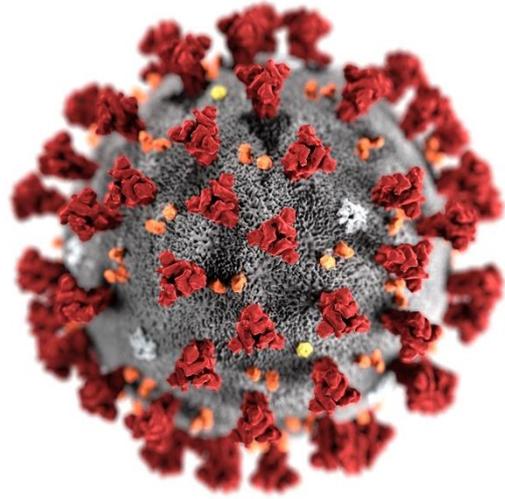


# ROMILEY CC – 2020 END OF SEASON NEWSLETTER



## **A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN**



**Hello everyone and welcome to our newsletter at the end of a season we are unlikely to forget!**

**Although unable to play early doors, we have not been idle and a considerable amount of time has been spent in updating, painting and maintaining the pavilion.**

**When we were finally able to take the field we had a terrific number of games to play in our league's revised schedule and our groundsman and helpers have done well to provide sufficient tracks for our needs.**

**Unfortunately the year was too advanced to allow any Junior or Women's fixtures and we can only hope for better things next year.**

**You may have noticed great activity on the pitch in recent weeks.**

**The square is being re-laid to give us better wickets, and of course in Romiley more drains are always a good idea!**

**Frustratingly we were not able to make early use of our magnificent new Members' bar, which, after a huge amount of planning was completed in March courtesy of the generosity of our Trustees. The bar is now up and running and Covid safe thanks to much thought and planning by our Pavilion Committee. We intend to open the bar on Friday nights throughout winter adhering at all times to the current Covid requirement and I hope you will be able to continue to support us. Social membership is only £10 this year which will allow you to purchase drinks at a discounted level. Further details about this and opening times are available from Peter Stuart 07853182130 or Simon Mellor 07786291800.**

**So whilst looking forward to brighter horizons it only remains for me to thank my committee and volunteers for all their dedicated effort during a very difficult year, and you the members for your unfailing support.**

**Mick Rowe (Chairman)**

## **CLUB CAPTAIN'S WRAP UP**

**Well, we've come to the end of what has been a peculiar but promising season for the RCC.**

**It seems a long time ago when I was voted in as 1<sup>st</sup> team Captain for the first time, taking over from Billy Flattley. In his four years as captain, Billy did a fantastic job gaining us promotion twice and winning two Cup competitions, so very big boots to fill. Following a tough 2019 first team campaign, we had our work cut out to get back to Division 1 and I was honoured and proud to be named Club Captain, ready to lead the boys back to where we should be!**

**There was an air of optimism and excitement going into pre-season. We held our first players' meeting which was well attended; ambitious goals were set and ideas thrown around as to how we were going to approach the upcoming season. This followed into pre-season training which was excellent; in all the years I've played for Romiley, I've never seen a better attitude and standard. Turnout was superb and I couldn't have asked for more from the lads. Everything was going to plan, until the C-Bomb landed... Corona.**



**The season was decimated and for a long time it looked like we wouldn't play at all. Luckily, we were able to squeeze in a shortened season which started in July, albeit with no opportunity for promotion which was a huge blow.**

**Outdoor training was unusual with Government restrictions and social distancing in force. A lot of hard work was put in to get us up and running and I'd like to thank all involved, with a special mention for the new VC James 'Ratters' Badrock, who was a real help. Turnout was great as the lads were itching to get going again. It says a lot about RCC that some clubs had no players wanting to train and we actually had to turn people away from several sessions due to high numbers!**

**On the field it's fair to say the first team had a mixed season. We were hampered throughout with limited availability, whether it was due to other arrangements or injuries, both of which were sadly too prominent. That said, there were plenty of positives to be taken and some impressive performances. It was a year where several of our younger players were given opportunities and showed some real promise and potential to perform at first team level.**

