

The Bugle

Newsletter by Bledlow Village Cricket Club | February 2016



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Welcome to The Bugle

Hello and welcome to Bledlow Village Cricket Club's brand new newsletter – The Bugle. This monthly newsletter will provide club members, supporters and players more information on everything BVCC! Not only will this be your one stop shop for scores, results and statistics, it's also a chance for you to get to know the past and current players, the characters and the history of the club.

Most of you will be aware of significance of the Bugle at the club, but for those who haven't heard the story of our most unwanted of trophies, here's Graham Keens recollection of it's incarnation into Bledlow history:

"Many years ago we were playing at Great & Little Tew against their first XI in Div 4 or 5. Their old pavilion was then at the top of their ground.

We batted first and got a reasonable score but we failed to defend it. Partly because Jaco Cronje our South African bits and pieces player managed to drop three 'dollies' in our fielding stint.

To mark this we decided to give him an award originally to be the 'Cronje Vase' I took it upon myself to find a suitable trophy but failed to find a vase – however in an antique/junk shop in Princes Risborough I stumbled across the bugle and decided that would do.

Since then it has been awarded to all who drop three catches in a match and finally presented at the Annual Dinner to the current holder.

There have been some unlucky winners – Adam Tapping dropped three at Bicester and North Oxon of which two were diving full length and the other hit his hand while defending himself at short leg.

As a footnote Jaco came to the club last year with his wife and children to show them where he played – he was pleased to find he was still remembered!

Senior Cricket News

Last season we had to overcome a number of challenges but this gave the opportunity to many new and young players to contribute in all competitions. The Saturday 1st XI started the year narrowly losing the rescheduled 2014 Bucks Cup Final to Buckingham Town. Sadly the losing ways continued through much of the league season and were relegated into Cherwell League Division 3. This season brings a chance to rebuild and get back to winning ways with the aim of returning to the 2nd division.

The 2nd XI faired better and ended up finishing mid-table in Division 6. From all accounts on their day they were the strongest team in the league and this bodes well for a successful season ahead.

Sunday Cricket was well run by Steve 'Willow' Williams and Tom Moore with plenty of exciting games taking place at the Bledlow Oval. We have a full fixture card for Sunday's already, so if you're not thinking of playing make sure you get down and enjoy one or two sunny afternoons supporting the club.

The big news over the Winter came at the AGM in October. New captains and vice-captains were elected for all three weekend teams:

1 st XI Captain:	Tom Moore
1 st XI Vice-Captain:	Matt Pearce
2 nd XI Captain	Mark King
2 nd XI Vice-Captain	Ben Moore
Sunday Captain	Martin Bloomfield

We wish all five of them the best of luck for the season in their new roles and thank last years captains for all their hard work

Junior Cricket

For 2016 we have entered 5 junior teams in the Aylesbury and District Mid-week league.

U9 & U10 play 8-a-side, U11 Red & U11 Blue play 10-a-side & U13 play full 11-a-side. Fixtures to be confirmed by end of February.

The Friday evening junior training sessions will start Friday April 8th. Consistent great turnouts on Friday evenings last year led to many excellent team and individual performances. Here is a reminder of the junior award winners in 2015:

- Junior of the year** - Taine Sims.
U13s - Ethan Craker, Jack Townsend and Harry James
U11s Red / Butterflies - Annie Wooster, Kate Corcoran and Emily Neighbour
U11s Blue - Taine Sims, Charlie Goldsmith and Aaron Woods
U9s - Vinnie Connolly, Logan Craker and William McKenzie

Bledlow of Ages – 1989 Cup Run



8 Sunday's victorious Bledlow team. Left to right, back row: James Cousins (captain), Terry Kelloway, Andy Witney, Mike Rafferty, Bob Howe, Phil Kelloway, John Baverstock. Front row: Neil Waite, Robin Baker, Bob Floyd, Steve Williams, Dave Bennett, Barry House.

Pavilion Extension

The extension work is progressing at a pace now. The shell of the new build has been completed, with lockable doors, windows and a roof. The new internal block walls are almost at completion and the existing back wall of the old clubhouse has now been removed. A new steel RSJ will be put into place across the resulting gap and it is hoped that the roof will be finally sealed before the end of this month. A working party of strong and able bodies will be required on the final Saturday of the month to help lift the steels into place.



The boiler is being re-plumbed and moved as soon as possible and the heating will transfer to electric radiators temporarily to allow this work to take place. The water supply to new showers, toilets and radiators still needs to be planned and installed but existing supplies will not be disrupted until work is ready to start.

A plan now has to be created for the supply and installation of all new electric fittings, sockets and lights in order to fully equip the new rooms, kitchen and bar.

Work will continue up to the start of the new cricket season, when major works will postponed until the autumn. Small projects will, however, continue during the season if they do not interfere with the running of the Club.



This section will bring back proud memories of great games from our history. Where better to start than the National Village Knockout run in our centenary year of 1989. Newspaper snippets are found to the left, but here's a little more information to give you all some context.

