

Stage C C 2018

Overall

Match Review

Date	Day	Opposition	Result	Score	Opp Score	Best Batting	Best Bowling
29-April	Sun	Amersham	Cancelled				
6-May	Sun	Stokenchurch	Lost – 2 runs	218 a/o	220-6	O Oldroyd	83 M Sadler 3-33
Scorecard (opens in separate window)							
<p>On a glorious day with the temperature soaring to 26 degrees, Stage lost the toss and were asked to field in a 40 over match with a maximum of 8 overs per bowler. As we took the field Skipper Owen Oldroyd was trying to work out how to get through 40 overs with the lack of bowlers in the side. Owen and Jeff Davis opened the bowling with Roger Barrett replacing Owen after he had bowled just 2 overs. Roger Barrett rejuvenated after his knee operation was first change and between Jeff and Roger, Stage were able to keep Stokenchurch relatively quiet. During the middle part of the innings Stokenchurch were able to increase their run rate but never really got away. Ryan (my son) Davis was given 2 overs and took his first wicket for Stage. Best bowling figures were Mike Sadler taking 3 for 33 off his 8 overs. Stokenchurch eventually finishing on 220-6. (It needs to be noted that Owen managed to complete 8 overs in 3 spells but was in a bit of a state body wise at the end of his 8 overs)</p> <p>Stage opened their innings with Michael Howarth and Imraj Sohal. Imraj had been expressly told that running with Michael could be interesting and to try not to run himself out. After a few close calls Michael was caught, rather than being run out. Imraj however, was determined to be involved in a runout and on 43 decided to take a second run and ran himself out bringing Owen to the crease. Wickets fell at the other end in quick succession until Roger Barrett joined Owen with the score on 84 for 6. Both batsmen took command of the situation and a victory looked in sight until Roger was caught by the Wicket Keeper (52) when the score was on 203. It appeared to be all down to the skipper at that point but having pushed the score onto 213 he was unfortunately bowled by a ball that kept rather low (83). Richard Godfrey stranded at the other end watched on as Stokenchurch bowler S. Leppard proceeded to take 2 wickets with the next 2 balls, getting a well deserved hatrick (Stephen Brown and Ryan Davis were the unfortunate victims). In strolled Mike Sadler with 8 runs needed from 2 overs. Both Richard and Mike put up a very brave effort however eventually falling short by just 3 runs short of victory.</p> <p>Following a great day's cricket we were all asked back to Michael Howarth's for a BBQ to end a lovely day. Thank you Michael for your FANTASTIC hospitality.</p>							
13-May	Sun	Knebworth Park	Cancelled				

20-May Sun Adastrians Drawn 157-8 227-6 dec O Gibbs 38 W Troughton 3-30

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

Another glorious day in May when Stage CC took the field at Vine Lane having lost the toss. Will Troughton opened the bowling with Roger Barrett however at the start of Roger's 3rd over he pulled his calf muscle and had to hand over to Jeff Davis to complete the over. Best of the bowling was Will Troughton with 3-30 followed by Will Thornton with 3-46. Jeff Davis toiled for 14.5 overs without any success! Adastrians declared on 227 for 6 in just 38 overs. A very fair declaration indeed.

Stage after tea never really got going with only Ollie Gibbs 38 who opened and Chris Fletcher 35 making any serious contributions. It was left to Graham Seed and Jeff Davis to bat out the innings with Stage ending 70 runs short of the target with 8 wickets down.

24-May Thur Montenotte Won – 2 wkts 214-8 213-9 dec R Chandarana 79 L White 3-18

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

What a good bowling attack we had yesterday, with the ball zinging off a length to chest/shoulder height so 2 for 2 took Chris Fletcher and Paul Furness out of the action and at 22 for 5 we wondered what we were going to do for the rest of the afternoon. Lawrence and Rishi picked up 3 each and Max held down one end for 8 overs for 25 and 1 wicket. A full-blooded drive that had passed Michael Taylor's field of vision stuck as his right arm ejaculated vertically surprising him as much as the rest of us. Gabe took a flying one-hander, a great take.

Our expectations were somewhat premature, as it turned out, as their 7th wicket stand put on 98 and with us adding 32 extras including 12 wides (!) left Montenotte able to declare on 214 for 9 and left a game to be had.

Sanjay got us off to a good start with Dan, (28 off first 3 overs) then Dan was bowled and the next over brought an Imras run out and Gabe to the wicket for a useful 3, till adding to Paul Furness' bag of 3 caught behinds and a stumping.

