

TAPLOW CRICKET CLUB

REPORT AND RECORDS

FOR

SEASON, 1989

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Chairman's Report

This summer's all-rounder, for sheer consistency, magnitude of performance and maintenance of form (i.e. round) was unquestionably the SUN. I'm not referring to the newspaper with the well-thumbed page three, but that spherical object in the sky that in most summers in England seems to put in only fleeting appearances. This year it excelled itself and provided a cricketing context to be remembered, and hopefully repeated in 1990 (or sometime, perhaps?).

The good weather and dry pitches tilted the odds in favour of batsmen, and as the season progressed run targets were subject to rapid revision. Totals of 200 became commonplace, and at least one captain regretted declaring with 'only' 250 on the board, which the opposition proceeded to knock off without undue qualms!

Another plus was the usually high proportion of tight finishes which made for very enjoyable games, often involving what might normally have been considered unlikely targets being taken on and achieved or nearly so.

In a season which admittedly favoured batsmen, there was all the same one outstanding individual performance which deserves mention here. That is the fluent run-scoring of Graham Paskins; as the records will show, 1847 runs at an average in excess of 40 was head and shoulders in advance of previous achievements at Taplow, especially as Graham is still, comparatively, on a 'learning curve'. This, together with his wicket-keeping, keen and committed vice-captaincy on Sundays, and captaincy of the Evening League team, made him a deserving (youngest ever) winner of the Marriott Trophy for 1989.

As a club, Taplow is now the focus of well-established all-the-year round activities: cricket, football, darts and social. It is good to see the club's facilities being used in this way, whilst at the same time it all adds to the 'wear and tear' on premises and ground. During the year, extensive refurbishments were carried out in the pavilion, with new seating, carpets and curtains in the bar lounge and tea-room area, new flooring in the dressing rooms, and re-decoration inside and out. This was largely paid for by means of a generous donation to the Club made by John Midlane, and it is fitting that we should thank him for this typically spontaneous gesture.

In the meantime we should all be aware that, whilst thankfully at present the Club is financially 'in the black', costs- especially when any major project looms - continue to rise, so fund-raising activities remain important. In some previous years we have been fortunate to benefit from Celebrity cricket matches sponsored by Terry Wogan; it is now clear that we cannot count on that particular source of 'one-off' income in 1990, so other efforts will be needed. All ideas and contributions are welcome!

In rounding off the 1989 season, the final words are reserved for our retiring President, Raymond Lock. As most of you will know, Raymond and Irene have now moved to live in Scotland and he therefore felt it timely to stand down after 17 memorable years as our President. The Club made a special presentation to him at the Annual Dinner Dance a couple of weeks ago, but I would like to record here once again our thanks and lasting appreciation to Raymond - and to Irene - for their close interest in and support given to Taplow Cricket Club during so many years. We wish them well in their home on the Spey and hope to see them from time to time on their occasional visits 'South of the Border'.

Jeff Elder
Chairman