

Sternians Cricket 2015

The last Sunday of term saw a most enjoyable 4-way cricket competition with the College 1st XI, a staff team and two Sternians teams having fun in a T20 format.

As ever, the Sternians A team, gathered by last year's school captain, Toby Salmon, was packed with talent and comprised a side that would challenge in a high-quality men's league!

In the major event, played for the annual trophy, the Sternians amassed an impressive 211. Freddie Gee saw the school team off to a good start by removing Andrew House for a duck but Christo Arundel and Johnny Dow steadied the ship before Robbie Heywood (retired out), John Hodgson and Mike Salmon featured in a partnership of 115 which saw off the 1st XI's hopes. Robbie had opened the batting for the victorious Oxford University side in their one-day Varsity Match at Lord's on the previous day and, after a shaky start (possibly brought on by celebrating that victory?!), he suddenly found his touch and the ball disappeared a long way!!

In reply, while Freddie Gee was at the crease, there were still some worries for the Sternians but, in the absence of the school captain, Hugo Hammond (representing his county), the boys struggled against a mighty total but ended on a creditable 154. Clive Hicks tried his best for the boys by calling a wide when Simon Culmer edged to the 'keeper (!) but Mike Salmon bowled with accuracy and power (a broken bail was an evident trophy) and Johnny Dow's guile was also crucial. It was good to see Freddie pitched against elder brother Will in this game.

On the School House pitch a Sternians B side were having fun dealing with a Staff team which included a rare cricketing outing for Fergus Livingstone. Alex O'Meara's runs gave the Sternians a comfortable winning margin, especially as master i/c cricket Dave Beven was run out early on!

While the school team dealt another cruel blow to the Staff in the afternoon it was great to see so many Sternians fighting it out for the bragging rights on the main square. In this game we saw Andrew House back in form, ably supported by George Breddy. Runs also from Will Gee and Toby Ward contributed to an even more daunting score of 229 for 6. The Sternians B string put up a noble 159 in return.

Thanks to the services of Churt C C, Ed Walker was able to persuade some 'new' Sternians to participate. It was lovely to see old friendships being re-established in a side which included Jamie Wheeler, Phil Burston, Ian Leek, Alex O'Meara and Nick Ovens and captained by Ben Rotheram. George Sandford bowled well and managed to rope in dad, Paul, for the day. George Emery was as tidy as ever behind the stumps and Ed Walker's elder boy, George, helped out with some useful runs. Jon Palmer represented the elder generation!

What a joy to see the three Salmon brothers reeled in to play in the same team with a proud mum summoned for a photo opportunity as well!

Thanks to Ali Cotton and his team for providing the top-quality wickets, to Chris Jones for his customary top-quality catering, to the non-playing Sternians who came to watch proceedings, to Dave Beven for arranging the day from the LWC end, to Ed Walker for spending many hours gathering together the B team, to Gill Kelly and Chris Huffam for making sure it was a typically memorable Sternians day, to the members of staff who gave up their Sunday to face so many good cricketers and to the boys who were still at school to represent the College, especially Safwan Mohammed and Jamie Read who were ready to join in.

As Mr Hicks said afterwards, we had no touring sides or visiting schools this year and the whole event constituted an LWC “love in”.

Sternians A:

Toby Salmon {capt}, Mike Salmon, Tim Salmon, George Breddy, Andrew House, John Hodgson, Christo Arundel, Toby Ward, Johnny Dow, Will Gee, Robbie Heywood

Sternians B:

Ben Rotheram {capt.}, George Emery, Jamie Wheeler, Phil Burston, George Sandford, Nick Ovens, Jon Palmer, Ian Leek, Alex O’Meara; with help from Paul Sandford and George Walker.