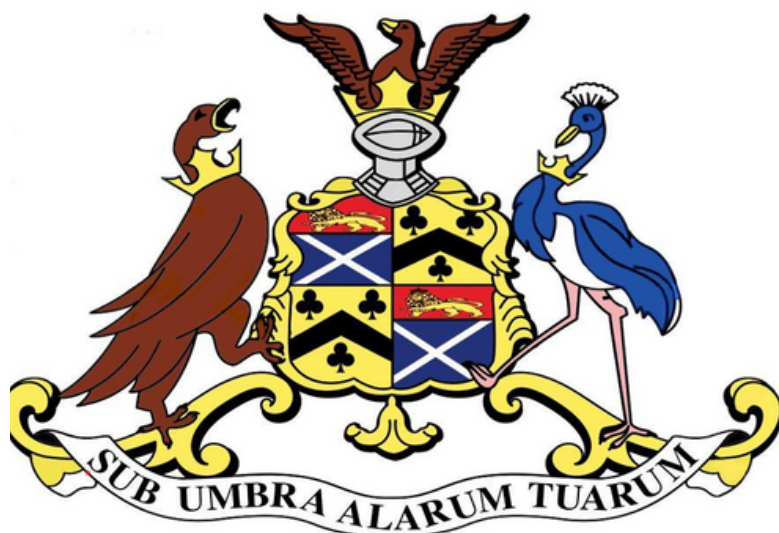


OLD WILLIAMSONIAN CLUB

ISSUE 1 | 01/09/25



Welcome to the first edition of the new Old Williamsonian Club newsletter. We hope to send out the newsletter bi-annually to our members, updating you on the goings on of the sporting sections and the wider club itself. As you will have received my recent information send out, you will know that over the past few years there have been a number of difficulties faced by the Old Boys which have hindered our communication with those OWs further afield. Please accept my apologies for this and here is to a much more fruitful relationship. We are still going strong with a membership into the hundreds and over 200 sportsmen and women donning the navy and gold and competing throughout Kent and further afield, during the year. Please read ahead to find out more.

Regards

Dan Harrison
Old Williamsonian Club Chairman
Bridge House 1995–2002

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RESURRECTION

RISE OF THE OLD WILLIAMSONIAN NEWSLETTER

Prior to the COVID 19 Pandemic, The Old Boys had been trying to arrive at an adequate conclusion to the distribution of the Old Williamsonian magazine in a paper copy. Historically, these had been sent out in the post but with rising costs and the development of technology, most copies had begun to be sent out electronically. With the need for both a digital and a paper copy we had asked for a set amount to be printed.



Publishing issues as well as a case of copyright, further contributed to our struggles. COVID then paused all Old Williamsonian action for the best part of a year and once a return to some sort of normality had taken place, we were informed that there was now a software issue with the digital publication.

With no way of an Old Williamsonian magazine returning in paper form and with the other complications, the Old Williamsonian Club committee made the decision to create our own newsletter and to send this out to our membership.

An information notice was sent by post (132 letters including 6 overseas) and over 200 emails were sent in the past few months, to advise that we would be doing as much correspondence as possible, electronically, moving forward. We would continue to send out postal correspondence if an address was confirmed and those members did not have an email address.

Here is our first edition of the resurrected Old Williamsonian newsletter. I hope you enjoy the read.

RIISING FROM THE ASHES TO GREAT SUCCESS



From playing three or four Sunday friendlies in 2023, the Club successfully reapplied to join the Kent Cricket League. Most of this was down to the excellent efforts of new Club Manager, Andy Stoute, who cajoled a number of past and new players to make up a squad.

In our first season back in League cricket in 2024, having joined in the lower reaches of the KCL, we gained promotion by finishing runners-up to a strong South East London outfit who clearly shouldn't have been in the division.

With some trepidation, we started the 2025 season away at Bapchild and won by one run. We then proceeded to win game after game including another last ball victory by one wicket at Dartford. Last month wins over Bapchild, Orpington, Bredgar and second placed Minster not only sealed promotion but almost certainly as champions! All this despite losing captain, Carl Dockwray, to injury during that period.