At 6.30 and 20 overs we were needing 110 and, like Montenotte, our 7th wicket stand (Rishi and Mike Howarth) added 97 in 39 mins. I wish I could say it was evenly shared but it was wonderful to watch Rishi thrash 6's all over the place, balls bouncing off the centre of the tennis courts and halfway up to the bouncy castle on N London's ground but the split (Rishi 79 and Mike 9) tells the truth... "Carnage!" as their captain was heard to mutter. Both departed leaving Lawrence and Max to tidy up the remaining 4 runs with 5 overs in hand. A great afternoon's cricket with all the usual Stage surprises.

25-May Sun Eastcote Drawn 119-7 338-5 dec C Fletcher 26 D Gordon-Smith 4-73

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

Stage took the field with what could politely be described as a scratch XI - weakened by the demands of test match attendances, theatrical work and burgeoning pregnancies. The toss was duly surrendered and Stage took the field.

The strong Eastcote batting line-up prospered as the Stage bowlers toiled in the heat - the new-look Duncan Gordon-Smith leading the line with 4-73 from a mixture of pace and

off-spin, backed up by Matt Gallagher with 1-53. The remainder of the Stage bowling took a fair bit of punishment as Eastcote racked up an unnecessary 338-5 from 38.2 overs with a big hundred and a 99 for two of their batsmen. Mentions to Al Barrie, Fletch and Tim Auld for their persistence in the field.

The limited batting line-up were instructed to enjoy their afternoon and forget the total. Against some reasonable Eastcote bowling the returning Padhani was the victim of an unfortunate lbw decision for 2, Fletcher got a good ball for 26. Barrie, Auld, Patel dug in but were winkled out. Gordon-Smith and Gallagher began the blockade, and the draw was seen through by Gallagher and the serene Graham Seed, who cocked a deaf-un to the amateurish sledging and played a very straight bat.

Well done to all who took part. Given the variable forecast and the difficulty in assembling the team, it felt like a pleasant day of social cricket was enjoyed by both teams at a beautiful ground. Thanks in particular to Chairman Brian Jackson who stood uncomplainingly at slip in searing heat and still chased down the ball when it went his way, and was ready, as ever, for the fray at the end.

30-May Wed Northwood Cancelled

03-June Sun Southgate Compton Drawn 173-7 199-6 dec O Gibbs 53 N Parmar 5-54

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

On a very hot day Stage won the toss and chose to field, much to Ollie Gibbs dismay. The bowling was opened by Jeff Davis and debutant Nik Parmar. Nik had a fine debut taking 5 wickets for 54 from 13 overs helped by Jeff Davis taking 2 fine catches off his bowling ☺ Southgate Compton declared on 199 for 6 from 39 overs which seemed to be a very fair declaration.

Owen Oldroyd and Ollie Gibbs opened the batting and both got off to a quick start. Owen reached his 50 after just 12 overs with the score on 78 then followed a wee batting collapse with 3 wickets falling for a further 11 runs. Ollie and Jeff pushed the score on for the next wicket but Ollie had run out of steam and was bowled on 53 with the score at 138. Southgate Compton managed to dry up the runs and Stage ended up batting out for a draw with Richard Godfrey and Jag Patel seeing out the final overs.

06-June Wed Worcester Park Drawn 265-8 287-4 dec W Troughton 113 M Taylor 2-55

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

Jim Barclay has written a number of reports for the Stage CC, and a number of people have been moved to suggest that these match reports are a distortion and bowdlerisation of the truth. Many have said that Jim Barclay's Match reports are simply a biased and inaccurate account of the proceedings. They have gone further by suggesting that all Jim Barclay wants to do, when he writes these match reports, is wallow in some kind of narcissistic literary pond, rather than describe the events that took place in the match. Others have suggested that Jim Barclay is the nearest thing the Stage CC has to Neville Cardus : the doyenne of Cricket reporters. (Ed's note: please supply the names of these "others". Most

people think your match reports are complete Bollocks. Now just get on with it.)

This game resembled nothing more than a Mondrian Canvas of rectangles in vibrant colours. The primary reds, and yellows of the South West Trains arriving at regular intervals at the adjacent station, a cobalt blue sky and the closely cropped emerald outfield all worked in perfect harmony to create a perfect synthesis of aesthetic magnificence. (Ed's note: perhaps we could move on to actually describing the events of the match?)

What with the game being played so close to a railway station, it was not long before most of the fielding side (Stage CC) found themselves thinking more about the fortunes of the locomotives on the Island of Sodor in the Rev Awdry's Classic "Thomas the Tank Engine" books.

Worcester Park's opening bats, Bradshaw and Burrows, were not entirely dissimilar to the two express engines Gordon the Green Engine and James the Red Engine as they eased out of the shed and pretty quickly arrived at express speed against the bowling of Sam Sargent and Max Higginbotham. It became apparent that the "track" was every bit as flat as that found on Sodor and both opening bats clattered through the minor stations to the first drinks without mishap. Worcester Park looked as if they were to arrive at their declaration terminus without hindrance. (Ed's note; this match report is not Bradshaw's Railway Guide: more cricket, less trains!)

