

# The Bugle



Newsletter by Bledlow Village Cricket Club | April 2017



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## The 2017 Season is here

It's been a busy few weeks down at the club. We have a brand spanking new bar people, it's huge! It was thoroughly put through its paces during the signing on evening last Saturday. More on both later.

Not only have people been hard at work with the pavilion renovations, groups have been getting the ground ready to host cricket for the coming season. It's looking in great shape, so a big thank you to all those who've leant a hand.

After a set of very well attended indoor nets, the seniors were in decent nick at the first outdoor net on Tuesday. Conditions weren't quite at their best but it didn't stop around 20 turning up. There's a real sense of excitement around the players this year and we look forward to seeing what the club can do over the season. We've also had some quality new, and more familiar faces join the club so we look forward to seeing them being part of the action!

So here we are, the wait is finally over, the cricket gets started this month! The square is ready, the sun is well and truly out and we've got a good set of fixtures lined up against strong local teams:

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April: 1<sup>st</sup> XI @ Aston Rowant

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April: 1<sup>st</sup> XI @ Princes Risborough

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April: Sunday XI @ Hurley

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April: 1<sup>st</sup> XI vs Cublington

If you want to view our entire set of fixtures for the summer then please visit our website:

<http://bvcc.hitssports.com/fixtures/default.aspx>

We're really keen to give all club members a chance to play any form of cricket this year, throughout the season. If you can't commit to an afternoon over the weekend, then don't forget we have midweek evening T20 team who play in a local league. Dan Walker is skipping the team this summer, and the first game is on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Get involved!

This month also sees the start of the National Village Knockout competition. We've been drawn against Bledlow Ridge in the 1<sup>st</sup> Round on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April, come along and support.

## Senior Kit is in!

Chiltern Sports have become our new senior kit supplier and there are some samples of the new Surridge kit down at the club. A thank you to Charlie Downes who has arranged this for us, following on from Steve Walker's good work with the Junior kit. There are garments to suit all tastes, shapes and sizes including a fetching Gilet which is being modelled by Willo this month around the pavilion. Here is a link to the full set of kit available:

<http://chilternsports.co.uk/product-category/branded-clothing-stores/bledlow-village-cricket-club/>

## Dates for your diary

Apr 11 <sup>th</sup> onwards	Senior Nets	6:00 7:30pm
Apr 21 <sup>st</sup> onwards	Junior Coaching	6:00- 7:30pm
Apr 16 <sup>th</sup>	Cricket Starts	

## Junior Cricket

We have a large active junior section with qualified coaches and helpers. Weather permitting, the popular Friday night junior coaching will start on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 6pm start.

For the 2017 season we've entered 5 teams covering U9s to U13s age groups for boys and girls. These fixtures start on w/c 15<sup>th</sup> May.

## All Stars Cricket Launch!

The ECB have launched a new initiative for boys and girls from 5-8 years old, called All Stars Cricket. Bledlow Village have signed up to run the 8 week course between 19<sup>th</sup> May – 7<sup>th</sup> August on Friday's at 18:15-19:15. We're excited about being able to offer this and you can find more information and register on the ECB website:

<https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/Course/86819429-fb54-456e-9c2c-30ebea2be75f>



## Pavilion Extension

As the new season approaches yet again, the extension work has begun to wind down. Work will continue in the background over the coming months and we will try to do as much internal rebuilding as our now limited budget will allow.

Since the last bulletin, the new steels are in place and the walls and ceilings have been plastered. The kitchen rebuild is now complete, along with a new dishwasher and fridge funded through a kind donation from the Bledlow Belles.

If you haven't been down to the Club recently, you will not have seen the new fully functional bar and cellar room, thanks to the kind donation of materials by members and friends and the donation and installation of new taps and cooler equipment by Greene King. All this means that we can now serve that perfect pint every time!

The old kitchen will become the new Gents toilets and some work can continue during the coming season, behind closed doors. Some electrics and plumbing has already been installed and the roof is ready to be insulated.

The old bar will be converted into a Disabled toilet facility, new Ladies toilets and Ladies/Girls changing room. Again, some work will continue behind closed doors during the season.

Again we must thank all those members who give up their time and donated their skills and labour over the winter months. We can now start to see the new Clubhouse starting to take shape.

