



# CHRISTLETON CRICKET CLUB

## Chairman's Staying Alert (formerly Lockdown) Newsletter -Week 8

Hands up all those who were wanting some rain because 'the garden needs it'. Having had a few days of rain and wind, enough is enough, bring back the sunshine please. We have now reached what would have been Game Day 8, past a third of the way through the season and steaming on towards half-way. Fixtures this week would have seen us playing Wirral for the second successive week. Just as well we got on so well with those guys last year.. News of current cricketing items of interest can be found on page 2 of the newsletter. There's more movement with regard to possibilities for practice. Also, I've included below the text of CCCL Chairman David Humpage's letter to clubs so you are aware of the league's standpoint.

Here, we'll continue with a reinspection of some exciting, glorious June matches from fairly recent times.

### 1st XI v Mobberley 3-6-2017

This week it's just a short hop back in time to the 2017 season and an early June game that featured a barnstorming all-round performance from one particular Swan, namely Shavaiz Saif.

Josh Morgan-Jones was captain that season and upon winning the toss, he followed his usual instinct for batting first. Indeed both Josh 31 and Kiwi Josh 32 had useful knocks, and Andean all-rounder Matt Astbury also contributed a stylish 33. However, the innings was faltering at 140-7 when Shavaiz strolled to the crease. What followed was mayhem. The innings closed at 237-9 after 50 overs. Of the 96 runs scored whilst Shavaiz was at the crease, the powerful all-rounder scored 87 not out.. He faced 39 balls, scoring 8 fours and 6 sixes for a strike rate of over 223. It was a counterattack of stunning proportions and sent the Swans into tea with a spring in their webbed feet.

After tea, Shavaiz opened the bowling. When he bowls, he tends to take wickets in clusters. He's awkward to play against, angling the ball in at batsmen and using his height to produce disconcerting bounce. On this occasion, finished with 6-47 to round off a dominant performance.. There were wickets also for Kiwi Josh, Zaighum Abbas, and it was left to Matt Astbury to provide the coup-de-grace by skittling the last victim to finish with a tidy 2-24.

There will be more of Shavaiz's exploits next week. In the 2017 season he became only the 3rd Swans bowler to claim 50 1stXI victims in a season, which on our flat track is a truly outstanding achievement.

### David Humpage– letter to clubs

#### 2020 Season Update

You will no doubt be aware that the ECB has announced that there will be no cricket this season until at least 1<sup>st</sup>.August. It is not certain that even then recreational cricket will be given the green light, however the League has been giving a deal of thought as to what we might be able to do if play can take place.

It is our view that to maximise the cricket available that we should concentrate on the 20/20 format and try to ensure that players have as much opportunity to play competitively as possible. Ideally this will involve all teams playing 2 meaningful matches on each day, up to and including some form of finals day scenario. We feel that the competitions should be regionalised as much as possible, as data from a recent umpire's survey and potential track and trace requirements suggest that travel should be minimised.

We are looking to stage cricket for 1<sup>st</sup>.and 2<sup>nd</sup>.XI teams on Saturdays, leaving the Sundays free for Women's Cricket and 3rd.XIs.

The League will NOT organise any fixture outside the period from 1<sup>st</sup> August to mid-September. Beyond that date not only are some grounds unavailable through alternative sports, but the groundsmen will need to undertake their end-of-season treatment to ensure that the grounds are in top condition for 2021. Clubs will be free to arrange friendly games later in the year if they wish.

It is likely that there will be a number of players reluctant to take part in any event, and with this in mind we would ask any club that thinks that it will NOT be able to field a 2<sup>nd</sup>.XI on a Saturday, or indeed thinks that its ground will not be ready for play, to notify Ray Hunt.

David Humpage

May 2020

## 2ndXI v Widnes 1/6/2013

The 2ndXI entertained Widnes on the glorious 1st of June 2013. Skipper Mike Gaynon decided that we would have a bowl on this occasion. He must have been wondering about that decision as Widnes laid foundations for a big score with experienced campaigners going well, over 100 on the board and no wickets notched by the scorers. It was then that Steve Jackson got to work. For many years Steve was a stalwart of the club and on this occasion he started to get more dip and swing that you might experience even on his beloved IOM TT course. Here he was unstoppable as he recorded the splendid figures of 6-47, coincidentally the same figures as recorded by Shavaiz on the previous page of the newsletter. Here Steve received excellent support from stumper Josh Morgan-Jones with 2 stumpings and a catch. Stuart Lunt took 2 wickets at the other end, and deadeye Matt Allen hit the stumps to run out a surprised batsmen. An innings that started full of promise subsided to 161 for the visitors at tea.