The Stage were not helped by the fact that they started the game with 8 players on the pitch. Any keen student of the game will tell you that this can be a severe handicap. It is always best to take the field with 11 players, in my opinion. The delays were partly caused by the fact that the area surrounding the ground (some 40 square miles) is a car park for commuters. Parking spaces were eventually found in Portsmouth and the wayward three duly took their places in the field some 40 minutes late. Gordon and James continued to chuff their way merrily round the countryside. Off spinners Taylor and Barclay were introduced into the attack but only partially managed to stop the train when 3 locomotives were sent back to the shed by this wily pair: Higginbotham caught an excellent catch at deep mid off Barclay and Taylor finally had Bradshaw caught behind on 98. Bradshaw presumably retired to the pavilion to complete his mammoth work on the train time tables of England and Wales. (Ed's note: this is my final warning!)

Worcester Park declared on the monolithic total of 287 for 4 and tea was taken.

However, it is a hallmark of the Stage's cricket in recent years that no target is unattainable. Troughton and Sanjay set off with all the resolution of Hilary and Tensing, chipping away at the cliff face with frequent singles broken up with some excellent boundaries. These two plundered the Worcester park bowling with gusto, brio and aplomb and the the Stage were on target at 219 for 0! With only the Western Cwm to be conquered both Sanjay (113) and Troughton (100) contrived to fall off the rock face into the abyss at this point. The back up batsmen strove to finish the job but found themselves, not for the first time, constrained by the canny Worcester Park spinners. Notably, the veteran Stemp decided to appear on the pitch (having spent two thirds of the game in the scorebox, while a substitute fielded for him). Stemp is best described as a 'lob' bowler: each ball he bowls is delivered with all the ponderous deliberation of a grenade throwing infantryman trying to gain a few yards at the Battle of Ypres. Any batsman looking to score quick runs against this form of bowling is faced with two agonising options: he can charge down the pitch and hope to hit the ball to all points of the compass on the full toss or wait safely in his crease for the ball to finally arrive at its destination. When it does arrive it is like an old lady getting to the top of a hill, having dragged a wheelie full of shopping behind her.

The batsman is obliged to apply great power to the slow moving ball if he wishes to score any runs. Stemp has taken a great number of wickets in the course of his career.

After much huffing and puffing the Stage finally achieved the not inconsiderable total of 265 for 8, but were, nevertheless, 23 runs short of the target when the final twentieth over was bowled. Jeff Davis was not injured. The red and yellow commuter trains continued to pull in and out of the station and both teams repaired to the pavilion and basked in the long evening shadows sipping Boxer Blonde Beer before setting off on the walk back to the car park in Portsmouth.

10-June Sun Lord's Taverners Won 197-3 194-5 dec I Sohal 59 S Khan 2-20

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

Stage fielded first on what turned out to be a very hot day in the field! The opening attack of Sam Sargant and Sayf Khan put the Taverners to the sword and after just 8 overs the Taverners were 38 for 4 and after 15 overs were just 67 for 5. The Taverners recovered to declare on 194 for 5 of just 32 overs which was considered by Stage to be a very fair declaration.

After a very fine tea ☺ Imraj Sohal (59) and Sayf Khan (51) opened the batting with a 1st wicket partnership of 90 runs. Rory Jakeman 34 not out (having done a fine job behind the stumps taking 2 catches when Stage were fielding) and Jeff Davis 36 not out took Stage home for a 7 wicket victory. A good time was had in the pub too.

13-Jun Wed Northwood Drawn 200-9 276-8 dec R Barrett 60* S Khan 3-55

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

Football may be a game of two halves, but Cricket is a game of three thirds, as this match proved. For two thirds of the game, Northwood held the match in a vice like grip only to find themselves gradually having to let their grasp slip, thanks to some steadfast and ultimately thrilling and spectacular batting from the Stage lower middle order.

On the London Tube Map a purple line can be seen running from Whitechapel into the leafy suburbs of "Metroland". A term coined by Betjeman to accurately encapsulate the north west corner of London, filled with semi detached houses, hairdressers and a plethora of Cricket clubs, all with well appointed grounds. Over the years, most of these grounds have played host to the intrepid rogues and vagabonds of the Stage CC. Pinner runs into Eastcote which eventually becomes Ruislip and finally metamorphoses itself into Ealing. For Estate Agents it is nirvana. Street after street of 1930's houses apparently built out of Bayko (a popular children's building set of the 1950's, which, sadly, is now only available, secondhand, on E Bay).

Ed's note: Once again, it falls to me to remind you that you are reporting a Cricket Match, not providing a Lonely Planet Guide to the more salubrious Postcodes of London: now, stop farting about and report the events of the match!