This was very much a whole team display all season but batting stars were Dicky Dalton who was second highest run-scorer in the division in scoring five fifties. Young Harry Dockwray hit his maiden century as he along with Will Walshe and Tom Philp were all in the top ten divisional scorers.

We had a wealth of bowling talent, with Amir Ali being top divisional bowler with 31 wickets, Chris Apps with third with 23 and evergreen, Paul Belsey, with 19. It was great to see the return of James Hyder and watch David Philp's remarkable clean up of the Bredgar batting with four wickets For no runs off 2.2 overs.

There were plenty of Sunday friendlies against sides of very varying abilities: most seemed to have come from South East London. 14 Games were played with victories over Newington, Eltham Green Street Legends and against "The Present" on Foundation Day. Luke Butcher excelled with the bat, scoring 471 runs which included two centuries and four fifties with an average of 56.36. Stand-in captain, Benn Arlington also scored well and took wickets and there was a century from new boy, Rehan Mehmood (114) against Newington. Sundays were very much needed as squad numbers were very healthy and also gave a good introduction to the Club for newcomers.

As the new Club Chairman, I have been delighted to see the Club resurrect itself in the KCL. Huge thanks go to Andy Stoute for his fantastic efforts and in getting sides out. We played over 30 matches and always had a full eleven. Congratulations must also go to captain, Carl Dockwray, who guided our success and to all those who scored tons, fifties and took fifiers and to Chas Donovan for all his support on match days and to Lottie Apps who oversaw the teas (yes, we still have them).

On the final day of the season, we successfully gained 10 points against Linton Park in a rain abandoned match, to finish the season undefeated with 12 wins from 12. Back to back promotions and this year as champions!

There is talk of a second XI in 2026 and looking at fixtures for a ladies team. If you are interested in playing, scoring, umpiring or just helping out on match days or watching contact me or Andy Stoute.

**Chris Halls
Old Williamsonian Cricket Club Chairman**



WHAT A YEAR FOR THE LADIES



The Ladies 1s, had a wonderful season, playing at their highest level yet, while celebrating their 30th season. They just missed out on a second consecutive promotion, finishing 2nd in a league of 12 teams.

The Ladies 2s had a winner takes all game and they duly delivered, beating Herne Bay in the final game of the season, to seal promotion.

This success continued with the Ladies 3s who were also promoted! Another great season for our newest ladies' side.

An amazing season all around for the ladies' section. The overseas players brought in were fantastic and the section has gone from strength to strength, with amazing numbers at training each week.

Unfortunately the Men's 1s were relegated. The departure of key players and the quality of the overseas players meant the team never got going. A Big reset this season.

The Men's 2s finished Mid-table and After 2 promotions, the Men's 3s consolidated this season, with position in the league secured.

The Men's 4s were promoted after league restructuring. A thoroughly deserved reward for an excellent season as were the Men's 5s who achieved a 2nd promotion in 3 seasons all whilst playing at the same level as our 4s were last season.

A Strong finish to the season was had by the men's 6s, leading to comfortable retention of league status and a tough season was had by the Men's 7s but this team is about introducing people to the game, not about results. Most of last year's team have moved up the club and you can see the results in the 4th, 5th and 6th teams this season, which is great.

Overall, a great set of results, with the only disappointment being the Men's 1s suffering relegation. It is a big jump to the next level, with all the other teams having a corner routine and a proven goal scorer, which unfortunately was lacking for the 1st team this year.

We continue to run a successful Youth Structure, with around 60 children attending Youth Training, or playing in adult teams each week.

We still offer free hockey to anyone in years 1-11 and still look to develop our youth structure.

Pre-season is already in full swing with training throughout August. We train as follows:

Men's whole club – Monday 7:30pm-9pm

Ladies whole club – Tuesday 7:30pm-9pm

Men 1st/2nd team plus invited – Wednesday 7:30pm-9pm

Overall, the club is in very good shape and will again field 7 men and 3 ladies sides for the coming season. Our thanks to the Mother Club and the Rugby section for all their support.

