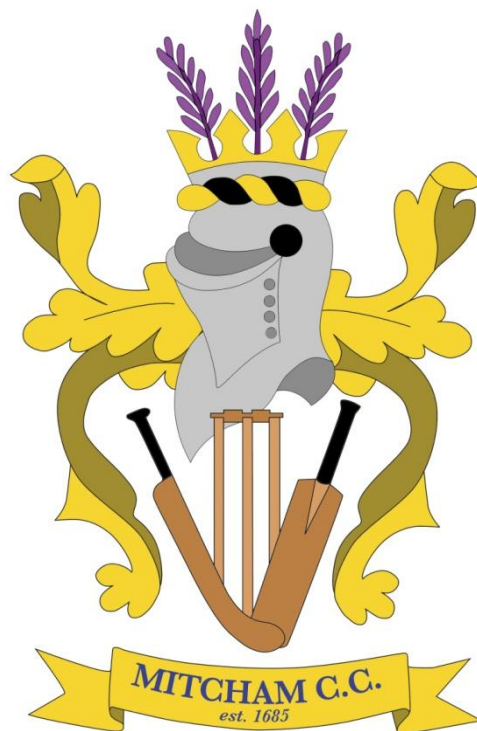


***The Mitcham Cricket Club
Annual Report and Accounts
2016***



***Annual General Meeting
Thursday 24th November 2016***

www.pitchero.com/clubs/mitchamcricketclub

mitchamcricketclub@gmail.com

About Us

Mitcham Cricket Club have an active membership of senior players – fielding four senior sides each week during the season. It also has a significant and growing junior section including three junior league teams. Most of the Club's playing membership is drawn from the Merton area and the Club plays a vital role in offering the opportunity for young people to play cricket as few have the facilities to access cricket through their state schools. We also provide an important social hub for non-playing members, many of which are former players. Our membership has an age range of seven to over eighty.

Our cricket pavilion is registered as an Asset of Community Value. Further, it is locally listed and in a conservation area. The pavilion is of heritage significance and has a long communal history. Mitcham Cricket Pavilion was opened in 1904. It was purpose built as a cricket pavilion and has only ever been occupied by Mitcham Cricket Club. The neighbouring cricket ground, which we use during the playing season, is registered as a Town Green. There is good evidence that it is the oldest continuously used cricket ground in the world. We can trace its use for cricket back to at least 1685. The Green is also an important recreational asset in the Wandle Valley Regional Park.

The Cricket Green in Mitcham also has global importance in the history of cricket for a variety of reasons – reflected in its inclusion in the recently published Remarkable Cricket Grounds of the World (Brian Levison, Pavilion Books 2016). The Green was a place where cricket was regularly played prior to the formalisation of the rules of the game. In the 19th and 20th centuries it has played host to international matches – the Club and its Green acted as a training base for the first Australian national Test teams touring England; women's international cricket teams have also played there. Mitcham players played a key role in setting up the Surrey County Cricket Team, many Mitcham players played for Surrey. Mitcham Club members have also represented England in men's and women's cricket.

Prepare the Ground Day

Thanks to those who came down to help at the beginning of April to prepare the club for the 2016 season. Local company SITA UK yet again kindly donated a skip to the Club to remove the junk that had accumulated...where does it all come from?

You can see from the picture that the event is affiliated to NatWest Cricket Force – t-shirt elegantly (☺) modelled by head colts coach Adrian Gault.

Behind Adrian you can see the sofa that had mysteriously appeared in the pavilion during the winter. Thankfully this unwanted "gift" found its way into the skip. After it had made its way down from the first floor via the balcony as it wouldn't fit down the stairs.



Club Kit

This season we continued with our online Club shop for Mitcham CC kit. Just go to www.kalibazar.co.uk/club/mitchamcc choose your shirt, cap or jumper with our Club badge embroidered on it and have it posted direct to your door in a matter of days.

In addition to playing shirts and jumpers there are polo shirts for training and supporters. We intend to stick with this arrangement for 2017 and if we secure a sponsor we can arrange to have that added to the kit available through the online shop.



Agenda AGM 8pm Thursday 24th November 2016

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 26th November 2015 to be received and confirmed.
2. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts 2016 to be received and adopted.
 - a. Approval of constitution amendment to allow instalment payments (see page 26)
3. Presentation of Awards for 2016

Memorial Awards	Shantosh Suganthan
	Idris Sayed
Burn Bullock Tankard	Matt Devon
Fred Cole Cup	Shaz Mahmood

4. Election of President
The Executive Committee nominates P.D. Batty Esq to serve as President.

5. Election of Vice Presidents
The Executive Committee nominates the following to serve as Vice-Presidents:

C L Bashford*	K Jones*	T Todd
Mrs J Bellamy MB	C A Peacock*	D Webb
K Bond	J C Rattle	P White-Young
K C Burgess	M Short	G Williams*
F G Day*	P G Smart	Mrs R Williams
E J Green*	B Smith	M J Wilson
R M Hines*	R A Stevens	J C Wray*
R Humphreys	J Strover	
		*Life Member

The following nominations have been received for new Vice Presidents

David Bell	Julia Gault
Adrian Gault	Dennis Seymour Sr

6. Election of Life Members
The Executive Committee nominates Peter White Young for Life Membership.

7. Election of Officers

Office	Current Holder	Office	Current Holder
Chair	P White-Young	Sunday XI Captain	A Khan
Hon Secretary	J Gault	1 st XI Vice-Captain	M Knight Robson
Hon Treasurer	T Campbell	2 nd XI Vice-Captain	D Seymour jr
Hon Fixture Secretary	S Kumar	3 rd XI Vice-Captain	S Suganthan
Cricket Committee Chair	D Seymour sr	Sunday XI Vice- Captain	S Mahmood
1 st XI Captain	P Vyas	Colts Secretary	David Bell

2 nd XI Captain	M Devon	Welfare Officer	K Jones
3 rd XI Captain	M Gouma	Head of Colts Coaching	A Gault

8. Election of Executive Committee (all officers listed above plus J Strover)

9. Appointment of Auditor

The Executive Committee nominates Vincent Clark to be appointed as auditor for 2017.

Stop Press - Obituary

M R "Jimmy" James

Jimmy James, one of the outstanding Mitcham batsmen of the mid 1950s and early 1960s, passed away on 2nd November at Bexhill on Sea at the age of 87.

Jim joined the Club in 1957 having played most of his previous senior cricket for Elmers End. He was by this time regarded as one of the best opening batsmen in the Greater London and Southern Counties area; something that was recognised by the Club Cricket Conference when he was capped by them in 1957, following his debut in 1956. In all he played 10 matches for the CCC between his debut and 1958, highlighting in 1956 being invited to play against the Australian tourists at Lords.

His dashing style of play with a fine array of strokes almost always saw him trying to dominate the opposition's attack, either giving us a positive start to build a total, or when batting second, chase down the target, even against the odds.

Jimmy's partnerships with the equally attractive batting of Colin Morgan could be devastating. Against Merton, their undefeated partnership in a 10 wicket win saw their passing Merton's 147 in 77 minutes, this on a Merton pitch not known as a batting paradise. This season was 1959 when Jim scored 1145 runs, Morgan 1193 and Brian Ward 951, all in Saturday cricket alone. For the record Jim's aggregate in the other seasons were: 892 in 1957; 544 in 1958; 764 in 1960; 726 in 1961 and 662 in his last season 1962. Again just in Saturday cricket.

Apart from his batting, his other value to the 1st XI was his brilliant fielding in the offside arc – square cover, cover, extra cover and mid-off. When in conjunction with the equally brilliant talents of Denis Catlin and Kenny Bond, they saved many runs and took some remarkable catches – all thoroughly enjoyed by the vast crowds attending the Green in those days.

Besides his ability on the cricket field, Jim was a good footballer having played in the Surrey Senior league as a classic inside forward – a playmaker type role. He played soccer for Carshalton for many seasons with the likes of fellow cricketers of repute, Roy Swetman, Mike Willett, Dave Halfyard as well as John Harlow and Bunny Groves of higher level football fame.

