

**Ossett Cricket Club**

**Newsletter December 2017**

These are exciting times at Ossett CC - Extensive work has gone on behind the scenes during the close season and we would like to share this progress with you.

**Juniors at Ossett CC**

Our junior section remains a shining beacon in the local & cricketing community with well over 100 members but **we did not have one regular, home-grown player in our senior 1st XI in 2017. Changing this is a priority, but it will take time.** A junior think-tank is working on a plan to smooth the path in to senior cricket for our most talented juniors, thus ensuring essential organic sustainability. **Our newly formed Ossett Academy XI** has already been accepted in the Mid Yorkshire Sunday League and is testament to this long term objective.

**A New Pavilion**

A sub-committee has been formed under Bob Schofield to oversee ambitious improvements to our facilities, realising the long term ambition to attain a degree of autonomy through a purpose-built pavilion for which plans have already been passed by the local authority. Not much more to report on this at the moment, but watch this space.

**Committee & Seniors**

New roles have been filled at committee level with a view to support our Chairman & vastly improve culture & results at 1st team level. As a result of our efforts we are extremely proud to be the talk of the league across social media having made five significant signings and at the same time retained all of our existing talented players. In so-doing we have created a competitive senior squad culture which will bring the best out of our players. Here are some brief details about our new guys:

**Dan Busfield**

Buzz has joined us as club captain and brings with him a wealth of experience having played 1st team cricket for Birstall, New Farnley and Hanging Heaton where he started as a junior. He climbed through the HH ranks playing senior cricket from the age of 15 so he understands the importance of 'opportunity.' Dan then followed his cousin to New Farnley where he was club captain of a consistently strong side for 5 years. Dans finest moment on a cricket field was at Ossett where he took two hat tricks in a career best 9-21 in 15 overs. (We suggest you don't ask him about it unless you want to write off the next two hours of your life!) Dan has played a key role in securing all of our new signings and has already arranged a lucrative Sportsmans Dinner with a great comedian (Max Pressure) and an ex British Lion speaker (John Bentley) which highlights his commitment to Ossett CC both on and off the field. A medium quick bowler with a good cricket brain that will score some very useful runs in the middle order.

**Ian Philiskirk**

Ian made his senior debut at Scarborough aged just 14 in 1997. He played for Scarborough for 3 years then moved to Leeds and played for Yeadon and Farsley where he had his best season scoring 829 1st Division league runs in 2004. Ian then moved to Baildon where he was a major contributor in them winning the league in 2009 before playing with Farsley again and then Hanging Heaton. He played the last two seasons at Lightcliffe CC and over his illustrious Bradford League career has amassed over 10,000 runs with 10 hundreds & career bests of 140 & 8/44. A high calibre top order batsman that bowls left arm spin. Safe to say we're all looking forward to seeing Ian out in the middle in 2018.

**Joe Finnigan**

Joe served his cricketing apprenticeship at Ossett CC as a very effective junior that ascended the ranks and became a key member of our first team up until 2013. Joe sought a fresh challenge at Townville CC where he played in a very successful side, finishing as runners up in the Heavy Woollen Cup Final in 2014. More recent years have seen him dominate the conference division with Wakefield St. Michaels scoring 653 league runs last year and taking 69 league wickets (16 more than his closest rival) at an impressive average of just 9.17. Great to see Joe back where his roots lie, and make no mistake, it's equally as great to know we'll see a lot more of his Dad Lawrence at HQ on a Saturday afternoon.

**Matt Varley**

Matt is widely recognised as one of the best all rounders in the area. He enjoyed recent success at Wakefield Thornes and played a major part in the Yorkshire Champions triumph in 2016. Bishop Thornton was his home club in 2017 in division two of the Nidderdale league which saw him take 39 league wickets with his left arm spin at just 14.95 and he crashed 402 runs at a S/R of 108. An Ossett lad who will not only dominate on the field but is sure to bolster the improved culture off it.

**James Van Der Merwe**

Born in Pretoria in 1995, James went to Pretoria Boys High School and graduated from the University of Pretoria with a business management degree in 2016. He played Premier League Club Cricket for Adelaar CC from 2013-2017 and last year finished top of the Bradford League Conference division having amassed 923 league runs in 18 innings at 54.09, striking at 102 with a top score of 183. He scored nearly 200 runs more than any other batsman in the division and chipped in with 16 wickets at 14.13. An impressive young man with a great attitude.

Perhaps most pleasing of all is that most of our players have committed to two years with Ossett highlighting the mutual commitment between club & player.

**Shared Objectives**

**Ossett CC has a lot to be proud of, and we're going to make it even better.**

Everyone agrees it is imperative we all move in the same direction, together. We have consulted several experienced individuals and collectively set out what we feel each section/team/player/member should be striving for. This will create a sustainable, successful, progressive cricket club with a great culture, a buoyant junior section and successful senior teams.

