

SUNBURY CRICKET CLUB



CAPTAIN REPORTS 2016



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1ST XI – 2016

The 1st XI successfully defended their title in after losing just one game and winning 13, ironically finishing with the same number of points (303) as the previous Championship winning season.

The task was made tougher after only 5 games when South African overseas player, Dane Vilas, who had made a great impact was unexpectedly stopped from playing due to visa issues. Whilst this was a blow at a crucial stage of the season the team ultimately overcame it.

On the batting front Rhythm Bedi scored three valuable 70's and showed great skill and positivity when he batted and a season aggregate of 323 runs at 36 was a very good return. Another young player to perform well under pressure was Sam Burgess who continues to impress and his 350 runs at 27 was a solid return.

These younger players complemented the high standards and run scoring from Adam London who amassed 676 runs at 52 and played many a vital knock under pressure, backed up by captain John Maunders who made 524 runs at 40.

Vilas with 304 runs in 5 matches and a match winning knock from Olly Roland-Jones (85) away at Normandy were important contributions. Alex Hughes in his first season played a great match saving knock of 75 against Weybridge.

The bowling and fielding unit was strong, the latter led by Nathaniel Gregory and Rhythm Bedi who were both excellent in this department, Gregory in particular taking many fine catches.

New ball bowler Kevin Smith bowled well either side of a shoulder injury both upfront and at the death to claim 23 wickets with a good economy rate. Adam Stanier was brilliant all season and was back to his miserly best, (25 wickets at 14) bowled with great skill and control.

The spin duo of Viridi and Vishal Manro influenced a high number of matches complementing one another beautifully. Manro bowled with great control (35 wickets at 14.6) and Viridi's spell of 6-67 off 31 overs at Ashtead was a great match winning performance.

Sohi was always challenging top order batters and bowled some fine spells taking 20 wickets, virtually all top order batsman, was a good return. Gregory bowled some tight spells and was unlucky not to achieve more wickets with his accurate swing bowling and performed an excellent holding role for the team.

The 1st XI have a good mix of youth and experience and will be a trying their best to make it three titles in three seasons in 2017.

2nd XI – 2016

2016 was a very difficult season for the 2nd XI. Losing 4 experienced members from the prior year meant that we often fielded a very young side with only 4 regular players over the age of 21. This experience shone through at the start of the season as a poor start resulted in 6 losses from the first 6 games. However, the guts and determination of youth dragged the side from what seemed a point of no return to avoid relegation on the last day of the season.

As has been the case for the last few seasons the strength of the side, especially the batting, has improved with the return of school and university students, with Ed Hughes particularly excelling scoring 209 runs at 52. But the disappointing fact will be that no batsmen passed 300 runs for the season.

With the ball, the burden fell mostly on opening bowler Saran Kalsi who bowled over 170 overs and getting 31 wickets at 25. He was ably supported by spinners Curtis Higgins (16 wickets at 28) and Nish Madan (15 wickets at 23).

Only 5 wins from the 18 games shows why we were fighting at the wrong end of the table, however looking at who these were against shows the potential for the team going forward. Wins against champions Spencer, Reigate and two against Wimbledon, shows that the side has the ability to fight at the other end of the table and will hope to do so in 2017.

3rd XI – 2016

Following last year's league winning performance, 2016 was extremely disappointing. Several of last year's championship winning side were promoted to the 2nd XI and the team never came to terms with this. Only a rain effected win on the last day of the season saved us from relegation. A change of captain less than half way through the season, inconsistent availability and an overall lack of consistency meant we were in a relegation battle all season.

A very useful first season for Andrew Martin (320 runs at 32) but he was the only batsman to pass 300 runs. Seam bowler Shirsh Bedi's contribution with the bat was very useful (258 runs at 23). The slow bowlers provided the best return with Colin Bentall once again leading the way (14 wickets at 26) and Jack Greaves provided great support. Shirsh Bedi and Jay Plaha both return nine wickets each. Generally, our seam bowlers struggled to find consistency and this will have to improve next year. Along with Greaves, other colts who showed good promise were Daniel Finlay with bat and ball, and Greg Havard with the bat.

We only achieved four wins this year and 11 defeats, many of which were by a distance. Too many times we were not able to compete. The most telling stat was that the 3rd XI used 48 different players. Better availability will inevitably lead to most consistent performances and should see once again challenge at the top of the table.

4th XI – 2016

Another tough year for the 4th XI saw the team competing at the wrong end of the table once again. Had it not been for the performances of Nobby Clarke and Jerry Smith, both of whom finished with 23 wickets at 11.78 and 12.83 respectively, it surely would have been a tougher campaign. Spirited performances in the 2nd half of the season saw the side finish in 8th position.

Runs were hard to come by all season, and only once did the team cross 200. Leading run scorers were Manvinder Sehmi (190 runs at 31.67), followed by Anoop Manro (178 runs at 22.25). Notable contributions with the bat were Aaryan Pillai who scored 158 runs in 5 innings including match winning performances in crucial run chases towards the end of the season and Kieron Crichard, who scored vital runs in our first success of the season. All-rounder Mark Ventham continued to impress in his comeback year with both bat and ball, and his season's haul of 12 wickets and 187 runs, do not fairly reflect his contribution.

Along with Pillai, other colts that did themselves proud this year were Lukas Brierley, Daniel Finlay and Josh Taylor. All of whom have bright futures ahead of them. As always, availability and a continuity in team selection is vital. They certainly have the talent at their disposal, getting them on the pitch is the key.



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