The Northwood batsmen wasted no team in asserting their superiority. The very first ball of the match was struck, with some ferocity, by Nilesh through the covers for 4. The cross field slope enabling the ball to accelerate on its way to the boundary. Nevertheless, Tripp made some inroads into Northwood's batting when Khan caught a brilliant diving catch at midwicket to dismiss Kyle for 1. This did little to stem Northwood's overall progress to a final total of 276 for 8 from 41 overs. Four individual scores of 45, 47, 50 and 53 tell their own story. Only Khan, bowling flat off spinners, made any serious inroads with final figures of 8-0-55-3. Barrett came in for some particularly harsh treatment in one over and at tea the Stage were bloodied (but unbowed). Sumptuously filled King Prawn sandwiches were on offer together with some excellent giant home made Chocolate Brownies.

(Ed's note: please spare us the gastronomic specifics and continue reporting the match!)

The Stage reply started in the worst possible fashion, when opening bat Chris Fletcher was bowled on the first ball of the innings by Patel. 277 suddenly seemed a long way away, and in fact, looked as if it were to disappear altogether somewhere along the North Circular Road, when both Davis and Howarth were dismissed for 0. At 56 for 5, Barclay entered the arena and in fact did very little except push both bat and front leg down the pitch for an unedifying 10 overs to the drinks break. Meanwhile, both Sanjay (dismissed for 26) and Parmar drove and pulled with regularity (Parmar eventually obliging the septugenerian Barclay to run a fast '3'. Having safely accomplished this not inconsiderable feat and finishing in a state of near collapse and exhaustion, Barclay turned to the pavilion to find his team mates in a state of collapse themselves at having witnessed such an edifying spectacle. In the next over, Barclay resolutely pushed forward again to the flat off spin of Patel in the time honoured T.E. Bailey fashion, this time, however, the ball struck him on the pad. Patel appealed, almost as if he had nothing better to do with his time. In the same length of time it took Pangaea to break up as one land mass and form it itself into 5 continents, Umpire Howarth raised his fore digit and Barclay's resolute if uneventful innings of 12 was over. In this era of fake news, it would be inappropriate for the writer to express an opinion on Howarth's decision and readers need to know that this match report is the subject of an enquiry by Lord Leveson. There is no more to be said. Barclay returned to the pavilion a desolate figure. However, this desolation turned out to be ill-founded as his place was taken by Barrett, who, again aided by the ebullient, uncompromising Parva, and tailenders Wideson, Tripp and Higginbotham, managed to turn the match round in a dramatic fashion. Using a square cut that would have been the envy of Robin Smith, Barrett plundered the Northwood bowling with a savagery rarely seen in these leafy climes. The fast bowler Kyle, received an inordinate of punishment in his 3 overs at the hands of the remorseless Barrett. The runs flowed to such an extent that at the end of the game, the Stage reached the unlikely score of 200 for 9 with Barrett on 60 not out. Jeff Davis was not injured.

These two teams lock antlers again in a fortnight's time: who can predict the result?

17-June	Sun	Stanmore Warriors	Lost – 140 runs	121 a/o	261-8	I	Sohal	35	O	Oldroyd	3-16
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[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

On a cooler grey day, Stage took the field in the hope of a second win following the victory last year. This was not to be! Stage toiled in the field for 40 overs with Stanmore Warriors ending on 261 for 9 with the best bowling figures coming from the skipper Owen Oldroyd taking 3 for 16 in 2 overs, having had to bowl at the death due to an injured Roger Barrett.

Stage failed miserably in the chase, ending up all out for 121 with Imraj Sohal top scoring on 35

20-June	Wed	Wembley	Drawn	199-5	261-4 dec	S	Chandarana	70	N	Parmar	2-74
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[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

Wembley's non playing captain (Chalie Myers) won the toss and not surprisingly chose to bat. Stage having taken a couple of early wickets then failed to make any inroads with Khan and Doyle of Wembley both retiring having reached a ton each. Charlie was talked into declaring by Jeff Davis badgering him from the field as it was plain to see that Charlie wished to bat Stage out of the game. Tea was taken when the declaration was made on 261 for 4 after 38.2 overs.

Stage set off after tea in the chase and got off to a good start until Chris Fletcher (20) was run out when the score was 59. Matt Maylin on debut scored a fine 45 and Sanjay Chandarana (70) was the 3rd wicket to fall when Stage had reached 172 however at that point the runs dried up and Stage having faced 37 ended up 62 runs short of Wembley's total with the match ending up as a draw.

