



Old Caterhamians Sports Club: Report to OCA AGM – March 2019

Rugby: Having entered the New Year at the top of their league, the 1st XV have managed to stay there but with some tough games remaining before they can be confident of promotion. The team has scored twice as many points as any other in the league, despite some close shaves. The most impressive performance was at Woking at the beginning of February when 6 tries were scored by Old Cats in each half. Although the scores required conversion in an arc from touchline to touchline, skipper, Ben Davidson, was successful with all and the team ran out winners by 84 points to 12 (the 12 representing 2 tries by the Woking team, who realised that their heavy, rumbling pack could force itself over the line late in the first half before fatigue set in). Highlights were 2 converted tries in the first 3.5 minutes as the spectators made their way across the park to the touchline, another in 13 minutes before they had caught their breath, and the subsequent delightful prospect of members of the Cats front five outstripping Woking three-quarters to score.

The 2nd XV having won promotion at the end of last season found themselves in a league containing the second teams of clubs whose 1st XV's play at a higher level than ourselves. However, boosted by those coming through from the youth teams, they have held their own and sit comfortably in mid-table. It follows that the youth organisation and the mini-rugby continue to thrive, with players working through the age groups to the senior sides. Persevering with an Academy organisation to run an U21 side at vacation times is also paying off and the Women's XV has made some progress with recruitment, so have been able to play a full league season.

Cricket: 2018 was a mixed season. Although a strong season on the pitch and off would ordinarily be something to celebrate, our hopes were that the 1st XI would be promoted, or even champions, after a brilliant start to the year. It was only in the final two weeks of the season that we dropped out of the top two in the Fullers Surrey Cricket League 1st XI Division. After flying high through the first three months, the first team sadly failed to win either of their last two games and slumped to fourth place - this despite the sterling efforts of a number of our batsmen in particular, as we racked up large totals and chased down some challenging targets. Of these batters, Old Caterhamians featured prominently with Matt Owen and Mike Randall making healthy contributions but, foremost, was Sam Armitage scoring 645 runs at the mighty average of 58.6.

Overall, the Club thrived in 2018, with the second eleven turning out some strong sides and three junior sections also going well. What was particularly noticeable was that the reorganised junior management structure is leading to more parents being involved in coaching and match management. This, in turn, is seeing more of the older junior players turning out, either for the Saturday 2nd XI or the Sunday social side. The new "off the pitch" facilities were universally admired by visiting sides and all are keen to right the wrongs of this year and return to make 2019 the year of promotion.

Lacrosse: Total membership at the end of 2018 stands at 76 members from Years 6-13 of which the majority of members are from Caterham School. The club has run a lacrosse training camp every holiday this season. A number of the senior team are qualified Level 1 coaches who assist with training sessions for the juniors, and many more will be doing their foundation coaching course later this year.

Old Caterhamians Lacrosse Club (also known as Caterham Cougars) play league games at all levels from U13 to Seniors, with U12s taking part in tournaments. This year the U12s have had a good membership this year with 18 joining. U13s have a strong squad this year. Having been runners up at the Cobham tournament as U12s last Summer, they started this season by winning the South East tournament hosted at Hill Fields. They are currently 2nd in the South East league.

The Seniors have had a good season, currently 4th in the South East league with 2 games to play. We had strong wins against Hitchin, Clapham and East Grinstead. To date we have only had one loss against a very strong Harpenden team, but all the other points dropped have been as we have been unable to get a team together, a brilliant achievement.

Nine girls represented Surrey in the Super Counties competition. This year we have four girls representing their country, one playing for Wales, two for Scotland and one for England.

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