



2019 Season Report

Once again, the OACC were blessed with a very exciting fixture card thanks to the efforts of our fixture secretary, Ollie Greaves.

Fixtures – 28

Wins – 11

Losses – 11

Draws – 3

No Results – 3

Emeriti Phillips Cup – Joint Winners

Golf Day with OAGS – Winners

Hampshire Hogs Cricket Club – Sunday 28 April 2019 – Warnford

On a chilly April day, the Old Amplefordians trekked down to Warnford for the first game of the season. A few late arrivals forced the hand of the captain as he clearly lost the toss on purpose and the Hogs elected to bat first.

After a slow start, the old guru with the ball, Bertie Woodhead, struck. A huge nick carried to Hewie Dalrymple behind the stumps and the Hogs were looking shaky at 7 for 1.

Patch Faulkner then got into the act with some brilliant bowling dumfounding the Hogs top order and the Old Amplefordians were looking good with the Hogs dithering at 37-3.

Unfortunately at this point there was a batting rally and a decent partnership ensued. This was put to an abrupt end by Tom Bromet and the game was back on.

The captain then decided to throw the ball to a spinner well known on the circuit for having more chat than actual bowling prowess. I speak of course of the man/legend that is Roland Wood. He bamboozled the Hogs number 6 with a ball that had no flight, little pace and absolutely no spin whatsoever. This he went on to tell the field was known as the 'Wood Special'. This left the Hogs on 92-5 and it was fair to say the Old Amplefordians were on top at this stage.

As happened in the two years previous, the Hogs had a very strong number 7. This partnership took the game away from the Old Amplefordians but George Steger and Hewie Dalrymple bowled admirably and both ended up taking some wickets before the close of the Hogs innings.

The Old Amplefordians were set 264 to win and the chase was on. The chase started poorly with Pike falling early but Kick Douglas and Bromet began to build. Douglas showing speed between the wickets that not many had seen before. The crowd agreed that given his

physique his need for a quick single was commendable. Douglas fell and was shortly followed by Dalrymple, who scored a quick fire 20.

This bought Charlie Wright to the crease acting as the lynch pin of the batting line up. The elderly statesman batted well but was dismissed by a beauty and he headed back to the pavilion feeling a 100 was there for the taking. The captain then came to the crease and had to watch a batting collapse from the non-striker's end. First went Bromet for a beautiful 68. Second went Steger for a scratchy 1 and third and not least went Ted Wright for a structured 4. This 4 for Ted Wright doubled his average over the past 4 games for the Old Amplefordians and can be seen as one of the highlights of the day and a real positive for the young man to work on.

The captain was dismissed shortly after either stumped or bowled (the umpire making a decision by committee on the pitch). Patch Faulkner then swung the bat like he does his golf clubs adding a quick fire 30 but the game had gone. Old Amplefordians ended up 199 all out and the Hogs had won by 64 Runs.

A fantastic day had by all and a great fixture for years to come.

Band of Brothers CC – Sunday 5 May 2019 – Torry Hill, Sittingbourne, Kent

On a fair but chilly spring day, the OAs won the toss with a bold shout of Tails from the match manager. This represented his only real contribution to the day other than a misfield and a single run but nonetheless was greeted with great cheers from the crowd. The OAs batted first and batted well reaching 321/4. Unfortunately, Ollie Greaves (109) did not manage a third consecutive ton in the fixture, much to the disappointment of all. The newly elected Chair, Sebastian Phillips, nearly brought up the first ton of the season before being dismissed for 98. However this was followed by a maiden ton for Hugh Ainscough for the club. Sadly his ton came as part of his bowling figures of 4-133. The Band of Brothers eventually finished on 303/7 in a quality finish as both sides played attacking cricket to get the win. The catering was up to its normal very high standard and all returned to London for a late-night jar of ale, satisfied with a good day's cricket.