Jim was a great theorist on cricket, both with regard to techniques of individuals and how he thought the game should be played.

He was also a keen walker and at one period of his life he had walked all the English coastlines – but not all in one day!

P D Batty

Minutes of Mitcham Cricket Club AGM

Held 8pm Thursday 26th November 2015

Present

10. The following full members of the Club were present

Peter White Young (Chair)	Matt Devon
Pat Batty (President)	Ron Taylor
David Bell	Ahsan Khan
Adrian Gault	Michael Knight Robson
Fred Day	Alan Hutchings
Joan Day	Ken Jones
Barbara Holgate	S Udaya Kumar
John Mansfield	Trevor Todd
Barbara Mansfield	Jeff Southgate
Ewan Green	Parth Vyas
Dennis Seymour sr	Shaz Mahmood
Derek Webb	Tim Campbell (Hon Treasurer)
Mick Short	John Strover
Joyce Bellamy	Julia Gault (Hon Secretary)

Apologies

Apologies were received from John Wray, Richard Bellamy, William Gault, John Whitmore, Gwyn Williams, Martin Gouma and James Gault.

President's Address

11. The President welcomed members to the meeting and in particular thanked those who had travelled long distances to be present. He thanked the Secretary for the production of the 2015 Annual Report, but noted that it was disappointing that there were no 1st or 2nd XI reports in it.
12. He noted that 2015 had been a year of stabilisation for both cricket and Club finances. The Club had continued to receive wonderful support from MCGCH – both donations in excess of £1600 as well as practical help with the lease.
13. This year the Club had suffered the sad loss of a number of former players - Allan Wallace and Dennis Marriott both of whom had joined the club in the 1960s; and batting legend Brian Ray.
14. The 1st XI had finished sixth out of ten teams. On a good day they looked like the best in their league, but the middle order was unreliable. They had a good bowling attack. The 2nd XI also had several good bowlers, but were in need of more consistent batting. Teas on Saturdays were outstanding for both the 1st and 2nd XIs – thanks to the Bell and Seymour families.

15. The 3rd XI had won their league. The President congratulated captain Martin Gouma and his team. He noted that wicket keeper Harawal Wassam stood out, with “Uncle” and Alston supporting as solid seniors.
16. The colts had also again been a highlight, topped by the U16 team also winning their league for the first time in many years. The President thanked coaches David, Adrian, Uncle, Safdar, Richard and colts manager Ken for their work with the junior members during 2015. He noted that Ken Jones was retiring as Colts Manager at the end of 2015. Ken had received a commemorative salver at the Colts Presentation evening in September. The President presented Ken with Champagne to mark the Club’s thanks.
17. He reminded members that yet again the Club and MCGCH had worked together to produce a successful Open House event – this year celebrating women connected with the Club. He also thanked the Treasurer for keeping a tighter rein on income from the bar.
18. Looking forward to 2016 the President observed that the Club needed to do more to field a better balanced 1st XI side, which needed better communication between the captains. He also noted that the Club could not afford to continue with year on year losses. Playing members in particular needed to help the hard working Committee to address this.

Minutes of 2014 AGM

19. Jeff Southgate proposed and Ken Jones seconded that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 27th November 2014 were received and confirmed as a true record. This was agreed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report

20. Tim Campbell presented his financial report and the Statement of Accounts for 2015. He apologised for the late production of the narrative report. Following discussion it was agreed that Fred Day would help Tim to present the accounts in a more conventional format – this was vital for use in ongoing discussions about the pavilion.
21. Tim noted that the Club had pretty much broken even in 2015. This had been helped by a number of grants and donations and a legacy from F Seymour. Income from socials and membership was increased over previous years, but there were still some senior players with membership fees owing. And money and the TV had been stolen when the pavilion was broken into earlier in the season.
22. The AGM again expressed the clear view that those that had not paid should not be selected. The Chairman agreed to write again to those who owed money and make it clear that individuals with debts outstanding would not play. He noted that the 3rd XI were exemplary, other captains needed to follow suit and support the Committee’s firm position on this issue. It was confirmed that individuals could pay in instalments. One

honorary member was still dissatisfied and indicated that he would not pay his subscription while playing members owed their's.

23. In response to questions Tim confirmed that there were several seasons of Gift Aid to be claimed.

24. The Chairman noted that the perpetrator of the break in had been caught and ordered to repay what he had stolen.

Awards

25. The President presented Club awards for 2015 as follows:

Memorial Awards	William Gault
	Harawal Wassam
Burn Bullock Tankard	Jane Bell
Fred Cole Cup	Martin Gouma

Chairman's Report

26. Peter White Young updated the members on the actions taken to secure a lease for the pavilion. He noted that the Lottery bid which had been submitted at the time of the 2014 AGM had failed. LB Merton had served enforcement notices on the freeholder to take action to rectify the condition of the Burn Bullock, but no work had been underway on site for some months. Kamran Baig had passed his interest in the freehold on to others and he had attended a recent informal meeting with Jawad Sheik and his project manager Phil Desmond. They had said that they wanted a new pavilion built on the Green so that the pavilion could be replaced with a care home.

27. During the meeting they had indicated that they could serve the Club with a notice to quit the pavilion, but that they were happy for us to plan to play league cricket for 2016. The new freeholders wanted the Club's support for their proposals. They planned to complete restoration work on the Burn Bullock and then get someone to run it as a restaurant. The Club had now written to them seeking a further formal meeting including MCGCH and LB Merton.

28. The Chairman noted that the future of the pavilion was very dependent on what happened to the Burn Bullock and the land around it. Having secured a government grant, the Club had the benefit of an expert advisor (Jess Steele who had previously saved Hastings Pier). LB Merton was believed not to support the idea of a pavilion on the Green. Legal advice was being sought on our old lease and future options. He explained that things were likely to move at pace in 2016.

29. In response to questions the Chairman confirmed that:

- a. local councillors support the Club continuing in its current location.
- b. Consideration was being given to the best ways of involving cricket organisations – including Surrey CCC and Lords – and other supportive organisations.

c. Consideration was being given to the optimum timing of publicity for the situation.

30. The Chairman noted that as soon as the picture was clearer the Committee would invite members to help.

Election of Officers

31. The following individuals were elected to serve as Club Officers for 2016:

Office	Individual Elected	Proposed	Seconded
President	P. D Batty	Peter White Young	Trevor Todd
Vice Presidents	The list shown below were re-elected	Ken Jones	Michael Knight Robson
Chair	P. White-Young	Pat Batty	All present
Hon. Secretary	Mrs J. Gault	Peter White Young	John Strover
Hon Treasurer	T Campbell	Ken Jones	Matt Devon
Hon Fixture Secretary	S Udaya Kumar	Dennis Seymour	Ahsan Khan
Chair of Cricket Committee	Dennis Seymour	Shaz Mahmood	Parth Vyas
Colts Secretary	David Bell	Ken Jones	Pat Batty
Head of Colts Coaching	Adrian Gault	David Bell	Peter White Young
1st XI Captain	Parth Vyas	Matt Devon	Dennis Seymour
2nd XI Captain	Matt Devon	Dennis Seymour	Parth Vyas
3rd XI Captain	Martin Gouma	Peter White Young	Michael Knight Robson
Sunday XI Captain	Ahsan Khan	Shaz Mahmood	Dennis Seymour
1st XI Vice Captain	Michael Knight-Robson	Parth Vyas	Shaz Mahmood
2nd XI Vice Captain	Abdul Razzaq	Matt Devon	Dennis Seymour
3rd XI Vice Captain	S Suganthan	Martin Gouma	Parth Vyas
Sunday XI Vice Captain	Shaz Mahmood	Ahsan Khan	Michael Knight Robson
Welfare Officer	K. Jones	Peter White Young	David Bell

Vice Presidents

C L Bashford*	E C Harman*	J C Rattle	D Webb
Mrs J Bellamy MBE	R M Hines*	M Short	P White-Young
A K Bolitho	R Humphreys	P G Smart	G Williams*
K Bond	K Jones*	B Smith	Mrs R Williams
K C Burgess	C J Leonard*	R A Stevens	M J Wilson
F G Day*	C A Peacock*	J Strover	J C Wray*
E J Green*		T Todd	*Life Member

Executive Committee

32. All of the officers listed above were elected to serve as the Executive Committee plus J Strover as an ex-officio member. This was carried on bloc by the assembled membership.