24-June Sun Berkhamsted Lost – 115 runs 98-9 (a/o) 213-7 H Greener 28 J Davis 2-40

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

Some players having watched England's first half demolition of Panama in the World Cup took the field feeling buoyant. Only to suffer a demolition by Berkhamsted CC over the next few hours. Berkhamsted batted first with Stage taking to the field with just 9 players in a 40 over match. 10 player having issues with the local bike ride arrived a little later. At the completion of the 40 overs Berkhamsted were 213 for 7 with the wickets being shared between 5 of the bowlers not of which really deserve a mention 😊 apart from Matt Gallagher who bowled his 8 overs for just 25 runs.

Then came the demolition, with wickets falling rather rapidly from the start of the innings. Stage were bowled out for just 98 in just 28 overs 😞

1-July Sun Shepherds Bush Won – 8 runs 250-6 242-8 C Fletcher 71 M Sadler 3-51

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

On a searing hot day Stage won the toss and chose to bat which was definitely a wise choice. At 2 wickets down for just 39 things did not look too good. However with a third wicket partnership between Owen Oldroyd scoring 70 and debutant Harry Livingstone 55 the third wicket fell at 152. Chris Fletcher strode in and kept things ticking over with the help of Graham Seed. Chris went up several gears in the last few overs ending his innings on 71. At the completion of the 40 overs Stage were 250 for 6. Was this to be enough was the question asked at tea and what a fine tea it was too.

Stage opened the bowling with Lewis Meagor and Jeff Davis, not what you would call the tallest of attacks! All 5 bowlers managed to contain Shepherds Bush batsman but things were not looking too good at 30 overs when the Bush needed just 84 off the last 10 overs to win with 6 wickets in hand. Stage continued to keep the pressure on and with 2 overs to go it was just 20 to win. The 39th over was bowled by George Tebbutt which went for just 7 runs leaving Mike Sadler to bowl the last over. Serious pressure for Mike which was not a problem. With a single from the first ball, then a dot the pressure was on the batsman. A wicket on the third ball and Stage were nearly over the line. The fourth and fifth ball only went for 4 meaning the game was in the bag. The last ball was another wicket for Mike with fine catch on the boundary by Harry Livingstone. All the dropped catches by the skipper, myself and Mike Sadler were now forgotten.

4-July Wed Harrow St Mary Cancelled (No Opposition)

8-July Sun Horsley & Send Won – 91 runs 269-2 dec 178-8 (a/o) O Gibbs 91 M Sadler 5-33

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

On another extremely hot day and for the second Sunday in a row Stage won the toss and chose to bat. A superb opening partnership of 175 with Ollie Gibbs 91 and Chris Fletcher

88 gave Debutant Rob West (33) and Jeff Davis (12) the platform to take Stage to 269 for 2 when skipper Matt Gallagher declared

After a fine tea with lots of cake Stage took to the field with 10 men as Ollie Gibbs having played 4 matches in a week was now unfit to say the least. Chris Fletcher was not much better off either! Stage managed to use 7 bowlers during the innings with Mike Sadler taking 5 for 33 from 7.2 overs. Horsley and Send were eventually all out for 178 making this the second victory on the trot whilst batting first. Almost unheard of in recent years with Stage CC.

11-July Wed Dulwich Lost – 110 runs 182-7 292-4 P Legg 77* R Barrett 2-39

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

With an early start, to accommodate the World Cup Semi Final, when England will be playing Croatia. Stage won the toss and fielded, getting off to a good start with just 84 runs being scored off the first 15 overs and then it was carnage for the next 20 overs. Dulwich smashed the ball all over the place and ended their 35 overs on 292 for 4 wickets.

Stage batting was not good and apart from Piran Legg who carried his bat ending on 77 not out nobody performed well. At the end of the 35 overs Stage had crawled to 182 for 7 losing by 110 runs. Maybe a better time would be had in the bar watching the football. Unfortunately that was not to be as England crashed out to Croatia and we all left Dulwich under a dark cloud.

15-July Sun Bank of England Cancelled

18-July Wed Richmond Drawn 205-8 254-7 dec J Jelly 56 M Higginbotham 2-43

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

Richmond won the toss and batted first on a very flat track. Stage bowlers toiled for 2 and half hours until Richmond made a very declaration on 254 for 7 from 41 overs. The best of the bowling was Max Higginbotham with 2 for 43 off 9 overs and Tom Whyte with 2 for 47 from 9 overs.

Stage got off to a good start with their reply with James Kelly scoring 56 on his debut and Sanjay Chandarana hit a fine 40. The middle collapsed leaving Roger Barrett 18 and Sam Sargent 39 going for the target. They were both eventually out leaving Max Higginbotham and Nik Parmar to bat out the last 4 overs for the draw. Mike Sadler was not required to bat.

22-July Sun Taplow Lost – 41 runs 184 a/o 256-6 dec V Sohal 69 J Davis 2-43

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

The hot summer continues and having lost the toss Stage faced a long afternoon in the field. Taplow made a fair declaration on 225 for 6 wickets from 43 overs. Jeff Davis was the

pick of the bowling taking 2 for 43 off 8 overs.