East Woodhay CC – Sunday 19 May 2019 – East Woodhay, Newbury

We lost the toss and fielded first. Got off to a good start keeping them to around 3/4 an over for the first 10. A couple of dropped catches in the slips during the middle overs didn't help, allowing them to score 30/40 too many. All in all the bowling was very good considering it was an extremely flat pitch. James Ainscough, Jamie Reid and Patch Faulkner the pick of the bowling but could only restrict East Woodhay to 250 off their 40 overs. Batting wise it was a complete shambles! Jimbo Ainscough was the only one to score a few; the rest of us getting out very cheaply and falling well short of the total. The OAs were bowled out for a mediocre

120 all out to suffer a very heavy 130 run loss. Overall though, it was a great day out, everyone managed to get lifts and turned up on time and stayed for a beer after.

Ampleforth College 1st XI – Saturday 25 May 2019 – Ampleforth College

The OACC won the toss and elected to bat first. The innings was held together by a very well made 105 by Will Prest. Ben-Brown supported him with a proper innings of 20 off 64 balls and Ludo MacLellan chipped in with 13 not out at the end of the innings. The skipper, Charlie O'Kelly declared on a competitive 180-8. The school started well with an opening stand of 44 which looked ominous for the OAs. But once Ludo MacLellan and Michael Blakiston Houston removed both openers, it opened the door for Sam MacLellan to rip through the middle ordering picking up 4-20 off his 6 overs. Having been 57-1, the school

collapsed to 67-5 and they never really recovered with the OAs bowling them out for 150 to win by 30 runs.

Ampleforth College 2nd XI – Saturday 25 May 2019 – Ampleforth College

Not a performance for the OAs to remember. Having lost the toss, the OAs never really recovered. The school posted a competitive but very reachable 132-8. The chase was a classic OAs collapse. Having lost Henry Ogden to a first ball duck their innings never got going with Hugh Ainscough the only batsman to reach double figures. The result was a convincing 79 run loss.

Yorkshire Gentlemen CC – Sunday 26 May 2019 – Ampleforth College

As usual with the YGs, they won the toss and batted first and didn't set about their task with any haste or urgency. The OAs took regular wickets thanks to 3-16 and 3-24 from Michael Blakiston Houston and Bevan Fawcett respectively and the YGs eventually declared on 174-8 off 47 overs. This was a very reachable target but the OAs are always prone to a collapse. They did, however, make light work of the chase with a 50 from debutant, Tom Wade who was playing for the school 1st XI the day before and two not out 50s from Tom Bromet and Bas Fitzsherbert to take the OAs home by 8 wickets

Emeriti CC – Sunday 2 June 2019 – Cranmore School

OACC elected to bowl first in what was reduced to a 40 over game. Charlie Hawkesworth got off to a good start taking two quick wickets which was backed up by some steady bowling by James Ainscough who also picked up a couple. However, the Emeriti had a good middle order batsman who scored a composed 90 which took their final total to 278-7. The OAs got off to a wobbly start losing 3 wickets for just 22 runs, however the ship was steadied by Joe Lush who scored a destructive 64 before being bowled. Unfortunately, the OAs were left with too much on their hands and ended up with 224 falling 54 runs short of the required total.

Cricketer Cup 1st Round – Stowe Templars CC – Sunday 16 June 2019 – Ampleforth College

With a first home draw in more than 10 years and against a side who the OAs could be competitive against, this was the first time in a long time where the OAs felt they had a realistic chance of progressing to the second round. Having won the toss, skipper Charlie O'Kelly opted to field first. It proved to be a good decision with Arthur Campion bowling well (despite picking up a couple of wickets with no balls) and James Ainscough picking up 3-35 to bowl Stowe out for 143. Despite a wobble in the chase, a well-made 61 from Bevan Fawcett who was ably supported by Baz Fitzherbert ensured that the OAs won by 5 wickets to reach the second round.

Cricketer Cup 2nd Round – Old Tonbridgians CC – Sunday 1 July 2019 at Tonbridge

After our first-round success against Stowe Templars, the OA's travelled to The Head at Tonbridge. A combination of illness and injury had severely depleted the squad leaving only one of the original XI match fit. Six were making their competition debut alongside stand-in skipper Sebastian Phillips and senior pros Dominic William Spencer and Tom Stanley. Having lost the toss on what looked a near perfect batting surface, it was no surprise that the OT's decided to bat. Arthur Campion and Jamie Reid took the new ball. Their disciplined line and length should have been rewarded with the wickets of both openers but chances were put down, most notably by the skipper. Charlie Oxlade, Michael Blakiston Houston and Ludo MacLellan tried manfully to force a breakthrough in what had become sweltering heat, but it wasn't until the 29th over that a breakthrough came as Oxlade took a steeper off the

