

# The Oxton C.C. Monthly Newsletter



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## Winter nets start soon!



Winter nets start soon! Please try to attend where possible. Payment can be taken on the night (£3) or upfront (£30).

Scheduling:

**Wednesdays: (Start 30/01/19 - Finish 03/04/19)**

7pm to 8pm - u15's and Ladies/Girls

8pm to 9:30pm - Seniors only

**Fridays: (Start 25/01/19 - 29/03/19)**

6pm to 7pm - Juniors u9's

7pm to 8pm - Juniors u11's

8pm to 9pm - Juniors u13's

Regarding coaching and structure, club coach **Jack Smith** will be offering expert advice to players and overseeing the format of the sessions, assisted by other coaches who will be in attendance.

Also, club spin legend **John O'Brien** has agreed to help out in coaching the spinners throughout the programme, looking into the summer. As one of Cheshire's most successful left-arm spinners this is a great opportunity for all spinners to get involved. John's List A record boasts best figures of 4/40 at an average of just 26.

ISS 04

FEB  
2019

## Trivia

**December trivia:** The batsman complete one run off a wide delivery. As the ball is returned, it deflects of a fielders' helmet that is laid behind the wicket keeper, on the ground. How many runs are scored in this scenario?

**December Answer:** 7 runs are scored.

**February trivia:** The striker plays a pull shot, and the ball lodges in the grill of the short-leg fielders' helmet. The fielder pulls the ball out and appeals.

You are the umpire, what is your decision?

## Oxton Entertainments Committee

The entertainments committee wishes to thank all members and those who attended and helped sell out the Christmas Lunch back in December of last year. The event was a tremendous success for both the club and attendees. There are another two events planned for the coming months, with tickets selling up, don't miss out!

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019** - Chinese New Year Extravaganza

Tickets for this event are now sold out!

The event will include a banquet, quiz, Lion dancing and a Tai Chi display.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019** - Cheltenham Gold Cup Lunch

Tickets are priced at £50 pp (£450 for table of 10)

Dean Saunders will be speaking along with comedian Gary Marshall and attendees will be provided a three course meal. This is always a sold out event to move fast to secure your tickets! See the flyer later in the newsletter!



OXTON CRICKET & SPORTS CLUB

**SOLD OUT**

Chinese

Banquet, Music, Quiz,  
Dancing and a Tai Chi Display

*'Year of the Pig'*

Friday 8th February – 7pm

**Chinese New Year 2019!**

Adults: £15

Children (13 & under): £10

Family (2 adults & 2 children): £40

For Tickets please contact Ian Gauntlett (07884472870) or  
John Mitchell (07808099787) or email  
[info@oxtoncricketclub.com](mailto:info@oxtoncricketclub.com)



## Jack Smith Q&A

Prior to the 2019 season, below is a Q&A segment with new club captain Jack Smith, covering a little about him, his cricket, plans for Oxton for the upcoming season and progression. Good insight to what to expect this year!

### *How does it feel to be club captain again for the 2019 season?*

Firstly it's a privilege to be voted in as club captain again following a sabbatical back home to Australia for work in 2017/18. The 1st team has incrementally improved its performance in recent seasons, largely due to the attraction and retention of good quality cricketers who are adding value to club on and off the field, and an improved focus on preparation for games with the support of an increasingly engaged committee. I look forward to developing the Lion Pride further and shaping an enjoyable yet focused environment for winning games of cricket for Oxton.

