

Egham CC 2020 Captain Reports

1st XI

2020 has been a difficult year but it showed the strength of Egham cricket club. A club full of great people who pull together when times are tough. Massive thanks goes to everyone who helped prepare the cricket club for the season so that we could play some form of cricket safely.

This season the 1st team played in Div 2 of the Surrey Challenge Cup, it consisted of 6 matches against strong local opposition. It was a mixed season with some tough losses and some outstanding wins. The 1s finished the season with 2 wins from 6 games and these 2 wins came against clubs which are in higher divisions of the Surrey Championship. With some players unavailable, it gave opportunities to other players within the club and new club members to experience 1st team cricket. This season showed the strength in depth at the club with players coming into the 1st team and making a big impact. Also, with a large group of young players who are gaining more and more experience at this level, the future looks promising for Egham cricket club.

This season there were lots of discussions off the pitch about how we could improve and develop as a 1st team. These discussions showed the team unity of the 1s and the hunger to succeed as a team. There were some encouraging signs throughout the season with greater intensity to the warmup and during the match. Also the team developed a pack mentality with fantastic support for each other and drive to win in the face of any situation, this drive showed with both wins coming from difficult positions. In the win against Staines, the 1s batted first and after a solid start lost 4 wickets in a row which turned the game in Staines' favour. However the team battled back with the middle and lower order getting us to a defendable score of 147. This was followed with a fantastic bowling and fielding performance with 3 early wickets for Ryan Dennis, two late run outs and defending 7 off the last over to win. In the win against Chertsey we were in a similar difficult position at 60/6 but the team showed character with Elliot Hook (22) and Matt Cooper (42*) getting us to a defendable score of 139. Again we followed this up with a spirited performance in the field with everyone bowling well and the game finishing with a fantastic diving catch from keeper Dane Gilmour. Ryan Dennis finished with 3 wickets, Gurinder Singh 2, Matt Cooper 2 and Elliot Hook 2.

Our batting improved this season with some gutsy team performances but this is an area which we need to improve on. There were some big positives with Dane Gilmour scoring 135 runs in the 6 games at the top of the order with the highlight being a 61 against Ashford. Elliot Hook came into the 1st team and has developed into a strong middle-order batsman scoring 110 runs in 4 games. The highlight being a maiden 50 for the 1st team in difficult circumstances against Kempton. Also Dave Morris showed his batting class averaging 48 in the lower order with some important runs.

The bowling was mixed with some great performances and some indifferent performances compared to our high standard. The bowling attack was led by Ryan Dennis with 8 wickets, Ryan showed his skill throughout and he played a big part in our winning performances with early wickets. Dave Morris finished with 6 wickets, Harry Morris took 6 wickets as well. Gurinder Singh came into the team and showed great promise taking 5 wickets in 3 games and Dan Telford finished with 4 wickets.

2020 was a year to try new things and learn ahead of the 2021. Overall we performed ahead of our position in the Surrey Championship by beating teams in higher leagues and we showed improvement. However the team is aware that more improvement and hard work is needed to achieve our goals in 2021.

Massive thanks to Debbie Beesley for her support and scoring this year, also a huge highlight of the 2020 season was that Debbie got the chance to score for Surrey CC which was well deserved. Thanks to David Hawes for his continued support for the 1s and his valuable stats. Thanks to Roger Dix for volunteering to umpire for the 1s this year. Lastly thanks to Peter Bax and everyone involved in preparing the club for matchday, the ground was as stunning as always.

Harry Morris
1st XI Captain

2nd XI

With all the uncertainty that surrounded the game prior to July, it turned out to be a very successful and enjoyable truncated season for the 2nd XI.

It always felt like there was a real hunger to play and compete as soon as nets were opened and training sessions began; and so it proved as we went undefeated in the 7 games played. Credit to everyone for their enthusiasm with training which undoubtedly helped toward this.

Early friendly wins against local rivals Staines and Ashford set a good platform for faces new and old to play their way into the side. D.Gilmour's 50 and a maiden 100 in these would be the last we saw of him as he deservedly moved on to the 1st XI.

