

# FINCHLEY TIMES

**WELCOME TO THE 2018 FINCHLEY CC AUTUMN EDITION OF THE FINCHLEY TIMES!**

## **DON'T MISS OUT ON OUR UPCOMING HALLOWEEN PARTY & FIREWORKS NIGHT**



Our Halloween Party- “The Death Of Disco” will take place on Saturday 27th October from 7pm onwards. Fancy dress is not optional and we will be giving out prizes for the best and worst outfits. Expect great music, incredible cocktails, and a selection of Craft Beers including Two Finches Brewery’s Halloween Edition Porter. Come along and support your club on what has become one of the most entertaining nights in our social calendar.

Finchley’s annual and ever popular Fireworks Night is on Saturday 3rd November.

Tickets can be purchased online from [www.finchleycricket.co.uk](http://www.finchleycricket.co.uk) or [facebook.com/finchleycricket](https://facebook.com/finchleycricket).

Our fireworks display will begin at 7pm, bonfire will be lit at 5pm, food available from 5pm and the bar will be open from midday onwards.

We are always looking for volunteers to help make the night as successful as possible so please get in touch with Jake if you would like to help out.

## **SUMMER PARTY REPORT**

Our first Summer Party took place on 25th August and was a huge success for the club. We have had only positive feedback from playing members and social members alike and it will certainly now be an annual fixture in our calendar. Huge thanks to all those that made it possible with a special mention to Sumit Jadav and the entire Jadav family for helping to organise the catering, our own Kamran Akram from Acepoint travel for the incredibly generous donation of our star prize-flights to Dubai and all the other organisations that donated prizes.

A very special thanks to our favourite musician Lawrence Hill for the incredible set he played and kept everyone thoroughly entertained...and involved!!



The club would also like to thank all of our members that made the effort to be there, the success of the night was down to the number of people that turned up and certainly made it a night that we will not forget.



## DOUBLE SUCCESS FOR THE FINCHLEY GUNNS

It was a successful end to a memorable season for the Finchley Gunns. The 1's knew they needed to overcome the first and second placed teams in the last two matches to once again lift the WCSL Premier League trophy. We managed to do just that but not without drama. Against St Lawrence, Finchley recovered from 33/4 to post a defendable total of 223 and win by a whopping 101 runs. And in the final winner-takes-all match vs arch rivals Hursley Park, Finchley chased down a challenging total of 158 on a tricky pitch thanks to lots of character and some gutsy batting by the middle and lower order. So League champions for the third year running! - an outstanding achievement by all involved, to go with the ECB National Knockout T20 Trophy earlier in the season. The 2's finished in a very respectable 5th place in the WCSL Wostrack League, this is in itself a fantastic achievement, competing against a number of clubs' first teams. The rest of the club also finished on a high with an enjoyable and impressive performance in a friendly against East Herts, and reaching the semi finals of the Ashford 8-a-side festival. While the Roses didn't play a lot of cricket in the second half of the season, they look back on a successful year of developing players and giving opportunities to those new to cricket. The most pleasing thing has been to see so many of our young players breaking through and performing in the women's teams.

Also a huge thank you to all the families, friends and helpers for all your support over this great season. As always we'd be nowhere without you!

On Saturday 6th October, we celebrate the brilliant 2018 season at the Finchley Gunns End of Season Awards Evening at Finchley CC. Head down to the club to see who wins the coveted Club MVP award amongst many others!

A KSL update! - it was a fairy tale finish to the Women's Kia Super League for Finchley Gunns' Sophia Dunkley, lifting the trophy with Surrey Stars, and playing a key role with the ball in the final against Loughborough Lightning. Fellow Gunn Naomi Dattani also had a fantastic season with the Western Storm, the allrounder playing in every match and helping the Storm reach another finals day where they were beaten in the semi by Dunkley's Stars. Finchley are very proud of all their KSL representatives and hope to see more of the same next year!