After a glorious tea with homemade cakes and homemade ice cream (Taplow has always been one of the best teas ☺) Stage attempted to reply to Taplow's innings only to fall 42 runs short of the target. Stage's innings included 4 ducks and the only batsman to make an impression was Vikram Sohal (former England Under 18 captain) with a fine 69.

25-July Wed Watford Town Cancelled

29-July Sun Old Merchant Taylors Cancelled

3-Aug Fri Gloucester Gipsies Drawn 180-9 252-5 dec C Fletcher 66 R Chandarana 3-42

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

Having lost the toss Stage took to the field with 7 Stage players and with Edward Gillespie the new Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire. (Congratulations Edward) Fortunately the 4 missing players arrived after just 1 over had been bowled and Edward was able to return to his side in the pavilion. Stage kept the Gipsies quiet right the way to lunch at which point they were on 117 but Stage had failed to take any wickets from the 29 overs. After Lunch with Jeff Davis having bowled 6 overs before lunch, refusing to let go of the ball, bowled a further 13 overs, taking 2 wickets for 83 from the 19 overs. Rishi Chandarana took 3 for 42 from 14 overs. A true Champagne moment took place just after Tom Richardson had reach 115 and attempted to clear the boundary off Jeff Davis, only to see Phil Wideson run, make a full length dive, stretch out his right and take an amazing catch on the boundary. Edward declared the Gipsies innings on 252 for 5 from 54 overs.

Stage's innings started slowly with Chris Fletcher and Gabe Manthorp steadying the ship after an early wicket. Gabe was eventually out on 35 and Chris went on to score 66, which I am sure impressed his father who had come to support him. A middle order collapse did not help the chase and despite a fine 33 from Peter Jenner (hit wicket), Stage had to battle for a draw with Jeff Davis and Max Higginbotham frustrating the Gloucester Gipsies bowlers for the last few overs. Stage finished the innings on 180 for 9.

05-Aug Sun Musicians XI Lost - 35 runs 203-9 238-5 C Fletcher 67 J Davis 1-33

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

At a new venue Northwood Town CC, not Northwood CC that I had sent everyone too, Stage took the field having lost the toss. Despite tight bowling from Matt Gallagher and Jeff Davis both conceding 33 off their 8 allotted overs the Musicians XI finished on 238 for 5 after their 40 overs.

Stage lost early wickets and failed to keep up with the required run rate with only Chris Fletcher getting a respectable score of 67. After 40 overs Stage were 203 for 9 and well defeated.

08-Aug Wed Ickenham Won - 8 wkts 210-2 209-7 dec S Chandarana 91 N Parmar 3-54

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

In a timed game, Ickenham won the toss and chose to bat against a strong Stage CC bowling attack. They declared on 209 for 7 after 48 overs with Nikesh Parma being the best of the bowling with 10 overs 4 maidens 3 wickets for 54 runs.

After tea and peanut butter sandwiches ☺, Stage got off to a flying start, with openers Ollie Gibbs 41 and Sanjay Chandarana 91. When Ollie was dismissed, Gwyn Jones chipped in with a powerful 55 not out. The innings closed on 210 for 2 off just 31.4 overs, giving Stage a much needed victory.

12-Aug Sun Merstham Cancelled

15-Aug Wed Cricketers Club Lost - 7 wkts 236 a/o 237-3 S Khan 65 S Khan 1-26

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

Stage travelled with a strong side (on paper) to Buckhurst Hill CC, to play the Cricketers Club who also had a strong side bolstered with some young Essex players. Stage batted first and after a good start with Sanjay Chandarana 59 and Sayf Khan 65, wickets fell regularly with Stage being dismissed for 236

After a fabulous tea of BBQ including Jerk Chicken, Rishi Chandarana cleaned bowled James Lawrence (defected to opposition for this match) with his first ball. Stage bowlers then attempted to restrict the Cricketers Club to no avail with their opener carrying his bat 119*. The Cricketers Club won comfortably by 7 wickets.

19-Aug Sun Seven Sports Won - 4 wkts 123-6 122 a/o W Thornton 41 R Barrett 2-12

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

Matthew Gallagher lost the toss and Seven Sports chose to bat. Stage bowling was tight and with wickets falling regularly Seven Sports were dismissed for 122 off 30 overs in a 35 over match. Jeff Davis, Roger Barrett, Hamilton Lee and Mike Sadler all took 2 wickets each.

Stage yet again got off to a good start with William Thornton 41 however as Stage got closer to the total wickets began to fall at regular intervals but then a good 6 wicket stand between Matthew Gallagher 21 and Jeff Davis 22 not out took them towards the finishing line, eventually winning with 5 wickets and 5 overs to spare.

