1st XI Season Report 2017

The start of the season saw us take on Lindow with the team unchanged apart from the departure of overseas player Dan Duke and South African Kevin Carroll in to replace him sights were set on promotion out of division 2. Losing the toss was a sign of things to come (I won 2 league tosses all year). Lindow chose to bat and we started brightly two early wickets put Lindow on the back foot and should have been a even better start was it not for the umpire not given O’Brian out for a edge behind on 22 he proceeded to go on and get 81\*. Lindow ended their 50 overs on 195-9 probably 30/40 over par. After being in trouble at 33-4 C. Hart and myself put us in a very commanding position before I gave my wicket away for 74 on 119 some late hitting from C. Hart & C. Jones saw us get 179 ao and fell just short. Two home games were to follow which kick-started our season. First saw us play Christleton where K. Carroll registered his first half century for Brooklands (64) supported well by A. Buchan (40) to post a very respectable 215 in 50 over. The game was won comprehensively with outstanding bowling performances from Potter 3-12 Jones 3-28 and Singh 3-10 to win by 119 runs this game also included 5 catches take by K. Carroll. Second of these home fixtures saw us take on Alvanley which saw a very good bowling performance where Mitchell 4-37 and A. Hart 3-40 knock over a strong batting side to restrict them to 117 in 39 overs. In reply we made hard work of this total but confident performances from C. Hart and A. Hart (32&33) respectively saw Brooklands complete a second win.

Next challenge in the league was Barrow away a team in good form. On a very good batting wicket the bowlers toiled hard and kept Barrow to a respectable 228-6 against the best batting line up in the league (De Silva 101 and Reid 69). The chase could not have started any better C. Hart carrying on some fine form 82 and Carroll finding his feet in the league 36 a opening stand of 80 put us in a commanding position, but needing 6 in 6 balls with 4 wickets in hand we found a way of being beat. Tattenhall were next on the agenda and good old Manchester weather saw the game reduced to a 38 overs aside game after being in a spot of bother at 35-3 with the help of some generous bowling some very aggressive batting and running between D. Madden (58) and myself (81) a partnership of 130 saw us post 199-7, Tattenhall proceeded to not even attempt to chase down this score and we could only get them 6 wickets down. Week six away at new comers into the CCL Romiley is a game I personally would like to forget about, a very poor bowling performance saw them post 251-8 R. Leach pick of the bowlers with 4-46. After tea our day did not improve with a just as poor batting performance apart from L. Maitra and R. Leach managing to salvage a losing draw. This game also saw the next 3 games being skippered by J. Bagshaw as I did not cover myself in glory at Romiley and was serving a 3 game ban.

Jack and the sides first challenge was to take on Cheadle Hulme who had been struggling so far in the season. A fantastic knock from A. Buchan 82 well supported by new skipper J. Bagshaw 28 and D. Whyley 30 saw Brooklands post 228-7. Cheadle made a good fight of this total but fell just short on 215-8 with wickets being shared between Mitchell, Potter, Carroll and Maitra. The only good thing to come out of Mobberley away was a first 5 wicket haul of the season for C. Jones and the rain not to stop after tea. Stockport was next on the agenda and a good bowling performance saw us restrict them to 220-7 C. Jones the pick of the bowlers with 3-46 in 14 overs. The second innings saw the best Brooklands first team innings I have seen in the 13 years I have played 1st team for. K. Carroll 147 off 78 balls pumped every bowler that bowled at him to all parts and knocked it off with 14 overs to spare.

A trip to Northwich away saw us claim are most convincing win of the season, A solid start by J. Bagshaw and K. Carroll 38 and 43 respectively set up some aggressive batting from A. Edwards 51no off 48 balls and myself scoring my first 1XI league ton (119\* off 62 balls) to post 292-4 dec 49 overs. R. Leach stole the second half of the innings with his first 1XI 5 wicket haul (6-55) and finishing with a dead-eye dick run out to seal the 105 run victory. Bredbury marked the last game of the first half and a win was a nice way to finish the first half all be it we made hard work of it R. Leach hitting some form 4-42 was pick of the bowlers to restrict the visitors to 145ao in 45 overs J. Bagshaw made his first half century of the season with a very good innings, but it was new hockey recruit T. Khares who saw us over the line 8 down with a vital 29na.