Jeff Doust

Old Williamsonian Hockey Club Vice Chairman



KENT COUNTIES THREE HERE WE COME



I trust you have all enjoyed a few months off from rugby, although I'm sure you followed the Lions tour of Australia and now are engrossed in the Women's World Cup.

The 2024/25 season began in a cloud of uncertainty 10 months ago, but our continued determination and never say die attitude brought about a significant upturn in our fortunes. A new, enthusiastic coach was appointed and the whole atmosphere within the club was rejuvenated. It took a few games for the free flowing style to fall into place, but the eventual rewards were astounding. Our season included a run of 11 consecutive wins and a 2nd place league finish. League winners were Canterbury III's, who lost only twice last season, both times against OWRFC! The home fixture coincided with our annual supporter's lunch and was probably the best game and atmosphere I have witnessed, since our promotion play off victory, a few years ago against Hastings.

Our notable performances were deservedly rewarded at our end of season presentation to the following, but every player, supporter, OWRFC member deserves to be recognized.

OWRFC Clubman of the Year:

OWRFC Supporters Player of the Year:

Coaches Player of the Year:

Best Newcomer:

Most Improved Player:

Young Player of the Year:

Player's Player of the Year:

Long Service Award:

Luka Syplywczak

Will Burton

Ed Burton

Traian Chelmenciuc

Zac Cogswill-Stanley

Adam Wood

Ashley Smith

Mark Welch

**OUR STATS FOR THE SEASON WERE P22 W16 D1 L5
FINAL KENT COUNTIES 4 LEAGUE TABLE BELOW:**

		Home			Away			Home		Away		Total					Bonus Pts			
Team	P	W	D	L	W	D	L	F	A	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Try	Loss	Pts
Canterbury III	22	10	0	1	9	1	1	445	150	304	199	19	1	2	749	349	400	15	1	95
Old Williamsonsians	22	9	0	2	7	1	3	408	157	334	251	16	1	5	742	408	334	17	2	85
Bromley II	22	9	0	2	3	1	7	454	226	283	339	12	1	9	737	565	172	16	3	69
Cliffe Crusaders	22	6	1	4	7	0	4	260	245	253	204	13	1	8	513	449	64	13	3	67
Rye	22	8	1	3	4	0	6	335	222	221	271	12	1	9	556	493	63	12	3	67
Dartfordians II	22	6	0	5	5	1	5	296	265	338	326	11	1	10	634	591	43	14	2	65
Faversham	22	7	0	4	4	0	7	422	197	227	275	11	0	11	649	472	177	13	2	55
Sheppey	22	6	0	5	3	0	8	351	267	267	413	9	0	13	618	680	-62	13	3	53
Old Colfeians II	22	5	2	3	4	0	8	218	264	282	288	9	2	11	500	552	-52	9	4	50
King's College Hospital	22	5	0	6	4	0	7	306	359	277	368	9	0	13	583	727	-144	12	2	50
Foots Cray	22	3	0	8	1	0	10	196	469	98	594	4	0	18	294	1063	-769	5	0	16
Medway III	22	1	0	10	2	0	9	150	262	199	313	3	0	19	349	575	-226	6	1	4

A truly remarkable season and now we are looking forward to the imminent new season in Kent Counties League 3. The enthusiasm and atmosphere within the club is electric and under the guidance of Head Coach, Luka Syplywczak, we are not just here to make the numbers up! Our aim is to win League 3! Continuing the enthusiasm, we already have plans in place for the 25/26 season on ways to promote and strengthen the club. We intend to undertake second team fixtures, and are rejuvenating our social media to expand our footprint.

We have been working behind the scenes in preparation for the new 25/26 season and with the support of all our sponsors and of the OW mother club, we have developed new media streams and will be making available match highlights. These will be available, to all our members, via our Whatsapp Group, updated website and Facebook.