### *For those who are new or unaware, could you give a brief background to your cricket playing career?*

I grew up in South Australia before moving to the nation's capital Canberra to attend high school and University. I played senior grade cricket with Weston Creek from the age of 14, moving up the grades to debut in the 1st team at age 17. I represented Canberra at the u17 and u19 youth level alongside good friend and team mate Brad Haddin. By age 20 I was opening the batting in Weston Creek's 1st team premierships winning side and made my debut as a semi-professional for the Canberra Comets in the National 2XI ACB Cup competition. After completing my Psychology degree and graduate development programme in the Civil Service I took time out in 2001 to travel to England and play as an overseas amateur with Neston in the Cheshire Premier League. Upon my return to Canberra I hit a purple patch with the bat at the 1st grade and National 2XI level and further took my opportunities in a series of international fixtures against New Zealand and England including playing for the Prime Ministers XI. At 24 on a wave of success, I left Canberra to return to Adelaide to attend the Australian Cricket Academy full-time and resigned from my government job. In 2002 I earned a state player contract with South Australia, captaining the state 2XI and making my first-class and one-day debuts on the Adelaide Oval against Victoria and Queensland respectively. A major dream goal achieved. In 2005 I retired from first-class cricket at age 28 due to injury and work opportunities.

## Jack Smith Q&A cont.

I picked up my tertiary studies in Psychology committing a further two years full-time study and work to register with the National Board as a Practising Psychologist. Living in Adelaide I opened the batting in the A-grade with Adelaide Buffalos winning the premierships in 03/04 as captain and with West Torrens Eagles again winning the premierships in 06/07. I married my wife Emma in England in 2007 and we relocated to start a family in the Wirral. I returned to Neston to play as the overseas professional scoring over 4000 runs in 5 consecutive seasons including the Cheshire Premier League record in 2009.

I was the Neston club captain in 2009 and 2010. Following the birth of our second son I took time out from playing to concentrate on family and my psychology consultancy before returning to coach Oxton in 2016 and return playing in 2017. Following a couple of disjointed seasons due to work commitments in Australia, I am now back as club captain and coach of the Lions to help achieve our aim of promotion back into the Premier League.

### *Moving onto club cricket, a legend at Neston, what type of legacy do you hope to leave at Oxton?*

With the support of like-minded individuals past and present at the club, I hope to develop a performance culture where everybody prepares to win each week and plays the game in the right spirit on the field. Where all teams and umpires share the wins and losses together in the bar. A trophy or two in seasons to come would be brilliant but that depends on how well we can execute our game plans and the calibre of future opposition we encounter.

### *We are just about to start the winter training programme, what can attendees expect during the sessions?*

More tailored approach this year with an emphasis on partnerships, goal-driven preparation and skill acquisition relevant to individual roles. Separate group fitness sessions to build stamina, prevent injury and foster unity. Preseason fixtures against Merseyside competition teams have been organised for both the 1st and 2nd team.

For the diary:

- **Winter nets** start **Wednesday 30th January** at Birkenhead School from 8pm until 9.30pm and will run for 10 weeks.

More information – Jack Smith: 07425061584

**OXTON CRICKET & SPORTS CLUB**

**CHELTENHAM GOLD  
CUP LUNCH**

FRIDAY 15TH MARCH - 12:30PM



Following a three course meal guests will be entertained by Welsh football star **Dean Saunders** and comedian **Gary Marshall** before they have a chance to win on the big race

Tickets - £50 (or £450 if booking a table of ten)

Please contact John Mitchell on 07808099787

or Laurence Richards on 07872468606

**Tickets still remain for this event, but are selling pretty fast...  
Please secure your ticket ASAP to avoid any disappointment!**

## Jack Smith Q&A cont.

• **Weekly fitness sessions** start Thursday 24th January at Birkenhead High School Academy 7pm-8pm (pending numbers)

More information – Ian Gauntlett: 07884472870

• **1XI pre-season** v Wallasey at the Lion's Den – **Sat 13th April**

• **2XI pre-season** v Sefton Park at the Lion's Den – **Sun 14th April**

### *What is your highest individual score?*

202 not out playing for Canberra Comets against New South Wales at Manuka Oval, Canberra.

### *Who is the best player you have played with, and who is the best you have played against?*

With - Darren Lehmann with South Australia  
Against – Brett Lee for New South Wales

### *Who is the fastest bowler you have ever faced?*

The Wild Thing - Shaun Tait. 100+mph! Redbacks team mate and A-grade club derby rival (Adelaide v Sturt) – frightening in the nets and even more potent in the contest. Top bloke off the field.

