

# The Bugle

Newsletter by Bledlow Village Cricket Club | March 2016



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## The Bugle receives club approval..

Reviews and comments from all readers of last months first edition of The Bugle are in! The verdict from the majority was positive and hopefully you're keen for more news and information this month on Bledlow Village Cricket Club as we fast approach the start of the 2016 season. For some however there might be disappointment to see a second edition!

So what has been going on in this seemingly never ending period of late winter-early spring where a day of sunny warmth teases the cricketers senses only for them to be dashed by a sustained period of cold, dull and drizzly weather appropriate for only sports of a lesser nature?

Our winter indoor nets have come to a close after 7 weeks of very well attended sessions. We saw a few old faces don the whites and stretch the shoulder muscles again after some time away. It was also good to see some new faces down there too.. Time will tell whether it was just another chance for a net for them or we will see them in Bledlow green this year. What we can certainly conclude however is that Dan Walker shouldn't wear leggings, Tom Moore needs hypnotherapy in order to resolve his total loss of batting form and Will Woodward has been watching way too much World T20.

Pre-season work at the club is now in full swing with Geoff Bishop at al orchestrating the almost endless list of jobs which need doing before the first ball is bowled. This along with the continuing clubhouse renovation's means its been a very busy period for many. Any time over the coming weekends people can spare to contribute to this effort please do. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Contact Bish ([geoffbish@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:geoffbish@hotmail.co.uk)) if you would like to lend a hand.

## Senior Cricket News

With the first Cherwell League games starting in just over 6 weeks we have a couple of friendly warm-up fixtures arranged on the preceding weekends:

**Sun Apr 24<sup>th</sup> vs Hurley - Away**

**Sat Apr 30<sup>th</sup> vs Aston Rowant – Home**

If you're available for either of these fixtures then please let Tom Moore or Martin Bloomfield know.

The Cherwell League gets off and running on 7<sup>th</sup> May running for 18 weeks. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI start their league campaign away to Tiddington CC, whilst the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI start at home against Cropredy CC. Both teams will hope to get off to winning ways.

The draw for the Village Cup 2016 has been made and Bledlow were kindly given a Bye in the first round. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> round opponents will be Milton Keynes Village CC on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May. I wonder if the large town of Milton Keynes have found a cunning loophole in the registration system whereby just adding 'village' to their name gives them the nod!? Anyway, I know we are all looking forward to a good cup run this year.

Outdoor nets will aim to start on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April from 6-7:30pm. Get yourselves involved in the new captain's training sessions! Also if anyone is after new playing kit then please contact Matt Bolton ([mwbolton@gmail.com](mailto:mwbolton@gmail.com)) to register your interest.

## Junior Cricket

We have enjoyed well attended winter nets over the last couple of weeks, well done to those who have come along and thanks to our dedicated coaches, Corky and Bill.

Friday training will start at the club on 8<sup>th</sup> April and we look forward to welcoming you all again to the Bledlow Oval.

With ever increasing numbers of children we are keen to find volunteer parents to help the qualified coaches run training sessions, support the management of the junior section and ensure we maintain the adult to child ratios to safe levels.

To support this initiative we are offering the opportunity for parents to attend one of two courses being run locally in the next few weeks that could be of interest for those who may be willing to help on a more regular basis.

We are also happy to announce that our new Junior kit supplier is Chiltern Sports, based at the Goat Centre, Stoke Mandeville. Stock is now available. Steve Walker will be in contact soon with more information for parents.



## Pavilion Extension

The extension work is slowing down now, with the new season approaching. The internal block walls have been completed and the new internal 'space' has been cleared of debris.

Some plastering has been done and the first set of steel RSJs has been put into place across the gap at the back of the Clubhouse. The remaining RSJ, to eliminate the ridge across the roof and the existing pillar will not be put into place until the end of the season, as it will require the closure of the bar. The top coating will go onto the roof in the next couple of weeks, which will then see that element of the job completed. Over the Easter Weekend insulation was put into the roof cavity so hopefully that'll keep the energy bills down over the coming months!

The boiler has been re-plumbed and will soon be ready for switching back on. The Clubhouse and Caravan have been heated by electricity for too long now. The electrical plan has now been started and work will be able to continue through the season, as, following sign on night, a false wall will separate off the newly completed space to allow some work to be completed on the new bar area and kitchen and maybe the new umpires changing room.

We ask for all members to be patient with us through this time of upheaval and change.

## Bledlow of Ages – The Bosh

To our legacy members (Floydy, Willow, Wit et al) a club newsletter should not be unfamiliar. To those who are not so well matured in their association with Bledlow please let us introduce the original 'Bledlow Bosh'.