Appointment of Auditor

33. The Executive Committee nominated Vince Clarke to be appointed as auditor for 2016.

Any other Business

34. Peter White Young noted that the Fullers League and the Championship had notified the Club that the 3rd XI would not be promoted. He explained that the Committee had objected and would be submitting written evidence as the Surrey Cricket Foundation would be arbitrating the issue.

35. The Chair closed the meeting at 9.56pm.

Mitcham Cricket Club Chairman's Report 2016

This time last year I spoke about two things in particular, the consistency of our performances on the pitch at all levels and the difficulties off the pitch which meant that cricket on the Green was more than ever under threat.

On the pitch we again had a reasonable season. The first team finished fourth when their early season form had promised much, winning seven of their eighteen games. Four at least of the team including the two leading bats and the current captain are moving on at the end of the season so a further period of rebuilding is required.

The second team finished their season as champions winning thirteen of their eighteen games, having secured promotion in the early part of August. It will be interesting to see how they perform in the second team premiership next season, where I know they fully expect to be competitive, even though two or three of the current side are moving on.

At the start of the season the third team structure of both the Fullers league and the Championship was restructured which led to the amalgamation of the two at our team's level. In this new setup our third team finished sixth with eight wins. Again the season saw the development of more of our colts into being regular league cricketers and the team should be congratulated for their efforts in this and for remaining competitive throughout the season.

Our Sunday friendly side enjoyed their season winning many of their fixtures fairly convincingly. However it is clear that fewer of our regular cricketers now want to play both days of the weekend so we will have to look carefully at how we approach Sundays next year.

Whatever happens, it is clear that we will have to undertake a comprehensive recruitment drive over this winter to attract more senior players to the club.

One part of this will be how we maximise the use of our new club website, which is a vast step forward on what we have ever had before. The new site can be found at <http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/mitchamcricketclub> and we encourage all members to sign up. Although we will have to continue to upload results through play cricket (for obvious reasons), we will now be able to keep everyone involved with the club fully updated at all times in everything we are doing. Results loaded on to play cricket are also displayed on our new site. The new site will assist us with any future advertising and as it has a secure payment facility, enables players to ensure their payments to the club are managed throughout the year. It also has the functionality to assist with informing players of selection – provided playing members are signed up! I must thank James Gault for agreeing to administer the site.

All our colts' sides were competitive again this year without the level of success of last year's senior colts side. We do, however, have a number of colts with real promise so at the

end of the season we have put five young players forward for consideration by Surrey. We will have to wait to see how these get on.

Off the pitch our position remains unresolved, though not for the want of trying! The freeholder Phoenix Investment Grp Ltd (owners of the Burn Bullock) has been required under enforcement notice from the Council and Heritage England to undertake works to the pub to make it both watertight and safe. Whilst the results of a recent archaeological survey of the oldest part of the building are awaited, Phoenix has recently engaged architects to produce drawings of what may be possible to make best use of the whole site. We are led to believe this may include the provision of flats on the site and retention of the pavilion and our outbuildings.

However Phoenix is still not communicating with us, the Community and Heritage Group or with the Council about their intentions.

At this time we are writing to them again, as are the Community and Heritage Group, to seek to secure the permanent future of the clubhouse and therefore enable us to make grant applications to develop the building and playing resources further; as well as enabling year round use of the facility. Without the pavilion, as I said last year, the future for cricket on the Green is bleak.

All of this is happening at a time when there is massive change on the horizon for the local area. A number of other local buildings are being sold and all our local pubs are currently closed some of them clearly never to reopen. This was the subject of a recent article in the Cricketer magazine.

Additionally our ground and its facilities have been included in a recently published book - *Remarkable Cricket Grounds of the World* by sports writer Brian Levison. This contains a description of some 78 of the most remarkable grounds around the world – acknowledging yet again the important place that the Mitcham Cricket Green has in the history of the game. It is to be hoped that our freeholder can be encouraged to recognise this and that our future can be positively resolved.

There are individuals I must thank:

Following Tim Campbell's accident Adrian Gault has stepped into the role of Treasurer and David Bell has stepped into the management of Saturday evenings. Thanks are due to them both for taking on this extra work at very short notice in addition to the work they already do in looking after the colts.

I know they would want me to thank all the other coaches and parents who have assisted throughout the season - including Ken Jones our ever-present welfare officer. I must also thank both Jane Bell and Nora Khan for their efforts in providing teas in the pavilion on Saturdays for the first and second team. Other sides as well as our own supporters are going away full of praise for what they have had.

Very few people fully appreciate the work and width of effort from Julia Gault as our hon secretary. Her endeavours to maximise the potential of the club are superb and I am extremely grateful for all her help particularly during my absence through illness, which caused me to miss the latter part of the season at very short notice. This year her efforts have included fact checking the articles in both the Cricketer and the Remarkable Cricket Grounds book.

Again I must thank Mitcham Cricket Green Community and Heritage for their unswerving support throughout this year in our shared endeavours to help ensure the future of cricket on the Green; and also the Mitcham Society.

We really do need to all stick together in these very challenging times to take the Club forward, both on and off the pitch. I hope that 2017 will provide some positive results and turn out to be a good season for us all.

Peter White Young

2016 Season Team Reports

1st XI Report

The season was a somewhat frustrating one in the end when it had promised much at the outset but faded away as the season progressed with the team finally finishing fourth having won seven of their eighteen games.

The team's big problem was that of having to rely on two main batsmen and the problems that were forthcoming if either were absent or did not score big runs in a game. Other sides often said that they only had to get the first two out and that the rest would collapse. At their best the team were capable of beating any other side on their day, but too often struggled to put together a full team performance, becoming frustrated and letting the game get the better of them.

Availability also had an unfortunate but damaging effect on the attempts to build momentum with work commitments preventing our putting out the best side until the season was almost half over.

Our two leading bats were exceptional with Parth Vyas scoring 841 runs in 17 matches with an average of 70 including 9 fifties and a maiden hundred. Dharam Vyas scored 803 runs in 17 matches with 4 fifties and 2 hundreds. He was sadly denied a third hundred when on 97 and the opposition bowled wides to prevent him getting there whilst losing and being relegated. The highlight of their season was their opening partnership of 215 at Newdigate, which whilst not being a club record is comparable with some of the best we have had.

On the bowling front Kumar Selveraj again enjoyed a good season taking 38 wickets with his left arm round in 163 overs with a best of 7 for 34. Behind him came Ahsan Khan who took 28 wickets followed by Michael Rogerson with 24.

The team will see considerable changes over the winter with at least four of the senior players moving on including the captain and a process of rebuilding being required for the following season. On the plus side the season saw good performances from a number of up and coming young players – William Gault and Haris Qureshi having regular places in the side, latterly joined by Harawal Wassam.

It would be wrong to finish without saying thank you to Jane Bell for her wonderful teas throughout the season, not bettered at any other ground we visited.

Peter White Young – 1st XI Umpire

Team	played	abandoned	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
Hampton Hill	18	0	13	2	3	294
Long Ditton	18	1	13	3	1	289
Southern Railway, Kenley & Selsdon	18	0	8	3	7	212
Mitcham	18	1	7	2	8	199
Shepperton	18	0	8	2	8	195
Newdigate	18	1	7	4	6	194
Thames Ditton	18	1	7	1	9	190
Chaldon	18	0	7	3	8	181
West End (Esher)	18	0	5	4	9	140
Deando Ruxley	18	2	3	0	13	105

2nd XI Report

The 2016 season saw us in the Fullers 2nd Eleven Division One League for the second year and this time round we started far better. We learnt from last season's start that you certainly cannot win the league in the first month but you can go a long way to losing it. Starting off with three wins over Roehampton, West End Esher and Old Tiffinians allowed us to get off to a very positive start which set us up for the season ahead.

