



Greetings

At time of writing, the Sat 1XI have yet to appoint a skipper and have a new Division 2 fixture this year at Ley Hill.

Joe Graham and Dave Simoes have launched an exciting initiative for an U17 side to grab hold of our graduating colts. Details from Joe at joe817@gmail.com. Any support would be really appreciated.

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Why not get kitted out for the new season in club logo?

<https://seriouscricket.co.uk/teamwear/stores/hurley-cricket-club>

Any contributions to your news sheet are always welcome to mikeridge2906@gmail.com

Go on, give me some feedback!!!



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Colts Update

Hannah Dawkins and Issy Hill have made the Berkshire U13 winter training group, congratulations to them. Issy's brother Jack is also a colt and captains the U15s team.

Cricket talent runs deep in the Dawkins family. Dad was a fierce batter, two uncles were impressive all-rounders and Hannah's two brothers are showing great promise in the colts. Ollie's century for the 2XI last year was truly amazing.

Colts coaching started on Sunday 26th February. 3pm U9's, 4pm U11's and 5pm U15's. It looks like we may be short for the U9's so please spread the word to any potential recruits. Sessions £5

Fixtures for the U9, 2xU11s (Tigers//Lions) and U15 teams will be on the website.

Fake News

There will be long hot summer days thanks to Donald Trump's environmental policies. A Presidential Executive Order will see Cricket replace Baseball and NASA plan to land a probe on Kim Kardashian



England's new skipper, Hurley Sat 1XI still looking for theirs

National Cricket Player Survey

High player drop-off: 14-19yrs

We understand that it's difficult to retain players aged 14-19. 35% of players in this age range in 2015 did not return in 2016. The U19 T20 competition has proved successful in providing a format to keep youngsters in the game with 97% of players 'at risk' have said they want to play in 2017.

Have you considered creating an [U19s T20](#) team next year?

Cricketforce 2017

Cricketforce weekend 2017 is Sunday 2nd April so put it in your diaries now. There is the joy of clearing gutters in freezing conditions. We need a volunteer to serve up hot soup and crusty bread while crusty cricketers look forward to summer days while standing around the bonfire reminiscing and exaggerating. Come and bond with your team-mates while sprucing up the club.

Berkshire at Hurley

Thurs 27th April, Berks Over 60s 2XI v Bucks, 1.30pm.

Tues 23rd May, Berkshire Over 60s 1XI v Middlesex, 1.30pm.

Thurs 8th June, Berkshire Over 60s 2XI v Kent 1.30pm.

Thurs 20th July, Berkshire Over 60s 2XI v Surrey 1.30pm.

Less than half of players feel listened to

Only 48% of players feel like they're being listened to. Our regional teams are working with counties and leagues on how they can improve engagement and provide cricket formats that appeal to more players.

How can you provide more opportunities for your players to have input on important decisions?

Volunteers need to be recognised more

Volunteers are the heartbeat of any club and continue to need acknowledgement from you and us. In particular, the more bar staff, junior coordinators, ground staff and secretaries are recognised, the higher their satisfaction is.

What are your plans for acknowledging your volunteers in 2017?

When deciding on a run, right or wrong, make a decision. The road is littered with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision.



Prof hailing a taxi to the boundary

Player Exposed!

STEVE TAYLOR

Steve is the third highest run scorer in the history of the club despite *re-tiring* more often than a F1 mechanic in the pits. This is strange as he also has formidable armour of leg-spin and cat-like slip catching to add to his elegant left hand bat. His potent sperm has spawned two talented sons, a duty to the club more could emulate (Lardy has performed similarly).

Steve likes to live unconventionally. He toured as a youth to Sri Lanka and was almost kicked out for carrying more heavy metal in his face than on his cassette recorder. He is a most unlikely choir angel and has an interest in niche photography.

I usually upset him at least once a season but it always ends in a pre-season hug. We



Baywatch he ain't

vie for the title of most morose in the club. I sponsored him to give up smoking on a Just Giving website only to find he had told workmates he had already given up and could I change my post!

He usually turns up to Saturday matches in suit and tie straight from work which puts me in mind of the time we told Allan Greene that this was the attire for a Sunday match at the Odney Club. Suffice to say the rest of the team were in shorts and T-Shirts, but I digress.

Subscriptions Please

Subs are now due and the colts are beginning to come in. Could everyone please consider sending in their annual subs now to save me chasing in the future.

Senior subs are held again at £70, Students £35

We had 36 senior members in 2015, just 31 in 2016. This is not sustainable!

If anyone would like to take up umpiring or scoring, or knows anyone outside the club interested, then the club will pay for the courses or welcome enthusiastic volunteers.

