

The Bugle



Newsletter by Bledlow Village Cricket Club | June 2017



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Early season success

The early season momentum certainly carried over into May. Both 1st and 2nd XIs started their Cherwell League campaigns in positive fashion with the 1's currently sat in 2nd in Div 2 after an unbeaten month. The 2's have built off some more solid foundations in Div 7 to sit 6th. We also continued our National Village Cup run by completing a 5 wicket victory in the Bucks semi-final. May also saw the start of ECB All-stars Cricket on Friday evenings which has been full to capacity, meaning our junior training sessions are probably the busiest in our history which is fantastic to see.

Match Reports

Sat 6th May 1st XI vs Challow & Childrey

Tom lost the toss and Bledlow were put in to bat. Two early wickets fell but an excellent, counter-attacking partnership of 83 between Adam Mould and Will Woodward quickly put Bledlow in command. Adam fell for 60 in his first innings since his return to the club. This didn't seem to halt the Bledlow scoring as Matt Bolton got immediately in to his stride, elegantly stroking his way to 72 in another excellent partnership with Will worth 140. Will then went through the gears and raced past 100. Some further big hits from Charlie and Will, who ended with an excellent 126, saw Bledlow end with 311-7.

Matt Pearce's first over ended up in boundaries, as Challow tried to chase the mammoth total. Fellow opening bowler Matt Bolton made the breakthrough with the score on 39 but it was already clear just how tough a task it would be to take the remaining wickets. Some good bowling from Waseem Khan caused the batsmen some trouble and he was eventually rewarded with a wicket to make the score 85-2. Skipper Tom then chopped and changed the bowlers in an attempt to pick up some wickets but regular partnerships stunted Bledlow's progress. 3 late wickets from Adam Mould were not enough to claim the win as Challow finished on 257-7.

Sat 6th May 2nd XI vs Horley CC

The 1st league game of the season took Bledlow to Horley where we were asked to bat first. Without the ever present Graham Keens to lead the way, James Basu got a chance to open the batting. He played a calm innings with fellow opener Marcus Goodchild only able to make 13. Unfortunately the Horley opener had two big scalps of Marcus and Reg Regler, both bowled.

Captain Andy Reclik came in at 4 and hit his first ball going for 4 and he and Bas went about constructing an innings. When Bas had finally fell, Bloomers wandered in knowing that he still had a huge job to do with the overs remaining and the batting tail a little long...

Scraping our way to 175 with some valuable contributions from "Mamba" and Vineeth.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 3rd June	The M.F.U (Live) @ BVCC	8pm - late
Saturday 8th July	John Reclik Race Night @ BVCC	8pm - late
Saturday Sep 9th	BLEDFEST	1pm - late

New signing Jonny Kaufman got first use of the new ball. Overall he should be pleased with his 8 over spell that only lacked a wicket. Reckers down the opposite end started well finding a feather of an edge through to Bloomers with the gloves on! We were perhaps foolish to think it was all to be that easy as Jim was the only other to find a wicket as the Horley batsmen got them home comfortably.

Sat 13th May 1st XI vs Great & Little Tew

Tom Moore lost the toss and we were asked to bat. The opening pair Tom Moore and Olly Woodward were dismissed with just 16 runs on the board. Adam Mould and Will Woodward began the rebuilding process with caution. Will was then caught at second slip after the ball had ricocheted off of first slip's chest. Matt Bolton soon followed bringing George Harman in who took the attack to the bowlers with a quick fire 26. However, when he and Adam fell in quick succession, Bledlow were in trouble at 114-6, with youngsters Sam Mudie and Dan Walker at the crease. Excellent innings from the pair, Sam with 37 and Dan with 21, enabled Bledlow to get up to 181 before they were bowled out in 38.4 overs.

Adam Mould and Waseem Kham picked up LBWs to remove both openers, leaving the score 69-2. Waseem then had Tew's dangerous looking number 3 caught on the boundary by Dan, giving Bledlow renewed hope that they could still win the match. Another steady partnership of 43 followed before skipper Tom brought himself on and picked up two wickets in his first over, putting the match back in the balance. When Waseem returned to the attack and picked up two quick wickets, Bledlow were firmly in the ascendancy, needing just two wickets for victory. Tom then got his fourth wicket, and it was left to Waseem to claim us an unlikely victory.

Sat 27th May 1st XI vs Oxford & Bletchington

Tom lost the toss yet and we were asked to bowl. The opening bowling combination of Matt Pearce and Matt Bolton kept things extremely tight at the beginning of the innings but it wasn't until a superb direct hit run out from Bolts that the first breakthrough came. From then on the batsmen never looked like causing Bledlow any problems as wickets fell at regular intervals. Waseem removed 1 and 4 in quick succession, before captain Tom brought himself on to devastating effect. Tom's 'quick spin' was too much for the batsmen to handle as they folded like a deck of cards to give Tom his first ever Cherwell League five wicket haul. He eventually finished with excellent figures of 6-17, Nondies were bowled out for 95.

Olly and Harry got the innings off to a good start, reaching 37 before Olly was caught behind for 20. Adam and then Harry quickly followed Olly back to the dressing room as Bledlow slumped to 40-3. Bolts put on 35 runs with Will before being bowled. Tom and Will polished off the remaining runs required with ease.

