

OE CRICKET CLUB

2020 has certainly been a tough year for many across all walks of life. Wandering cricket sides and seasons are not removed from these challenges and the OECC did not play a fixture in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Will Ripley writes:

Though 2020 would appear to be a dormant year for the club many changes and structures have been implemented and we will attack 2021 and beyond with vigour.

Nigel Wheeler has recently stepped down as our chairman and we are eternally thankful for his commitment and stewardship over the past six years (and many more unofficially). Having been master-in-charge of cricket at the College for over 30 years he has a huge passion to see the OECC successful and it is due to his involvement and drive the club has had some success in recent years. We are hugely thankful to Nigel and hope we will be allowed to thank him properly next summer.

We actively encourage as many as you as possible to get involved with the club, whether you have been absent recently or never engaged please do reconnect. Old boys' cricket is a fantastic vehicle to engage with people you have a common interest with, share old war stories and have some great laughs alongside competitive cricket on one of the finest settings for a school pitch in the country.

The club will look to be an avenue for younger leavers to seek advice, network and gain work experience in industry through the OECC network and we hope this can give impetus and generate a stronger membership.

Going forward the club will undertake a slight restructure with an eye to have the involvement and direction of younger leavers to ensure the club stays successful. As of 2021 the committee will look as follows:

Chairman – Will Ripley
Vice chairman – Nigel Wheeler
President – Mike Barford
Treasurer – Peter Morgan
Club secretaries – Giles Robinson and Tawanda Muyeye
OE tour leader – George Burrough
Master-in-charge of cricket – Rob Ferley
Playing committee members – Ben Twine, Angus Stewart, Ed Miller and Jacob Smith

The old boy's week will be a very social affair and is set as follows for 2021, please put these dates in your calendars:

Sunday 4 July (College Field)
 Chairman's & Vice President's XI v OECC
Monday 5 July (College Field)
 Inter OE six-a-side and Golf Comp / New Zealand Club (TBC)
Tuesday 6 July (College Field)
 Uppingham Rovers
Wednesday 7 July (College Field) Oundle
Thursday 8 July (College Field)
 Uppingham Rovers
Friday 9 July (College Field) Stowe Templars

We hope to make the Sunday 4 July fixture a very family-friendly day and would encourage people to come and picnic and enjoy the day. More plans will be released on social events for the week when we know the state of play on hospitality.

The club is looking to invite vice presidents to the club next year and we will be writing to everyone to explain our thinking behind this and what it might look like.

The Cricketer Cup draw has taken place as follows:

1st round – Sunday 13 June
Home (College Field)
Opponent: Bradfield Waifs or Shrewsbury Saracens
2nd round – Sunday 27 June
Quarter finals – Sunday 11 July
Semi-finals – Sunday 25 July
Final – Sunday 8 August

Both Bradfield and Shrewsbury have great pedigree in the competition, but we have a very strong set up at the school producing some very fine cricketers and our side will certainly be young and full of talent. Rob Ferley will be actively involved in our Cricketer Cup side, for which we are very thankful.

The committee and I are very excited for the future of the club and hope to see many of you next summer whether it be on College Field, Lords or other events throughout the year. Should you wish to be more involved or would like to know more please email: oldeastbourniancc@gmail.com.

Here's to a prosperous 2021 for the OECC.

Nigel Wheeler writes:

The Old Eastbournian Cricket Club is synonymous with the names of Thwaites, Lush and Barford, leaders of this very effective, very successful cricket club for so many years. Sons Guy and Christopher set high standards and bridged the gap between the ages. Add a plethora of players, naming a few; Colin Farrant, Patrick Pierrepoint, Tim Bevan Thomas, Alex Halliday, Simon Cane Hardy handled the administrative changes with competence and ease. In recent years Ed Miller and George Burrough have been the lynch pins and add the

name Will Ripley and you have our next chairman, a former captain of the OE side that won the Cricketer Trophy earning us elevation to The Cricketer Cup. A former Head of School, three year 1st XI player opening the bowling and adding steel to the middle order, a chirpy chatter on and off the field and a believer in smart corporate kit! Will will spur on the present players, resurrect some from the past and give imagination and drive to the club.

Rupert Bairamian RIP (School 1975-80). The grandson of Tom Crawford of Kent CC and son of Bob, a member of most clubs in

the South-East, Rupert won his 1st XI colours not just for his batting, bowling and hustle in the field but also for his quick wit and delightfully amusing company. He was a measured, steady batsman with a patent 'tripod' forward defence, a sometime whippy leg spinner and a safe, conversational slip fielder who from that position was happy to advise playing opponents and his own team of suitable watering holes and restaurants for after the match. His finest day on College Field: Friday 14 July 1989, opening for the Scorpions v OECC, Rupert shared a 137 run partnership with R D V

Knight and as the senior partner he made a faultless 105. Generously he coached the county captain through his torrid moments and was never shy of heaping out praise and advice. He became a very useful batsman as the years rolled by. He was a fine club captain, he read the game intelligently and handled his team with humour and grace. He loved playing on College Field. The OE Flag flew at half-mast after his untimely death. This was a fitting tribute to an OE who invariably brought a smile on the faces of his fellow cricketers. [A further tribute to Rupert appears on page 82.]