

Chairman's Staying Alert (formerly Lockdown) Newsletter -Week 11

The halfway point of the season has arrived. There is still no match action to report as yet and no mention of cricket getting any more green lights in this week's round up of things we can do again. The week has been a busy one on the administrative front with a swathe of new safeguarding policies being updated. Many thanks to Safe Hands welfare officer Nick Davis and to website administrator Pete Roberts. Christleton CC is committed to ensuring all children (i.e all persons under the age of 18) participating in cricket have a safe and positive experience. You can read more about safeguarding on the club website [here](#). Cricketing activities at the club continue to be at stage 3 with training taking place in maximum groups of 6. The cricket world hopes to move to stage 4 soon with an increase in the numbers deemed safe. This just needs the green light from HMG. Further news of current cricketing items of interest can be found on page 2 of the newsletter. Whatever you are doing at present, stay safe, look after those around you, keep moving and stay in touch. I will look forward to seeing many more of you on the ground before too long.

Here, we'll continue with a review of some exciting, glorious end-of-June matches from simpler times.

1st XI v Prestbury 26-6-1993

GD11 this week is taking us back in time to the previous century. The year is 1993. John Major was PM, Gabrielle was warbling her #1 classic 'Dreams', dreams that finally did come true for LFC fans this week— well deserved and many congratulations. What happened on 26th June 1993? Well, Ariana Grande was born. However, the event of most significance was Swans' away trip to Prestbury. The Chairman was captain in 1993 and asked the hosts to bat first. The scorebook records the weather conditions as wet and the pitch condition as very damp, so this decision was straightforward though not without peril as Prestbury is a small ground and Julian Cheetham was playing. When Prestbury reached 100 before the fall of the first wicket, the decision to insert was looking questionable at best. Then current Vice-President Dave Etchells struck with 2 quick wickets. The second of these was Julian for 19. Anyone who played Meller Braggins cricket in this decade will have had their hands stung by this fine player. He was just getting going on this occasion when he smeared a rising drive to extra cover. The ball arrived at throat level at pace, and Rob Hall just got a left hand up and somehow held on. Such events are important and wickets then began to fall with regularity. Current Vice-President Dennis Reeves took 5-53, while the metronomic Richard Dandy bowled throughout for 3-60. There was none of your 15 over maximums back in the days when captaincy was simpler. 175 all out was the total.

After tea hard-hitting left-hander Hall was out cheaply, leaving the stage clear for Barry Mitchell and John Peers. Peersy moved to beautiful NZ long ago but at this stage of his life he was scoring runs for fun. On this day he was playing the anchor role with a sedate 61* at the close, having put on 168* for the 2nd wicket. Barry dominated the proceedings on this occasion with a fluent 102* as the runs were knocked off in 36 overs. The final total was 181-1, Barry bringing about both the win and his hundred with a 6. A vast range of batting talent never got to the crease that day. A great win for the Swans .

Memory test

What was being celebrated here, where and when? Great to see much-missed former scorer Harry Graves in full flow.



2ndXI v Oxtou 30th June 2018

Swans' 2nd XI won only 3 games in 2018. This was a difficult time for a team that had a lot of young players. The team always ran up against more experienced opponents. Crucially though, the players stuck together and were never disheartened. They learnt a little more every game and occasionally, there were flashes of what the future might hold. This was such a game, a high-scoring runfest played out in perfect sunshine on a great wicket and featuring the fastest outfield imaginable. Skip Pete Roberts won the toss and his players would have been more than happy to see our opponents run around in the hot sun for a while. It was a batting day, and teenagers James Abraham and Jack Breakwell began to assert themselves. James eventually fell for a stylish 44, whipping the ball through mid-wicket on several occasions. Meanwhile, Jack was just having one of those days where everything seems so effortless. Feet and hands moving well, seeing the ball early, never a false shot—batting days like this are not the norm for most of us. Jack made the most of it, scoring a club 2ndXI record 151, with over 100 coming in boundaries. Others chipped in with scores in the teens and Harry (it happens to someone in every festival of runs) bagged a duck. Captain Pete declared at 263-6 after 40 overs.