Highlights from those early matches included a five wicket haul by Hanan Burki and a fifty by Abdur Razzaq vs Roehampton, Jay Jones's 4-7 and Vince Clarke's 3-15 vs West End Esher. It was great to see Vince back in the side and he was in amongst the wickets again vs Old Tiffinians with 3-26, Umer Naseem joining him with a 3-14 and Fabian Allen rounding off the good start with him seeing us home with a well needed 22 not out.

Just as we thought we were unstoppable, we had a reality check in the form of a surprise away loss to Farncombe. Chasing 143 following Umer's 4-21 off 9 overs and 2 wickets a piece from Naimit Patel and Jay Jones, we stuttered to only 109 all out with William Gault (36) the only batsman to have an innings of note.

Our batting woes continued into our next match against local rivals Putney with us being bowled out for a disappointing 90, our lowest total for a number of years! We were all well aware that it wasn't good enough (8 scores being less than 5) and were determined to not go down without a fight...enter Razzaq. Having got the team up to 90 with his 37 not out, he proceeded to give the opposition a masterclass in opening swing bowling with 6-23 off 14.4 overs in rolling them out for 81. Real "Boys Own" stuff.

That set the tone for the next match against Sheen Park where Razzaq continued his bowling exploits with his season-best return of 8-30 off 12.5 overs, only being denied a perfect 10 by the weather. The opposition teetering on the edge of defeat on 8-68 while chasing 129.

Next up were Horley who were blown off the park by a 101 run loss which saw Shreyash Patel top scoring with 47 followed by Razzaq (4-38) being ably supported by Umer (2-33), Jay (2-3) and Naimit (2-2) to finish them off.

We went one step further in the next match with a 103 run win over Old Tiffs. Again Razzaq leading the way with another 6 wicket haul, this time for only 15 runs off 11.4 overs. It also saw the emergence of a useful lower order bat and more than useful change bowler in the form of Abhi Raval (2 consecutive scores of 24 at number 10 and 2-5 off 7 overs). Our season was well and truly back on track.

Unfortunately, this match proved to be my last competitive one of the season as I suffered a season ending injury in the first innings. Vice-captain Razzaq kindly stepped up to the plate and took over the reins for the remaining half of the season. Something for which, I will personally be forever grateful.

Never an easy task taking over the captaincy mid-season and this was highlighted in our next match against league table rivals Old Pauline's, who were a close second at the time. A wet pitch greeted us but thankfully we won the toss. To some level of surprise we elected to bat first, possibly recent successes of batting first may have swayed the decision to do the same on this occasion. It proved an ambitious call with us capitulating to 66-6 with only the weather saving us of potentially our second loss of the year. A lesson learnt on playing each match as it comes we moved on from this game still with our league lead intact. No harm done.

Close scares seem to galvanise the team and the Old Pauline's match was no different. A seven

match winning streak followed, clearly showing I was surplus to requirement all along.

A comfortable win over West End Esher was first up (Umer 3-24, Omar Swaby 2-17 and Khurram Babar 2-13 + a quick fire 44), followed by an exciting finish at Caterham away (Umer 3-23 and Babar 3-16) when Caterham got up to 170-9. After Babar's initial 34, a flurry of wickets fell leaving us with us needed 50 odd with just 3 wickets remaining. Abhi (21) and Razzaq (48*) combined to get us close before Razz hit a 4 and then a 6 to finish the game.

Solid performances against Farncombe, where Umer continued his purple patch with the ball (5-23 off 11 overs), and Roehampton (Abhi 3-34 and all round batting contributions from Babar 33, Idris Sayed 35 and Razzaq 51*) saw us extend our lead over the chasing pack.

This continued against Putney (Razzaq 61 and 3-8 off 7 overs, Abhi 4-26), then our biggest win of the season a 133 run win over Horley which saw Shreyash in the runs again with 74 and Extra's chiming in as second highest score with 50. Wickets were shared out that day with Abhi's 3-14, Razzaq's 3-18 and Swaby's 3-28, a fine all round performance.

With three games to go our lead was such that we only required one more to secure the title. The focus was on for our next game, at home to Caterham. The last match with them was a nail biter so we were expecting another tough encounter. They won the toss and sent us in, very quickly it proved the right decision as we stumbled to 3 down with only 5 on the board. Some stability was required and it came in the form of two of the four Burki brothers playing that day - Esa (25) and Hanan (21). Babar (43) and a third Burki brother, Safran (39), batted well at the end to lift us to a competitive 163-7. Their innings started well with an opening stand of 41 but then it was all Mitcham. With the championship within arms' length the boys held strong and Safran (4-6), Abhi (3-14) and Jay (2-15) ripped through their defences to bowl them out for 100 to claim the title.

The last two games became more swan songs than competitive matches with a loss to eventual runners up Old Pauline's (in which Jay finished a solid all round season with 3-36 and Razzaq 62) and a washed out match with Sheen Park (where Babar signed off his memorable season with 5-17 off 6.2 overs).

I should also highlight the other valuable team members not previously mentioned: Shaz Mahmood who played the first six matches before his return to the Ones; and James Gault who picked up where Shaz left off with the gloves.

I would like to thank a couple of people would made the season that much easier for us this year; Mark Hamilton for his solid umpiring efforts, Nora Khan who's teas were enjoyed by all and last but not least Dennis Seymour (Snr) for his unwavering support of the Twos and for helping us in our time of need by donning his whites on more than one occasion. Thank you to you all.

Matt Devon 2nd XI Captain

Team	played	abandoned	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
Mitcham	18	2	13	1	2	284
Old Pauline	18	2	11	1	4	253
Roehampton	18	0	10	0	2	235
Putney	18	0	9	1	6	224
Farncombe	18	0	7	1	7	176
Sheen Park	18	1	5	3	6	172
Caterham	18	0	3	3	9	151
Horley	18	0	5	1	10	149
Old Tiffinians	18	0	5	1	8	144
West End (Esher)	18	1	4	0	10	142

3rd XI – Team Report 2016

2016 proved an interesting year for Mitcham 3rd XI. The enlarged league structure meant we played a number of new teams, and crucially, more Cricket with 18 games this year as opposed to the 12 scheduled last year. Unfortunately this coincided with lower player availability in 2016, meaning many of the seniors and some younger players were promoted into the higher teams to fill the gaps.

But, as they say, “every cloud has a silver lining,” for a number of our youngsters were called up and blooded in the 3s and even in the 2s, and generally acquitted themselves very well! The 3rd XI has always viewed itself as the Club’s development team, acting as a bridge, allowing the U16 players a route into senior cricket, and the Colts coaching team should be proud of their former charges – their fielding in particular has been excellent.

The season started with a close game against Trinity Mid-Whitgiftians which we managed to just win, followed by a loss against a very well-organised Chipstead side. We then managed three wins on the trot before losing a close match to Merstham. The rain came in at this point of the season causing the two of the next three games to be abandoned. Merton Council had banned all play on their pitches on safety grounds – so we were unable to use our home ground Dundonald Rd Rec.

We managed a couple more wins but finished the season with three straight defeats – struggling against the likes of Battersea, Dorking and Merstham. We finished 6th out of 10, but a number of good performances this year came from Sharif Hosseini (bowling) as well as Karan Bala and Damian Greenhall (batting).

Once again Mitcham seem to produce lots of bowlers, so we are hoping to discover some additional batting talent in 2017, should we be able to field a 3rd XI team.

Our heartfelt thanks to the admin team at both Mitcham and the league for helping make this season happen.

Martin Gouma 3rd XI Captain

Team	played	abandoned	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points
Battersea Ironsides	18	3	11	2	1	272
Dorking	18	1	9	3	3	254
Merstham	18	3	9	3	3	229
Trinity Mid-Whitgiftian	18	0	8	3	5	227
Addiscombe	18	1	7	3	6	199
Mitcham	18	2	8	0	8	198
Chipstead Coulsdon and Walcountians	18	1	4	5	7	153
Woodmansterne	18	1	1	3	9	116
Wallington	18	2	1	1	9	73
Sheen Park	18	2	2	1	9	66

Colts Report 2016

We continue to provide two hours cricket training for Colts on Sunday mornings. The numbers of players this season have been good and for the early part of the season they were well ahead of last season. Winter nets were very well attended, and those players who came to nets were among the fastest developers in the summer.

