



OLD CATERHAMIAN'S
ASSOCIATION

OLD CATERHAMIAN'S ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING Thursday 2 February 2023

OLD CATERHAMIAN'S SPORTS CLUB REPORT

Cricket:

Caterham Cricket Club - 149 not out

In many ways 2022 saw a typical performance on the field. The 1st XI did really well, finishing in third place in their division - however the bronze medal was not sufficient for promotion (only the top two go up) but means we'll be playing 2023 in a division where we are better than most teams. We just need a top two finish to actually achieve promotion. The 2nd XI finished mid-table in a satisfactory season and the increase in Sunday friendly fixtures compared to previous years was a real upturn, signalling more members and greater participation. This is not the case in all cricket clubs, or recreational sport more generally, but we are delighted to be bucking the trend. This was signalled by our end of season dinner at the Pavilion with nearly 70 in attendance, including partners and wider family members.

As ever, Caterham School continues to be a rich source of talent. We had a thirteen year old from the school score 93 not out on a Sunday, only prevented from being the youngest ever Caterham CC centurion by the overs of the innings running out. In charge of the playing side, our Club Captain is a Caterham School master, Matthew Owen, who also topped the 1st XI batting figures and has brought much to the club this year.

Most importantly Caterham Cricket Club starting 2023 is a momentous year. Having played at the field next to the Dene Hospital in the 19th century, and moved to Queen's Park in the 20th century, this summer will now see us enter 2023, which will be our 150th season. We look forward to another season of cricket and friendship, and many many more in the future.

Rugby:

With both senior men's teams having been promoted, the season started with many unknowns, including the strengths and weaknesses of new sets of opponents. The 1st XV were brought down to earth in the first match suffering a defeat by a single score but then went on to win all games up to Christmas with an extraordinarily high points difference. Old Wimbledonians, whom we had beaten with the last kick of the game earlier in the season, then got the better of us in the first match of the New Year. This put us in second place to them but following a further victory and with a game in hand we look to reversing the positioning with five league fixtures to go.

Our very youthful 2nd XV, although generally out-weighted by its more mature opponents has benefited from speed and rapid transfer of the ball to remain undefeated and to head its league. Co-operation with Dorking RFC has ensured that both Dorking and Old Cats have stable Women's squads and are attractive to recruits as, when appropriate, the two clubs can combine forces to ensure a game when otherwise one or the other may be short of players. However, in the wake of Covid, many other clubs are not as fortunate so there is a widespread problem with fixtures being cancelled by opponents and depriving us of the opportunity for match practice.

Similarly (and again in the wake of Covid) we are not at present fielding a full set of youth (teenage) sides but both girls and boys responded strongly to our recruitment events aimed at

the mini-rugby age groups. As a result, we believe the future is secure and applaud the energy and commitment of all the coaches, managers and associated volunteers.

Lacrosse:

The Caterham Cougars Lacrosse Club has once again had a successful and fulfilling season with all age groups playing in league fixtures from September to March. With a membership of around 80 and strong numbers at the lower levels the club is in good health.

In a period of transition the league fixtures for the U13 and U15 sides have been very tough with only a few other strong clubs committing to play a league structure while several other clubs have chosen to play just development friendlies. We have been well supported by parents in entering the league and the progress of these two ages has been excellent - even if wins have been few.

Our seniors team is outstanding when we have the numbers. As ever, our talented girls are pulled in multiple directions for school activities as well as their studies so we have struggled to field a full squad on some weekends. But we have had some outstanding results too. The club is working hard to attract our local OCs back to play on a regular basis and would welcome any and all former pupils to come and enjoy the club. Let the youngsters do the running while you add the experience!

We continue to have a strong international representation with several players at both England and Wales age group levels.

The club is improving its online communication for fixtures and membership to make life as easy as possible for both players and team managers / committee members.

NH/WRB/LL/02/2023