ORA Orbit Newsletter

May 2022

Our President writes …

You can always tell when summer is coming because it starts to rain a bit more and there is a significant change in the faces at the Club.

The cricketers have emerged from hibernation and it's great to see some cricket mates back playing and socialising. It would be great to see rugby and football players using the club over the summer too, what better way to spend a weekend afternoon watching some cricket and having a pint at Poplar Road?

I Chaired the cricket EGM recently which was incredibly quick and uncontroversial and showed the Cricket Section to be in good shape. Best of luck to all the cricket teams this season, hopefully it will be another successful and enjoyable summer.

The Football and Rugby seasons will be addressed later in this edition, but I do have to mention the rugby season which has just finished. I played my first senior game for the Old Ruts in 1987 (I was 6)!!!! And this season has been the most successful in my memory.

- The 1st team are promoted and start next season playing in the highest league we have ever played in. They also won the Senior Surrey Cup for the first time. Well done to Rhys Gilbert-Smith who led the team superbly in his first season as captain.
- The 2nd team smashed their league and also won their cup under the leadership of Callum Baines.
- The 3rds led for the first time by Ryan Stroud were promoted and got to a cup final!

We might need a new trophy cabinet to fit all the silverware in.

My most enjoyable game was "Le Crunch" when I played in the President's XV against London French Vets and we then we played their first XV in a Senior match. Both games were won but the French got their revenge when we watched France beat England in the Six Nations game. There was a huge take over the bar, we raised a load of money for charity and I got presented with a London French Beret which I am prepared to model upon request (I am not holding my breath on that one)!

I was reminded of what a great facility we have for youngsters to play sport recently when I went to see two of our more successful players at work. I visited The Oval to see Ryan Patel open the batting for Surrey and hopefully he continues with the great form he has shown so far this season. I then watched my Godson Cailan Englefield playing for London Irish 1st XV against Leicester. While most of us have not achieved these heights, it shows that Poplar Road is a great place for people of all ages to learn to play sport and make friends for life at the same.

Looking forward, we have one of the best days of the year coming up. **RutsFest** happens again on 3 June so make sure you book your tickets to see some great local bands, catch up with your mates and generally enjoy being an Old Rutlishian.

Cheers.

Gary Forge
Old Ruts President

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The Club	Cricket	Football	Rugby
oldruts.club	oldrutscricket.co.uk	oldrutlishians.com	oldrutsrugby.com

Walter Livsey (1893-1978)

To a generation of post-war Rutlish boys the name Walter Livsey possibly conjures up a picture of a tall gaunt figure bent over a white-lining machine forever trudging around the school field. However, as a young man and before becoming school groundsman Livsey had had a successful career as a professional county cricketer. One hundred years ago this year, in June 1922 he had a major part in what remains one of the most remarkable first-class matches ever played.

Walter Herbert Livesey (he later dropped the first e) was born in Todmorden, Yorkshire in September 1893 although his parents moved to Surrey while he was still a baby. He joined Surrey as a wicket-keeper but with the England keeper Herbert Strudwick in their side it was clear that his chances would be limited. In 1913 he moved to Hampshire and whilst qualifying created a good impression by conceding only three byes as Oxford University totalled 554. He had qualified by the 1914 season and immediately became Hampshire's regular keeper. He enhanced his reputation later that year and caused a sensation by gathering a leg-side delivery from opening bowler Alec Kennedy to stump Jack Hobbs for just three.

He spent most of the First World War serving with the Army in India. After war service he returned to Hampshire in time for the 1920 season and remained first choice wicket-keeper until ill-health forced him to retire at the end of the 1929 season.

On 14 June 1922 Hampshire arrived at Edgbaston for a three-day fixture with Warwickshire. Hampshire were led by the England captain the Hon. Lionel Tennyson. (Tennyson was the grandson of the famous poet who employed Livsey as his butler.) Tennyson won the toss and put Warwickshire into bat. By close of play they had been dismissed for 223 and Hampshire were 96 for three – in their second innings. In their first innings they had been dismissed in fewer than 10 overs for what remains their lowest ever score of 15.

On day two Hampshire made steady progress but were just 66 ahead at 274 for eight when Livsey joined the England batsman George Brown. They put on 177 for the ninth wicket before Brown was bowled for 172. By now Hampshire were 243 ahead. Livsey and last man Boyes had added a further 70 for the last wicket when Boyes was out leaving Livsey unbeaten on 110. Needing 314 to win Warwickshire were bowled out for 158 leaving Hampshire winners by 158 runs in what remains one of the most unlikely results in first-class cricket.

Despite having broken a finger in the summer of 1922 he was selected for the 1922-23 winter tour of South Africa. Early in the tour bad luck struck again when he broke a finger whilst batting, which forced an early return home. He had a couple of test trials later in his career but never earned an England cap. Livsey was widely regarded as one of the finest wicket-keepers of his generation and one of the best never to play for England.

In a career spanning 17 years (six disrupted by the war) he played 320 matches for Hampshire, made 648 dismissals (390 catches and 258 stumpings) and scored 4,940 runs at an average of 15.53 with two hundreds.