On the face of it, this would be a colossal run chase, but the Wirralians were undaunted and soon made inroads. James Bagby found bits of movement to account for the first three wickets to fall. However, our visitors continued to press and the unthinkable prospect of defeat reared its head. Swans' catching and athleticism then came to the fore as 8 catches were held, 2 each for Jack Harding and Adam Bayley, and singles for Jewel Rahman, Jack Breakwell Pete Roberts and Rob McNally, who also finished with 4 wickets. At 240-8 the game was in the balance until the last 2 wickets fell with no addition to the score, the last wicket being an Adam Bayley run out. It was an excellent chase by the visitors who played positively from first ball to last in an excellent game of cricket. But this was Jack's day, the inspiration for a fabulous win and a team performance of the type that happened much more often in last season's 16 win 428 point season. The current impasse in cricketing activity is all the more frustrating when we have these young players who are able to progress further, backed up by the invaluable experience of older heads in the team.



Jack above during his 151 and right receiving his award at the Christmas Party 2018 from Pete Roberts. Left- young Swans at training. Thanks to Mandy Harding for the photos.



Progress towards the return of recreational cricket.

Once again, I'd like to be the bearer of great news of progress, but the situation remains unaltered from last week. The world of recreational cricket is presently stuck on Stage 3 of the ECB Road to Recovery, which was featured in last week's newsletter. In a week where there have been mass gatherings in so many places, it may seem strange that we can't do something so socially positive and relaxing as taking part in our great summer sport. However, the ECB cannot give the go ahead until given the nod by HMG. Surely, it will not be long now until we can play some cricket.

The ECB has produced the usual weekly newsletter which this week features:

- Latest ECB statement on the Recreational Game
- #Raisethebat campaign update
- Design an England shirt competition
- FAQs for small group coaching— what you can and can't do at this point
- Google Digital Garage - boosting your online presence

The content can be found [here](#).

In brief

Current Vice President Dennis Reeves was clearly a man who hit top form at the end of June. On page 1 we saw how effective his bowling was at Prestbury. In late June 1996 Dennis was at it again, this time in a home game against Sandbach. The visitors batted first that day and scored 179-6 after 45 overs. There were 2 wickets apiece for Dennis, Richard Dandy and Chris Spencer.

After tea we had the perfect 1990's run chase– 25 after 10 overs, 60 after 20 overs, wickets intact. Another current Vice-President Ian Dutton was first to go with 5 fours in his 30, probably using his SP bat. Fellow opener Dennis went calmly onto 67 before being bowled. Paul Stanworth was then the man providing the impetus with a powerful 30 as the target was achieved with a couple of overs in hand. Dennis really was an all-rounder of repute as he was also talented in other sports– see [here](#).



The club is looking great at the moment as we endeavour to recover from December's vandalism.

This is not the first setback we have had in recent years. In 2014, in the middle of the season, we were affected by fire after a club event.

Smoke was everywhere and Val Dandy and the football section led the way in helping to put the club back into operation.

Whilst every picture tells a story, our pictures have more of a story to tell than most.

Many of them have now been framed 3 times and Mandy and Liz are currently getting them ready for display again.

The photos of both football and cricket sections are looking good again– let's hope that they stay that way this time.

In brief

The long daylight hours at this time of year make evening cricket possible in most years. I thought that I would include details of a Swans midweek team game from way back in 1987 from a time-honoured scorebook. The game was played at Barrow and, being the away team, Swans batted first. Progress was slow against an attack that included our groundsman Alen Roberts, economical as ever with 2-11 from 5 overs that were allowed at that point. Phil Griffiths made 26 and V-P Bob Ellis 16. Extras were 13 and there were no other double figures in a total of 75.

I'm guessing that there were no covers on a wet wicket. Barrow struggled to 52 all out against a strong Swans bowling line-up: Brian Maddocks 3-17, Phil Griffiths 1-8, Gary Edwards 2-10 and Tony Forbes 3-16, all from 5 overs each. Run scoring was harder in this era– no doubt about it.