Ken Jones stepped down at the end of 2015 and left a growing Colts section. Adrian Gault took over as Head of Colts Coaching and I became Colts Administrator. We were indebted again to Richard Crompton who provides specialist 1-to-1 sessions, as well as to several parents who supported the coaching sessions. Ken's retirement didn't prevent him from helping out almost every week throughout the summer. His group of under 10s include some excellent prospects for the future. We will try and arrange some friendly matches and pairs cricket to develop those prospects next season.

For a third season we managed to enter three teams in the North East and Central Surrey Colts League – under 16, under 14 and under 12. We also entered two teams in this year's Beddington Festival and arranged several friendly matches against local teams. We hope to do the same next year but need more volunteers to umpire, score and provide lifts. Most of last season's championship winning under 16s team moved into our adult teams. They join a string of former Colts who are starring for the senior sides. If our current crop continues to develop there will be another strong group coming through in the next few years.

We continue to build our relations with Surrey CCC. In May we were pleased to host a session of Surrey's 'street cricket' initiative, which aims to give regular cricket training to children who are not members of a club. Next year we have agreed to be the regular home for the scheme.

Five Mitcham CC boys were put forward for Surrey trials this year. We wish them well.

We make the Green available for the Mitcham schools kwik-cricket competition and this year picked up a couple of new members from the event. Next year Merton Council will run both Mitcham and Morden competitions on the Green and we again hope to pick up some new members.

The annual 6-a-side festival is now in its third year. This year it featured 50 children with the Strudwick Superkings winning the trophy after a great day of cricket which was well supported by parents.

Our end of season Awards Night was a chance to recognize all the children who have played for the club over the season and again the turnout was high and the event was a great success. We were grateful for the sponsorship of Vice-President Joyce Bellamy in supporting this event.

We have just confirmed that colts winter nets will again run on Sunday afternoons from January, but we will be relocating to Rutlish School (as the Harris Academy is no longer able to offer the net facility). We hope that they will be well attended in preparation for a successful 2017 season.

Thanks to all who have helped the Colts this season; including all the coaches and parents, to the MCGC&H and Mitcham Society who generously support the Colts section through fundraising; and most of all to the players themselves.

Under 16s Report

The end of GCSEs and the start of league matches for the U16 team coincided with a wet period of weather, with several of the early matches being washed out completely or in part. It was always going to be hard to follow 2015 when the Mitcham team had won the league – and most of that team were not eligible to play U16 cricket this year. 2016 was a season where the next generation started to show their metal – many of these will still qualify for U16 cricket in 2017 (and beyond).

We had some tough games against strong opposition for example Banstead posting a score of 217 for us to chase. Mitcham batting performances steadily improved over the season, although we struggled to post a score in excess of 100 – stronger opposition tended to bring out our higher scores with 125 against Spencer and 128 against Old Ruts. Most consistent batting performances were put in by captain Idris (top score 23), Shantosh (top score 30) and new signing Faraz (top score 20). Rohit was also a regular contributor with the bat (top score 26*). We missed the more senior players who went on holiday with several league matches still to play. But in the final match at Cheam Maywon Niazi, promoted from the U12s, scored an amazingly powerful 24 (including four of Mitcham's six boundaries) in gloomy conditions.

Idris also struggled to establish a regular bowling attack. 10 bowlers were used between the six games in which we took to the field. The captain was our most penetrating taking more wickets than any other of the Mitcham bowlers (although at some cost in runs). Sami and Rohit also took wickets as did new signing Abdul (his best 2-44 against Old Ruts). On the plus side generally our bowlers gave away fewer extras than previous U 16s teams.

With more experience, next season we should be in a good position to put in a stronger performance.

We are grateful to the parents who supported the team especially with transport and to David Bell who stepped into manage the team as the regular manager was not well enough to undertake his duties.

Julia Gault U16 Scorer

Under 14s Report

Once again the star with the bat for the under 14s was Sami Abdul. His 53* against Old Ruts featured eight boundaries and he was the team's top scorer in spite of missing the last few games as he was on holiday. His six during the Mitcham Heritage day which landed on the pavilion balcony may have been a first for a Mitcham 14 year old! Sami is a fixture in the under 16s as well as regularly turning out for the adult teams.

The team struggled with the ball against bigger opposition: Sutton, Old Ruts and Spencer all scored heavily against us. But Taha Malhi was one of several upcoming bowlers who took wickets and won Bowler of the Year. Pace bowlers Azizullah Andar and Amaan Chitalya both bowled with great control. 2016's Most Improved Player winner, Hassan Khan, also took wickets later in the season.

Player of the year was 13 year old Faraz Kaleem. Faraz joined the club at the start of the season and by the end of it had taken wickets, opened the batting, kept wicket, captained the team and featured for the under 16s and senior sides. He has a bright future.

The highlight of the season was undoubtedly a Cup semi-final at league champion Sutton's main ground. In front of a big crowd the boys took nine wickets, against a team which had thrashed us twice in the league, but fell short in a run chase in bad light. Maywon Niazi was promoted from the under 12s and top scored with the bat and took a brilliant 4 for 11 including three wickets clean bowled in nine balls.

David Bell – Colts Manager

Under 12s Report

It was difficult to get a settled side out for the under 12s, but on the plus side this meant that 23 boys played for the team this year. This shows a healthy strength in depth and a number of younger players waiting their chance to come through.

We finished 6 out of 8 in the league with two victories. The highlight was the home game against Addiscombe. Needing 81 to win, Addiscombe were obviously confident and reversed their batting order (their top batsmen coming in last). At 66 for 7 they weren't quite so confident, but at 77 for 7 it looked like it was all over. Three balls later...it was! Wickets for Aryan and Maywon (2), all clean bowled finished the game for a memorable victory.

Our other success came at Roehampton who were bowled out for 56 with 3 wickets each for Maywon and Hammad.

Against the top teams – Sutton, Dulwich – we struggled, but that is not surprising with such a young team; and they maintained enthusiasm throughout. Indeed we posted our highest score of the season, 106, in our last league game against Spencer – with Sahat (20) and Nasir (28) leading the way. Both are excellent prospects for next year.

Player of the season was Hammad with 100 runs at an average of 25; and taking 11 wickets over the season for 80 runs. Maywon ran him close, taking the best batsman award (with a highest score of 31 not out against Streatham and Marlborough) as well as 11 wickets for 193 runs. Many of the runs against him were snicks taken to the boundary by his pace! He also, as well as Hammad, progressed to play for the older age groups.

Ayaan Ali bowled consistently well without getting the wickets he deserved. Tau Sutherland and Yosef Levine showed great improvement - Tau learning to play straight and Yosef hating to give his wicket away.

There are others who show great promise – Sahat is a fine left arm fast bowler, with another year at under 12, but could also play for the Under 14s. Sam Felton-Smith is an excellent all-round prospect, who will increasingly get results from his sound technique. Aryan, Luxshegan, Muhammad and Mo are fine prospects; and Kumail's bowling is developing well.

Finally a special mention to the (much) younger boys who stepped up this year – Ayarn, Mehdi and Reuven all played magnificently when called upon. And Ayaan Abaid and Reiss Barker deservedly won end of season awards.

Adrian Gault – Head of Colts Coaching



Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage takes an active interest in the future of the Cricket Green Conservation Area (designated in 1969) and its environs. We are the civic society for this part of Merton and part of the wider civic movement through membership of the national charity Civic Voice. We have a very close and longstanding bond with Mitcham Cricket Club.

Throughout the year we have worked on a range of initiatives directly with and indirectly benefitting Mitcham Cricket Club.

Our work towards legal security for the cricket pavilion has continued through the year. We secured a £10,000 Community Ownership and Management of Assets grant which allowed us to access professional support including from legal and architectural specialists and to form a partnership with Merton Council.

As we write, there are at last some signs of movement in terms of developing the Burn Bullock site. The architects' plans will need to deal sensitively with the building which has Grade II listing and Tudor parts, and care will need to be taken with any proposed development on the surrounding car parks. The coming year could be the one during which we finally resolve this long-running issue.