bowling of Ollie Coysh. 194 for 1 was just the platform the OT's skipper (in at 3) needed. His bludgeoned hundred in the last 20 overs allowed their opener to move gracefully to a superb double century and the OT's to the imposing score of 430 for 1 after 50 overs. Reid, Champion and Hugh Ainscough were the pick of the bowlers and deserved more for their efforts. The pressure of chasing such a score was always going to bring chances. The OT's took most of theirs and our top order didn't. A brief cameo by Phillips (50) and some clean-hitting from Reid brought some respectability to our score, but we were thoroughly outplayed and were bowled out for 169 from 40.4 overs. A 261 run loss in the end.

Old Georgians CC – Saturday 6 July 2019 – St George's Weybridge

Warm weather and a typically excellent pitch greeted us on arrival at St George's, Weybridge. The conditions, combined with some Ainscough familial tardiness, which meant that batting first would have been ideal. Inevitably the toss was lost and we fielded first. In spite of taking the field with eight players, tight bowling and fielding built pressure and led to a good start, albeit one that only produced a single wicket for Charlie Hawkesworth. As the batsmen grew in confidence and the bowling slackened off, runs began to flow for the Old Georgians who were aided by the relatively short boundaries and quick outfield. At lunch the OGs had two set batsmen at the crease and a platform for a potentially imposing total. After lunch however, Hugh and James Ainscough bowled unchanged picking up the remaining nine wickets. Lack of pace, nagging accuracy and subtle movement made runs hard to come by and brought wickets at regular intervals. With one wicket left to take and each Ainscough on four wickets, a fraternal winner-takes-all race to five wickets provided a certain frisson in the field, especially when Hugh appeared to sabotage a run out opportunity by backing into the stumps before he had received the fielder's throw. The OGs were eventually bowled out in 51 overs having scored 243 runs. Everyone felt the target was certainly within reach on what was still a good batting track. Next came the awkward session before tea. Things did not get off to an ideal start. Whilst the OG opening bowlers bowled well, we were unlucky to lose Seb Phillips caught down the leg side and Hugo Barnard bowled off his pads. Nevertheless, Kick Douglas and Tom Wright gritted out the remaining minutes before tea and the runs were just beginning to flow even during this testing period. After tea there still seemed a long way to go in the chase. Douglas and Wright had other ideas. Carnage ensued with Douglas (122* (80), 24 fours and 1 six) and Wright (101* (91), 15 fours and 3 sixes) putting on 226 for the third wicket. Whilst the OG's did pass up some chances (as we did too in our bowling innings), it was an awesome display of measured but powerfully destructive stroke play against an attack that was only three bowlers deep. The target was reached in just 31.1 overs and a comprehensive victory completed. The OGs' (very) official scorer kindly opened up the clubhouse bar after the game where everyone was able to enjoy a drink before heading off.

Old Wellingtonians CC – Sunday 7 July 2019 – Wellington College

No result. OWCC could not field a side.

Old Westminster's CC – Friday 12 July 2019 – Vincent Square, London

The OAs lost the toss and were put into field on a sunny day at Vincent Square. The OAs were disciplined with their bowling restricting the OWs to 194-7 thanks to C Maroney's 3-30. Gareth Vaughan Pritchard and chairman, Seb Phillips started well for the OAs putting on 56 for the first wicket, however both fell quickly and the OAs were 58-2. Tom Madden and Arthur Champion steadied the ship but the loss of Muggs on 87 led to a classic OAs collapse. Suddenly they found themselves 1167. 194 looked a long way off. Arthur Champion was joined by Michael Blakiston Houston and both batted sensibly with Arthur scoring his

maiden 50 for the OACC. Unfortunately they ran out of overs with just 16 needed but played brilliantly to avoid a loss.