## ENGLAND CALL UP FOR SOPHIA!!



Just as we were going to print we heard the amazing news that our very own Sophia Dunkley has been selected to represent England in the ICC Women's World Twenty20 tournament, which is taking place in the West Indies from 9th-24th November. Following a year of consistently impressive performances for Middlesex and also helping guide the Surry Stars to Super League success Sophia has earned a well deserved call up to the national side.

England are in Group A along with Bangladesh, South Africa, Sri Lanka and defending champions West Indies. They kick off their campaign on 10th November against Sri Lanka.

We wish her and the team the very best of luck and will all be supporting!

## A PERFECT 10-Brad Chemaly

We have been very fortunate to have Brad Chemaly as one of our overseas players over the last two seasons. Brad hails from Cornwall CC in Auckland and is now the third player we have had over from the club. Brad has exemplified everything you would want as an overseas player both on and off the field and will be incredibly hard to replace. A stand out performer in all three disciplines of the game (yes fielding counts!), an almost permanent smile and a huge asset to the club away from match days as well he will be sorely missed by us all at the club.



### 1.What is your best moment on the field at FCC?

One that stands out, in my 2nd game following the teams promotion back into the premier division, we beat Teddington at home by 2 runs, defending 8 off the last over. Significant as Teddington had won the league the season before, and we were only defending 180 odd. The following week we beat Brondesbury in a close game.

### 2.What is your best moment off the field at FCC?

There's quite a few. Apart from the Cardiff trip to watch the ABs that Sears eluded to in the previous edition, probably watching Stew Davison socially inhale a pint of posh Kronenbourg - amazing. Hass's magic tricks definitely deserve a mention in here too!

### 3.What lies ahead for you this winter and beyond?

Looking to do some travel for a month or so in December/January and then set up in Sydney for a couple of years from early 2019.

#### **4. Worst chat you have heard on the field?**

Seb getting angry at the sub-par pitch (pretty much every pitch but here), ground, batsmen, and general game of cricket.

#### **5. Best quote you have heard?**

“We should do more fielding at training”...

#### **6. Future Finchley players to watch out for?**

Apart from Jake Milton, there are quite a few - but I think the leg spin twins of Yuvi Bharadia and Jafer Chohan, and the Wijeratne brothers. Also Tom Powe, the only guaranteed 30 at the club.

#### **7. Who would you rather have as your partner in Badminton- Will Munford or Sumit Jadav?**

Sumit Jadav - we are still unbeaten. Also Munford sometimes doesn't show up, with his WhatsApp last seen at 5.58am...

#### **8. Best Powe?**

An easy one.. JP (Julian that is)

#### **9. Best bloke to sit near in the sheds?**

Joe Nissam. A young Steve Smith (by looks only). Starstruck

#### **10. What advice would you give to your succesor as our overseas player?**

Enjoy the time you have here at a great club with a great bunch of people, definitely going to miss this place!

### **A Chance To Literally Put Your Name (And Your Rear End) On Some Cricket History.....**

Did you know....

The famous white benches that surround Arden Field once graced an (almost) equally famous cricket venue?

That you can now own your own part of this special cricketing history and help Finchley CC raise funds at the same time?

If you want to know the answers then read on.

The benches are original seating that furnished the old Mound Stand at Lord's from 1887 - 1985 before they were donated to the club, and now a once in a lifetime opportunity has arisen to have your own personalised seat from which you can while away a sunny weekend at Arden Field and cheer on the home team.

This winter the club will be refurbishing the benches and you can have one with a uniquely inscribed plaque and secure your own piece of cricketing paradise.

The cost is £350 per bench, but you'll need to move faster than Ben Sears off a long run or Will Munford and Matt Walshe heading for a post-match drink - 10 benches have already been sold, so don't miss this wonderful opportunity.

To donate to the club and own a personalised Lord's bench please contact Jake (contact details on the back page)

## DISAPPOINTING RUN IN FOR THE 1's

Following on from a tremendous victory against Ealing just before last going to print the 1's were unfortunately unable to get anywhere close to that level of performance for the rest of the year and lost our last three games. It meant finishing 3rd from bottom as opposed to top four or five that was a possibility going in to the last three weeks of the season and would have been seen as a real step forward. That said if we are brutally honest it would have papered over some rather large cracks in this writer's opinion! There was inconsistency in everything we did this year (and preceding years!) starting with availability and it only takes a glance at opposition team sheets to see their consistency of availability was far better than ours.