Within this context it is important to remember that Mitcham Cricket Pavilion is designated an Asset of Community Value. This ensures any effort to sell the building would trigger a six month moratorium during which the community could raise the funds and support needed to take over responsibility.

The second Mitcham Heritage Day was held on 17 September this year. Regular participants MCC and Mitcham Parish Church were joined by Mitcham Catholic Church, Cricket Green School, Wandle Industrial Museum, Merton Council's Heritage and Local Studies team and The Canons Partnership (a consortium of MCGC&H, Friends of the Canons, Mitcham Society and Merton Council which is putting together a Lottery bid for The Canons house and open spaces).

This year we did not have the wide-reaching publicity generated by participation in Open House London, as Merton Council withdrew from that scheme. Nonetheless the day was at least as successful as in 2015, and the Cricket Pavilion was buzzing with activity all day. We estimate more than 300 participants across the venues.

Throughout the year we worked hard to defend both the cricket ground and wider surroundings from poor quality development, and in particular our comments contributed to the dismissal of yet another application to demolish the Cricketers pub and build an oversized block of flats on the site. We also helped dismiss an application to convert the

roofspace of Brook House into flats which would have over intensified what is already a very dense conversion of the former offices into flats.

The annual Pirelli Golf Cup tournament held at Mitcham Golf Course in May and our new year social held in January (both organised in conjunction with Mitcham Society) raised £872.50 for MCC, and we were delighted to present this to MCC at our Community on the Green event in July.

MCGC&H is steadfast in its support of Mitcham Cricket Club. If in turn you would like to support us then please do consider becoming a member. You will find a membership form at <http://mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk/join/>

John Strover

Chair
Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage

General enquiries: info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk

Web site: www.mitachamcricketgreen.org.uk

Twitter: @MitchamCrktGrn

Postal address: c/o MVSC, Vestry Hall, 336/338 London Road, Mitcham Surrey, CR4 3UD

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Obituaries

Cliff Leonard

Cliff Leonard, one of the most memorable of Mitcham CC characters, passed away on the 19th July, just two weeks short of his 91st birthday.

Life was never dull or quiet when the outspoken Cliff was around, as he was never shy to express an opinion. His powers of diplomacy would make Donald Trump appear to be an amateur!

Given the nickname of "The Rev" by a former Secretary and Club Captain because of his rather colourful language, developed mainly during his service in the Royal Navy; the adjectives he used were extremely well laced in the vernacular.

After leaving school and entering the general building trade specialising in carpentry, Cliff did not play cricket until his Navy service in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka).

Having a natural eye for ball games and being a naturally coordinated athletic mover, he was encouraged by one of his officers to take part in a couple of cricket matches. His talent saw him become, as he once modestly admitted, quite useful, and good enough to play regularly. He thought that playing cricket a few times a week when land based was a better way to spend his time than performing general duties.

After serving King and Country, Cliff never thought much about cricket, but as he was courting his wife-to-be Eileen the eldest of three daughters of Fred and Lil Cole (names synonymous with Mitcham CC) and often attending family gatherings where cricket was a regular topic, he thought he should consider taking up the game again.

His ultimate decision to join Mitcham was made a little easier as Joyce the middle daughter was engaged to one of our most prolific batsmen Bob Parker (who was also the Tooting and Mitcham FC centre forward and local hero); and Sheila the youngest daughter was "going steady" (as they say) with seam bowler Jack Dorling who was a regular in the Mitcham 2nd XI. Joyce and Bob were soon to be married and Sheila was to become engaged. So in Cliff's words "If you can't beat them, join them!"

The rest is history, as this was the start of an involvement with the Club for around seventy years. Cliff almost immediately immersed himself wholeheartedly in all aspects of Club life, especially with matters concerning the upkeep of the pavilion. His skill as a carpenter and his all around ability with other aspects of maintenance proved invaluable for some thirty years – replacing windows, painting and decorating as well as general repairs.

His playing career was spent mainly at 2nd and 3rd XI level where he performed as a very capable early middle order batsman who was very quick between the wickets, but his main asset was his lively fielding and his outstanding ability as a close to the wicket catcher, mainly in the gully.

Such was his fielding, he played for the 1st XI for one season in the mid 1960s for his fielding ability alone. Always a good Club man he was quite happy to play where selected, but did enjoy the light hearted banter when playing for our 3rd XI. His "arguments" with his good pals Ken Bolitho and John Wray often causing consternation and much amusement in turns, to all who witnessed this.



Cliff Leonard (right) with Alan Wallace

Cliff was captain for the thirds for a brief period, but he didn't entirely enjoy the experience.

At one stage in his playing career and still in his prime, he gave up playing and became 1st XI scorer, a role he performed in a neat and most efficient manner. He also served on the Executive Committee and our Selection Committee for many years. As a committee man he was prone to having a short fuse, especially with people who had much to say, but were nowhere to be seen when action was

required. For a time he was Chairman of the Selection Committee, where surprisingly enough he showed calm judgement, as indeed he did when he took up umpiring 2nd XI matches.

Cliff was honoured to become a Vice President of the Club and was later honoured with Life Membership.

On a Sunday, he represented the wandering side Old Carshalton a club with a good solid base of Mitcham cricketers and a large number of families and friends as supporters. In the winter season and in his more active years, Cliff played a good standard of soccer for Frinton Rovers and for Vanfield. He also played for Wandgas Mitcham for a few seasons in a side that included former Tooting and Mitcham players Alan and Bob Parker; Dan Rhodes and Baz Crawford among others. This was a high level of football in which the fast and very robust Cliff more than held his own, especially in his tackling. In today's game he would have been "red carded" within minutes. He certainly made the likes of Nobby Stiles and Ron "Chopper" Harris look like saints!

During the latter part of his life, Cliff took up bowls playing for the Mitcham Bowls Club and also undertaking the practical labours behind the scenes – and no doubt getting up to a bit of mischief as well as causing mayhem along the way!

Cliff throughout his life was a man with a big heart, always willing to do someone a good turn and a favour, providing they were deserving and genuine people. He was certainly one of a kind.

E C "Dick" Harman

One of our oldest and long serving members, Dick Harman, a Vice President and Life Member of the Club, passed away at the end of June at the age of 95, on the Isle of Wight – his home for the past 30 years.

Dick was a prominent member of a vintage Mitcham 1st XI from the immediate post-war years, until 1959 when he stepped down to the 2nd XI and continued to play for us until 1970.

Initially Dick was a lively fast bowler, but with a Mitcham attack which included the likes of Bill Culmer, Fred Smith and Paddy Paddison his role in the side meant that often he did not bowl until after the spinners had performed and then just preceding a second spell by the front line pacemen.

By 1949 Dick had become an integral part of the attack and reducing his speed to medium fast, his powers of late away-swing increased. This coupled by his excellent stamina and control, enabled him to bowl for long periods and when necessarily performing as the stock bowler, keeping things tight with accurate line and length.

Overall, Dick captured over 800 wickets for the Club, his best Saturday season being in 1955 when his haul was 67 wickets. This included two fine performances of 7 for 38 against Shepherds Bush and 7 for 42 against Brighton Brunswick.



As Mitcham did not play Sunday cricket until 1963, Dick played for two Sunday sides in turn: Bishopsford and the News of the World, both made up of mainly Mitcham CC players.

On one occasion playing for News of the World, Dick put in a remarkable performance of taking ten wickets, this after he had scored a hundred in his normal, powerful, belligerent fashion! As a late order batsman, he was always willing to give it a go in the quest for quick runs – either to set up a good total before the declaration, or in an attempt to pursue victory when chasing a total.

Dick was at one time vice captain of the 1st XI under both Eric Ide and Alf Turnbull, but his main experience in office was when he became captain of the 2nd XI in 1964, a post he held for four years. This he did in a very forthright way, playing a very competitive brand of cricket, always showing enthusiasm, determination; as well as giving his players (especially the younger ones) much encouragement. He also captained the Sunday 1st XI in 1966 & 67. Dick was well known for making witty remarks – for example, often when playing on the Green he would attempt to forecast the weather by observing the cloud formation “over Will’s Mother’s”, stating that any potential rain would miss the Green or alternatively that we could expect rain within half an hour. Will’s Mum apparently lived somewhere in the Morden direction. None of us ever found out who Will was or whether he actually had ever existed!

