



BLACKHEATH CRICKET CLUB
FOUNDED 1878

Village cricket at its
very finest

The Heath Herald

The newsletter of Blackheath Cricket Club

JANUARY 2020

twm

solicitors

WINTER TRAINING TIMES

SENIORS AND BOYS' U15/U14 SQUAD

Winter nets for seniors and U15s/U14s is on Sunday mornings from 10am-11am at **Charterhouse Club**. Sessions start on 12th January and continue until 5th April. The cost is **£5 per session or £50 for all 12 sessions**.

BOYS' U13-U10 SQUADS

Sessions are 6.15-7.45pm on Friday evenings at **Charterhouse Club** for 10 weeks ending on 27th March (excluding 2 Fridays). The cost is **£60**.

BOYS' U8-U9 SQUADS

Sessions are 4.30pm to 5.30pm on Friday evenings at **Longacre School** for 10 weeks ending on 27th March (excluding 2 Fridays). The cost is **£40**.

GIRLS' U14-U10 SQUADS

These sessions are new this year. They are running between 6.15pm to 7.30pm on Friday evenings at **St Catherine's School** for 10 weeks ending on 27th March (excluding 2 Fridays). The cost is **£50**.

FULL AHEAD WITH THE GRAFHAM PROJECT

*Club Chairman **Nick Harrison** explains how the redevelopment of our new second ground fits into future plans, including for a major expansion of women's and girls' cricket*

As the club's activities have grown in so many ways in recent times, it often seems at the turn of the year that we have barely paused for breath before the new season is upon us. This year, after an extremely busy and successful 2019 (of which details elsewhere in this newsletter), it seems that we have not paused for breath at all.

As I write, the same team who built our pavilion at Blackheath over the winter of 2012/13 are starting work on the complete redevelopment of the pavilion at our new Grafham ground (see pictures on page 8). To get us to this point has required a lot of pieces of a jigsaw puzzle to fall into place. However, with perseverance we have got there: a new lease has been signed, all the necessary consents and documentation have been signed off and – most importantly – the funding is in place to give the project the green light.

Aside from the generous grants we been offered by Sport England and the London Marathon Charitable Trust, the club itself will be contributing over £30,000 to the cost, about £15,000 of which was raised in one night at the ball last summer. A huge thankyou to the numerous club members who contributed to that amazing result, whether by donating or bidding for auction prizes, putting up marquees, or in any number of other ways. It is because of your efforts that the project is happening, though we still are still fundraising for additional equipment for the new ground.

The long-term acquisition of an excellent second ground and pavilion is a huge advance for the club. Most importantly, aside from providing a fine new facility for our Men's 3rd XI and for a good number of boys' matches, Grafham will be the new home of our Women & Girls' Section.

QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 14th MARCH

7pm for 7.30pm at the pavilion

TEAMS OF UP TO 6

Only £12 per head, including
fish & chips

ALL PROCEEDS IN AID OF THE
GRAFHAM PROJECT

To buy tickets, to go the club
website or just click on the link
below

BUY TICKETS

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2020

Chairman:

Nick Harrison

Secretary:

Simon Jones

Treasurer:

Richard Brocksom

Membership Sec:

Graham Webb

Ground Manager:

Terry Brockman

Fixture Sec:

Paul Nash

Senior Cricket

Manager:

Dallas McDermott

Junior Cricket

Manager:

Nick Harrison

Welfare Officer:

Alexandra Jones

Women/Girls

Manager:

Sharon Eyers

Publicity Officer:

Keith Poynter

Other Committee members:

Alex Bertola, Simon Mansell, Mark O'Brien, Chris Poil, David Raderecht, Colin Parrott, Helen Mansell

TEAM CAPTAINS 2020

1st XI Captain

Alex Bertola

2nd XI Captain

Simon Mansell

3rd XI Captain

Colin Parrott

Sunday Captains

Ronny Harrison

David Raderecht

Women's Captain

Helen Mansell

As our Women & Girls' Manager, Sharon Eyers, explains on page 5, the first season of our new women's team, "Black Magic" was a huge success. The squad is already raring to go in an indoor competition over the next few weeks, before the new I'Anson Women's League kicks off in the summer, involving more regular games on Sunday afternoons. Meanwhile our girls' section has also been growing rapidly, to the point where we have struggled to find space for all their coaching sessions and matches.

The redevelopment of Grafham to give us completely refurbished facilities suitable for women's and girls' cricket is therefore very timely. We plan that this year the vast majority of the women's and girls' coaching sessions and matches will take place there. This includes coaching on Friday evenings, when we will be replicating (albeit on a smaller scale) the operation that we run at Blackheath, with a bar and barbecue every week. The extra space will enable us to expand the girls' squads and we are also strengthening the girls' coaching team – Angus Hamilton, whom we are delighted to be welcoming back from New Zealand as our overseas player/coach again this year, will be taking on the new role of Assistant Women & Girls' Manager. We are also for the first time running a girls' winter training programme and are forging new links with local schools specifically to promote girls' cricket.