At the half way point we sat in 4th in touching distance of those above us but it was also very tight all the way down to 7th. A poor batting performance after restricting Lindow to 168-9 did not give us a good start to the second half. R. Leach hitting some fine form with the ball with 4-53. K. Carroll pick of the batsman with 64 but we fell 17 runs short 9 down. R. Leach (15-4-27-4 easily the best bowling performance of the season, it was 15 overs on the bounce of unplayable deliveries 18 wickets in 4 weeks) and C. Potter3-23 bowled Christelton out for 110. J. Bagshaw (47) and K. Carroll (38) doing the majority of the damage to see us win by 6 wickets. Alvanley were to follow and a poor game on our behalf saw us get a tricky wicket to bat on first and could only post 147 A. Hart (41) some late hitting from R. Leach (29). After making a good fight of it they got over the line with 3 overs to spare.

Revenge was sweet next up against Barrow again C. Hart (42) J. Bagshaw (39) and K. Carroll (59) posted a solid 185 in the 50 overs, the second half of the game saw the spinners take control R. Singh 3-28 K. Carroll 3-13 bowl Barrow out for 123. The trip to relegation fighters Tattenhall saw a poor game for us. Being inserted after another lost toss we fell 20/30 runs short of a par total with 190 ao K. Carroll (61) A. Hart (42) A. Buchan (22). Tattenhall crossed the line with 5 overs to spare to win by 4 wickets. A. Hart (5-64. Romiley made it 3 in 3 against us for the season with another convincing win against us but excellent and promising performances from D. Whyley and debutant G. Forman 3-39 and 3-31 respectively G. Forman costing his dad a pretty penny. Romiley posted 159-9 and in reply only K. Carroll turned up as we were bowled out for 110 K. Carroll (80).

Two convincing wins against Cheadle and Mobberley (not without scares). At Cheadle we posted 173-4 in 35 overs D. Madden (47no) pick of the batsman. Cheadle 109-9 before their number 9 went mental and hit some of the cleanest hits I’ve seen 74 in 34 balls made it a contest before M. Law removed him to win the game. C. Potter, M. Law and R. Leach bowled Mobberley out for 131 before we won by 4 wickets K. Carroll with another fantastic innings of 89 not out. This win set up a must win game with Stockport, who ever won would have prime position for promotion. It’s unfortunate that we came out on the wrong side of this game. A good recovery with the ball saw us get Stockport from 116-3 to 171 all out thanks to the efforts of the spin twins M. Law 15-5-43-2 and R. Singh 15-1-54-5 and C. Potter 5-1-14-1. In reply we looked dead and buried at 54-6 but outstanding resilience from D. Madden (36) and M. Law (42) but us back in the game, but unfortunately we lost wickets quickly after Dave was dismissed and fell 17 runs short.

The less said about Northwich the better as the game was a bit of a farce from start to finish. Last game of the season saw us away at already relegated Bredbury. Runs from J. Bagshaw (63) and M. Law (65) saw us post 188 ao. Wickets from M. Law, C. Potter, R. Leach and K. Carroll saw us bowl Bredbury out for 146 and finish the season with a win. Although we did not get promoted we can take pride in the season we have been involved in. some of the cricket we played was fantastic and some was poor. We are now producing a very good group of first team players with players knocking on the door too. It has been a couple of years since we have had players pushing for places in the 1st IX but this year G. Foreman, D. O’Gorman, G. Jones, C. Buchan, T. Lett, D. Cunliffe and J. Gill all have had good seasons and have performed very well when they have been called upon.

I would like to make a special mention to Mark Law who claims he is retiring this year. Mark has been a key figure in Brooklands first team over the years and will be missed massively not only on the field but in the changing room too. Mark is a great character to have in your side who plays every game at 110% it’s been a pleasure Mark!
Christian Potter also informs us that he is retiring, Chris has been a key bowler in the first IX over the past 6 years and will also be missed. Hopefully we will still see them around the club and a winter off who knows what might happen we may even mange to persuade another season (fingers crossed). Thank you Mark and Christian.

It has been a honour to captain Brooklands 1st IX and something not many people can say they have done. Every time I have led us out it has been a privilege. I have thought about it long and hard and feel me stepping down is best for myself and the team. I would like to thank everybody for their commitment over the last two years. A special mention to Roy has to be made though you have been a massive help! Thank you!

AJ Hart
25 September 2017