22-Aug Wed Sevenoaks & District Drawn 225-6 dec 170-9 J Davis 71 M Sadler 3-37

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

Stage batted first on an overcast afternoon. With Owen Oldroyd and Jeff Davis opening the batting, Stage got off to a fast start with the first wicket falling on 117 when Owen (64) was given out LBW a rather long way down the track. Scoring slowed up for a while with Owen's departure. Sayf Khan was caught off the bowling of Miles Walker so has now been

"Milo-ed" (not sure of the spelling 😊) The scoring increased when Roger Barrett 31 joined Jeff Davis until Roger ran out Jeff on 71 with some interesting calling. Stage declared on 225 for 6 from 40 overs.

Stage opened the bowling with Sam Sargant, who has hit a fine vein of form. He bowled 5 overs at a quick pace taking 2 for 16 which got Stage off to a good start. Nik Parmar coming on at first change bowled tidily conceding just 20 from 7 overs and taking 1 wicket however the pick of the bowling was Mike Sadler and Duncan Gordon-Smith. Both taking 3 wickets including Archie Gordon-Smith taking a fine catch behind the stumps off his dad's bowling. Despite getting Sevenoaks down to 9 wickets neither Sayf of Duncan were able to take the 10th wicket so a fine game ended in a draw.

26-Aug Sun Gerrards Cross Cancelled

29-Aug Wed Little Marlow Cancelled

02-Sept Sun Sunbury Cancelled

05-Sept Wed Cross Arrows Lost-4 runs 296-7 300-9 S Chandarana 112 M Higginbotham 3-47

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

It was that time of the season when we returned to the Home of Cricket for our annual match against the Cross Arrows on the Nursery Ground. Having won for the last 3 seasons, could Stage make it a fourth in a row? Cross Arrows won the toss and as usual batted first. A very tight opening spell from Sayf Khan and Rob West meant the Arrows were on just 20 after the first 9 overs. Despite the slow start after 50 overs Cross Arrows had scored a challenging 300 with the best of Stage's bowling Max Higginbotham 3 for 47 from 10, Rob West 2 for 34 from 8 and Roger Barrett taking 2 for 55 from 9.

Stage's reply got off to a fine start with Chris Fletcher (47) supporting Sanjay Chandarana when the first wicket fell at 126 in the 25 over. Sanjay was eventually dismissed after a superb 112 and as Stage progressed through the innings a win was looking on the cards, however on the 48 over with 25 needed for a win from the final 3 overs Cross Arrows bowler Granger bowled a maiden over and the pressure became too great for the batsman Rob West (47*) and Roger Barrett (30). With 15 needed from the final over the task was too much and Stage ended the innings on 296, just 4 runs short of Cross Arrows total. It was a FANTASTIC day despite losing!



09-Sept Sun Hampton Wick Royal Won - 39 runs 177-6 138 a/o S Sargant 61* S Sargant 3-21

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

In a 40 over game with only 10 players, Stage lost the toss and batted first, opening with a solid if slow start from C. Fletcher and W.Chitty. From 57-1 at 20 overs we eventually made it 177-8, Rory Jakeman made 23 and Sam Sargant was left with Hamilton Lee (14*) on 61 not out at the end of the 40 overs.

Stage opened the bowling with Lawrence Whyte bowling a tight 8 over spell for 31 runs and one wicket, and Sam Sargant down the other ending bowling 6 overs taking 3 wickets for 21 runs. The contribution from the first change bowler was a good tight 6 over for 28 runs from Michael Taylor and 6 overs and 3 for 31 from Hamilton Lee (including 2 wickets in one over). Hampton Wick Royal wickets fell at regular intervals, and despite a mature 53 from 12 year-old "Lucca" (last wicket to fall from W.Chitty) - Harry Goteslow finished with a tidy and symmetrical 2 overs 2 runs and 2 wickets - the opposition made it 138 at the end of their final wicket with Stage winning by 40 runs.

11-Sept Tue Wembley Drawn 228-8 dec 186-8 R Chandarana 53 S Wooliscroft 3-33

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

Stage played a predominantly vintage Wembley side on a grey day within view of the Stadium Arch. Batting first Stage reached 228-8dec in 30.4 overs, thanks to aggressive stroke play from the Chandarana brothers, Sanjay 47 and Rishi 53. Other useful contributions from Gostelow 38 and Jandu 25.

Stage might have declared earlier but for 15-20 minutes spent searching for lost balls and then 2 fielders having to move cars that were blocking the minibuses ferrying the members of a community club who had been enjoying a spiritual service in the pavilion. Indeed several well known hymns were the soundtrack of our innings.

We were generously captained by Max Higginbottom who returned very tidy figures 7-4-12-1; he was ably supported by Parmar 2-40 and visiting Kiwi Woolliscroft 3-33 as our principal wicket takers.

