

CAPTAINS REPORTS OF 2020 SEASON

Saturday 1st XI – (by Craig Wells)

With the continuing issues of Covid 19 the season was reduced to a more regional mini league with end of season play offs. The 1st XI was placed in Division 2 group A and had 5 group matches to play.

The shortened season (without the pressure of promotion or relegation) provided the unique opportunity to introduce some of our younger players to 1st XI cricket on the basis they will become regular members of the team and gain some experience ahead of the 2021 season.

Our first match was always likely to be one of the more difficult matches against Winton away. Winton, who normally play in the Hampshire league, chose to bat first. It is fair to say we were all a little bit “rusty”. Our bowling was not as accurate as one would hope and our fielding left some room for improvement. Winton finished their 40 overs on 232-6, there were good performances with the ball from Ben Hodder (who was very unlucky not to pick up any wickets, but that was mainly due to a number of dropped catches) , Mike Hernandez 2-49 and Steve Kent 1-19. Ryan Stearn made his 1st team debut and also returned good figures of 1-37.

Our reply did not get off to a great start losing John Lewis early on before a partnership between David Goldsack (32) and Craig Wells (91) brought us back into the game. A flourish from Ben Hodder (33) and Mike Hernandez (16) put us in sight of victory but we ended up all out in the last over just 16 runs short. Despite the defeat there were plenty of positives to take from the performance.

Our next match was at home to Hamworthy. Swanage batted first and amassed a formidable total of 237 for 9 with good performances from Mike Nash (21) John Lewis (41) Mike Hernandez (61) and Geoff Willcocks (39). Hamworthy were never really in the hunt, with good bowling from Mike Hernandez 2-19 and Steve Kent 4-41. However, the pick of the bowlers was Ryan Stearn returning figures of 4-19 in 6.4 overs including a hat trick. Hamworthy were dismissed for 109 and Swanage had their first win of the season.

The next match was due to be Ferndown away but this was cancelled due to a water-logged pitch.

Next up was Puddletown at home, Swanage batted first and scored what we thought was a below par total of 173 all out in just 33 overs. Runs came from Ben Hodder (57) and Craig Wells (51) Simon Goldsack (17) and Tom Wells on debut (12). Puddletown got off to a shaky start by losing a wicket in the first over and that set the tone for the rest of their innings. Wickets fell at regular intervals with Jon Gregory spinning his way to 2-24 off 8 overs and the experienced Ron Barker returning figures of 3-15 in just 4 overs; Puddletown were dismissed for 141 in just 34 overs.

Our final group match was at home to Witchampton. The visitors batted first and were only able to muster a total of 124 all out due to tight bowling from Mike Hernandez 4-17, Mike Nash 3-16 and Jo Gregory 2-31. Swanage, in reply, and trying to make a game of it, reached

the target losing 6 wickets thanks to runs from Mike Salmon (46), John Lewis and Mark Stacey (15 each)

Swanage had finished runners up in group A and now had a play-off match against Marnhull who were the runners up in Division 2 group B.

Marnhull batted first and made a solid 215 for 7 in their allotted 40 overs. Wickets from Ryan Norman 2-35, Steve Kent 2-32 and Ryan Stearn 2-26.

Swanage's reply got off to a steady start with runs from John Lewis (12), Mark Stacey (21) and Craig Wells (20) but regrettably we had a very stunning collapse losing 6 wickets for just 36 runs. Seemingly out of the game Phil Eades and Steve Kent started to have some fun and the ball was dispatched to all corners of the ground. As Marnhull's total came ever closer there was a real possibility of these two producing one of the best 10th wicket stands ever but regrettably, running out of overs, they had to throw the bat at everything. Phil finished not out (10) (he played the supporting role!), and Steve was finally bowled for a brilliant (62); we were eventually all out for 177.

In the division 2 combined groups of A and B we had finished a healthy 4th place. Which we can all be very satisfied with.

It was extremely encouraging to see the likes of Charlie Dyke and Ryan Stearn come into the firsts ably supported by the likes of Ben Hodder, Mike Hernandez, Jon Gregory and Steve Kent (to name a few).

The 2020 season will be remembered for reasons other than cricket but hopefully the 2021 season will be a "full" competitive season and the experience some of the younger players have gained this year will stand them in good stead for next year, they will be needed.

SUNDAY XI (by Captain Pete Barker)

Swanage CC was a short successful short season for the club with outstanding performances from Harry Long with some great bowling. Tom Wells scored his maiden half century for the club and Freddie Long was consistent with bat and ball and Sid Nash caused problems to most with his leg spin. Other great performances came from Ollie Shrubsole who scored vital runs every week and Mike Hernandez who scored his maiden century.

As I can't mention everybody I just think the Sunday side was much more competitive this season and we gave a few teams a run for their money towards the end of the season only losing games by 9 runs, 11 runs and with an over to go another game. We did end on a high note though when a strong XI bowled out Poole Town for 61 to win the Bob Massey Cup.

So I think Sunday cricket is on the up for Swanage cricket club and it is a great honour to captain it. I would like to thank Chris Wood for being by my vice captain and being there when I needed advice and I would like to thank Ollie Shrubsole and Charlie Dyke for the same thing. Also I would like to thank the selection committee for their hard work this season by putting out 4 sides this summer and for Mike Wells for getting as many fixtures as we did in a difficult season. Thanks also to Tatty King for scoring and umpiring as well as to all those who came along to support the club.

Here's to Swanage Cricket Club - a fantastic club, and here's to 2021.

SATURDAY 2nd XI

Although there is no report for the Saturday 2nd XI the statistics show they finished third in their mini-league. The batting highlight was Geoff Willcocks' first-ever century, scored against Wareham. There was also a half-century for Pete Baczala and a 46 from Harry Long. The bowling highlight was Mike Nash's 4 wicket-haul at Winton.

SATURDAY 3rd XI (by Captain Tim Ives)

The Saturday 3rds were led by Matt Dunster and Lily Wood both of who not only confidently ran the team but led from the front. Matt establishing himself as a solid opening bat and Lily a reliable opening bowler as well as scoring 47 against Poole. With that early season game against Poole setting the tone that this team was both centered around and led by the youngsters. the thirds were competitive in all of their matches.

The first win came against Winton where in a low scoring game five wickets a piece from Jack Grace and Sid Nash saw Swanage to victory. There was no doubt that the stand out bowler for the 3rds was Sid Nash who took another 5 wickets in a Sunday friendly before his best figures of 6 for 24 against Marnhull. Turning the ball hugely he made all the batters struggle throughout the season. There were many other good bowling performances in this shortened season with Alex, Andrew and Safia all putting in good performances with the ball.

Having such a young side meant we were also able to be competitive in the field keeping the runs down, taking the catches and forcing a number of run outs – the highlight a direct hit from Sam Willcocks. Batting wise the scores were generally quite low throughout the season until the final game against Stalbridge. Having struggled in early season, before some promising signs in the last 2 matches, no one was quite prepared for Sam Willcocks' amazing innings of 111 not out to take the 3rds to victory as the sun went down. A real display of clean hitting and power - hopefully the first of many and a fabulous way to end the first season of Swanage 3rds.

Mention should also be made of the 'oldies' in the team as well as the Harrow House boys who were there through the season and thanks to Craig and Sam Wells for all their work on the pitch which less than a year ago was just a field.

Swanage Cricket Club

November 2020