say thank you to a few people who have made my three years as captain pretty easy and thoroughly enjoyable. I would like to thank my vice captains, Barn and Dom, especially Barn for coming out of retirement to grace us with his presence again this season, and Dom for doing all the scorecards and his advice, as well as being the only player not hung-over on a Sunday morning to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Last but not least I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who I have captained over the last three years, I have witnessed some fantastic cricket from all of you, Doms runs, riches craziness, Tom Donegans 4for, I honestly couldn't list all of them. But I would like to say you have all made it very easy for me and the spirit you have shown busting a gut for the 10 other players show what the ruts are all about, I wish next years captain good luck and I must remind him that warm ups are over rated and anything less than wining every competition you enter jus isn't a success.

Thanks guys

Sonny