

Cricket report 2017

Another splendid T20 day and a huge thanks to all who participated: the boys from school, the old boys of the college, staff colleagues and guests from around the local clubs and our friends from Binstead CC.

It is a measure of the school's cricketing success that the 1st XI was depleted due to county calls and the current college captain representing his club in a national competition. This made the traditional contest for the trophy an unavoidably one-sided affair with Andrew House rolling back the years with an impressive batting display. The school followed up with a victory over the Invitation XI to bring back some smiles. The Binstead boys enjoyed the day again but were no match in the play-off for the fire-power of the Sternians. Robbie Heywood hit the ball long and hard, one ball, indeed, pretty much registering a '10' as it cleared the boundary on the main pitch and went for 4 on the School House pitch too!

It is a credit to Ali Cotton and his team that those returning always comment on the standard of the college wickets and grounds. It is a relief for many of them to play on a surface far superior than they experience at club level. It is an equal relief for me to escape from the silly and unfunny attempts in school matches to "get into the opposition's head" with unnecessary remarks; on this day I am entertained by the genuinely amusing banter of a set of former pupils who enjoy their cricket, clearly enjoy each other's company...and, of course, enjoy taking their opponents "to the cleaners"!

It makes no difference to the camaraderie that the old boys team comprises players from a range of year-groups. Recent leavers like Dan Scott are embraced as much as the old stagers like George Emery, Tim and Toby Salmon, Christo Arundel, Alex and Hugo Hammond, George Sandford, Toby Ward, etc. Thanks go to John Hodgson for assembling the team in the absence of last year's captain, Simon Culmer, who was on his grand tour.

Thanks to Dave Beven for once again making sure that the college and the Invitation XI had enough players on the day and for arranging the appearance of the three other umpires. Thanks to Gill Kelly, Chris Huffham and the Sternians Association for supporting and managing the day and to Edward Walker for dutifully manning the score-book. Chris Jones fed and watered us all heartily with his customary excellent lunch and post-match barbecue.

I'm already looking forward to next year's T20 day.

CCH