However, whilst it is very exciting to see the club developing in this new direction, maintaining a second ground and pavilion to the high standards we are used to at Blackheath will of course involve a lot of work. This brings me to a more general point about how the running of the club is changing.

We have long since outgrown the traditional structure of a cricket club under which a handful of faithful volunteers by themselves keep the whole club going. Although we still desperately need those key volunteers, and we are very lucky to have them, these days there is simply far too much for them to do. One result of this is that increasingly we need to pay people to do some of the essential tasks. It would be impossible, for example, to run our bar and catering operation (especially on Friday evenings), or to provide the high standard of coaching which we now take for granted, or to maintain our fantastic grounds and facilities, purely by using volunteer labour.



Friday nights at Blackheath are hugely popular but require a lot of organisation

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2020

SENIOR

Frequent: £250

(no match fee)

Standard: £120

(£10 match fee)

Occasional: £60

(£20 match fee)

U25 frequent: £175

(no match fee)

U21 frequent: £110

(no match fee)

U21 standard: £60

(£5 match fee)

U18 frequent: £60

(no match fee)

Women: £50

(£5 match fee)

Non-playing: £25

JUNIOR

U15-U9 boys: £130

U14-U10 girls, U8

boys: £110

U9-U6 girls, U6-U7

boys: £90

Equally, however, it is vitally important that we do not lose the ethos of volunteering. A cricket club is not a commercial institution which simply provides a service to its members in return for a subscription. The spirit of club membership involves everyone contributing their time and effort, at least in a small way, towards the common purpose of making a success of the club, whether that be on the field or off it. Indeed, for many of us that is really the whole point of being a member.

Generally, we have been very fortunate over the years in having more than our share of volunteers. Unfortunately, as we grow, the administrative difficulty of finding and organising them, even if there are in principle enough willing hands available, gets greater and greater.

In an effort to find a solution to this, as well as to reinforce the ethos of volunteering more generally, those registering this year (and the vast majority of our juniors already have) will notice that in order to be a member of Blackheath CC you now need to offer to help with at least one of a range of activities. Though we will not expect anyone to put in a huge amount of time for the club if they do not want to, we think there should be an expectation that every member (or in the case of a junior, one parent) will put in at least an hour doing something as a volunteer over the course of the season. Moreover, thanks to the software of our Membership Secretary, Graham Webb, it will be readily possible to identify and communicate with all those who have volunteered for each type of activity, to ensure that their offers of help are taken up.

There is, as always, much more I could say about the coming season, but I'll leave those interested to browse the rest of this newsletter or the club website for further information about our plans. I'll look forward to seeing everyone in due course, whether in the next few weeks at winter training or not until the start of the season. Roll on the summer!



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SENIOR AWARDS 2019

Best performance by a junior in a senior match:
Oliver Cronk

Emerging Young Talent Award:
Joe Dewar

Best bowling in a match:
Ollie Raderecht

Best innings:
Tom Melhuish

Best all-round performance in a match:
Pete Melhuish

Best catch:
Josh Cummings

1st XI Player of the Year:
Pete Melhuish

2nd XI Player of the Year:
Dallas McDermott

3rd XI Player of the Year:
Colin Parrott

Heathens Player of the Year:
Ben Stefanik

Best batsman overall:
William Melhuish

Best bowler overall:
Angus Hamilton

Women's player of the year:
Tabitha Rimmer

Most improved women's player:
Helen Mansell

Outstanding contribution award:
Terry Brockman

Men's Cricket

*A round-up of the 2019 season from Club Captain **Dallas McDermott***

The 2019 season proved another successful one for the club, with the highlight being the 1st XI clinching the I'Anson Division 1 title on the final game of the season (see picture below), following an incredibly close race with Grayswood. It was a shame that the final day was marred by controversy, but that should take nothing away from the great performance of the team over the course of the season, recording an amazing 13 wins from the 16 games they played. Probably the outstanding performers were Pete Melhuish with the bat and overseas player Angus Hamilton with the ball, but everyone played their part in a great team effort.

The 2nd XI also had a good season. Following a run of wins early in the summer, they could not quite maintain momentum, but finished in a comfortable mid-table position in Division 2, as the top 2nd XI in the I'Anson League. The 3rd XI also finished in mid-table, with good contributions both from older players and some of our older juniors. It has proved tough getting promotion from Division 6, however hopefully they will get there in the coming season.

On Sundays, the highlight was our best run in the National Village Cup for many years (see next page), though there were plenty of great games in the usual friendlies as well.