Sat 27th May 2nd XI vs Witney Mills

Watch the match here:

<https://www.facebook.com/JoeyHarman3/videos/10158751032115026/>

National Village Cup vs Westbury CC

A strong Bledlow XI travelled to the outer reaches of Buckinghamshire, to the village of Westbury. A slightly lopsided ground with excellent clubhouse facilities greeted the team. As was becoming Tom Moore's trait for 2017, he lost the toss and we were asked to bowl in the ever increasing heat and humidity. The early stages of the Westbury innings were dominated by two sets of Bledlow brothers; Matt and Dave Pearce, who opened the bowling with great control, and Will and Olly Woodward who provided a suitable level of batting advice to the struggling openers. The brotherly combination worked a treat, with both openers playing demising to horrible shots at either end. Their middle order showed a little more care and started to build some foundations for a decent looking score, however the key question Olly kept raising to their players was 'what was a good score' on a flat pitch with a small and fast outfield? With excellent fielding and standout bowling from Mark King (2), Tom Moore (3), the final total of 174 posted didn't feel like it was par.

After a Michelin star worthy tea, the Bledlow openers Matt Bolton and Olly Woodward walked out into a barrage of one-way conversation and slightly less aggressive opening bowling. After Olly had survived a drop at slip, he decided enough was enough and sent the next two balls sailing over the leg side boundary for 6. Matt thought he'd stoke the fire again however by gifting a catch to mid-wicket. Olly continued to enjoy putting his new friends to the sword however and completed a fine 50 in 37 balls. His dismissal, along with early exits from Charlie Downes, Will Woodward and Marcus Goodchild meant it was left to Tom Moore and James Basu to dampen the flames of the Westbury recovery. And my what a fine job they did. Requiring only around 4-5 runs an over to secure victory, they completed a near faultless chase. Tommy smiling like a Cheshire

cat as he walked off with superb unbeaten half century, a true captain's innings. Basu, having recovered from a bout of mid-innings heat stroke, enjoyed his moment of cup drama and regaled a full rendition of his innings as soon as his pads were off. The cup run and ambitious thoughts of Lords continue!

Junior Cricket

The ECB All-Stars cricket coaching for 5-8 year olds started in May, with over 30 participants. This is on top of our already excellent Friday evening junior turn-out. A huge thanks first of all to the coaches who are doing a great job. Also a mention to the organisers and various volunteers who help out. Great to see the future of our club in good hands. Midweek matches are also now in full swing for various age groups.

Player of the Month

This season we've called upon the Statman to give us a view of players performances over the month compared to their typical form:

May Batting Averages			
Name	2017	Name	All-time
Will Woodward	83	Sam Mudie	54
Martin Bloomfield	70	Adam Mould	52
Joe Harman	61	Harry Bartlett	52
Andy Reclik	37	Andy Reclik	37
Sam Mudie	37	Martin Bloomfield	29

May Bowling Averages			
Name	2017	Name	All-time
Tom Moore	6	Waseem Khan	12
Waseem Khan	9	Tom Moore	15
Jim Spooner	12	Jim Spooner	18
Andy Reclik	15	Mark King	21
Ben Moore	19	Joe Harman	22

We see that Will Woodward has had a strong start to the year, especially as May is not normally that kind to him. Bloomers excellent start with the bat this year has also forced him on to the all time list.

Tom Moore's new step and hurl technique is treating him well this year and moves him up on the all-time May list. Waseem has had a fruitful return to the club after many years away. Nothing seems to have changed as he tops the all-time May list. Jim Spooner continues in his typical vein. Congratulations to Andy Reclik for making it onto both lists.

Light on a Legend: Village Knock-out Bucks Final 2008

We've covered it briefly before in the Bugle, however with us reaching our first Village cup final since then we thought we'd revisit 2008. A strong Bledlow XI turned up at a ground which had seen much heartbreak over the previous few seasons. Winchmore hill had become our fierce cup rivals and had always come out on top on their own patch. We spoke to a few of those players involved on the day about their memories. 'Wit organised a bloody good warm up, I think this was one of the first times I'd ever warmed up for a Bledlow game... After a few mins I realised how up for it we were, even floydy was running around!' Matt Bolton's recollections can't have been too far from the truth as Bledlow bowled Winchmore out for a low total of 123. 'Jabber bowled out of his skin' recalls James Bacon, 'I think he took 4 wickets for barely any runs'. Wicket keeper at the time and now Dubai expat Harry Moseley only has memories of his own endeavours. 'Ryan Chapman threw yet another one down the leg side but this time the batsmen went wandering and I whipped those bails off, class keeping'. Most stories around the Bledlow chase centre on a controversial caught behind decision. When players are questioned about the victory most say 'oh you mean the game where Matt Bolton snicked off, didn't walk, and then won us the match'. The Pearce brothers who played for Winchmore Hill on the day still boil over when the topic comes up. 'We almost didn't join Bledlow because of that' Dave and Matt tell us. When asked about the incident, Bolts suggests 'in the heat of the moment I wasn't sure, so I thought I'd let the panel umpire decide on my fate'. It seems fair enough to us! Bledlow scraped home on 126-8 with just 2 balls to spare. Bolts ending 66 not out. We went on to lose to Read in the next round.