**We started poorly in the first game against Lindow, one of the stronger teams in the division. We were put in on a wet Romiley wicket, more reminiscent of an April track, and never came to terms with the medium pace attack. With several soft dismissals and a captaincy debut hamstring injury from yours truly, we stumbled to a sub-par 117 all out. James led the boys out to field and on a drying wicket a powerful Lindow batting line up got there with 5 wickets in the shed. The next day we were knocked out of the Cheshire Cup by the same opposition in an even more damning manner. The results were a wake-up call that we would have to perform well to succeed in Division 2.**

**We hit our straps in August with comprehensive wins against Mobberley and Stockport. Against Mobberley we were struggling at 62-6, when Bailey Bourke joined David Badrock at the crease in what turned out to be our best partnership of the season. The pair added 70 for the 7<sup>th</sup> wicket, with Bailey making 41 and David 74\* and we finished on 186-8. The bowlers bowled accurately and aggressively in bowling Mobberley out for 51.**

Two 20/20s followed against a decent Haslington side, with one tie (win on a count back) and one defeat. It was great to see good spirit and fight from the lads in what were two hard fought and at times heated matches. Notable performances from Alex Hooton (26), Tom Rolph (25), Sam Astley (25) and Brad Snape (4-0-2-14) and a semi-handicapped Paul Garner (4-0-2-13).

Performances through the rest of the season were inconsistent with further wins against Mobberley and Haslington but also defeats to Lindow and Haslington, leading to a mid-table finish.

I think it's important to note some of the promising young'uns coming through in the team. Both Brad Snape and Josh Patel played the majority of the season, with Brad taking the new ball and offering good control, threat and sometimes too much lip; and Josh bringing genuine all-round ability to the team. Alex Napier showed us what he's capable of towards the end of the season and is a real prospect for the future. He was without doubt the batsman of the year throughout the club with excellent performances in all teams - well done Napes!

Also it would be unfair to not mention the contributions of Hoots this year. He was clearly our player of the year and led from the front with both bat and ball. He's established himself as a key player at the club and hopefully he can carry through the form into next year (and get past 30 as few more times!).

In conclusion, it's felt like a year of transition and building into a big season next year. I'd like to thank all the players for their efforts - in a season of change with new Captains it's been great to see everyone working together and pulling in the right direction.

I'm extremely excited to see what 2021 will bring and I remain confident that with the right attitude, commitment and hard work, we have everything it takes to gain promotion.

Here's to every success for next season and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

#### **Key Season Stats**

##### **Batting:**

**Alex Hooton - Runs (198), Average (18.00)**

**David Badrock - Runs (160), Average (17.78)**

**Tom Rolph - Runs (158), Average (22.57)**

##### **Bowling:**

**Alex Hooton - Wickets (21), Average (11.33)**

**Brad Snape - Wickets (10), Average (13.00)**

**Josh Patel - Wickets (9), Average (13.78)**

**Tom Rolph - 1<sup>st</sup> XI Captain**

## **ANDY HARRISON – SECOND TEAM SUCCESS**

**After a last-minute change of captaincy and struggling to find 11 players 2 hours before the start of the first match, it didn't look like a promising season in prospect...**

**We started away at Lindow where Paul Flattley and Joe McNeeney helped the team reach 110 with 26 and 27 respectively. This was followed by a fantastic bowling display to dismiss Lindow for 89, with Flatts leading from the front with 3 wickets - this set the tone for what was to be a fantastic season.**

**A further four consecutive victories followed against Sale, Timperley, Heaton Mersey and Lindow again to maintain a 100% start. Flatts took four wickets to restrict Sale to a modest total which was easily chased down.**

**A stand-out performance followed from Josh Patel with bat and ball to see us home to victory against Timperley with a well hit 80 not out.**

**Next up was Mersey where 145 began to look a long way away at 119-8 with three overs to play; before Paul Stuart walked to the crease to save the day and saw us home with 2 balls to spare alongside Alex Napier, who carried his bat with an exceptional 80 not out after hitting 53 two weeks earlier.**

**Bank Holiday Monday saw Georgians visit Romiley in a rearranged Covid fixture where the first defeat of the season was looming. Last ball of the game - 6 to tie, 7 to win - Ravi Patel was on strike on 45 where he unleashed a mighty bomb to bring up a huge tie and his 50 to maintain our unbeaten season.**

