



## Hampstead Norreys White Hart Cricket Club

### End of Season Report

Despite the usual erratic English weather, we managed to play the majority of our Sunday friendlies this year, with seven wins and seven losses. However, our major success came in the Charles Hoile Downland league played on Wednesday nights, winning ten games with only four losses allowing us to finish behind Didcot (who we nearly beat at home!) in second place which was good enough to get us promoted to the second division next season. We also had in the six a side tournament at Brightwalton this year, with HNCC 'B' reaching the semi-finals and HNCC 'A' making it one stage further, narrowly losing to Brightwalton 'A' in the final with a couple of balls to spare.

Notable bowling performances were Stewart Clark's 4-4 against Harwell International and Paul Dennis' 7-36 against Aldworth. In terms of batting, Dan Adkins hit an impressive 95 against Harwell, Jo Laver a 72 against the Woolly Midgets and Will Nevill crafted a fine 59\* against Donnington. Special mention must also go to Ted Simpson for his 14 against Speen (you'll have to ask him why...).

Jo and Will's performances have been particularly pleasing this summer as both are just fifteen and it is good to see some youth in the side and doing well. Unfortunately, we currently have no youth teams at Hampstead Norreys but this year Dan Adkins and myself have been teaching Kwik Cricket up at the Primary School. I was a pupil there many years ago and it was great to give something back to the school by providing the opportunity to learn the basics of this great game. The enthusiastic response from children was fantastic and I hope they continue to play and enjoy the sport, especially after the success they enjoyed in their tournament up at Brightwalton where they finished second. Dan and I were extremely proud of their achievement, particularly as many had never really played a game of cricket before and we will certainly be looking run more training sessions next year.

With any club, as important as the players are, we simply could not achieve what we have done with the hard efforts of certain individuals and tremendous support we've had from the village itself. First of all, a great debt of thanks must go to Mick Hartwell who for several years now has put a massive amount of effort into all aspects of the club, including fund raising, pitch preparation and general donkey work. He even managed to come out of retirement a few times this season when we were short! Thanks also to Pete Laver for arranging our fixtures, James Craigie for umpiring, the Parish Council for their assistance with grass cutting and to all those who helped with pitch preparation this year,

in particular those who did not play themselves. Thanks also to those who came and supported us this year and it was good to see so many of you involved in our H.N.C.C. vs. H.N.C.C. game at the end of the season.

Special mention must also go to the tea ladies this year for some fantastic spreads, which would rival anything on offer at any cricket ground in the Country including Lord's! So thank you Mary Dennis, Kat Simpson, Amanda Sands, Becky Block, Claire Throw-Smith and my mum Diane Swingler (Who often gets called upon last minute!).

Thanks must also go to those who donated money to us this year, without which we simply could not run the club. Andy and Jayne Green kindly donated us a percentage of their ticket sales from last year's pantomime and a significant amount was also raised from the cart race this year, so thank you to all involved in both those events. There are also several people in this village (who I won't embarrass by naming) who have generously donated money to us season after season despite not being directly involved in the club. A financial report will be available soon which will include details of how we hope to spend this money in the future.

A final thanks must go to Tracey and James at the club's spiritual home, the White Hart, for continuing to support the club in a variety of ways and we are looking forward to enjoying our end of season awards dinner there soon.

As a final note, I have been playing cricket for Hampstead Norreys for over ten years now and have been captain for five of those and I can safely say this year has been one of our most successful and enjoyable seasons in recent memory. Considering there was some doubt whether we would be able to run the club this year, it makes our achievements even more impressive and it has been great to play with such a great bunch of lads this season, particularly as the majority of our players live in the village itself.

I hope with everyone's continued support we can make next season as successful if not more than this one has been.

Ben Swingler