

## The Philanderers CC

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The forthcoming thirty-fourth season may bring us a couple further landmarks. In the event of minimal cancellations the club will achieve its' 500<sup>th</sup> game. Whilst in the event of no physical breakdown, visits to A&E and of-course no England call up, admittedly all somewhat unlikely, John Burnett will gain the further twelve appearances needed to reach his second magical 300 and I suppose another commemorative T-shirt, oh dear. An achievement which I failed to bring to everyone's attention last season was Nick Redmayne's valiant arrival at 250 career wickets despite suffering from body deficiency syndrome these past few seasons.

I am pleased to now draw your attention to the website which has been brought fully up to date and beautified throughout with many more photographs - all the way from About to Contact - bringing more faces old and new into the consciousness of the world.

The Elders' Lunch Club continues to flourish with a new high of 15 members and took the exciting step of adding in a Christmas Lunch with ladies. I am happy to report that everyone emerged from the excitement unscathed.

The recent winter weeks have seen George Dean adventurously planet surfing from mingling with the Barmy Army in Sri Lanka to mingling with the Aussi Pro in Melbourne. Out of the frying pan into the fire springs to mind!

Owing to the sad demise of the Dinner there is no actual opportunity to present the club's two awards so I shall take this platform to make the announcements. The Poppy Cup for outstanding achievement in 2018 goes to Jamie Rutt for his magnificent contribution with bat (25no) and ball (6 wickets for 16 runs) significantly assisting in the victory against Free Foresters. As regards the Endeavour Trophy, awarded for doing what it says on the tin, this is given to George Dean as reward for becoming a batsman after years of, well, endeavour. Joining young Gill he partook of an important 92 run 3<sup>rd</sup> wicket partnership in our final game of the season at Clavering. It was indeed a doughty effort. I trust that the 2017 recipients, namely the young Gill and the older Hegarty, will ensure that the trophies are handed over to the current star turns in the not too distant future.

Going forward I will very shortly be seeking membership renewal for the coming season and simultaneously exploring avenues for player recruitment. It is of paramount importance that the club recruits at the very least a new player or two each year to maintain standards and indeed to ensure that decline does not set in. It is especially important this year as I have arranged what is probably the strongest ever fixture list and which may be viewed on the website. This incorporates an exciting post Brexit raiding tour to France (there's still room to accommodate a couple more tourists). Going backwards to warn about the future I need only mention the 2001 season which was the nadir in the club's fortunes. A severe lack of recruitment for a number of years led to an ageing ever smaller playing membership of only 14 causing the fixtures being reduced to the alarmingly miniscule number of 8. Obviously I am not saying this nightmare scenario is currently on the cards but neither should it be forgotten.

Still enough of all that happiness and joy. I now release you from reading duties with a final exhortation to suggest or introduce a new playing member or three prior to the start of season XXXIV.

Phil

17<sup>th</sup> January, 2019

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



*Maturing like fine wine!*