Also if someone had missed a fairly straightforward catch, Dick would observe that he could have caught it on the end of a certain part of his anatomy, something that was never proved or disproved as far as we know!

Dick also played regularly for the powerful midweek side the Wanderers, an old established Club whose origins dated back to 1881. Their membership was drawn from leading players mainly from the London area, the Home Counties and the Southern Counties. Membership of this elite band was generally by invitation.

In his younger days, Dick was a good footballer, playing for Bishopsford (who were originally formed as a soccer Club before solely concentrating on cricket) and for Tooting

and Mitcham where he showed the same tenacity as he had portrayed on the cricket field. He also played a “mean” game of golf, having a very powerful drive and a fairly low handicap. Dick always played sport to win.

Dick’s wartime career saw him serving with the Royal Marines (he kept his hair cut to strict military requirements throughout his life!) and after the war he returned to civvy life to make his way in the construction and Civil Engineering Industry in a very successful career.

Eileen, Dick’s wife, who died a few years ago, was the first lady Secretary of the Club. She was one of our keenest supporters and a very knowledgeable critic. Their son Richard was member of our Club, more or less from the day he was born and was a former colt. So, sadly with Dick’s passing, another link with our illustrious past has now gone, but for some of us the memories live on.

P D Batty

Ken Bolitho

The Club was saddened to hear of the passing of former Club Chairman Ken Bolitho at the age of 88. Ken stumbled into cricket shortly after National Service when he was persuaded to help out the newly formed Aldershot Cricket Club. This was the start of a love affair with the game which was to last for the rest of his life. He arrived in the Mitcham area in the mid-1960s and soon found his way to the Green and into the 3rd X1. Ken became a stalwart at that level, a steady opening bat who also became one of the cornerstones of the new Sunday 2nd X1. Off the field, he became Club Secretary in 1968, a position which he held with distinction for five years.

Ken treasured his sometimes turbulent relationships with “sparring partners” Johnny Wray and Cliff Leonard and the eccentric “gentle giant” Chris Day. The game’s ups and downs would be dissected in this company, with Ken perched on a bar stool, slightly furrowed brow, puffing on his cigar, jug of beer for the opposition and sipping his beloved brown ale. After a spell away at Sutton, Ken was welcomed back to his “spiritual home” to take over as Club Chairman in 1984. He oversaw the Tercentenary celebrations and led a vigorous, though unfortunately unsuccessful, campaign to secure new facilities for the Club. Ken was entirely responsible for extending the life of our much admired Year Book, which only remained a viable proposition due to the generous patronage of his Malden Manor Press business.

Away from cricket, Ken was a very competent football referee, especially popular on the local Old Boys League circuit, a keen golfer and an accomplished actor in local amateur productions.

Ken’s latter years were spent in the charming village of Bletchingley. True to form, he immersed himself in the affairs of nearby club, Outwood.

Ken Bolitho was a character, a true Club man, always willing to contribute rather than benefit. He played for the enjoyment of the game, always observing the highest standards of sportsmanship and ever ready to socialise with colleagues and opponents long into the evening afterwards. He will be sorely missed.

Ewan Green

Treasurer's Report – Acting Treasurer Adrian Gault

The underlying financial position of the Club is not healthy. Although there is some money in the bank, the net loss sustained in the year to 30 September 2016 was £4,000. This follows a similar loss in 2015, even if that in part reflected one-off expenditures to improve the kitchen in the pavilion.

The end-year balance shown in the bank is £5,017. Of this £2,600 is treated as set aside for back rent payments, in case our landlord, despite promises to the contrary, should decide to demand rent payments which have been refused since 2009. This leaves a working balance of £2,000

The financial position is therefore unsustainable. The 2016 loss has three main components:

- Only 11 senior players have paid annual subs, a deficit on what should have been paid of around £2,300
- Non payment of match fees, amounting to £2,000
- A lower profit from the bar than had been hoped, by around £1,200.

A culture of non payment amongst some of the senior players has to be tackled. This is what lies behind proposals being put to the AGM today, which aim to:

- Allow for playing members to pay annual subs by instalments over the length of the playing season - currently the constitution requires payment in full by 31st May.
- Encourage use of the new website to pay by instalments and to collect match fees.
- Seek endorsement from members that selection policy should be strictly enforced, such that players who have not paid annual subs in full or are not up-to-date with instalments will not be picked to play.

This last point is crucial. Going with it has to be a recognition that if not enough players have signed up, then the 3rd team will be withdrawn from the league for 2017.

These proposals are made with the intention of giving senior players every encouragement to pay their way. If we can't achieve this, in the longer term there will not be a secure financial base for the Club to continue.

Having set out this position, the rest of this report provides a summary of the remaining income and expenditure position for 2016.

Expenditure was generally in line with expectations. The largest item (over £8,600 in the year) was for ground maintenance. It is not easy to see that we could get an equivalent service at lower cost to the excellent work we get from Andy Goulding. Other significant items included insurance (£1500), league fees (£955), utilities – mainly gas and electricity (£1340), printing and stationery (£580), ground hire for the 3rd XI and winter nets (£2,000); and junior coaching (£1010).

In terms of income, the colts section has continued to thrive, with over 60 colts paying their subs. The rate of junior subs was raised for 2016 to £40 – the first rise in many years – a total of £2400 was received. Non playing members have paid over £300 in honorary subs. Advertising by Goodfellows and ProCom has raised £1150 and facility hire outs £600. Fundraising (net of costs) brought in a small amount – helped by the sponsorship of the

Colts festival by BMS Transport and due to a generous donation from Joyce Bellamy, the end-of-season colts awards night paid for itself. The generous donations of £700 each from MCGCH and the Mitcham Society covered the costs of specialist junior coaching and the league fees for our three colts teams. The Committee was grateful to David Bell for taking over responsibility for managing the pavilion on Saturday nights – for 2017 we plan to establish a rota to share these responsibilities and also develop a calendar of social events to raise more income.

The Executive Committee will continue to seek ways to reduce costs and to attract sponsorship and advertising. If you know of anyone who may be interested in the opportunities available, please let us know.

An absence of full records has made this a challenging year to sort through the financial position. Following Tim's accident it took two months to gain access to the Club's bank account. I am grateful to Fred Day for his help in putting together the attached set of accounts.

Once the full paperwork has been transferred to the 2017 Treasurer, the Club will also pursue the claim for Gift Aid – which has not been claimed for a number of years, but is allowed for in the accounts.

Adrian Gault

MITCHAM CRICKET CLUB
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2016

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
	£		£
Pavilion Rent	400	Social Refreshments	1775
Ground maintenance	8620	Fund Raising	427
Pavilion Maintenance	514	Senior Subs	1920
Utilities	1348	Colt Subs	2402
Insurance	1516	Honorary Subs	320
Affiliation Fees	955	Donations	2145
Minor Equipment	415	Gift Aid	400
Awards	139	Match Day Surplus	1439
Fixture Books	338	Adverts/Sponsor	1150
T/P.Post/Stationery	241	Ground Hire	720
Ground Hire	2037	Misc.	974
Junior Coaching	1010		<u>13672</u>
Clothing	135	Deficit for Year	3996
	<u>17668</u>		<u>17668</u>

BALANCE SHEET
as at 30th September 2016

GENERAL FUND	£	£	FIXED ASSETS	£	£
Balance B/F	19988		Furniture & Fittings at Valuation		7200
Less Deficit for year	<u>3996</u>		Machinery/Equipment at Valuation	4000	
		15992	Addition	843	4843
Creditors		4920		<u>12043</u>	
			CURRENT ASSETS		
			Bank Balance	5017	
			Cash in Hand	1161	
			Debtors	2541	
			Stock	150	8869
		<u>20912</u>			<u>20912</u>

Proposed amendments to the constitution to allow payment by instalments through the season.