I Zingari CC – Saturday 13 July 2019 – Radley College

On an overcast day at Radley, with discussions about “how difficult chasing has been in the World Cup” raging on the way to the game, Skipper Ollie Greaves made the bold decision to bowl first on a notoriously flat track. Greaves was rewarded from some superb bowling from the openers Ed Olley and George Steger reducing the IZ to 26 for 3. James Lowe and Leo Hadcock then continued the great work keeping the run rate down with Lowe picking up the 4th wicket

well caught by Kick Douglas in the slips. At lunch the IZ were building a decent partnership and Greaves brought himself on for a bit of dodgy off spin before and after lunch. A lack of respect to Greaves allowed Steger to take a tough catch at Mid On and a fantastic run out by Olley removed the IZ chairman for 10 which put the OAs well on top at 133-6. A truly gutsy and gritty fielding performance allowed the OAs to restrict the flow of runs all innings but a chanceless 114 not out from the opener enabled the IZ to scrape to 226-9 declared after 53 overs with Steger and Lowe taking another wicket each and Barnard getting a wicket with his first (and certainly worst) ball of the day. The OAs knew the track was tough to bat on but felt that the chase was do-able if they could keep wickets in hand. At tea the OAs were well placed on 45-1 with Douglas and Pat Swinburne (having not held a bat for 4 years) doing well but finding the going tough. Unfortunately the inevitable happened and the OAs had their long overdue collapse losing Swinburne, Barnard and Hugh Ainscough in relatively quick succession to the IZ captain with some fantastic catches thrown in. Nick Hadcock then looked to settle the ship with Douglas but a dubious looking LBW removed Hadcock for 14 when he was looking fluid. With Greaves running himself out soon after the chase suddenly looked extremely tough (but he is still convinced his bat was down and he was in – apparently shouting ‘in’ doesn’t count for much anymore!). Douglas continued to impress with the bat and at one point his partnership with Olley looked like it might get the OAs close. Sadly the OAs just didn’t have enough wickets and Douglas eventually fell for a phenomenal 93 but the OAs came up short going for the win and were finally bowled out for 197. Sadly the World Cup chasing curse seemed to hit the OAs but thanks to all who played for a superb day and a really tight game played in the perfect spirit.

Old Aysgarthians CC – Sunday 14 July 2019 at Aysgarth School – T20 Match

The inaugural fixture between the OACC and the Old Aysgarthians happened on Sunday 14th July 2019. Two exciting line-ups graced the hallowed turf of the Aysgarth School 1st XI cricket ground in Yorkshire on this drizzly day.

By mutual agreement the Aysgarth side batted first. Before the game commenced Sam Biker dutifully established the pavilion setup so a tv was in easy reach for the batting side who no doubt were more intent in watching the early overs of the World Cup Final than the firework display put on by Hoddinott and Harry Scrope (OA) in the first few overs of this game. With just 20 overs, and wet surface conditions, we decided to start the innings with Bevan Fawcett’s leg spin and Robin Pollok’s MF right-arm over. They bowled out their 4 overs each very well. Fawcett took the first wicket (LBW) and we confined them to a slow start. With spin working well, Jacob Stephenson replaced Fawcett from the Cannon End and continued to apply the pressure. Starting particularly well with a wicket in his first over, he managed with Charlie Oxlade to restrict Aysgarth’s charge. However, following the wicket of Hoddinott a very able batsman (Ed Morrison) came to the crease and began to lead the

charge. Aply supported by William Menage and Sam Biker, Aysgarth countered and finished the innings on 150-5 from their 20 overs.

The OAs opened with Tom Wright and Tom Bromet and motored to 100 from their first 10 overs. The Captain then made the decision to retire Wright on 50 N/O to allow some of our other esteemed batsmen the chance to swing the willow. Bromet, who had played a magnificent supporting role to Wright's cameo, was soon out and we had two new batsmen at the crease; Joel Botica and Jacob Stephenson. Aside from Joel's fluorescent NZ 'cricketing' cap, Joel batted well. As did Jacob and there was still no reason to doubt that the OAs were cruising to a famous win. However, on Joel's dismissal Bevan Fawcett entered the arena, facing two historically esteemed Aysgarth bowlers, Ed Morrison and Sam Biker. Surprisingly Biker was bowling from a 5-yard run up, some relief to the batsmen waiting to come in. However, Morrison was running in from the boundary and not only bowled quickly but with chastening accuracy. It's therefore no surprise that in the overs between them they confined us to limited runs before finally dismissing the 2 men at the crease who had unfortunately not managed to build on the momentum created by our openers. Hewie Dalrymple and Patrick Faulkner arrived at the crease and left without much interest in building an innings, the latter out first ball, and with Matthew Willis and Charlie Oxlade fighting with the traditional OA spirit unfortunately the OAs succumbed to a humbling 7 run defeat with two wickets in hand.