Multiple changes to the starting 11 every week is never going to help build any kind of momentum throughout the season and makes it very difficult to take positives out of previous games going forward. It also has a knock on effect throughout the other sides at the club so has made life harder for all the other captains as well.

It is something the entire cricket committee is aware of and one of the issues we are addressing already as we head in to the winter months. We are hoping to recruit a few players across all the teams that will hopefully help and we will be communicating with the players to hopefully establish more consistent commitment to what we are trying to achieve.

Worth adding also that it would be slightly naive to gain promotion back in to the Premier League in 2017 and expect to be winning the title so soon. It is something we are certainly aiming to be competing for every year but it will take a bit of time (and patience from all) before we are where we should be. With the addition of a couple of new players and a commitment from a core group of players to play the majority of League games we will certainly be on the right track. Added to that a big push to make sure training is both well attended, competitive and allows players to keep improving each week we will hopefully begin our journey to the summit next season. The desire is certainly there and we have shown glimpses over the last two seasons that we have the capability to compete with the best teams in the league so hopefully big things will be coming in the next few years.

## SOK's 3's SURVIVE-

Finchley 3's had a real rollercoaster of a season, with a great start to the year giving way to 6 losing weeks by very narrow margins. A few wins in those rounds would have greatly improved our end of season league position, as there was not much difference in teams in this years competition. Once again there were some stand out performances from our Colt's in 3's and the clubs ongoing commitment to playing Colt's in Saturday Men's will bring great long term results. Great individual performances from Abdul al Haq, Adam Hassan, Benji Powe and Shoaib Farooq. Stand out player of the year was Anuraag Bharadia who bowled very well in all games and with better catching in the field, would have bagged alot more wickets than show in the score book. I will be stepping aside as 3's Captain in 2019. I wish all the best to the new Skipper and the team for the next season.



## 4's ROUND UP-CHINTAN JOSHI

The 4s season ended unsuccessfully as we were relegated. The five games we conceded early season cost us dearly in the end, despite a win-loss ratio that should have seen us finish mid-table. As a result the club will make a determined push to recruit new players over the winter break so we can field a competitive fourth team. Please invite your friends to try out at the club.

Matt McGowan and Will Legget were the stars of the 4s season. Romil Mehta achieved an enviable strike rate through the season, ably supported by Jayant Harshwardhan and Ali Sayed. Apart from the colts bulk of the runs were scored by Gaurav Anand, Sunil Tailor (Sr) and myself. The cricketing highlight of the season was the game against Bessborough and Twickenham. Both were incredibly close games which we won.

Non cricketing highlight would have to be Sunil Tailor arriving with a severe and clearly self inflicted illness for a game and then throwing up at Tea before going in to bat!



## SUNDAY BRUNCH WITH FRANK PRENESTI

How do you measure a season's success? Silverware? Progression? Enjoyment? The number of reverse sweeps and ramps that Tom and Jamie Powe actually middle?

I don't know a captain wouldn't take that quadrella any day of the week, but as any discerning punter knows, the quaddie is hard to land and this year proved no different. We brunched well, some emerging stars shone a little brighter as the season went on, we had a great time in each other's company and were probably two slightly contentious LBW decisions and 15 runs from securing our second Chess Valley Division 1 title.

But it was never about the trophy. A cohort of young players showed the potential to be real match winners and become the core of a future Saturday first XI. Some established "old" young men such as Nir Shah, Jake Milton, Jamie Powe, Will Munford, Jaimin Patel and Pete Crowe scored runs and took wickets aplenty in addition to offering sage words to the rising stars. Mark Melzer brought years of wisdom to the party and the mighty Simon O'Keefe plundered a match winning ton when it was needed most. Stewart Davison was a useful ear to bend along the way.