### *Is there anything you wish to change for the upcoming season?*

Finishing 5th was an under-achievement last season after being 2nd at the half way mark. We were unable to win the close games outright. Upon reflection, both consistent 'team' preparation and taking individual responsibility under pressure are the two priority areas we can control and improve in 2019. We have recruited a number of new 'local and experienced' players to increase competition for places at the first team level which in turn should strengthen the depth of the club.

## Jack Smith Q&A cont.

### *Getting the club back to winning ways is of course the aim - what is your aim for the 2019 season for the club?*

1st and 2nd team promotion. It won't be easy, being successful never is. All players will need to play their part in achieving team success and earning the right to sing the Lions victory song on a consistent basis.

### *As club captain and club coach, what's your expectation from players for the next seasons' cricket?*

You get out what you put in – right? Players need to commit to a full season of training and playing together if we are to achieve our aim. Give your best, support each other and respect the game and all who are involved in it.

### *We have a large number of promising young players at the club, do you have a message as club captain to them and how they can progress through the teams?*

I have observed the emergence and development of a number of young Lions since joining in 2016. Some are now regular names on the 1st and 2nd team sheets. My message to our young Lions is - work smart in training, be willing to learn and take responsibility for performing. Do these 3 things consistently and you will be rewarded with opportunity. If at first you don't succeed, keep trying.

### *Finally, do you have a short message for the cricket section as a whole prior to the 2019 season?*

Everyone has a role to play in the club being successful. I encourage all playing and non-playing members to ask themselves – can I do more to add value to the Lions this season? If the answer is yes, no matter how small, then please don't be afraid to do something about it. Be proud to be part of the Lion Pride.

Massive thanks to Jack for the detailed Q & A!



## Oxton C.C. vs. PCA Masters 2019

Oxton are glad to confirm once again they will **host the PCA masters for an exhibition match** in 2019 @ Townfield Lane!

**Date to put in the diary is for 21st June 2019!**

There will be official communications regarding the event, with some flyers etc. in due course.

Please members share the date and details with others as the committee and those involved are putting in a lot of effort behind the scenes.

There will be the pre-match meal with an exclusive auction for some highly sought after items on offer.

**Table Prices** (£200 deposit required):

- Premium Package (includes a player at table) - **£825**
- Standard package - **£695**

There will **of course be standard admission tickets** with an array of food & drink on offer throughout the day.

The details of the standard admission will be published in due course.

Last season saw a convincing Oxton win against the PCA masters, making it 1-1 over the two years so far!

This match is a great spectacle with players taking part over the last matches such as 2005 Ashes winners, Matthew Hoggard & Simon Jones. All names are notable, but the likes of Mark Ramprakash, Ryan Sidebottom, Phil Mustard, Alex Tudor amongst others showcase some of the best England players over recent years, and what better to watch them playing at Townfield Lane.

It represents a key date in the clubs year, so it cannot be stressed enough that ticket sales are crucial as usual. Please could all members take it upon themselves to try to sell the event to family, friends and anyone who may have interest? Pre-booked tickets will of course be the best option to ensure admission, so let's all try to drum up the interest!

**Please contact Graham Cashin for details at this stage regarding tables for this event.**



## Cricket aside...

A few OCC members will be starring in the 'Birkenhead Gang Show 2019' which will be performing at the Gladstone Theatre in Port Sunlight Village. OCC stars include Johnno Fairclough, Denise & Joe Kivlehan.

The performance dates are Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019. For tickets, you can call the booking office on 0151 652 3737 or visit their website by [clicking here](#). Adults ticket £12, Concession ticket (child/senior) £10 & Family £40.

In their local 6-a-side football league, 'El Jubrador' are sitting in 2<sup>nd</sup> place! The team is mainly made up of junior members of OCC such as Ollie Perry, Jack Breheny, Max Varey, Jack Corran with Ed Tilleard currently on the injury bench!

In the Oxton Fantasy football, Ali Crick out in the lead, Jack Corran in second with Mike Talbot in third. Ollie Perry struggling near the bottom.