It was a magnificent match which was followed by the best cricketing feat England has ever witnessed. Next year we'll be back to seek revenge and hopefully this time with a more preferable result for the Old Amplefordians.

Emeriti Phillips Cup – Sunday 21 July 2019 – Old Wimbledonians Association - T10 Competition

OAs won the Emeriti Phillips Cup for the second time albeit sharing it with the Old Wimbledonians and the Cranmoriens. The OAs beat The Emeriti, Old Wimbledonians and Old Priorians but lost their first match to Cranmoriens. Hugo Barnard won batsman of the tournament.

Royal Household CC – Saturday 27 July 2019 – Frogmore, Windsor

Last season the OAs suffered a heavy defeat by 8 wickets against the Royal Household and were looking for revenge. As usual with this fixture, the Royal Household won the toss and elected to field. It is house rules that only one ball is used for both innings so once again Royal Household had the benefit of a new cherry. The OAs didn't start well losing Tom Stanley without scoring. And it didn't get match better for them, losing regular wickets with only four players reaching double figures and with extras as third top scorer on 13. Baz Fitzherbert tried to hold the innings together with 35 but no one stayed with him long enough. The only consolation was that they reach 100 but were bowled out for 102. Unlike last year, Royal Household did not blitz their way to victory. They twisted the knife and made the OAs defeat slow and painful. The only point of note was a Baz Fitzherbert run out. Not a day to remember for the OAs who were comprehensively beaten.

The Guards CC – Sunday 28 July 2019 – Burton's Court

After a few years of abandoned matches at Burton Court, the OA's finally got their chance. Losing the toss the Guards chose to bat on what looked like a road, but some tight bowling from Arthur Campion (0-7-8) and Patrick Faulkner (115-8) to open up got the OA's off to a very tidy start. It was as if one of their openers thought it was a timed game...

The guards picked up the pace with a healthy contribution from their lower order batsmen to bring them to 202 for 8. There was a notable bowling performance from Hugo Barnard with 4 wickets from his 5 overs to finish off what was a very un OA performance in the

field, with 5 catches held and one run out.

After a boundary apiece Brennan and Greaves were on their way back to the pavilion (5 & 10 respectively) however, the resilient and masterful batting partnership of 140 between Charlie O'Kelly (79) and Arthur Campion (59) steered us to within touching distance. With the loss of Campion with just under 30 needed, this would usually instigate a classic OA collapse, however, Hugo Barnard came to the crease and with a handful of confidently struck boundaries the scores were level. With O'Kelly looking to finish the match in style it was to everyone's disappointment to see him caught out for his brilliant to watch 79, leaving the captain with a nervous 5 balls left in the over to finish the game. Thanks to a nerve easing long hop down the leg side, a four was struck and a comprehensive victory was wrapped up with the OA's finishing up on 206-4 with almost 5 overs to spare.

Marlborough Blues CC – Saturday 3 August 2019 – Marlborough College

It was not a good start for the OAs with only four OAs being able to play. Fortunately match manager Roland Wood managed to raise a side. The MBs won the toss and batted first. Despite starting well and restricting the MBs to 7-2, MBs put on 196 for the third wicket with their opening scoring 103 not out. After a late dash, the MB's declared on 266-7 off their 45 overs. Despite being expensive and conceding 55 runs in his 5 overs, Harry Blakiston Houston picked up 3 wickets. The OAs' reply never really got going as they kept losing regular wickets. Despite reaching 52 for the loss of two wickets, they lost two more in quick succession and were reduced to 52-4. They rallied to reach 103 without any further losses but when they lost R Heywood for 44 with the score on 122, the OAs faced an uphill task and were eventually bowled out for 155.

