



VILLAGE NEWS

WEST END

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21ST EDITION

WEST END ESHER CRICKET CLUB—150TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EDITION

Dear Westenders,

Well that was quite a party. A huge thank you for your support of our 150th Celebration on the 21st, a brilliant evening and so good to see so many of you there from across the generations.



You can't have cricket without cake – The Acoustic Angels got the village dancing.

I should rewind a little though and let you all know about what's been going on in the cricket club to mark our sesquicentenary (ok I admit it, I had to look up the word for a 150th) and tell you all about our trip to play against a club established long before ours.

After the battle of Trafalgar, Admiral Sir William Hoste put into the island harbour of Vis in what is modern day Croatia. Having a bunch of boisterous sailors in need of some action meant that he and his crew disembarked and of course they set up a game of cricket. Where better then to test our mettle? The club today has a ground in part of what used to serve as an airstrip in the latter part of WWII and the outfield is a little 'agricultural'.



Unusually, the scorer's position is inside the boundary, under a tree and the outfield is, well, stony!

Nevertheless West End CC went in to bat and club president Eric Strange partnered our youngest tourist, ones wicket-keeper Jack Hambleton for the first over. Eric played in the centenary game for our club, so to turn out again 50n years later is quite something. Between them they had 101 years of West end history – Jack is 19 and Eric is 82!



Despite the efforts of a Croatian international player, West End smacked the ball hither and yon and amassed a total that proved to be beyond our hosts. Rumour had it that they were facing another game in the afternoon and in keeping with our well known club ethos of everyone being welcome, when it became clear that a couple of players from the home side needed to go and open their restaurant, we agreed to lend them both some players and our support. A fabulous afternoon of cricket was had, with Lord Hoste losing by one run on the last ball of the game.

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You can contact me directly chairman@weecc.co.uk or simply come and have a chat on match days or training nights.

In short, your cricket club continues to perform in the best traditions laid down 150 years ago. We are proud to be one of the most inclusive, friendly and sociable cricket clubs in the country and we are proud to still be West End Esher CC.

Thank you for your support and I hope to see you on the boundary soon.

*Chris Hambleton
Chairman West End Esher CC*

The stands in Vis are basic, but we did our best. Next day saw another match and another West End victory which boded well for the season to come.

The following weekend we welcomed our new intake of Junior cricketers, with Ruth Lovering now in charge of our colts section. Ruth has been amazing in organising everything, including our new Friday night food offer from Kell's Kitchen – if you've not tried it, you should! This year our younger age groups have been following a course designed by our own Gareth Hunter and his team from Playball, with the older kids coached by our experienced ECB qualified team led by Will Lucas. We have seen a big increase in numbers on Fridays thanks to this and my thanks go to Ruth and her support team. You will also have seen and increase in junior matches and training nights with our girls having their own session on a Wednesday. Individual coaching sessions are also available so if this is of interest please contact Ruth directly at

juniorchairman@weecc.co.uk



Our U8 team enjoying their victory

On to senior cricket – we have five senior teams now. Our First XI beat league leaders Merrow on Saturday convincingly to leave us third in the table, which for a team that was only promoted last season is pretty good going! The game also featured an incredible performance by Patrick O'Neill who scored 72 not out, then took 8 wickets for 20 runs in 9 overs. To put that into context, Paddy currently has the best bowling figures of anyone in any of the divisions of the entire Surrey Leagues. Our seconds also won on Saturday leaving them in mid table in a very tough league – again they went up last year and Captain Joe Bridges has a great team around him.

Our T20 side continued their good form by beating West Wimbledon – We will be hosting the Twenty20 Finals day on August 10th so hopefully we make it through to that and then we will once again be running our cricket sixes day on the August Bank Holiday Sunday. Our over 40's side under Paul Campbell continue to roll back the years and beat all-comers and our Sunday side under Miles Horwood's captaincy won a brilliant game on Sunday which came down to the last over. We have had a number of new players join us this year and you are very welcome to do so, whatever your level of experience.