Appendix 1 Subscriptions – Proposed amendments italicised

1. In accordance with rule 5.3 the annual subscriptions which shall apply from January 2017 shall be as follows

Full senior playing member	£135
Full intermediate playing member (over age for junior member, yet under the age of 18 as at the 1 st September of the preceding year or in full time education)	£80
Junior playing member (under the age of 16 as at the 1 st September of the preceding year).	£40
Full non playing member (Honorary)	£10
Full life member	No charge

2. Subscriptions shall become due on 1st January each year. Members must pay the full subscription amount due by 31st May, unless they have before 31st May activated an instalment arrangement via the Club's website.
3. Any playing member (other than a new member joining during the season in question), whose subscription is not paid or has not activated a valid instalment arrangement on or before 31st May, shall not be eligible to play in matches or to attend training or to enjoy any privilege of membership until his membership has been paid in full or a valid instalment arrangement has been activated.
4. A valid instalment arrangement will pay the relevant subscription in full before the 31st August of the year to which the subscription relates.
5. Playing members paying their subscription via an instalment arrangement shall cease to be eligible to play in matches if their instalment arrangement is cancelled or otherwise fails.
6. New playing members joining on or after 1st August, if paying a subscription as a lump sum will pay 50% of the annual subscription. There is no facility to pay by instalments for new members benefiting from this 50% discount.
7. Match fees, the amounts to be decided by the Executive Committee and reviewed each year, shall be levied on all players. The levy shall become due immediately play commences. Members must pay their match fees to the team captain or via the website on the match day they are due.

Appendix 1 Subscriptions – current version

1. In accordance with rule 5.3 the annual subscriptions which shall apply from January 2013 shall be as follows

Full senior playing member	£135
Full intermediate playing member (over age for junior member, yet under the age of 18 as at the 1 st September of the preceding year or in full time education)	£80
Junior playing member (under the age of 16 as at the 1 st September of the preceding year).	£40
Full non playing member (Honorary)	£10
Full life member	No charge

2. Subscriptions shall become due on 1st January each year. Members may pay the subscription in instalments provided the full amount due is paid by 31st May. Any playing member (other than a new member joining during the season in question), whose subscription is not paid on or before 31st May:
- i. Shall not be eligible to play in matches or to attend training or to enjoy any privilege of membership until his membership has been paid in full.
 - ii. As an incentive, senior playing members, who would normally pay the maximum subscription will receive a £10 reduction in the cost if their subscription is paid on or before 1st May each year.
3. New playing members joining on or after 1st August will pay 50% of the annual subscription; and if paying by instalments must make arrangements to pay the full amount due before the 30th September.
4. Match fees, the amounts to be decided by the Executive Committee and reviewed each year, shall be levied on all players. The levy shall become due immediately play commences. Members must pay their match fees to the team captain on the match day they are due.

Dates for your Diary 2017

1 st January	2017 Subscriptions Due
6 th January	Annual dinner dance Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage members, MCC members and friends enjoy an evening of music, dancing, socialising and more. A contribution from the proceeds of this event is donated to MCC. Enquiries to info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk
22 nd January	Colts winter nets start – £2 a session. Rutlish School, Watery Lane, Merton Park SW20 9AD
March	2017 Fixture book available
8 th April	Prepare the Ground day – we need all players to come down and help get things ready for the 2017 season.
30 th April	10am - start of weekly colts training on the Green
12 th May	Pirelli Golf Tournament A golf competition and luncheon held at Mitcham Golf Club. A contribution from the proceeds of this event is donated to MCC. Enquiries to info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk
31 st May	All subscriptions for existing members must be paid in full or a suitable instalment arrangement be by this date
8 th September	Annual Awards Night
10 th September	Annual Parents v Colts match
30 th November	Annual General Meeting - 8pm in the Pavilion.

Keep up to date with us:

On the web at

www.pitchero.com/clubs/mitchamcricketclub



@MitchamCC

To subscribe to our e-newsletter contact:

mitchamcricketclub@gmail.com

Fundraising in 2016

This season we've been grateful for the ongoing support of Mitcham Cricket Green Community and Heritage and The Mitcham Society. They have continued to raise funds through the annual Golf Day and other events.

Their contributions are given for the benefit of our colts section which has been going from strength to strength. We are grateful to Sandra Vogel for this picture of the handover of cheques from those two organisations at the Community on the Green event in July in the presence of the Mayor of Merton Cllr Brenda Fraser.



Colts 6-a-side Festival

As you can see our annual Colts 6-a-side Festival was blessed with sunny weather for 2016 – we had moved it to Sunday 9th July. We had eight teams competing for the trophy this year.

The event was kindly sponsored by local company BMS Transport. BMS can help with all your transport needs – more info can be found on their website www.bmstransport.co.uk.

Thank you to all the parents who helped out with running the tournament. And well played Strudwick Superkings who were the winning team. That is two out of three tournament wins for the Superkings – we might have to charge for allocation to that team in 2017 ☺.

Heritage Day at Mitcham CC

Our Pavilion was again open to the public as part of the second Mitcham Heritage day on 17th September. There was an exhibition in the pavilion celebrating wicketkeepers who had played on the Mitcham Cricket Green.

This event was hosted jointly by the Club and our long term supporters at Mitcham Cricket Green Community and Heritage <http://mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk/>. As well as participating in a guided walk of the area or a cricket history walk, visitors were able to see a colts match on the Green. This highly competitive pairs match went on for three hours despite the chilly weather

Highlight of the day was a book signing session by author Brian Levison who has included our Cricket Green in his recently published book – *"Remarkable Cricket Grounds of the World"*





Beddington Festival

The Under 12s had beautiful weather in August when they participated in the Beddington festival.

As you can see, some of the team were quite a lot “under” 12. Highlight of the day was youngest member of the team, 8 year old Ayaan Abaid going in to bat in borrowed kit to see out the last few balls of the innings against bowlers several years his senior. The older colts took part in another day of the festival.

With the support of parents we aim to be able to provide a similar wealth of league, friendly and festival cricket for our colts in 2017.

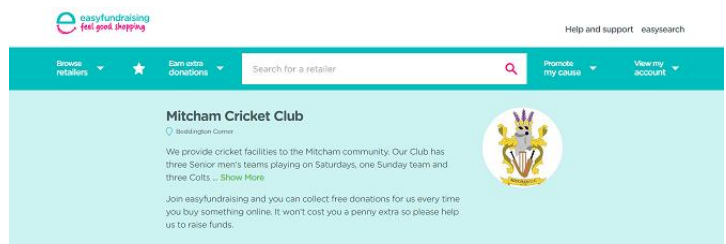
Raise Money for us When You Shop Online

If you plan to do your Christmas shopping online then signing up for easyfundraising could give a great Xmas gift to the club - **and not cost you a penny.**

We've now got 21 supporters signed up helping us raise funds through Easyfundraising - who between them have raised over £150 this season. While this is great, the more members and friends we get to sign up the more funds we will raise. This will be a good way to continue to help the club over the winter while you wait for the new season to start again next spring!

It is free and easy to open an easyfundraising account at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/mitchamcc/.

Each time you want to buy from your favourite online retailer you just go to their site through the easyfundraising website. For each purchase the retailer will make a donation to the Club. **It costs you nothing** you get your goods at the same bargain price you would otherwise pay. Loads of the most popular retailers can be accessed through easyfundraising like Amazon and eBay. Go on sign up today! If you don't shop online, do you have family or friends who might be willing to support us this way?



Collect free donations every time you shop the easyfundraising way

Help



Mitcham CC Christmas Gifts

Only available through the Club are our enamel badges. You cannot buy these in the shops. They are about 25mm (1 inch) long. Buy one for yourself to wear your Mitcham Cricket Club connection with pride or give as a novel gift for family and friends. You can buy one from the Club Secretary Julia Gault at the AGM for £2. Or send us £2.80 get one by post. Gift Honorary Memberships are also available for 2017 for £20 (inc P + P) and include a badge and membership certificate.

Cheques should be made payable to Mitcham Cricket Club and sent to Julia Gault 4 Salisbury Ave Cheam Surrey SM1 2DQ

You can also purchase copies of the two booklets about eminent Mitcham players – Outstanding and Outstanding II – from the same address – see advert on page 19 inside