Southern Tour – 5-9 August 2019

Cryptics CC – Monday 5 August 2019 – Worth School

A great start to the 69th OACC tour. The OAs declared on 257-5 with Tom Wade scoring an unbeaten century and Jimbo Ainscough scoring an unbeaten half century. They rescued the OAs. Cryptics batted time and were 160-6 at close of play.

Bluemantle's CC – Tuesday 6 August 2019 – Nevill Ground, Tunbridge Wells

The 69th Southern Tour continued with our second match of the week, this time at the spectacular Nevill Ground. Having arrived, the lengthy process of team selection took place with the end result that senior pros Ainscough, Clapham and Tom Savill missed out and subsequently took a long lunch rather than a spell in the field. Having once more lost the toss we went into the field led by a potent opening spell from Michael Blakiston Houston and Ludo MacLellan. It soon became clear that there was little in the pitch or the overheads to help the seamers and the opening spell brought no wickets.

The introduction of spin eventually brought the breakthrough with Bevan Fawcett taking the first of four wickets - of which three were lbw. Having seen Bevan's effectiveness, the skipper elected to bring on the left arm tweak of Joe Ainscough whose subtle variations in pace and length combined with the occasional doublebouncer managed to burgle two wickets, one of which was a vicious bumper. Their opening batsman stayed resolute and notched up a high quality 125 which was only broken when he became a tad overzealous and scooped MBH straight to fine leg, bringing about the eventual declaration at 303/7 off 48 overs. Apart from Joe Lush, all fielded with endeavour and spirit.

What looked a tricky chase became a lot easier after the opening partnership of Tom Wade and Ludo got off to a strong start with a 50 partnership before Wade fell for 26. Basil Fitzherbert arrived in romping fashion with fours off each of his first two balls before Ludo fell four short of his half century. Lush came in at four but his partnership with Basil didn't

last long, both falling for under 20. Sam MacLellan followed suit at five before the engine room of Fawcett and Sebastian Phillips put on a 102-run stand to get us back in the game and give us a chance of pulling off an historic victory. However, after some questionable running from Fawcett, Seb had to depart for a well-made 53 and Harry Clough faced the same fate shortly afterwards. Bevan gave the bowler catching practice to get out on 72 before a change of strategy left James Ainscough and his brother Joe Ainscough attempting to see off the final 5 overs for the draw. This attempt did not last long before James decided he'd had enough and shouldered arms to a ball which clattered into his middle stump leaving the OA's 51 runs short. Fun had. Match lost.

Old Rossalians CC – Wednesday 7 August 2019 – Worth School

The Wednesday of our Southern Tour saw the OAs return to Worth School for a Roses match against the Old Rossalians, a force to be reckoned with, and a team the OA's have struggled against over past years. At the toss, the call was heads, and we were put in to field.... shock a third lost toss in 3 games... we need to improve in this area. Opening up was Michael Blakiston Houston with a wonderful spell dangling it outside off stump and at the far end was Tom Wade with a quicker more aggressive line backing MBH up with another marvellous spell. MBH managed to get the first two wickets and Wade, with a vicious body line short ball, scalped the other. The overs ticked along, Bevan Fawcett, John Clapham and Hugh Ainscough all bowled very well and picked up the remaining wickets. Bevan with four (and a dropped caught and bowled), Hugh with a vital wicket of their key batsman who was motoring along and John with the final wicket. The Old Rossalians were restricted to 156.

Although the target appeared small, there was huge potential for the OA's to collapse and screw up the run chase... where there's a will, there's a way. Ludo MacLellan and MBH opened up and Ludo didn't last long... well in fact he lasted all of 2 deliveries, the first being a wide. In comes Fawcett. The pair built a fruitful partnership which was going very well until Mike flashed at a wide one and that sent him back to the hutch with a regulation grab by the keeper. Rain stopped play and with the OA's 100-2 we were desperate to get back out there to secure the victory. Skipper Joe Ainscough managed to hold his nerve and let the rain pass so we could get back into the run chase. Basil Fitzherbert and Fawcett then took to the crease once and managed to knock off the remaining runs with a stellar innings from Bevan scoring 92*. It was a cracking day in the office for the OA's securing our first win of the tour.

