

# Woodham Mortimer Cricket Club Newsletter

June 2018 Edition



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## Committee Information

<b>President</b>	<b>Francis Wolton</b>
<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Ian Ball</b>
<b>Groundsman</b>	<b>Nathan Hayman</b>
<b>Clubhouse Manager</b>	<b>Nick Goode</b>
<b>Fixtures Secretary</b>	<b>Mark Beames</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Nigel Richardson</b>
<b>Child Welfare Officer</b>	<b>James Mickley</b>
<b>First XI Captain</b>	<b>Kevin Wright</b>
<b>Second XI Captain</b>	<b>Andrew Brown</b>
<b>Sunday XI Captain</b>	<b>George Verlander</b>
<b>T20 XI Captain</b>	<b>Toby Pateman</b>

## Message from the Chairman

Is there a better way to spend a lovely summer's afternoon than at the cricket? Well it seems there may be for some as sadly we have lost fixtures and had insufficient team numbers due to unavailability.

Well it's now time to stop shopping, put the World Cup and Love Island on record and get yourself down to Pheasant Park for some cricket! The summer won't last forever so come along and enjoy it while you can!

Up the Woodies!

*Ian Ball*

**Chairman**

**Woodham Mortimer Cricket Club**

## Transfer Window

Woodham Mortimer Cricket Club is open for business and in recent weeks have captured various signings to bolster the ranks which for some reason have appeared low in number so far this season.

The club would like to welcome the following players:

**Chris Lockett**

Chris Lockett recently cancelled his contract with Boreham CC and was snapped up by WMCC on a free transfer, with the lure of £2.00 lager cans too sweet of a deal to pass up on. The player is known by trade for his hooping swing bowling. Yet don't let that fool you, as he has been known to be handy with the bat also! Chris made his debut for the club a few weeks ago in a game against his old side. You just couldn't write this fairytale. Although the game was lost by 7 wickets Chris managed to bowl his father out. It's all about the small victories. Welcome Chris!

**Danny Hunt**

The return of Graham Hirst bought with it another diamond geezer in the shape of Danny 'Daniel' Hunt (okay we haven't thought of a nickname for him yet). Danny debuted against The Journeymen in a game which saw him hit a respectable 32 with the bat, and pick up his first WMCC wicket, finishing on figures of 1-11 off 6 overs. Danny's ability was soon on the radar of first XI skipper Kevin Wright, and next thing he knew Danny was in the first team for the game against Eastwood CC. Once again Danny showed his quality, picking up 3 vital wickets and finishing on a score of 24 with the bat. Two games, two victories. You can come back anytime. Welcome Danny!

**Kieran Ball**

With WMCC short on numbers the club received an email from Kieran asking if there were any spaces available. Within five minutes Kieran was drafted into the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI to face Rainham 3<sup>rd</sup> XI. Kieran didn't bowl but managed to get in double figure before he was dismissed. It can only get better from here. And with a nickname like 'Killer' you'd best hope it does, for our sakes... Welcome Kieran!



## The Season So Far

### First XI

After their defeat to South Weald the WMCC 1st XI travelled to the picturesque abode of High Roding CC.

However, the ground itself appeared to be the only pleasant thing for the pheasants to enjoy that day as WMCC were beaten back by 8 wickets from their hosts. However, with the assistance of new recruits to reinforce their numbers the WMCC first XI have managed to enjoy some form within the last few weeks, bringing with it two consecutive victories. After the defeat to High Roding WMCC hosted Eastwood CC. Eastwood were asked to bat first and were halted on 189-9 off 45 overs, with notable bowling spells from Danny Hunt and Toby Pateman at the death. Pateman failed to capitalise on this form and was removed early in the chase when the sides went out after tea. However, WMCC gradually chipped away at the score, and huge knocks from Manu Tripathi and Kevin Wright sealed a thrilling victory for the home team.

Yet, just a week later WMCC were also celebrating another victory, this time at the cost of the league leaders Ingatestone CC. Opting to bowl first again skipper Wright lead the charge and picked up his first 5-wicket haul of the year, leaving the home side all out for 98. With the return of Dan 'Biffa' Smith light work was made of the target, with WMCC racing towards it with another 30 overs to go. The first XI take on Little Waltham next week at Pheasant Park before the second half of the league campaign begins...



### Second XI

Despite the mixed campaigns had by both sides WMCC has a knack of defeating league leaders at the moment.

With victory secured over Rayleigh 4th XI the WMCC 2nd XI travelled to frontrunners OSSCC and, opting to take the new ball first, were able to bowl the hosts out for 87 off 35.1 overs. Sam Older was the pick of the bowlers, picking up 4 wickets off his spell for just 19 runs, with Jack Preston and Steve Collis chipping in with a vital 3 wickets each also. Yet, would it be a true WMCC game without a batting collapse? Apparently not as the top order fell one by one for cheap scores. Captain Brown attempted to steady his ship, knocking 21 off 41 balls (strike rate is up I see AB) until he was trapped lbw. I shan't comment on the middle order for the less said the better. Thank god the tail included the in-form Jack Preston however, who finally showed the team how to get into double figures, ensuring victory was clinched from the jaws of defeat.