The match was very delicately poised with Wembley 186-8 after 35 overs with 4 overs left of the final 20, and their best batsman 80* achieving the required 10 runs per over rate, when the umpires deemed the poor light unsafe for further play.

So an honourable and enjoyable draw and players retired to the pavilion to watch highlights of the final day of the final test and another close encounter that also could have ended up as any one of 3 possible results.

16-Sept Sun Maidenhead & Bray Lost - 65 runs 155-8 220 a/o C Moore 38 J Davis 3-41

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

In a 40 over match at Maidenhead & Bray, Stage lost the toss and took to the field. Stage's bowling was plundered by Maidenhead & Bray's opening bat S. Ball who was eventually dismissed on 95 trying to hit Jeff Davis for yet another 6 only to be caught on the boundary by Nav Saeed. In the last over of the 40 overs M&B were dismissed at 220 for 10. Best

of the bowling Jeff Davis 3 for 41 off his 8 overs helped out by Mike Sadler taking 2 for 34 from 8 and Asif Padhani 2 for 13 for 4 overs.

Stage's reply did not get off to a good start with the first wicket falling on just 3 runs and it was not long before they were well behind the run rate required. With no notable performance with the bat Stage ended on 155 for 8 losing by 65 runs.

19-Sept Wed Gaieties Drawn 189-8 284-3 dec S Chandarana 87 N Saeed 1-29

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

On an extremely blustery day Stage won the toss and inserted Gaieties only to discover that they had ex New Zealand test captain Jeremy Coney opening the batting. Both Jeremy and his partner J. Olufawo batted with fluidity until Jeff Davis eventually beat Jeremy Coney's bat and struck him on the pad. A loud appeal was made by Jeff Davis and to his amazement the umpire's finger went up and the wicket was given and Coney was gone on 37. Olufwo followed shortly after on 47 and Stage thought that they were in with a chance but I. Smith (92) and D Dalzel-Job put pay to any ideas of a victory as Gaieties declared on 284 for just 3 wickets.

Despite Sanjay Chandarana scoring a fine 87, Stage were never in the hunt and at the end of their innings were on 189 for 7 from 35 overs with Jeff Davis, Max Higginbotham and Mike Sadler ensuring that Stage at least managed a draw.

23-Sept Sun Alexandra Park Cancelled

27-Sept Thu Montenotte Won – 7wkts 233-4 229-7 dec W Troughton 61* N Saeed 1-29

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

Stage fielded first on a beautiful sunny warm Autumn afternoon. Montenotte got off to a quick start and after 4 overs were on 31. After a poor start Stage's bowlers managed to tighten up and take wickets regularly with the pick of the bowlers Nav Saeed taking 2 for 32 from 7. Mike Sadler bowled really well taking 1 for 27 from 6. He should have had at least 2 further wickets, if Jeff Davis having opened the bowling had not taken the gloves, as he missed 2 easy stumpings and a catch of Mike's bowling. (Sorry Mike ☹) Montenotte declared on 229 for 7 from 45 overs and at this point Stage felt that Montenotte had batted far too long, as they would not receive that many overs after tea.

Sanjay Chandarana and James Lawrence opened the batting. Sanjay proceeded to smash Montenotte's bowling all over the park and was eventually bowled on 49 from just 21 balls. James Lawrence was joined by Chris Fletcher and they both kept the score ticking at around a run a ball. Both batsman retired, James on 36 had to leave early to go to a gig and Chris on 60 to give Sunny Singh a chance of a bat. Chris before retiring was joined by skipper Will Troughton who increased the run rate again with 61 from just 34 balls and Stage completed the chase 4 wickets down off just 24.4 overs

30-Sept Sun Barnes Common Lost - 107 runs 159 a/o 266-9 A Hume 52 N Saeed 2-28

[Scorecard](#) (opens in separate window)

Well it was the last match of the season and we were aiming for an early start at 11am for a 40 over match and amazingly Stage had 11 players turning up. However at 11am Stage were 4 players short with 2 playing going to Barnes CC and 2 others running late. So the match eventually started a wee bit late with 8 men plus 2 from the opposition. Stage did eventually have 11 of their own players on the field. The bowling with an orange ball was opened by debutante Alex Hume (34 for 1 in 8 overs over 2 spells) and Roger McCann (47 for 1 from 4 overs) and at the first change Barnes Common were on 64 for 2 from 9 overs. Barnes Common continued at a similar rate through their 40 overs ending on 266 for 9 with the best of the bowlers being Nav Saeed and Mike Sadler both taking 2 wickets a piece.

Stage never really got going in their reply as wickets fell steadily. The scores of note being the skipper Roger McCann dismissed on 48 and Alex Hume out on 52. Stage were all out for 159 off just 32.1 overs