Old Rossalians CC – Thursday 8 August 2018 – Tonbridge

No result. Old Rossalians could not field a side.

Free Forresters CC – Friday 9 August 2019 – Sheffield Park

No result. Free Forresters could not field a side.

Radley Rangers CC – Sunday 11 August 2019 – Radley College

Following last year's batting collapse, which was somewhat reminiscent to a 'controlled explosion' at a disused power station, the OAs arrived at Radley eager to reverse their fortunes and get a W on the board. A 7am text message from wicket keeper Tom Wright put such ambition into disarray with an apparent injury to his leg which would rule him out of the day's play (...his attendance at the London Beer Festival the night before was a mere coincidence). Anyhow, after some exceptional sibling recruitment from Kick Douglas we had our 11, and all was looking up in the world. Radley won the toss and decided to bat, which didn't bother the OAs given their exceptionally strong bowling line up. Jamie Reid and Nico Macauley opened up and made an economical start with Macauley taking a wicket in his second over. Paddy Faulkner then entered the fray, and despite him being one of the

friendliest men inside the M25, intimidated the life out of Radley's middle order taking 3 wickets in quick succession, which laid the foundations perfectly for him to go on and take the lesser spotted OA 5-fer. Despite solid support from the likes of Johnny Armour and spin bowler turned footballer Roland Wood (hope the ankle is OK, Roland...) – a middle order 100 by the Radley #6 left with us needing 212 to secure victory. Worth a mention was the fact that besides witnessing a 5-fer, the OAs didn't put a catch down all day... 'maybe all that time in chapel was worth it... God is on our side' we thought. We still needed to bat though...

After a stuttering start from our two openers the emergence of Fergus Black from the dressing room lead to a swell of optimism from the pavilion. Ferg, laden in Bristol Uni CC stash, had played a high level of cricket for both the MCC and his university in recent years... 'he's lush' we whispered as his first cover drive made its way over the boundary rope. Late replacement Jimmy Douglas and recent match winner Jamie Reid (...he didn't mention this to anyone once...) came and went with LMS celebrity Hugo Barnard coming to the crease to join Ferg to try and build a score. Both men then went on to record half centuries with Barnard smashing thirteen 4s in his superb 84. Both men then fell within reasonably quick succession with the OA tail unable to salvage a win despite best efforts from Faulkner and Macauley. The OAs ended up 189 all out, with Ronaldo Wood unable to bat due to his footballing heroics.

Old Priorians CC – Sunday 18 August 2019 – Brentham Club

On Sunday the OAs had their first win in fine fashion against the Old Priorians at Brentham CC. The day began with unexpected rain and the match was postponed until 2pm and a T20 game decided. With a big hitting line-up we didn't mind batting first and got off to a strong start with Kick Douglas (55) and Ollie Greaves (22) sharing an 11 over opening stand. After a couple of quick wickets Jamie Reid hit a blistering 33 and, with plenty of wickets in hand, the OAs hit out, and got out, to get to 148-9 after the 20 overs. Tight bowling and fielding was key against a traditionally strong OP batting line-up and the five bowlers and the team all stepped up to the task. Jamie Reid with figures of 4-20 and Patrick Faulkner with 1-28 bowled well to limit and put scoreboard pressure on the OPs. John Clapham (1-19) and Hugh Ainscough (2-27) kept the team on top and Jimbo Ainscough's 026 and a couple of run outs had the OPs bowled out for 126 and the victory sealed. A great team performance, with important catches held and sharp fielding from most. Let's keep up this strong finish to the season!

Hurlingham CC – Saturday 24 August 2019 – Hurlingham

The day began with Captain Coysh winning the toss and making a brave choice in deciding to bowl on what was historically a good batting wicket. Nonetheless, the opening pair of Jamie Reid and Jonny Darbishire put on an incredible tight 20 over spell to limit runs and take a couple of wickets. A Coysh brother partnership then came in and dismantled a potentially strong couple of middle order batsmen (one chap hitting 200+ runs the week before). With the ball starting to soften, the OA's took advantage of a strong bowling attack which included Hugh Ainscough, John Clapham and Hugo Barnard who successfully skittled the tailenders leaving the OA's 237 to win.

