

BLEDLow RIDGE CRICKET CLUB

Meadow Styles Sports Ground, Chinnor Road, Bledlow Ridge



Club Captains Report to the 2021 AGM

Given that in early July there was no prospect of playing cricket matches at all, the playing season comprising ten weeks of matches which followed, has to be pronounced a success.

Firstly I commend Taggart's end-of-season report on the website <https://bit.ly/36y2TSt>. Here is my perspective: on performance alone, both teams can be said to have had 'middling' success in their respective mini-leagues, however there were strong individual and team performances and the welcome arrival of two new players, in the 1s, Rob Armstrong-Jones and Peter Short who contributed strongly both on and off the pitch. To some extent they countered the loss of Mark Dakin's bowling to an ongoing ankle injury. It is to be hoped Mark can bowl more next year, and that Matt Brightwell, absent for the whole season, will be able to play some games in 2021. It is also possible that Samuel Rolfe will return.

Although the 2nd X1 could do with more overall cricketing strength, there were good performances both by old hands such as Paul Cheshire and Geoff Tombs and a good number of appearances by Junior club members. Good performances in the 1s by Shaun Dryden and a successful end-of-season debut by Sufi, reflects well on the 2s for honing young players.

Success can also be measured in terms of strong availability and in less measurable terms (corny though it may sound) in terms of team and club spirit. Both were apparent all season and in particular in the four Sunday fixtures, the most we have played for ten years. In the strongest of these, v The Hetairoi, both Charlie Carter and Tom Hickey caught the eye; fixtures against West Wycombe and Great Kingshill (twice) enabled us to mix a number of junior boys and girls with seniors and to help more players from both sections to integrate. An inter-club match played after the last weekend was a great success and included two from our girls' section who have real potential.

Father and son combos can help bring junior cricketers on. Duncan and James Dow played together this season as did Aaron and Jon Murrell. Ben and James Frost will doubtless play some Sunday games next year. Added to this there were Sunday debuts from Mike Winson, a prolific run-scorer in league cricket elsewhere who may play some Saturday games for us next year while his son plays U9 or U10 cricket, and from Owen Cheverton, a contact of Alex Perry, who will be a useful addition with bat and ball.

The other positive factor was the contribution made by players during weekends until we started matches in July. There was a trade-off between putting in some work on the ground and netting, and players were happy to do one in order to spend time doing the other. The outcome (among other things) were four sightscreens that look as-new, and more ground clearance Stud Farm side and at the top end, than in previous years. As a ManCom we need to consider if there are ways in which we can make these areas as low maintenance as possible. I for one, do not want to put as much physical effort or time in again, each year.

John Rolfe