

## OE Cricket Week 2009

**D**espite the showery weather for the latter games, this was a very good OE cricket week and the support from the younger OEs was impressive. I am particularly grateful to Rob Lammiman who arranged the teams for the first two games and also captained/managed all four games. It is very good to see one of the more recent OEs taking such a prominent role in the club.

### **Sunday, July 5 – v Zimbabwe XI: LOST**

This was always going to be the most difficult game of the week due to the quality of the opposition! In his last few weeks at Epsom, Don Campbell (Master in charge of cricket) had mustered a fairly high- quality side that included several very good players, as well as the odd 'social' player. In a 35-overs a side match, the Zim XI batted first, bludgeoning their way to 287 – 5. In reply the OEs mustered only 167. The much vaunted opening partnership of Alex Jones and Max Page was out within two overs and the other batsmen struggled to get going. Only Justin Hast (49) and Ewan Lavender (31) really looked as though they would take the fight to the opposition. So, one match lost but lots of beer and a BBQ soothed the pain of defeat.

### **Monday, July 6 – v Old Johnians: DRAW**

A much better performance today against, it must be said, a fairly weak OJ XI. Batting first, the OEs scored a massive 329-4, declared off only 40 overs. Alex Jones smashed a highly impressive 128, containing 8 sixes and 12 fours, John Vaughan-Davies a cultured 51 and Jamie Laidler a very nicely put together 100 not out. Despite leaving the OJs a healthy number of overs in reply, and giving them every chance to go for the runs, they finished on 214-4. Seven bowlers were used but none could break through.

### **Tuesday, July 7 – v Stragglers of Asia: DRAW**

The weather began to play a part from Tuesday on and the match was ruined by some very heavy showers. Stragglers batted first and mustered only 142, with guest Josh Pickering taking 5 – 43 with his wily leg spin. Jamie Laidler (2-10) also impressed with the ball. In reply the OEs got to 76-2 (Max Page – 36 not out) when the final heavy shower of the day put an end to play. This probably would have been a good win as we had about 24 overs left when the weather intervened and plenty of batting left to come.

### **Wednesday, July 8 – v Jack Frost: WON**

At last a victory! Play started late due to heavy showers overnight and credit to both teams for wanting to try and get a game in. Jack Frost batted first and put up a competitive 193-5 declared. Jarred Pitout (1st XI Captain for 2009) bowled well to take 2-30. In reply the OEs got to the target comfortably, thanks in no small part to 112 from Max Page – actually 112-6 as he was dropped 5 times! Jamie Laidler scored another elegant 50 not out and the ▶

◀ OEs won by 5 wickets with 12 overs to spare. It would have been closer but for Page ruining the game! All in all, a good week. It was nice to see Jerry Hinds playing on Monday, whilst Nick Saunder-Griffiths and Rob Perry both turned out on Tuesday. We need more of the older/more experienced OEs to play please!

Thanks to Sarah Williams for the catering and also mention must be made once again of Rob Lammiman, without whom the week would not have worked as well as it did.

### **OE cricketers needed!**

We desperately need to build up as big a database of players as we can, so do get in touch with me or with Rob Lammiman as soon as possible. (For our emails, please contact the OE Club: [oeclub@epsomcollege.org.uk](mailto:oeclub@epsomcollege.org.uk) or call 01372 821294). In addition, we are thinking of revamping the OE Week and instead of playing it as a week, we thought that to play a series of matches on Sundays may be more attractive to those who find it difficult to take days off during the summer to play.

Finally, after 22 years of running the week as OE Secretary (and I'm not even an OE!) I do think the time has come for someone else to take over and it would be nice if it were run by an OE! Any volunteers, please get in touch!

**Paul Williams**

**OE Cricket Secretary**