

OE CRICKET CLUB

After a 2020 with no OE cricket as a result of Covid-19, 2021 proved to be a very successful year for the OECC.

After a controversial tie in round 1 of the Cricketer Cup (more to come below) the club had a hugely successful OE Week, winning five from five with some notable performers, many new tourists and some enjoyable social functions. There were victories against the Vice-Presidents XI, London New Zealand, Oundle and twice against Uppingham. The Sunday of OE Week saw a slightly aged Vice-Presidents XI play a very young OE XI. A hog roast was provided for those friends and guests and older OECC members popped down to join in the day. It was a wonderful sight to see so many families playing by the boundary and we hope it's a sight we continue to see for many years to come. Fittingly before play commenced a minute's silence was held in memory of Richard Day and Rupert Bairamian (spelt the usual way!) two OECC legends who both sadly passed over the past 12 months. Guy Thwaites and Nigel Wheeler said some lovely words on their behalf and the day was a fitting tribute to them.

OE Week scores

- **Sunday** – OECC 183/6 beat Vice-Presidents XI 141 all out. J Smith 3-2 / Ben Twine 52 / Will Ripley 66
- **Monday** – OECC 216/8 beat London New Zealand 165 all out. Ed Miller 65 not out / Jack Fletcher-Price 2-25
- **Tuesday** – OECC 141/4 beat Uppingham Rovers 140 all out. Jacob Smith 45
- **Wednesday** – OECC 173 all out beat Oundle Rovers 84 all out. Ben Twine 3-8 / N Chu 2-11
- **Thursday** – OECC 165 all out beat Uppingham Rovers 157 all out. Giles Robinson 43 / Ben Twine 5-21

Alongside the hog roast on Sunday we had a wonderful dinner with the Ups at Pomodoro e Mozzarella on the Wednesday night followed by the tour dinner on Thursday evening at the College where Jack Fletcher-Price, Giles Robinson and Ben Twine were awarded their OECC ties



Action from the match against London New Zealand

and Matt Hobden Foundation belts as new valued members of the OECC. It was a superb week and though held in Covid times, the week certainly set the club up for future tours with a great mix of young and old playing and attending. Thank you to all of those that contributed to its success.

The hunt to win our first Cricketer Cup competition goes on for another year after a controversial tied game vs Bradfield Waifs ended with us losing on 'count back' on runs scored at each side's penultimate over. A very young talented side were bowled out for 159 in 39.4 overs. Joe Pocklington and Charlie Hobden made 48 and 51 respectively and took the attack to Bradfield, with a number of deliveries landing over the bowler's head on the hockey astro. Bradfield Waifs were 133-4 at one stage but some fine bowling from Charlie Hobden (4-27) and Jacob Smith (2-17) had Bradfield 159-8 with the game seemingly dead. But Jacob took his two wickets in his final over to tie the game and bring about a chaotic search looking for a Cricketer Cup rulebook. The ruling was made: Bradfield took the game as their score on their penultimate over batting was higher than the OEs, though our net run rate on overs faced was superior. Our misfortune has led to a rule change for the competition going forward and a super over will now be held to decide a winner in the event of a tie, as our game was ultimately dead before the drama ensured in the final over, with the way the rules were written.

The young OE side committed greatly to the day and lead up; we were hugely fortunate

that we had both Rob Ferley (College Head of Cricket) and James Tredwell (College pro and former England cricketer) give up their time to manage the side and run the day. We have a great opportunity in the coming years and we hope to have a big cup run in 2022.

We have drawn a local derby for 2022 and will play Hurstpierpoint (Old Hurst Johnnians) on Sunday 12 June on College Field; all are welcome to support. The game will be live screened as per all OE games and highlights available online for those that can't attend.

Huge thanks to those that have a passion for OECC and keep the club running, 2022 will be another great year with a number of social functions arranged: OECC drinks at Sixes Cricket Fulham, Tour dinner in OE week, and we have two tables at the Cricketer Cup dinner arranged for November 2022. College cricket is in fantastic shape due to Rob Ferley's great efforts and he wants to continue to build closer ties to the OECC which is great for all. Rob has produced four cricketers who have signed professional contracts in the past two years, which is a huge testament to the work he is doing.

Finally a word for Emma Garratt who has thrown herself in to supporting the club in her new role. It's great to have the support of the wider OE community and we hope to continue to be a vehicle for all to enjoy.

Here's to a wonderful 2022.

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