After the break, the classy Russ Crowley provided the backbone of the innings with a solid 64, with Ollie Morgan-Jones 30\* at the end as Swans chased down the target inside 40 overs to secure the 25 points.

Steve Jackson's tally of wickets were recorded in what was a golden year for him. Steve's cunning swing had claimed a superb 52 wickets by the end of the season. On the subject of swing bowling, Jimmy has been back in the nets this week and is making it look so easy. <https://twitter.com/i/status/1268918316644601858>

### Staying alert– massive thanks to the County Board staff who are keeping us informed

#### **This week's email from the ECB covers some important topics:**

- Revised guidance for safe outdoor practice. **Please monitor our club website where information updates will be provided.**
- Google Digital Garage – online training for club officials
- Raise the Bat campaign – celebrating cricket's key workers
- Natwest support during Covid-19
- Wellbeing programme for ACO Officials during lockdown

The newsletter can be found here:

<https://ecb-comms.co.uk/t/1FT6-6WBAI-2E2203387/cr.aspx>

**As always, have a good week everyone**

**Take care, stay safe**

**PLEASE NOTE: the advice given here is generic. It is up to clubs to decide how they will manage these developments in light of local circumstances. For that reason, please monitor our club website where information updates will be provided.**

**USING OUTDOOR CRICKET FACILITIES DURING LOCKDOWN IN ENGLAND**

Do not use the facility if you, or a member of your household has symptoms of coronavirus however mild - observe government advice.

Maximum six people using the facilities together

Wash your hands thoroughly before and after using the facility. Practice good hygiene at all times.

Coaching can now take place with small groups of up to six (including the coach)

Observe social distancing rules at all times.

Adjacent nets not to be used (but every other net is ok, if users maintain social distance).

Use your own equipment if possible. No sweat or saliva should be applied to the ball at any time.

Usage should be booked with the club. No unauthorised use.

**10 MINUTES**  
Please maintain 10 minutes between bookings.



I'm grateful to Mandy Harding for sending me some recent photographs of the bar. Most readers will be aware that this area was extensively damaged during the incident of vandalism that took place almost six months ago. Since then, there has been a massive project in place to clean, replace, renew and re-invigorate both the contents and the clubhouse itself. This has been project managed by Mandy and has involved many negotiations with contractors. She has been supported by a lot of unsung heroes along the way and we are very grateful to Mandy and to everyone who has helped in any way. Thanks to you all.

One other recent development is the installation of CCTV with the first 4 of 6 cameras now fully functioning.

When the time is right, I would urge our members and friends to come and see for themselves the results of this hard graft. I know you'll be impressed. Hopefully we'll be able to serve you a pint or a glass of wine as we will be counting on your valued support to help us regain our feet after lockdown, hopefully the sooner the better.

### Twentieth Century wicket keepers

On Page 2 of the newsletter, I commented on Josh Morgan-Jones having a good day behind the stumps. We all know what a morale-booster it is when a keeper pulls something special out of the hat that lifts the entire team, and I want to take the opportunity to reminisce about two of the glovemen I saw in action at close quarters for the Swans in the late 20th Century. The much-missed Pete Mitchell was the first Christleton keeper I played with. He didn't do anything flash—he just had a very good pair of strong, farmers' hands, providing Roy Evans and others with many wickets. I will always remember him slide-tackling around 10 yards to make a catch in the championship-clinching game of 1981. He finished covered in mud and sitting in a stream of running water that had established itself at around the halfway point of the Hale Barns pitch. Times were different then. Pete was a highly-supportive Vice-President for many years after he stopped playing.

Moving to the lengthy Terry Jonas era, this was an extraordinary time where these words can't do justice to the skills and character of the man. Terry had something of the Jack Russell about him. Nobody appealed like Terry. He might just tell the umpire 'the line's mine' or he might sometimes say 'hello darling' to the shocked chap at square leg. In batting, Terry's leave was just as extravagant as Steve Smith's, only Terry was doing this 30 years ago. When backing up, his running in with shocked bowlers is legendary. At Barnton one day he shouted 'Hit me with the golden fleece Jason' when JA was under a steeper at long on. To his immense credit, Mr Ashcroft took the catch. There are so many TJ stories!

First and foremost though, Terry was a very good keeper who excelled when standing up. He holds the club record for wicket keeper victims in a match: 7 v High Lane in 1987, 4 catches and 3 stumpings. Terry features 6 times in the top 10 performances for WK victims in a 1stXI season, spread out from 1984-1996, a truly tremendous achievement. Terry is still a dedicated member of the ground staff tea.