Rajiv "I know we're fielding and it's only the second over but am I going to get a bat" Purohit was a welcome addition to the Sunday Army ranks. Matt Houppermans was always one of the first names on the teamsheet, mainly because there's a large jump from "H" to the next player on the alphabetical team list.

Of the youngsters, Benji Powe had a bumper season opening the batting and should look to cement a place next season because he doesn't play Hollywood shots like his less responsible siblings. Brother Tom brutalised his opponents with the bat and challenged his captain generally - including an attempt to leave a game early for a Jimmy Carr show on a date with his girlfriend.

Joe Nissim brought joy to both dressing room and brunch table, never tiring in his quest to get better at both - by the end of the season he was using real cutlery like a pro. So desperate was he to play the last game of the year that he arrived in his football goalkeeping kit straight from picking the ball out of his net five times that morning. The wicket-keeping was of equal standard, but you can't buy that kind of entertainment. His 900 ball 22, against grown men who hadn't run since the hundred metres was first contested at Mount Olympus and based on tactical advice from a sambucca-fuelled Simon O'Keefe the night before, had people deleting their Instagram apps so they could deny being there.

The Bharadia boys, sponsored by bling and hair product manufacturers, relished the fight. Anu opened the bowling with his crafty sliders and spinners without so much as blinking. Yuvi picked up vital wickets and pressed home our advantage as regular as clockwork in the middle overs and was a keen participant in the post-match discussions over a lemonade as we soaked up the sun on the outfield.

Adam Hassan came into the side late, showing great maturity with bat and ball culminating in a beautifully-paced maiden senior century at home - the years of throw-downs by his old man carting balls in the world's scabbiest carrier bag are paying dividends. Will Leggett, son of the conker-throwing man-child and Finchley batting great Graham, batting at the other end that day, will also benefit from the outing, as they say in horse racing.

So, there you have it, three out of four makes a trifecta in my book - which is just as hard to land. Winter well Sunday boys - the season is only six months away.....



## EXTRAS AND SUNDRIES

Following on from his major role in helping Imran Khan to win the election in Pakistan we are thrilled to announce our very own Zulfi Bukhari has now been appointed Special Assistant to The Prime Minister for Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development.

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## LAST OVER

As the dust is settling on the season and you are packing away your cricket kit for the winter please do not forget there is an awful lot going on at the club over the next six months! We are trying very hard to raise some money to refurbish our outdoor nets (desperately in need!) and we also have several other big and exciting projects which could help provide the club with long term financial security as well as providing our entire membership with state of the art facilities. We are always on the look out for new sponsorship partnership opportunities as well and we need help on all of these projects so please get in touch with one of the committee members listed if you believe you can assist the club in any way.

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### Important social dates ahead – for your diary:

- **Halloween Party – 27 October 2018**
- **Fireworks night - 3 November 2018**

And do contact any of the following if you would like to talk about the club, offer ideas or volunteer:

- **Jake Milton, Club Manager (assistant editor!) - [facilities@finchleycricket.co.uk](mailto:facilities@finchleycricket.co.uk) – 07793812929**
  - **Stewart Davison, Director of Cricket - [coaching@finchleycricket.co.uk](mailto:coaching@finchleycricket.co.uk) - 07803360637**
  - **Beth Morgan, Finchley Gunns CC - [Finchleygunns@hotmail.com](mailto:Finchleygunns@hotmail.com) -07903 377247**
  - **Caroline Dunkley – Committee Member - [carolinedunkley@icloud.com](mailto:carolinedunkley@icloud.com)- 07956196754**
  - **Mike Milton, Chair of Finchley CC – [milton.m@btinternet.com](mailto:milton.m@btinternet.com) - 07768366462**
  - **Sunil Tailor – Chair of Cricket - [sunil@tailorandco.com](mailto:sunil@tailorandco.com) - 07961946392**
  - **Hass Khan, First Team Captain - [hassankhan3001@gmail.com](mailto:hassankhan3001@gmail.com) - 07780699695**
  - **Julian Powe, Committee Member and Editor of Finchley Times – [julian@thejouleeffect.com](mailto:julian@thejouleeffect.com) - 07590713333**
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