Help **raise funds for Oxton Cricket and Sports Club** whenever you shop online! Use easyfundraising to shop with over 3,300 big name retailers including Amazon, Argos, John Lewis and ASOS – when you shop, you'll raise a free donation for Oxton Cricket and Sports Club every time, it's that easy!

Help support us: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ocsc/>

## Club Kit - 2019

No major updates at the moment- we are awaiting the 2019 Adidas range brochure from Sportsville to be able to compare to the Gray Nicholls range. Once we have it, we can then see the feasible options on the table with members, before to decide on the best course forward. Aim is to potentially get some samples at some of the winter nets for players/parents.

## Player Recruitment 2019



We are pleased to announce that **Alex Risk** has signed with Oxton in preparation for 2019 season from Caldys C.C. Having already been a familiar face throughout the club last season for the u19's, Alex will now play his senior league cricket with the Lions. Last season playing in Caldys's 1XI, Alex scored 296 runs @ 21 whilst also being able to keep wicket. Good luck from all at Oxton!

To add, the club is hopefully close to confirming some more proven cricketers in the coming weeks to bolster the teams and add some options regarding selection.

Regarding recruiting of an overseas player, the search is ongoing as the player we had lined up dropped the interest from his side.

## Oxton CC Golf Day - 2019



Oxton Cricket & Sports Club extends a warm invitation to join them at their 'Club Golf Day' at **Hurlston Hall, Ormskirk** on **Friday 12th April 2019**.

All are invited to enter in what will be a fabulous competition. The tee off at 11am will be preceded by bacon sandwiches & coffee from 10am and then following the 18-hole round, players will enjoy a two course meal around 4pm. There will also be a raffle with some excellent prizes.

The cost for the day will be £45 per head. Interested parties should contact Andrew Gibson ([angibson@deloitte.co.uk](mailto:angibson@deloitte.co.uk) or tel. 07748 708212).

## A.O.B.

### Cricket Teas:

We are currently exploring a number of options with regard to the provision of cricket teas on both Saturdays and Sundays. One option is to seek volunteers who may be willing to take on the task on some sort of rota. This would maybe mean 3 or 4 matches each, over the season.

If any non-players, parents, partners etc. would be willing to help with this please contact Laurence Richards on 07872468606.

### Cricket Force 2019:

The nationally organised dates for cricket force are on the 5-7<sup>th</sup> April (the club will confirm in due course).

We hope to make it a weekend this year with most of the work will be in changing rooms and on the exterior. We will work to try to ink some dates in for the club to gather and begin these essential upkeep pieces of work. It would be great to see a rise in participation this year from previous, as really more sets of hands to help and support all involved!

## What's on?



**25/01 - Oxton C.C. Junior Winter nets** @ Birkenhead School Sportshall (£3 per session)

**30/01 - Oxton C.C. Senior/Ladies/Girls Winter nets** @ Birkenhead School Sportshall (£3 per session)

**08/02 - Chinese New Year Extravaganza** @ Oxton C.C. clubhouse. See poster for details & tickets

**15/03 - Cheltenham Gold Cup Lunch** @ Oxton C.C. clubhouse. See poster for details & tickets

**5-7/04 - Cricket Force** @ Oxton C.C. (**final dates TBC**, these are national dates to pencil in)

**12/04 - Oxton Club Golf Day** @ Hurlston Hall, Ormskirk

**13/04 - Oxton C.C. 1XI v Wallasey C.C.** - Pre-Season friendly @ Oxton C.C. (*Time TBC*)

**14/04 - Oxton C.C. 2XI v Sefton Park C.C.** - Pre-Season friendly @ Oxton C.C. (*Time TBC*)

**21/06 - Oxton C.C. X1 v PCA Masters XI** @ Oxton C.C. (*Time TBC*)

For hiring out the Oxton C.C. clubhouse - pricing & availability: 07872468606 or email [info@oxtoncricketclub.com](mailto:info@oxtoncricketclub.com)