## Other News & Photo of the Month

The annual signing on night at the club did not disappoint. One of the best turn outs in recent seasons and great live music performed by Thame based 'Dirty Bizzness' got the season off to a great start:



This season we will also include a photo of the month section in The Bugle, and its got off to a strong start with this beauty. Tag your photos to our Twitter or Instagram accounts to be in with a chance of it winning.



Top work from Reg Reglar this month. He has been out and about following some of the early season county warm up games and look who he bumped in to! Nice touch donning the new Bledlow stash for the snap too!

## Players of the Month

This month we thought we'd focus on a few of the unsung heroes of the 2017 season. We asked the weekend captains for their nominations and here are the winners:

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

#### Dave Pearce

5 matches, 16 wickets and enough tenacity and aggression opening up the bowling to leave his mark on the team for the entire season. One of the most impressive displays he put in was on a hot afternoon at Bledlow where he sent down 12 overs taking 3-52 up the hill, and all this post his first pre-season (Pro) football training. Skipper Tom Moore will be hoping to squeeze a few more early season games out of him this year.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> XI

#### Andy Reclik

There could only be one man to take this accolade. Reckers took charge of the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI last year and showed real strength of character throughout a tough season. His all-round performances stacked up well too, averaging 22 with the bat and 29 with the ball. He's a real club man putting in serious time and effort into our social media and club work parties. He will be continuing as 2<sup>nd</sup> XI captain this season whilst Geoff Tombs recovers from a knee injury. We wish both of them well.

### Sunday XI

#### Olly Woodward

Always keen to play and happy to bat wherever. The one week he asked to be a specialist bowler he returned figures of 0-53 off 4, apparently in an attempt to 'make more of a game of it'. Sunday skipper Bloomers calls him the biggest legend however. He recalls one week when he had too players and Olly was in top form, not only was he happy to sit the game out for someone else, he also umpired the whole game in the scorching sunshine. Due to his natural sensitivity to any form of sunshine, this meant people taking suncream out to him on regular intervals.

## Light on a Legend: Isle of Wight Tour... sometime in the 90s

### 'Willo stars again' by Graham Keens

We arrive at Ventnor on a sunny day ready for the match – We have no umpire but a gentleman volunteers to umpire for us – marvellous. We lose the toss and they elect to bat. We hear they have 2 South African 'stars' playing for them.

We go out field – being slightly lacking on the bowling front we offer up John Bourne – occasional 3rd XI merchant of crap to open the bowling. The South African opener lets 4 balls pass by and plonks the other 2 balls for 4. Mmmmm he looks a player!

A maiden at the other end is followed by John Bourne's second over. He rolls in and delivers a 'pie' the South African rocks onto the back-foot to smash it through the covers but JB has deceived him and extracts a thick outside edge which is gobbled up by our keeper. Joyous scenes ensue as the team cheers and rushes to celebrate with John. NOT OUT! says our new local umpire.

Joy turns to despair as the batsman then tucks in to our bowling again.

There is a respite when guest tourist 'Dusty' Miller comes on to bowl and I instruct him to spear it in a leg stump. The South African would stoke the first ball of each over out to deep square for one and normal cricket returns. For five of 'Dusty's' overs the plan works like a charm. Unfortunately for the sixth over the South African takes a large step to leg and starts smacking the ball straight and out of the ground! I tell 'Dusty' he is off. We give polite applause when he reaches 100 and have to admire the second hundred – he ends up 213 not out. We leave the field facing some 300+ in our dig!

We send out Willo and Dave Stone to open for us and Willo shows his liking for medium pace dross and is going at over 8 an over on his own. After 10 overs we are on target at 90 for 0 although 'Stoney' is only on 6.

We heard before-hand that they had a great spinner so when they bring on a pie-man Willo is not to be tempted and grinds each ball into the dirt. 6 overs of pies and Willo has not been tempted out of his shell. They then change bowlers and bring on the real left arm slow. WILLO HAS BLOCKED THE WRONG MAN!

The match meanders on and we reach a creditable 200 but no-where near their score. We return to the pavilion to find the 'Paparazi' have turned up to record the highest score on the island for many years. We dutifully smile – head for the bar – and buy our umpire a drink!