



## The Philanderers CC

### THE GRASSHOPPER Volume XXXV No. VI

No, no, please don't thank me. I completely understand everyone's overwhelming desire for a final 2020 Newsletter to brighten these dark, damp and pandemic ridden midwinter days. So here I am as ever riding to your rescue. Although before shining a warming light on your world I have to bring a modicum of sadness too. The Philanderers CC Sunday XI worthily won a place on the original BBC shortlist for Team of the Year. However, prior to accepting this invitation I requested that Will Hammond, he of Kenyan humanitarian deeds, went head-to-head with Marcus Rashford for the Special Achievement Award. When this entirely plausible proposition was declined, non-too politely I may add, I must tell you that I summarily withdrew the 'Sunday boys' from the Team Award and which decision I am certain will be endorsed by you all. Anyway, SPOTY is rubbish these days!

Now turning to positive things and which initially means next season's fixtures and which I hope will be played in their entirety. I have now completed the 2021 fixture list and which, in respect of the Sunday matches, is the strongest and most interesting in the club's history. We have now firmly infiltrated the top echelon of the long-established wandering club circuit without anyone seeming to notice! Unfortunately, we will not be playing our traditional fixture at Holkham Hall with that club sadly in trouble on several fronts. On the bright side we have 3 new opponents in Frogs (1903), Gentlemen of Essex (1907) & Grannies (1956) plus the return of Buccaneers. This means there are now 12 Sunday games, spaced out as best I can, and for which I firmly hope that very strong player support will be forthcoming. In parallel these matches are being played at quality, and invariably attractive, grounds which includes Clare for the first time in many years. Our seasonal away game at Holkham has been replaced by one at Coggeshall in Essex. This may sound less romantic but it is a well-appointed ground on which Essex 2<sup>nd</sup> XI play so therefore just about acceptable for The Philanderers! We are again at The Perse and have half a dozen fixtures at the lovely Exning Park. Hopefully everyone is pleased.

I have decided that with the current playing membership numbers that 8 midweek evening matches remains the optimum number. They are all against what are becoming our traditional midweek opponents and pitched at the

right playing level I believe. Please note that the full fixture list is now shown on the club website. Blowing my own trumpet, a very rare occurrence I fully appreciate, I need to add that new opponents frequently mention being impressed with the website. I just thought that I'd mention that as well!

As became obvious from the above we now have 6 Sunday games at Exning Park with the deal virtually being completed with Burwell & Exning CC regarding our club's financial support for the provision of a new electronic scoreboard. This is in the capable hands of Ed Dodson. In brief, the Heads of Terms signify that The Philanderers CC is making a gift of £1,250 together with a Loan of £1,000, the latter to be repaid in equal monthly instalments over 5 years. In return we have first choice of 6 match dates each season, this also lasting for five years, with each at a reduced hire fee which will in fact save us a total of £600 (effectively reducing our gift to £650). Hopefully everybody remains fully supportive although it rather too late to back out now!

Returning to the matter of fixtures there is a notable one taking place at the neutral venue of the Jockey Club next Friday when Sharon will be making an honest man of our very own Edward Dodson. I am sure that you will all join me in wishing the happy couple a great day and much happiness together in the future.

Talking of expenditure earlier reminds me that I am about to embark on a club clothing frenzy. Well maybe that's something of an exaggeration which I threw in to maintain everyone's concentration levels as they may well be waning by now. What is my wish is to replenish the stock of sleeveless pure wool club sweaters and, for the first time, have a stock of quality cotton polo shirts in club colours (plain or hoops). I specifically used the word wish because shortly following this Newsletter the membership will hear from me again - yes, I know, too good to be true!! - with a circular seeking support for said purchases, or, perhaps otherwise. There is of-course no point spending on clothing stock from which few people intend to make a purchase.

Sadly, the end draws near but before signing off I must draw everyone's attention to the other attachment with this Newsletter. Carrying out my annual midwinter audit I came across the massive Report of the club's Tour of Holland in 1995 by wordsmith Tim Simmons. Having nothing better to do, which was why I was doing the audit of-course, I read the enormous thing and embarrassingly found myself laughing out loud on several occasions. This was obviously in part because of my own recollections but it is a very amusing

documentation of 5 days in the life of a dozen chaps abroad which I hope will be enjoyed by everyone even though not knowing half of the participants.

Concluding I must draw your attention to four particular aspects of the Report. Firstly, to those large swathes of you who only know the club in its current successful youthful guise please be assured that the rest of us oldies were actually young once and knew how to have a good time even though day in, day out we were not always that successful on the field of play. However, would the recent *French tourists* take due note that we were undefeated Dutch tourists despite many over indulgences which included a Red-Light District! Secondly, looking at the front row of the photograph you can see the hirsute boy forerunner of Burnett with his blond Dutch love child standing just behind him. Thirdly, you will find that Redmayne was once a superstar when Stokes was in nappies. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, you can at last see in the second full paragraph on page six (you were warned on length!!) what an exceptionally enlightened captain and superstar player that your Fuhrer was in his youthful heyday! Happy Christmas everybody.

Phil

7<sup>th</sup> December, 2020

[www.thephilandererscc.net](http://www.thephilandererscc.net)



*The club's 500th match versus Incogniti on 26<sup>th</sup> July being played at the Perse*