With the Hurlingham XI batting for a longer spell than we would have hoped, the OA's needed to hit the ground running. With the opposition fielding a strong opening bowling attack, the wicket of Kick Douglas fell early on, which was worrying considering his form. We had a debutant in 18 year old Crispin Kerr-Dineen who gave a battling display against some of the fastest bowling we had faced all summer, but a 40 minute rain delay appeared to have disrupted him which shortly led to his loss of wicket. The OA's were still quietly

confident with

Ollie Greaves and Seb Philips steadying the ship who both ended up putting on very important 50s. The game was then set up for Hugo Barnard who came in with 80+ to win from 13 overs. After a couple of quick boundaries and a good partnership with Jamie Reid, he lost his wicket which meant for the introduction of steely Jonny Darbishire. Having had a fantastic bowling partnership at the beginning of the day, we were all left wondering as to whether they could continue their form with the bat. With 60+ needed from 9 overs - it was to be... with Reid finding his eye and smashing an amazing Stokes-esque 47*, which resulted in the OA's winning the game with 3 overs to spare.

Staff Gents CC – Sunday 1 September 2019 – Swynnerton

Staff Gents batted first and started quickly. Kit MacLellan bowled really well and got the big wicket he deserved. The Staff Gents cruised to 150-1 and then Jimbo Ainscough came on picking up 4-26 to bowl the SGs out for 190. The OAs batted with Jimbo Ainscough and Sam McLellan opening up and started well. Ben Motley (ringer) came in at 3 and smashed 80 very quickly. In very un-OA fashion, everyone else batted around Ben to reach victory by 3 wickets.

Eton Ramblers CC – Sunday 9 August 2018 – Eton College

OACC won the toss and decided to bat. At this stage, the OACC had only 10 men ready to start, with Basil Fitzherbert arriving c.10 minutes after the scheduled start of play because he had been at a 21st party the night before and had only had around 1.5-hour kip in a car. Fortunately, a number of Etonians were even later and so the game started about 15 minutes late. On a stickier surface than it appeared at the toss, Dom Spencer got an unfortunate LBW decision early in his innings which brought the disgustingly smelling Baz Fitzherbert to the crease. He didn't even see his first half a dozen balls but then started to find his rhythm. On a blazing hot late summer's day, he wore a jumper throughout his innings which seemed odd. Anyhow, he accumulated steadily before lunch, ably supported by Ollie Greaves, Hugo Barnard and Cranley Macfarlane. After lunch, the OAs needed to up the run-rate to set the OE's a testing chase. But as the runs started to flow more freely, so did the wickets. However, Basil remained firm, hitting his stride as he accelerated towards a century. On 99, he was hit on the pads. Up went the bowler, wicketkeeper and all the fielders. For all the world it looked out. It appeared plumb. Not given. The fielders were disgusted. No reviews left because there were none to start with. Next ball hammered to the fence for a brilliant, if totally unexpected, hundred. Some lusty blows later and the OAs set the Ramblers 238 to win.

Having not defeated Eton for well over a decade, was this the moment that the 11 Old Amplefordians made history? Beautiful afternoon sunshine, a large crowd creating a buzz in the background and jumbo jets flying low overhead meant conditions were perfect for both sides. Hawkesworth and Reid opened the bowling for the OAs, both bowling with pace and accuracy to aggressive fields. While one of the Etonian opening batsmen was playing beautifully at one end, the OAs were steadily taking wickets at the other; both Hawkesworth and Reid bagged a pair. Hugh Ainscough came on as first change and made an immediate impact, removing two, including the danger man at the top of the order. At 93-6, the OAs were in complete control but now it was time to unleash Johnny ""The Mop"" Armour. Such was the pace he was generating; the OA wicketkeeper and slips feared for themselves. Heaven knows what it was like to be a batsmen. Bouncers, yorkers, rib crunchers galore were flying in everywhere. The Mop ruthlessly cleaned up the tail, with one victim out hit wicket after being felled by a rapid bouncer. The Ramblers didn't know

what had hit them. All out for 126, a thumping 111 run victory for the OACC. What a fitting way to end their most successful season in their illustrious history.