

Old Caterhamians Sports Club: Report to OCA AGM – March 2018

Lacrosse: At the end of 2017 our total playing membership stood at 66 with most players having a Caterham School connection. The Lacrosse Camp planned for October half-term ran successfully with girls joining us from two other local clubs (Coyotes and Dragonflies). League games are played at all levels from U13 to Seniors with U12's taking part in tournaments. All sixth formers within the club are now qualified as Level 1 coaches, taking sessions each Sunday for the younger years under the guidance of Head Coach, Sarah Slater so 2017 saw increased focus on coaching, drawing on the sixth formers' skills and their commitment to develop the younger players.

The 2017 season saw Old Caterhamians Lacrosse Club (Caterham Cougars) win the first division of the South East League with U13's third in their league and the U12's fifth in theirs. Seniors continue to top their league but with the season not ending till June with a final tournament. Nine girls represented Surrey in the Super Counties competition and we are proud that 14 girls are currently part of the Academies (England and Wales) set-up with one recently winning a place as a Wales national team member.

Rugby: The senior teams, well prepared under the guidance of returning Director of Rugby, Paul Loader, and Head Coach, Steve Wagstaff, took the beginning of the league season by storm with the 1st XV winning their first seven league matches and leading the league with a considerable points difference only to slip slightly to two strong opponents before Christmas, ending the first half of the season well-poised at third place. The 2nd XV, despite strong opposition are also third in their league. At the time of writing, both sides are undefeated in the New Year. The Women's XV are playing well and returning strong wins. Mini rugby has the usual high numbers of young players and we continue to run youth sides in the various U13 to U18 age groups and a holiday U21 Academy XV. A new structure for the young teams has been introduced by the authorities and this means that only coaching and "friendlies" take place before Christmas with the league programme occupying the Spring Term, so it is too early for meaningful match reports.

Cricket: The 2017 season for Caterham Cricket Club was unsensational but ultimately satisfactory at it saw both senior sides remain in their respective divisions of the Fullers Brewery Surrey County League. Batting in the 1st XI was led by OC's Mike Randall and Matt Owen while the bowling was spearheaded by skipper Hiten Patel whose haul included two 'six-fors'. The performance of the 2nd XI took an eerily similar shape with opener Amit Rathore scoring nearly 500 runs and 2nd's captain and ex-Old Cats rugby man, Pete Rhodes, taking the bowling honours.

Probably the biggest feature of the 2017 season was the half a dozen weeks played at the School as there were no facilities at the Hill Fields for showering, match teas or a bar throughout the season. Oppositions were delighted if their game fell within a week of matches played in the Valley, and where others had to take tea on the outfield and return home unshowered, they were generally very

sanguine about it. Having our first awards dinner in the new pavilion in November made it all feel worthwhile.

New Pavilion: All sections have now experienced the excellent new building which will no doubt draw more members and offer a facility that family members and friends will feel really positive about visiting on match days. Logistics, which are addressable, and the weather, which probably isn't, contributed to some congestion during the autumn term but there is a real will to make everything work to the benefit of all.

By Bill Broadhead (OC 1953 – 1960)