Onto the league and an abandoned game against Old Hamptonians was followed by a 79 run win over Staines & Laleham; Sprackling's 74 and an excellent but agonising 99 from Bridgwater setting the platform.

This was followed up by an excellent 4 wicket win against a strong Ashford side, Sprackling continuing his form from the previous week with 88 as we chased down 236 with 8 balls to spare.

On to the following week with a trip to first division Chertsey and a nail biting last ball victory on a tricky surface, in which Under-14, Zak Pooley made his 2nd team debut and top scored with a fine 43.

A two wicket win at Kempton was made more interesting when chasing 135, we went from 110-2 to 136-8. Nonetheless, a good team performance in the field restricted them and 56 from Bridgwater helped to get us to the total in tough conditions.

Onto the final week and needing just bonus points to take the title, a convincing 30 run victory over Hampton Hill would see us top the table. Ramsbottom with 73 taking us to 210 from 40 overs and 4-34 from Prior meant they would not reach that total.

Despite me having highlighted mainly batting performances above, it should not go unmentioned that our bowling was a big factor in our success too. Whether it be Moyne (8 wickets at an average of 17) or Mandahar (8 wkts at 18) with the new ball, Cooper, M.Hawes or Prior keeping the momentum as first change bowlers or Singh and Chauhan keeping things tight and taking wickets in the middle overs.

An overall excellent season and we have a great foundation to build on for next year. With a talented pool of players and a good mix of youth and experience, competition should be strong and a number certainly have the ability to be knocking on the door of the 1st XI.

My thanks to all those who contributed to getting the game 'on' this year. To Roger Dix for umpiring a number of games, to Debbie Beasley for scoring on her free week from the first team and to those who prepare the always excellent surfaces we play on.

Adam Dix
2nd XI Captain

3rd XI

After such difficult times I am actually pleased to be writing a report, because after 'good old Boris' indicating that the cricket ball is an agent of CORONA transmission it was looking doubtful that we would have a season at all

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to all the players that made themselves available to play throughout the season as clearly without you I don't have a side and I am hoping I will mention the majority of you below. Also, the fixture secretary Michael Hawes who organised opposition and grounds for us to compete against which was a thankless task after Royal Holloway furloughed ground staff without notifying their customers!

Egham third XI with a much changed side from the previous years played 7, won 4 and lost 3 finishing a creditable 3rd in the league. Highlights included resounding victories against local rivals Staines and Laleham, Chertsey and Kempton winning by 40, 85 and 78 runs respectively. Also, the old nail biter against Ashford off the last ball of the match with 141 plays 142 winning by 2 wickets.

As for individual performances I am pleased to say that six players scored over 100 hundred runs for the season including Zak Pooley at an average of 29 and Adam Secret at an average of 27. As for bowling performances I was particularly pleased with Bradley Staight getting 11 scalps at 7 apiece with a best of 4 for 7, Cal Hamilton 9 wickets at 21s and ably supported by Phil Robson 6 wickets at 11s.

It leaves me to say that with an air of optimism we will continue to blood more youngsters into the senior ranks and further develop them to be good young men as well as good cricketers.

Jamie Hamilton
3rd XI Captain

4th XI

The 2020 Cricketing season was unique for many different reasons. Notwithstanding Covid, the enthusiasm and commitment shown by everyone made it memorable. There was not a game where we found ourselves short of players and even pleasing to field a 5th XI on a couple of occasions. The season was short but many players in 4th team were available for Sundays as well. At the end of the season, we finished second in the table. The morale and enthusiasm when we played, from all the players was 100 percent. We participated and played in all of the matches and player availability this season was excellent. The player of the year was 'N J Balaji' for being a complete team player and putting the interest of the team above personal goals.

The core 4th XI were loyal, persistent and managed to make all the matches played despite various Covid restrictions. Our 4th XI players also come from near and far each week (as far as Croydon, Farnborough, Reading) and I believe this is due to warmth and support provided by our club and the management team. We played a couple of matches in our beautiful home ground at Vicarage Road, which is an ideal, lovely, scenic venue on offer. As a captain I enjoyed the full support of the resilient team and I hope we will have an even more successful season next year.

Ramesh Balasubramani
4th XI Captain