The background to the story is a strange, but potentially critical, turn of events. During the pre-season 1st XI skipper Terry Kelloway decided he had had enough so agreed that a fair deal would be to swap roles with none other than the Chairman, Bob Floyd. Coming out from behind his boardroom desk, 'Floyd' revelled in his new on the pitch leadership which gave him the chance to put a lot of responsibility upon himself. It paid off on this occasion as bowled the crucial final over in what can only be described as a 'tight' game.

After this victory crowning them Bucks group winners, Bledlow were sadly knocked out in the next round. Interestingly the final at Lords that year was abandoned due to rain after 29 overs. It was replayed the following day at the slightly less glamorous venue of Beckenham where Toft beat Hambledon by 6 wickets.

Player's of the Month

Each month we will devote this entire column to those junior and senior players who have put in the best performances. Given we are still a few months away from the start of the season, this week we will look back on 2015 and profile our senior Player's of the Year.

1st XI Player of the Year
 Ryan Chapman
Step and fetch bowler
Lunatic batsman



Local lad Chappers was born a mediocre Bledlow cricketer but after a short trip to the mean cricketing fields of South Africa 'Jacques' came back a transformed player. Part of this transformation was a dodgy bowling action and a desire to ditch the club and play for our local rivals. It wasn't long before he saw the error of his ways and returned to the Bledlow Oval. Since then he's finally learnt that pace isn't everything and has started to take wickets in the numbers his talent would suggest. He can build an innings with the bat (amongst some moments of sheer madness), and his all-round consistent contributions last season won him the award.

1st XI Player's Player
 Will Woodward
Top order show pony
Big tweaking off-spin bowler



Blondie came to Bledlow when he was barely out of nappies. He played in his brothers age group team for a bit until he and his mates from St. John's School were old enough to form a team. Natural talent and great coaching from Andy 'Wit' Witney and Mick Zak during this time got Will into Bucks U13's and he remained in the system until he was 17. Will made his 3rd XI debut when he was 13 thanks to putting on a 'batting masterclass' for Bledlow U13's in front of the 3rd XI skipper. After barely troubling the scorers for a few years he was given a chance in the 2nd XI where he found his form again, averaging 70 and scoring his first senior hundred vs Bledlow Ridge. Last season Will scored his maiden 1st XI century and on his day is a class apart from any other batsman in the league.

2nd XI Player of the Year
 Olly Woodward
Supple wristed opening batsman
Occasional moon-ball bowler



Olly began his Bledlow career aged 7 and progressed through the age groups until making his senior debut for the 2nd XI aged 15. He became a regular 3rd XI player under his curly haired twin Rob 'Fitzy' Fitzgerald before breaking into the 2nd XI the following year. His unique run making abilities rightly caught the eye of the 1st XI skipper who gave him his debut aged 17 where he scored a match saving 50 against Bledlow Ridge. After a decent first season re-writing the textbook on early innings scoring shots in 1st XI cricket, Olly struggled to find form in the following few years. In his final year of university he decided to take over the reigns of the 2nd XI. He led the team to a comfortable mid table finish and ended up as top run scorer in the league.

2nd XI Player's Player
 Andy Reclik
Wibbly - Wobbler
Dainty Slogger



A man of few words is our Andy. He started at Bledlow at 13 and played through U13s 15s and 17s. He forced his way into senior cricket without really knowing what he was doing. Nonetheless he had some good seasons for the Saturday 3rd and 2nd XI's and one memorable appearance in the 1st XI. Once he realised he actually enjoyed cricket, last year he had his best league season with 14 wickets and 249 runs. Last year with an inexperienced team most weeks he seemed to enjoy a "senior" role in the team where he could get his ideas across to the captain at every opportunity.

Ken Folley 1929-2015

We dedicate the first edition of The Bugle to Club Legend Ken Folley who sadly past away last month. He was a larger than life character who was involved in all aspects of club life, both man and boy. Almost everyone connected with the club through the years will have their own great personal memories of Ken which will be shared for years to come. He will be truly missed by all.

Dates for your diary

Feb 14th	Indoor Nets at Princes Risborough School	3:30 to 5pm
Feb 28th	QUIZ & Century Club* Draw	3pm
Mar 27th	QUIZ & Century Club* Draw	3pm
Apr 23rd	Senior Signing On with Chili supper available	8pm to late
	of Angela Downes	
	Live Music: M.F.U	

*Century Club Draw Information

To enter please contact John Reclik (j.reclik@hotmail.co.uk)

- The Century Club Draw currently has 73 entrants.
- Presently it pays out 5 prizes per month totalling £145
 1st - £65, 2nd - £35, 3rd - £20, 4th - £15 & 5th £10, prizes of £200, £100 & £50 for present number of entrants.
- It costs £5 per month to enter.
- You can pay by monthly standing order/direct debit.
- You can pay by cash, monthly/annually or cheque.
- The more entrants we have the more we can pay out.
- The more entrants we have the more YOUR CLUB RAISES.
- The next Draw is February 28th.