Availability throughout the season was good and on about three occasions we would have had enough players to put out four men's teams on a Saturday afternoon. This is an ambition for the club over the coming years, especially with the exciting acquisition of our Grafham ground, but to achieve this we really need more junior players stepping up to play adult cricket at the earliest opportunity. Playing adult cricket really develops both skills and confidence with youngsters, and we will be pushing this strongly in the coming season. Also, if there are any dads out there who could be tempted to start playing again (whether on Saturdays or Sundays), please get in touch.

Angus is returning this year, and we look well set for another exciting and successful season. Hopefully I'll see quite a few of you at the nets at Charterhouse on Sundays over the next few weeks.



A GREAT RUN IN THE NATIONAL VILLAGE KNOCKOUT

The highlight of Sunday cricket this year, was certainly the Blackheath team's performance in the National Village Cup, where for the first time in many years we made it through to the national stages as champions of Surrey.

A narrow victory over Valley End in the second round was followed by a comfortable win over Oakwood Hill, before a great home performance in the regional final to defeat East Horsley .

Although for a long time we looked well-placed against Borstal CC, the champions of Kent, in the end scoreboard pressure told and we ended up well short. However, we hope to go one better next year!

Meanwhile, our regular Sunday friendly side had another highly enjoyable season, with the usual wide variety of opposition. As usual, all the games were played in a tremendous spirit on both sides . Particular thanks to our opponents on Sundays 15th July and 25th August for being willing to interrupt the games so everyone could enjoy on the big TV the climax of two of the greatest games of cricket ever played. Arise, Sir Ben Stokes!

Women's Cricket

*Women & Girls' Manager **Sharon Eyers** reports on a tremendous first season for our new women's team, Black Magic*

Over the winter of 2018/19, it became very apparent that there were a lot of women – including a good number of mums of juniors – who wanted to give cricket a try. An inaugural meeting of the Blackheath Women's Section was held at the clubhouse with the generous donation of some bottles of Prosecco to help the discussion along.

There was lots of enthusiasm from the start, as everyone was keen to learn a new skill, keep fit, have quality social time and enter some festivals as well. It was agreed that there would be weekly training sessions every Thursday evening with myself and Angus Hamilton as the coaches, and Helen Mansell was the unanimous choice for team captain. Finally, a name was chosen and "Black Magic" were up and running!

From the first week of training, Angus and I were surprised at the skill level of the women, and their desire to learn and improve was obvious. Numbers grew rapidly to a squad of over 20 and have continued to rise since. Four festivals were arranged with other women's sides at Chiddingfold, Godalming and Farncombe, with each village hosting one festival. The first one was Blackheath and Black Magic got off to a winning start, beating Godalming in a closely contested final. They went on to win three of the four festivals.

The team are stepping up further in 2020, having entered an Indoor League with regular matches over the next few weeks at Boxhill School. They will also be entering the newly formed l'Anson Women's League which is starting this year. With the redevelopment of the facilities at Grafham between now and the start of the season, most of the women's training and matches will be taking place there in 2020, though we expect to host at least one festival at Blackheath as well.

Please get in touch with me or Helen if you would like to sign up. Our contact details are on the club website.



Our women's team, Black Magic, won 3 of the 4 festivals they entered in 2019

JUNIOR SQUAD MANAGERS FOR 2020

U15-U14 boys:

Chris Poil
Mark O'Brien

U13 boys:

Pete Rooker-Smith

U12 boys:

Danny Harrison

U11 boys:

Stephen Holden

U10 boys:

Chris Poil

U9 boys:

Ronny Harrison

U8 boys:

Tom Selby

U7 boys:

Danny Harrison

U6 boys:

Ronny Harrison

U14-U12 girls:

Sharon Evers

U11-U10 girls:

Angus Hamilton

U9-U8 girls:

Sharon Evers

U7-U6 girls:

Angus Hamilton

JUNIOR SECTION ORGANISERS 2020

Junior Section

Manager:

Nick Harrison

Head Coach:

Chris Poil

Welfare Officer:

Alexandra Jones

Junior Membership

Secretary:

Sue Brocksom

Girls Manager:

Sharon Evers

Assistant Girls'

Manager:

Angus Hamilton

Junior Cricket

Nick Harrison reflects on another successful season and looks ahead to some changes in 2020

2019 was another incredibly busy year for the Blackheath section, as we fielded no fewer than 17 different junior teams, who between them played well over 150 matches.

Most of our boys' squads now play at the highest available tiers against some of the strongest clubs in the county, and this was to some extent reflected in results. However, despite some exceptionally strong opposition, all our teams generally acquitted themselves well: I should mention in particular our U14s, who finished a creditable fourth in the Surrey Junior Invitational League, and our U11s, who finished second in the WSYCL Academy League. The U11s' season also included a first ever international match, which led to a narrow victory over the Swiss national U11 side!