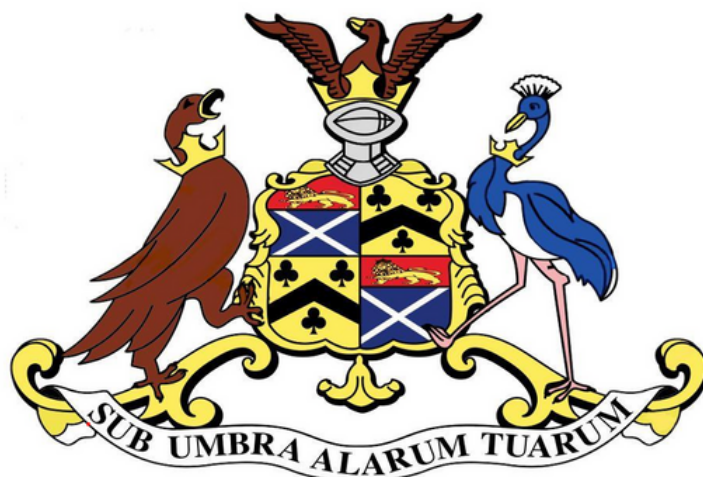
In addition we will be using the media streams to advise of social functions, results, tables and general club news, as it happens. It's all part of our plan to get more people aware and involved in our great club, so don't be shy, get involved, even if it's just to come and watch a game or two and have a beer or two.

We have had an excellent preseason, with Tuesday evening training sessions supported by additional gym sessions on Thursday evenings. We always welcome new and old players of any ability and I guarantee once you are touched by the Willies, you are part of a great community, nay a family.

Our season kicks off officially on 6th September, with an away fixture to Old Gravesendians but look out for our Vice Presidents and Supporters Lunch in December and our end of season lunch on 25th April.

Here's to a great new season, and as always I look forward to seeing you. Thank you for your support.

**Ian "Floyd" Pettman
Old Williamsonian Rugby Club Chairman**



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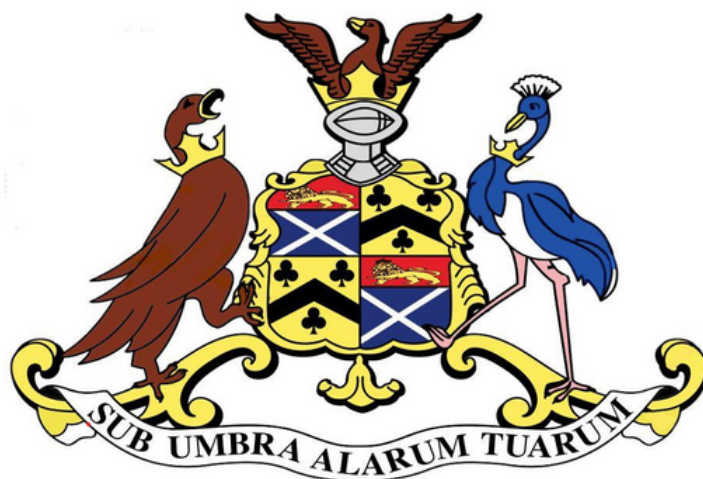
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CHRIS HALLS – OWCC CHAIR

IAN PETTMAN – OWRFC CHAIR

CHARLIE SMITH – OWHC CHAIR

RAY BOAST – OW LODGE REPRESENTATIVE

DAVE ROUTLEDGE

NEIL THOMPSON

VICTORIA BATCHELOR

GEOFF LEE

CHRIS FOOT

VICE PRESIDENTS

**R BOAST, C DIMMICK, S GODDARD, J FRY, CB HALLS, D HARRISON,
DR G HOLDEN, PR KING, GC LEE, I MCLEOD, RAE MARTIN, DAV. ROUTLEDGE,
RF WARD, K WILLIAMS, I PENTECOST, D PENTECOST, P MEYERS**



OLD WILLIAMSONIAN CRICKET CLUB

<https://oldwilliamsonians.play-cricket.com/home>

OLD WILLIAMSONIAN HOCKEY CLUB

<https://www.owhc-hockey.co.uk/>

OLD WILLIAMSONIAN RUGBY CLUB

<https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/oldwilliamsoniansrffc/>

OLD WILLIAMSONIAN LODGE

<https://sirjosephwilliamsonlodge.com/>

OLD WILLIAMSONIAN CLUB

<https://www.oldwilliamsonianclub.co.uk/>

All 3 sporting sections also have Facebook and Instagram