We accept not everyone will share (exactly) these objectives at the outset but we request a degree of compromise in this period of transition. We expect all members to work together to achieve these objectives but we also encourage amendments or updates as progress dictates and as members see fit.

**Ossett Cricket Club Mission Statement & Objectives**

All players & members will respect the rich heritage and success of Ossett CC. The club will continue to contribute to the local community by developing local talent & striving to achieve success both on and off the field. The club will create a pathway for junior players to enter senior cricket, all-the-while instilling recognition & understanding of what it takes to run a successful cricket club. This pathway will create an organic source that will secure sustainability of our great club for decades to come.

**1st Team**

**2018 Objective**

To win every cricket match with a vastly improved culture, finishing minimum top third.

**Longer Term Objective**

To be a sustainable premier league team with several home-grown players, enjoying a fantastic culture.

**2nd Team**

To support the first team and expose juniors to ALL aspects of senior cricket including winning/losing/practice/raffles/collections/teas/scoring & post-match culture. Developing an all inclusive mentality and recognising what it takes to run a cricket club and the need for outside help from family & friends.

**Academy**

A key role in the pathways scheme introducing juniors to all aspects of senior cricket, encouraging them to flourish in the right atmosphere, aiding the smooth transition to 2nd & ultimately 1st team status, all the while learning nuances of the game only playing can teach them.

**Juniors 17’s**

To enjoy cricket, win matches and prepare juniors for the academy & senior cricket.

**Juniors 15’s**

To enjoy cricket & improve relevant skills, aiming to win all cricket matches breeding a winning mentality.

**Juniors 13’s**

To enjoy cricket & create awareness and understanding of the mental side of the game. To develop practical skills in a forgiving and welcoming environment with a focus on winning.

**Juniors 11’s**

To enjoy & adapt to cricket using a hard ball, utilising mental agility in order to understand the game and to think for themselves.

**Juniors 9’s**

To introduce children to cricket with an all-inclusive attitude and a focus on winning in certain competitions. The club will recognise differing abilities early and use Saturday tournaments as a forum for wider selection incorporating varied abilities and gender.

**All Stars**

To introduce young children to cricket with an all-inclusive attitude in a fun, safe environment.

**Womens Cricket**

Ladies and girls are welcome. One of our medium term goals is to have an Ossett Girls and Ladies team playing in competitive cricket. Please help spread the word.

**A message from our Chairman, Bob Schofield**

We are in need of help in securing funds as part of our required contribution ( 50k ) for the new pavilion. Ideas for fundraising and help organising are invited please contact me if you can help. We are looking for scorers for both senior teams please contact Sue Croxall to express an interest. Help is needed for match day catering e.g Tuck shop please contact Sue or myself if you can help.

**A message from our Junior Chairman Lee Stevenson**

Hi everyone, what a busy winter the club is having, great changes are taking place across the entire club and I for one am very keen to see the effects these are going to have. I have appointed a couple of people to help me out with the running of the junior section, namely Jo Stevenson and Claire Goodlad. Both have kindly volunteered their time and hopefully, by sharing the workload we can make it run smoothly, we are always looking for volunteers to help out even if its only to do a raffle on a Friday evening, anything would be appreciated. Have a great Christmas everyone and see you all in the new year. Here’s to 2018

**A message from our Club Captain Dan Busfield**

I have always had an affinity with Ossett CC - some great battles against the likes of the Sadler brothers, Chris Hosley, Dave Sonia to name but a few. I could always feel the passion the lads demonstrated and I want to be part of resurrecting that culture on and off the field. It’s a fantastic opportunity to lead a club like Ossett which is steeped in history and a focal point for the local community. I am passionate about developing senior players and giving younger players the opportunity to progress and be the best they can be. I hope you will all help me get my first major fund raiser off to a good start and sell as many tickets as you can for 29th March - sure to be a good night, just before our season gets underway. See you all at the winter nets, if not before.

**Senior Dates:**

**28/12/17** - A 'quiet' Christmas get-together. The club will be open on 28th December and we'd like as many members/players/juniors as possible to call in for a tea-time drink from 5pm. No pressure, and we understand it is a busy time for everyone but it will be good for some of our new guys to meet us all - and more importantly for us to see if they're up to scratch in the bar!

**18/2/18** - Dan has booked our winter nets - 4 lanes from 18th Feb - 18th March inclusive at Horbury Academy, 7:30pm - 9:30pm

**Junior Dates:**

Winter Nets at Horbury Academy priced at £2 per session

**8/1/18** - Fortnightly, so every other week starting 8th: Allstars & U9's 6-7pm and U11's 7-8pm

**15/1/18** - Fortnightly, so every other week starting 15th: U13’s 6-7pm and U15’s 7-8 pm

**Our cricket committees would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.**

**ROLL ON 2018!!!**