Our girls' teams also took a step up, with our oldest squad (U14s) playing hard-ball cricket for the first time (see picture on next page). Our girls' section has seen particularly rapid growth over the past few years and it was tremendous to see their enthusiasm, as well as their rapidly improving standards.

Not only were there more junior matches than ever before 2019, there were also more training sessions. Aside from Friday evenings (when for the first time we made some use of Grafham to relieve a little of the pressure on Blackheath), there were also regular midweek nets for members of the boys' and girls' hard-ball squads. We also ran several pre-season, half-term and holiday training camps, and numerous juniors also received individual coaching sessions from one of our two Surrey coaches, Ronny and Danny Harrison, or our overseas player/coach, Angus Hamilton.

In most respects, our junior section operation in 2020 will be similar to 2019, but there will be one or two changes. The main one is that on Friday evenings, the girls' squads will be coached at Grafham, where we will be running a similar



Our U11s pictured following their match against the Swiss national side

HIRING THE PAVILION

If you are looking for a venue for an event, have you considered using your own club's facilities?

The Tangley Pavilion is available for hire by club members for appropriate private functions such as significant birthday parties, christenings and even wedding parties, subject to numbers and timing restrictions.

It's a great venue and also provides an important source of revenue for the club, so if you're thinking about it we'd love to hear from you.

Contact Simon Jones (01483 892860) for further information.

operation to the one at Blackheath with a bar and barbecue each week. Although we appreciate that this will not suit everyone, the lack of coaching space (not to mention the shortage of parking) at Blackheath on Fridays means that it is essential if we are to take the girls' section forward. The girls will therefore be the main beneficiaries of the brand new facilities at Grafham, which will be formally opened on a Friday evening early next season. We are hoping to get a member of the England women's team to cut the ribbon!

With the introduction of the new Surrey Junior Cricket Championship, there are also changes to the format of some of the boys' matches. However, as in previous years, we will continue to run A and B teams at all age groups to maintain our ethos of providing both competitive and inclusive cricket.



Our girls' U14 team pictured after their first ever hard-ball match (against Pyrford)



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Grafham project update

The building project at Grafham is now underway. Brian Mulloy and his team, who built the pavilion at Blackheath over the winter of 2012/13, started work on 6 January, and had made plenty of progress by the end of the first week (see pictures opposite and below).

The work involves the construction of an extension to the rear of the pavilion, which will become the new home changing room. There will be various internal structural alterations to create a new away changing room, as well as new male, female and accessible toilets and a small umpire's room. The changing rooms will have individual shower cubicles. There will also be new lighting, flooring and a complete redecoration throughout.

Club members will have an opportunity to help with the redecoration, as to save on expense this will be done with volunteer labour. Please help if you can!

The work should be finished in time for the start of the new season in late April. We will be arranging an opening ceremony in early May – further details to follow.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

*Fri 10th January
Winter training starts for juniors*

*Sun 12th January
Winter training starts for seniors*

*Sat 14th March
Quiz night*

*Sat 18th April
Pre-season social night*

*Fri 24th April
First junior practice night*

*Friday 2 May (TBC)
Formal opening of Grafham facilities*

*Sat 3rd May
First mens' league matches of the season*

*Friday 3rd July
Junior awards night*

*Mon 3rd August
Start of cricket week*

*Sat 29th August
Last mens' league matches of the season*

Beyond the boundary: causes we are supporting in 2020

We are very privileged at Blackheath to enjoy fantastic facilities in beautiful surroundings, and for some years now it has been part of the club ethos to do our bit for others, both in the community and further afield.

This year, aside from continuing to support the East Africa Character Development Trust (a charity associated with the Kenya Kongonis), we will be supporting two new initiatives. We will be launching a scheme to encourage local elderly people, particularly those living on their own, to visit and support the club on Saturday afternoons. We are also planning to support the Refugee Cricket Project, a scheme based in Croydon organised by the Refugee Council to offer cricket training and general advice to unaccompanied refugee teenagers. Look out for further details in the coming months.

Peruvian adventure

Congratulations to Blackheath player and coach Danny Harrison, who left on 1 January to spend just under 4 months coaching cricket in Peru. There is a small but flourishing network of clubs in and around Lima and cricket is now taught in a growing number of schools there. Danny's role has been organised by Cricket Peru and funded by the ICC, and he has already run his first few coaching sessions – in Spanish! Fortunately, he will be back to coach the Blackheath U12 squad (in English) before the start of the new season.



CharterhouseClub Welcomes Blackheath Cricket Club

Keeping the whole family fit and healthy is something every family should be thinking about. With over 50 classes per week, our Cedars Active group for active older adults, and our gym based Tribe membership for 12-16 year olds, we have more for the whole family than any other local facility.

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Blackheath Cricket Club members can enjoy a 10% discount on both **Full Club** and **Swim** memberships*

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