**The invincibility came to an end the following week at Sale, but an easy win last game against Timperley ensured we made the final at Grappenhall. A huge following from Romiley watched the second team put in an exceptional performance in the final to make the club proud. Against a superb bowling attack, a fantastic partnership from Rob Booker (47) and Tom Roberts (31) saw us reach a defendable 146 to put us in with a chance. An immense bowling and fielding performance saw us put Grappenhall under huge pressure with Joe McNeeney continuing his fine form with the ball to take 4 wickets to get them 8 down. Unfortunately, Grappenhall managed to crawl over the line which saw us end the season as runners-up.**

**After a fantastic season for the second team, beating all expectations, it has put us on course for a promotion campaign when the 2021 season arrives!**

### **Key Season Stats:**

#### **Batting:**

**Ravi Patel - Runs (175), Average (29.17)**

**Alex Napier - Runs (174), Average (34.8)**



**Bowling:**

**Joe McNeeney - Wickets (13), Average (10.45)**

**Peter Stuart - Wickets (11), Average (9.55)**

**Paul Flattley - Wickets (11), Average (10.45)**

**Andy Harrison - 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Captain**

## **The Fresh Prince of Romiley**

*A musical story of the second team season courtesy of Andy Harrison. You're welcome...*

**Now this is the story all about how the season got flipped turned upside down,  
I'd like to take a minute just listen up; I'll tell you how we made the final of the Covid cup.**

**At Styal v Lindow was the start for Romiley,  
Where Flatts led us on to our first Victory.  
Where a couple of batsmen who were up to no good,  
Before Pedro, Flatts and Paul Hooton cleaned them up.  
Next week we demolished Sale at Romiley,  
I said, 'Napes you got us home with a fantastic 53'.**

**I begged and pleaded with Rolphy on Friday,  
But he picked me in the 1's for the Twenty20.  
The 2's faced Timperley where Flatts led them out,  
Josh Patel won us the game as he hit 80 not out.**

**First class, yo this is bad  
Heaton Mersey looked to be our first defeat at last,  
Napes and Paul Stuart were the heroes and saved us a fright,  
HMMMMMM this might be alright.**

**Lindow at home to complete the double,  
I best say Pete took 3 for 16 or I'll be in trouble.  
Monday v Georgians last ball Ravi hit a six  
To bring up a smug tie against those absolute...**

**We finally lost our first match in the game at Sale,  
But an easy win at Timperley got us to the final.  
At Grappenhall we gave it our all,  
And we shook them up,  
But we fell just short as the Covid runners up.**



**If anyone doesn't know the song or fancies a sing along, link below!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nCqRmx3Dnw>

## **PEDRO'S THIRD TEAM REVIEW**

**Unprecedented times?**

**Aldi teas replaced with Red Bull and McDonalds?**

**15 over a side mash-ups in a Marple monsoon?**

**Brought back to normality with dodgy umpiring and facing ringers every Sunday...**

**2020... the year the 3rds joined the big league.**

**After much consideration we decided to use this season as a strong bluff in preparation for next year's onslaught of victories.**

**Whilst coming up against some rather impressive opponents and losing every game, what I was most impressed with was the attitude of every player involved in the squad from teenagers to pensioners (sorry Griff).**

**After 6 seasons of serious technical coaching and mentoring from yours truly, my youngsters are becoming men and progressing to the 2nd and also 1st team and holding their own.**

**We have officially put forward a 4th team for next season which will increase competition for spots throughout the club, and this is a testament to the club and how we are progressing whilst other teams are depleting.**

**We will be looking for some new recruits to the development squad next season.**

**Special mentions**

**Max Griff thrown in at the deep end trialling as an opening bat.**

**Wilkie Jr learnt how to catch! (we will forget that one at Marple - it was dark).**

**Albert only turned up to the wrong ground once and was generally more punctual.**

**Not much serious to report other than we are looking at a really good coach for our juniors to work with them to take them up another level.**

**Great support all season from parents and other playing members.**

**See you on the other side, or propping up the bar in the all new Members' bar.**

**Cheers**

**Peter "Pedro" Stuart - 3<sup>rd</sup> XI Captain**