However, the sweet taste of victory soon vanished a week later with defeats to Rainham 3rd XI with the most notable event occurring when Steve 'Flash' Collis was presented his 200th league cap. A truly remarkable achievement, well done Steve! And then there was that defeat to Boreham... let's not go there. The 2nd XI were again in need of batsman last week in their loss to Goresbrook CC, and up stepped Jack Preston who secured his maiden league half-century. Congratulations Jack! Oh lads, those nets can't come soon enough eh?

## Fantastic Mr Flash



Woodham Mortimer would like to congratulate club veteran Steve Collis who recently played his 200<sup>th</sup> league game. To commemorate the occasion, the club presented Steve, who goes by the name of 'Flash' by his team mates, with a WMCC cap with the engraved land-mark. Steve has played a total of 479 games, notching up 4,878 runs with a high score of 76. However, mostly known for his efforts with the ball Flash is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest ever wicket taker in WMCC history, with a total of 467 wickets and best bowling figures of 6-13. To honour Steve's remarkable achievement, I decided to get to know the man behind it all.

### **1. How did you come to play for WMCC?**

*I came to WMCC because I knew Stuart Phillips and Tom Thorpe.*

### **2. How did your debut go?**

*I scored 35 on my debut in 2002 at the end of the season in a Sunday friendly game. I originally came here as a batsman who bowled.*

### **3. What is the best memory you have of WMCC?**

*The best memory of WMCC is definitely taking the catch that got us promoted against Stock CC in the 2's a few seasons ago. It also happened to be off my son's bowling too so it made it all the better.*

### **4. What is the worst memory you have of WCC?**

*2nd XI game against Rainham a few seasons ago! Less said the better.*

### **5. Who is the best player you have played alongside with?**

*Matt Goodlad is one of the best batsman I've seen.*

### **6. What is your biggest personal achievement with the club?**

*Taking 450+ wickets for the best club around.*

### **7. What are your goals for this season and beyond?**

*My main aims now are to just keep playing and more importantly enjoy my cricket.*

**Well Done Flash!**



## Future Pheasants

WMCC are pleased to announce that after vast speculation an over-seas batsman has been signed by the club by the name of Beames. If only his father, Mark Beames, could bat as well as his son Angus, who is currently one to watch as he rises through the ranks.

Angus currently plays his youth cricket at Maldon CC (it's okay we have sent him out on loan) and in a recent under-12 cup match scored a brilliant 77\*, which included 7 fours and 4 sixes. At the age of just ten he has surpassed his father's top score of 61. Handy with the ball and keen in the field Angus is definitely one for the future.

Someone call Maldon and cancel that loan deal, we need a batsman...



## Homecoming

Woodham Mortimer CC has always taken pride in the fact that it is a club where players become teams, and friends become family. In recent years we have seen many faces come and go. However, in recent weeks WMCC has been delighted to be represented again by old faces that have put on the pheasant shirt once more.

In the season's favourite fixture a few weeks ago WMCC welcomed back veteran batsman Graham 'Hirsty' Hirst. The new lads such as Pete and Toby had only heard tales of the man himself, stories which had passed into WMCC folklore.

Yet, legends never die, and the young ones were given the absolute treat to watch Hirsty trudge out to the middle to face the Journeymen. Hirsty had not picked up a bat in years, but this didn't seem to stop him, with the veteran smashing 104\* in his comeback.

Oh Hirsty, we have missed you.

Furthermore, just the other week WMCC were amazed to see another returning legend in the form of Victoria Brown, the ex-ladies captain who joined her father Richard in a T20 game at Tillingham CC. Victoria, who had won everything there was to be won in the WMCC ladies format, notched up a respectable 22\*, second top-scoring just behind Peter Harness.

With the return of these WMCC legends the club would like to extend an invitation to all past members. Please get in touch with us, rejoin our ranks and become part of our club again in any way you can.

We need you now more than ever.

## Coming Soon...

The club are pleased to announce that after weeks of tireless effort from Mark Beames, who finalised negotiations with suppliers, new and improved nets are under development at Pheasant Park.

The nets have been a top priority for the committee to resolve and, with funds now made available thanks to the assistance of various anonymous donations, this will soon become a reality. The club wishes to thank Mark and Toby on a personally, who spent two days clearing the area, and to all associated with WMCC who's generosity has ensured that an integral piece of our club is restored.

**There will be no excuses for batting collapses next season.**

