

The Stumper

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the Swanage Cricket Club Stumper – not quite as quarterly a newsletter as we had wanted but hopefully, we can now get back on track. With the start of the season in April it has been a busy couple of months preparing the ground and getting in some much-needed practise after no winter training at all. We started with the usual inter-club matches and pre-season friendlies but new this year is Wednesday evening adult training with a switch in emphasis away from just nets to include fielding. Some of the early season catches have shown this is already paying dividends.



The 2021 season so far

After last years shortened season, it is back to some sort of normality for the 2021 season. The Saturday 1st XI hope to consolidate their Div. 1 place under new captain Ben Hodder. After the first few matches they have already managed a couple of wins. These wins have been based around

whole team performances with everyone making a contribution. Individually it has been the batters who have led the way with a century for Craig Wells and 80s for Jon Gregory and Ben Hodder.

The 2nds under Simon Goldsack haven't got off to quite such a good start with a couple of cancellations not helping the cause. There has been a real switch of emphasis with a lot of younger players coming into the team so hopes are high for the future.

The 3rd XI has got its first whole season after a few games last season. The team has an emphasis on youth and has already given debuts to a number of younger players. With other adults returning to cricket after time away from the game. So far, we've not had too many problems getting out a team and had a fine win against Parley in the first match of the season.

The Sunday side has a full fixture list but so far has suffered from terrible weather or has played a few sides who have proved too strong for us. Looking ahead to better weather and some more competitive cricket over the next few weeks.



Women and Girls' section

Our Women's and girls' section go from strength to strength. We've attracted some new players this year and training has really taken off with a real buzz around the group. The inaugural Dorset Softball League has been moved to this year though our first couple of matches were victims of the weather. If all goes well our season will get off to a proper start on the 6th June with matches against Poole and Winton



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Youth Section

After the twin disappointments of a shortened season and no winter training everyone was a little nervous to see how the season ahead would go. We need not have worried as nearly all our existing players have returned along with a huge influx of new players particularly at the younger age groups. We now have over 110 members – our largest number ever and there has been a huge increase in the number of girls playing.

Once again, we have league cricket for age groups from U10 to U15 as well as friendlies and training for younger children. The older and former youth team members have really started to establish themselves in the adult teams with players in all teams from the 1sts to the 3rds.

A real highlight has been U15s Freddie Long scoring a maiden century in an inter-club match something he has subsequently followed up with a first league half century. Sadly the youth matches have been an

endless story of cancellations but one highlight has been the U12s fantastic 1 run win away to Burley



Committee

A new season brings lots of changes and the committee has certainly taken on a new look. After a number of years at the helm Ron Barker has stood down as Chairman with Craig Wells stepping into the role.

Luckily for the club Ron has continued as Head Groundsman. There is also a different profile to the committee with a number of younger members joining along with more women. We've not been able to get to the pavilion for a meeting yet as along with the AGM and the rest of the country all our meetings have been by Zoom.

Social Media

Younger people on the committee and in and around the club have forced us into the 21st century and so as well as having an established website

<https://swanagecricketclub.co.uk/>

Facebook group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/swanagecc>

We are now on Instagram. So, for all the latest news and pictures have a look at our pages

What Else is Going On

We are now the proud owners of an electronic scoreboard donated by the Yeates Family in memory of our much-loved Tom



As well as a new flagpole