Michael Hunt
(1958-1965)

Walter Livsey pictured sixth from the right with his Hampshire team mates

RUTSFEST ROCK & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Old Rutlishians, Poplar Road, SW19 3JS

Tickets

Can be purchased in advance via:
oldruts.club/rutsfest
or from the Old Ruts bar,
or can be purchased on the day.

Adults
£12 in Advance - £15 at the Door

Under 18's & Students
£6 in Advance - £8 at the Door

Under 12's - FREE

Friday 3rd June
12.00 until Late

FEATURING

Live Music from Midday

16 Live Bands, Two Outdoor Stages, Host of DJ's Throughout the Day and Evening

AMAZING FOOD

All Day BBQ, Real Ale Bar, Bouncy Castles, Plus Lots of Fun for the Family

A FUN DAY OUT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Tandem Ride London 100

As reported previously, Old Ruts hosts Merton Sports and Social Club for Visually Impaired People (MSSC). This year, two MSSC members, Jan and Hortense are taking on the challenge of the Ride London 100 and will be cycling 100 miles on a tandem from London around Essex and back again, ending up at Tower Bridge.

This intrepid duo will be raising funds for a new addition to the club's fleet of tandems to enable even more people to enjoy cycling on modern, comfortable bikes.

Jan and Hortense have been training hard to raise money for this cause and are determined to do the Club proud on Sunday 29 May! Jan, who is visually impaired, originally gave up cycling due to her deteriorating sight, but found she could continue cycling with MSSC as a tandem stoker. Her sighted pilot, Hortense is also passionate about cycling and gains a great deal from riding tandems with MSSC, knowing the joy it brings sighted and visually impaired people alike.

If you'd like to show Jan and Hortense your support and make a donation of any size, please use the following link:-
https://localgiving.org/fundraising/MSSCRideLondon100/

Jan and Hortense thank you for your support.

Terry James

Dropbox Archive

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0fegv4a3mx5uh4s/AABg7HElXe8YPH1DRO1UZT_Ya?dl=0

Old Rust's Road to Rome

On 1 June, Old Rust will set off from Poplar Road to cycle to Canterbury . The following day, old Rust and four others (Archbishop of Canterbury, Larger Drummer Boy, Popular Music Buff and Really Magnificent Beard) will ride, carrying all of their kit, along the Via Francigena pilgrim route to Rome!

The route passes through eastern France, including the Somme, Champagne and the Jura into Switzerland, skirting Lake Geneva and crossing the 8,100 ft Great St Bernard Pass into Italy, dropping down the Valle d'Aosta then over the Appenines to finish at the Vatican.

While all of the travellers have prepared by training regularly, dieting (well nearly all) and bought loads of new bike kit, they are far from complacent. They have concerns about being able to refuel adequately, keep their parts (mechanical and physiological) functioning properly, sleep through the others' snoring and keep their evening clothes looking and smelling vaguely presentable. However, the top five worries are: will we get a good meal every night, can we make it up the Great St Bernard Pass, can we safely descend the Great St Bernard Pass, will we embarrass ourselves against the locals at walking football, how will we cope with the Menace from Siena?

Your editor has volunteered to cover this epic 1,300 mile journey and will accompany the travellers. As such we have agreed to combine June and July's Orbits. Because we'll all be too tired to write much, I suspect what goes on tour, stays on tour.

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Rugby round-up (continued)

Old Ruts Rugby Seconds 2021/22

Rugby round-up

Magnificent Season for Old Ruts Rugby!

As recently as four seasons ago, Old Ruts were languishing in the lower Surrey leagues and struggling to get a 2nd XV out on a Saturday. Since then and as a result of a huge shift from Paul Cecil as Seniors Chair, ably supported by the coaching team and the players, this season saw the First XV finish a very creditable fourth in Surrey 1, the 2nd XV winning their league and a second promotion in two years and the 3rd XV finishing runners up in their league and yet another promotion!

We have now learnt that the RFU are likely to launch a new Surrey and London Premier Division to which the top five from Surrey 1 will be promoted as well. So that's three promotions for the season….

The season closed over the May Bank Holiday weekend with The Ruts picking up two more trophies as both the 1st XV and the 2nd XV won their Surrey Cup Finals, while the 3rd XV ended up just on the wrong side of the result in their final.

Those of us lucky enough to watch the teams play regularly will see sides playing a great attacking brand of rugby from some great young players, augmented of course by some wiser old heads.

The link with the Colts was identified as an area that we needed to improve and we are very much reaping the rewards of that now. Plus, it's great to see so many players coming all the way through from Kids First to Seniors.

The end of season Rugby Dinner, chaired by veteran player and Old Ruts President Gary Forge, was very well attended and a plethora of awards were given out to deserving players.

During the season we had two great social days with a very popular past players lunch with an exciting last minute victory against eventual league winners Trinity and then "Le Crunch" where guests London French brought over two sides and some minis and a fantastic Gallic day was had by all.

Ruts Rugby is in fine shape and we look forward to September with huge confidence.

Mike Stallard
Chair, Old Ruts Rugby

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Old Ruts Rugby Firsts 2021/22