QUIZ

1. Name the England cricketer shunning the school jumper



2. Name the England cricketer with two Test hat-tricks

3. Which of the 10 methods of dismissal is being dropped?

Planning Application

*Two story side/rear extension to
The Farm House, Hurleyford Farm*

App No 16/03944

Dates for your diary

Indoor Nets:

Colts From Sunday 26th February 2017

Seniors From Weds 1st March 2017

Cricketforce 2nd April 2017

Season starts 22nd April 2017

Lardy Quiz 17th June 2017 – £5/head

A view from the Hut

Author Jeff

While many cricketers are still dreaming about dusting off the kit and when net practice will start, there is already plenty of action around the “hut” where a new season is already beginning. Overall it has been a dry yet damp winter period without any flood warnings although a return to some cold damp weather is still very possible. Equipment now has to be arranged to be returned from its winter storage sheds then cleaned and serviced while I plan to accommodate the array of league, colts, Berkshire and friendly games for the coming season.

Scarifying, rolling, spraying, fertilizing, over seeding and of course cutting the square will dominate the next 4 weeks, whilst the outfield will be rolled to reduce winter uplift then cut.

Personnel changes

With the looming 2017 season without Captain Fantastic Naeem and another of our talented all-rounders uncertain of his availability, I am as usual a little despondent. It will be a challenge for the 1XI to maintain their Div2 status and resources will inevitably have a knock on to the 2XI.

Also, on the extra-numeri front we will see **Gordon Ford** spend his last season in the caravan this year after over 40 years, so let's make him very welcome. **Val** will not be able to do as many teas and we need a new tea lady and a new cleaner as **Linda Furneaux** has retired having done excellent work for many years. Every year I threaten to down pens in frustration at our dwindling senior membership and inability to kick on as a club.

A Groundsman's Lexicon

Square cut.....Mower blade extra sharp not tearing grass.
Cover Drive.....sure sign of rain towing the covers to the square.
Hook.....Obviously something to hang fork by in the hut.
PullStarting a mower engine.
Ramp.....Items used to load mowers into a van.
Top Edge.....Well Machined Mower cylinder Blade.
Bottom EdgeWell machined bottom blade.
Slip.....Machinery clutch problem.
Gully.....Drainage improvement to ground.
Long On.....High cutting set.
Long Off.....Low cutting set.
Deep Mid Wicket....Bad news outfield flooded.
Long Leg..... Large uphill outfield area to cut.
Extra Cover..... 4th cover required to protect bowler's ends.
Nice Cut..... Pitch Looking Very Good.
Nice stuff..... Visiting Groundsman impressed with equipment.
Quick single..... A nip of malt whiskey from the hip flask on a cold day.
Good Catch..... Mower bonnet lock.
Stumps..... Tree work around the ground.
Given out.....Machinery has packed in.
Run Out.....No Fuel
Finger Spinner.....An accident involving a mower.
A Drop..... Oil normally required.
No Ball..... Serious personal accident.
Finally you do not want to be **stumped!!!!**

Sponsorship

Yasir Gul has expressed an interest in sponsoring the club. The committee will be looking at options for this but if anyone has any ideas or suggestions, we would be very happy to hear them.

Sadly, my suggestion of a top-tier, child unfriendly balcony is outside the budget or priority list. I can dream.

We have decided to continue with the fixture card largely as a marketing tool; anyone wishing to advertise in it and help cover the cost then please contact Val Forrest.

The first committee meeting of the year was held on Wednesday 15th March.

- Another popular quiz is planned 17th June
- Joe Graham and Dave Simoes are trying to set up an U17 team to help feed the senior sides
- Investment in practice fielding netting for the colts will be made
- Other items covered elsewhere on these pages
- Thames Valley League were recruiting for 2018, we were not one of the 16 that applied.



Just because It's Spring

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Alistair Cook
2. Stuart Broad
3. Handled ball (now obstruction from 2018)



"Cricket civilizes people and creates good gentlemen. I want everyone to play cricket in Zimbabwe; I want ours to be a nation of gentlemen". Robert Mugabe



Umpires Corner.

By Mike Walton

LBW,

The LBW law is perhaps the most contentious in cricket, but it is actually very simple. To be out LBW,

1. The ball must pitch in line with the stumps or outside off stump. So if a ball pitches outside leg stump it is not out, end of story.

2. The ball must hit the batsman in line with the stumps, unless he is not playing a shot, in which case it can hit him outside the line of off stump.

3. The first impact must be on the body, excluding the hand holding the bat.

If the above three conditions are met, then the ball must be going on to hit the stumps (in the umpire's opinion).

That's all there is to it.