First published in 1992 by a group of Bledlow cricketers and their partners, *The Bledlow Bosh* gave a very entertaining insight into the club and its characters of the time. It achieved a level of humour and storytelling this editor can only dream of aspiring to, so we'd highly recommend you giving it a read via the [History](#) page on our website. To get a taste of the type of content here's a song taken from the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition:

*At Bledlow we are proud to say we are good at batting, Our skipper even played with ex-England skipper Gatting,  
One fine day we won the toss, the pitch was hard and true, Willow was to open with a talent matched by few.  
The first ball was a good one a swinging, cutting cracker, Poor Steve was out for nothing, they'd used a brand new knacker  
Next to the crease was Floydy, our most elegant-a-player, His third ball rose and clipped his glove, he didn't stand a prayer.*

## Player's of the Month

Still no cricket of course, except for winter nets that is.. But we are not about to start awarding net players of the month here however! As we all know, batsman and bowlers who look good in the nets tend to be primadonna's and fodder when it comes to early season performances. Hence this month we will focus on this years senior captains

### 1<sup>st</sup> XI Captain

Tom Moore

*Bowler of limited talent*

*Punchy opening batsman*

Tommy has the honour of taking the reigns of Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> XI this season. We are proud to have now a long line of 1<sup>st</sup> XI captains who have been coached and nurtured at the club from a young age. After joining the club at the age of just 6, he made his debut 4 years later in a Sunday friendly vs Long Crendon. It took him a further 3 years to be able to bowl a ball which didn't bounce twice and apparently ended up taking a 5 wicket haul. No one knows what happened to that young, well mannered little bowler who made the sports pages in the Bucks Herald. We now have a batsman who occasionally gets some runs, including his first ton aged 15 vs Kingston Bagpuize. Tom has the ability to make the simple look spectacular – Bledlow's worst best fielder.



### 1<sup>st</sup> XI Vice Captain

Matt Pearce

*Metronomic swinger*

*Big chipping batsman*

'The Winchy Wall' is currently in his 5th year at the club and 1st year as vice-captain of the first team. Matt has played cricket from a young age, starting out originally at Winchmore Hill. He moved to Bledlow 5 years ago, after the two teams met in a Bucks Cup Final where Bledlow gave them a right good stuffing. He settled quickly into the first team as opening bowler and has enjoyed a lot of success. Like Ronseal – he does exactly what it says on the tin - very consistent line and length. Thankfully for all of us not 'Decking Stripper'. When it comes to batting, he has 'more blocks than Legoland', but can on the other hand be very explosive chipping the ball to all parts of the outfield. Matt has lined up his retirement bowling options as he approaches his late 20's by already holding the position of the clubs number 1 leg spinner.



### 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Captain

Mark King

*Grumpy bowler*

*Technical gifted lower order batsman*

Kingy's first every game of adult cricket was at Bledlow aged 12, but he was deemed too small by the then chairman of selectors so had to make the move across the fields to Monks Risborough aged 14. This treatment meant it took him over 20 years to return to his Bledlow roots after a journeyman career at Kimble, Hampden, Molins, Aylesbury and most successfully at Monks where he left with a record of over 2000 wickets and two centuries to boot! Such batting prowess at Monks translated to a solid number 11 bat in the Bledlow 1<sup>st</sup> XI. It was his bowling which did all the talking and he certainly became the teams most reliable performer with the ball. Mark now takes on the responsibility of captaining at Bledlow for the first time and we wish him all the best.



### 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Vice-Captain

Ben Moore

*Wicket taking trundler*

*Agricultural middle order batsman*

In his own words even Ben sees himself as one of the most boring bowlers to grace the field at Bledlow. His mind numbing bowling however does just the job against many very good batsman and his record must be up there with the best in the Cherwell League over the last few seasons. Ben's batting is a thing of simplicity in execution – slap it straight. Again very effective, even with a £30 village plank. Ben in his early years played county cricket up to the age of 17 – even making the squad ahead of a certain Alex Hales. Ben returns to a leadership role in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI where a few years back he led the team to promotion.



### Sunday XI Captain

Martin Bloomfield

*Never to be seen bowler*

*Leg side only batsman*

Bloomers is Bledlow's Mr Reliable.. In every way apart from when he's on the cricket field. Blessed with decent hand-eye co-ordination he has the ability to slap anyone for 6 over cow corner. Given that he has not provided any memorable scores to add to this biography we can all deduce that his methods may not be the most successful. We are happy to report Martin is taking his new role very seriously having designed and ordered his very own Bledlow Blazer to toss up in. We salute that and hope such style and class rubs off on some of his players.



## Dates for your diary

Apr 5 <sup>th</sup>	Senior outdoor nets starts	6:00 - 7:30pm
Apr 8 <sup>th</sup>	Junior outdoor coaching starts	6:00 - 7:30pm
Apr 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Senior signing on with Chilli supper Live Music: M.F.U	8pm to late
TBC	Aunty Sally	Fridays 8pm
Jun 4 <sup>th</sup>	YES/NO Cricket predictions start	Every week
Jun 11 <sup>th</sup>	ENG v Russia Drinks specials	7pm to late
Jul 9 <sup>th</sup>	Race Night	7pm to late
Jul 15 <sup>th</sup>	Junior Presentation Evening @ club	6pm
Sep 16 <sup>th</sup>	Senior Presentation Evening @ PRGC	TBC