

## 2009 Cricket Season

Well, another cricket season comes to a close. A season for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI that has seen 22 games (including the 5 T20 matches), for 11 wins and 8 losses. A season that saw a Jack Cook hat-trick against Stowe; a Chris Smart 99 against the MCC; a stunning catch at Brighton by Christian Davis; five last over wins in our first ten matches; three wickets in the first over against Harrow; JK smashing the tiles on the Harrow pavilion with a towering six; last pair Tom Rhodes and Mark Edmunds batting 9 overs to save the match v Perse; a prep schooler earning his senior 1<sup>st</sup> XI cap. It was also a season that saw us lose 7 wickets for 7 runs at Oundle; and Tom Rhodes hit for 5 successive sixes against St. Albans Pretoria. It had everything!

Will Aitkenhead, Jack Cook, Tom Rhodes and Will Gallimore, played their last season of cricket for the School, and the thanks of the club go out for their terrific contributions to Bedford School cricket over five years in the Upper School. It is hoped that they take away fond memories of their cricketing experiences here, and that they are back here again soon in the OB ranks taking on the young upstarts of the School XI.

The rest of the team have at least one more season playing 1<sup>st</sup> XI cricket for Bedford School – in Charlie Thurston's case five! They should make sure that they cherish every match, and play their hearts out for the School in every match; so that when they leave, as the four Upper 6<sup>th</sup> have done this year, they do so in the knowledge that they have added to the great tradition of Bedford School Cricket.

The Mike Green batting trophy was this year again contested by James Kettleborough and Sam Kumar. Sam notched up 8 half centuries in compiling 836 runs at 46.44, with match-winning contributions against Eastbourne (96no), Rugby (68) and Oakham (78). James scored 771 runs at 35.05, with seventies against Eastbourne and Harrow, but it was his match winning hundreds against Rugby (116) and Haileybury (107) that earned **James Kettleborough** the The Mike Green batting trophy for 2009.

The **Richard Wise bowling cup** went to a lad who was the 'go-to' man for his captain this year. When a wicket was required or the runs needed drying up, he turned to this terrific competitor. He even answered the call for some left arm orthodox spin as the situation or conditions demanded. In all games he took 31 wickets at an average of 19.06. The winner of the Richard Wise bowling cup for 2009 was **Christian Davis**.

The **Cricket XI Challenge Cup** for The Best All Round Cricketer of the year was fought out between Sam Kumar and Christian Davis (457 runs, 31 wickets). If JK had been bothered to turn his arm over before the last week he may well have competed for this cup also. As it is, **Sam Kumar** added 21 wickets to his 836 runs in all games and was the winner of The Cricket XI Challenge Cup for 2009.

The **HC Orr Fielding Trophy** for 2009 went to a lad who took one of the most astonishing catches imaginable on the boundary at Brighton College, and backed this up with another ripper at Harrow. This is not a classic catch cup, and so it was important that the recipient is also a very good all-round fielder. Of this there is no doubt, and so the HC Orr Fielding Trophy for 2009 went, as it did in 2008, to **Christian Davis**.

**The Single Best Batting Performance of the year** was a tough choice between several great knocks. In contention were JK's hundreds, Sam's beligerant seventies, and Smarty's 99; but the award went to Will Aitkenhead, whose superb 94 against Tonbridge not only put us in a winning position, but whose manner of dismissal told us a great deal about the man. Pushing for a declaration, and placing, as he always did, his team interests ahead of his own, Will was caught on the deep mid-wicket boundary going for quick runs to aid the team cause. Having never scored a ton for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, this was a massive sacrifice

The Single Best Bowling Performance of the year was difficult in that there was no stand out performance. The greatest wicket-taking performances for the year were 4 wicket hauls to Chris Smart and Jack Cook, but the award went to a lad in his first year of 1<sup>st</sup> XI cricket, and who against Oakham really came of age as a 1<sup>st</sup> XI bowler, bowling a wonderfully aggressive and controlled spell of 3/19 from 7 overs, restricting Oakham to a modest score and setting up an eventual win. The winner of the Courtenay Walsh hat for The Single Best Bowling Performance of the year went to **Mark Edmunds**.

There was one colours recipient this year, and that was **Christian Davis**. Congratulations Christian.

I would like to thank Jack Cook and Will Aitkenhead for leading the 1<sup>st</sup> XI over the last 2 seasons. We've had our ups and downs, but I have really enjoyed working alongside these two terrific lads, and I hope and trust that they have enjoyed the honour of captaining the 1<sup>st</sup> XI.

The 2009 cricket season was, overall, a very successful one for Bedford School. Numbers were strong, and it was only disappointing that other schools were unable to field the number of sides that we were able to field at all levels. The U14 age group were tremendously successful, losing only a handful of matches between 4 teams. Tim Graham and Vikram Sohal represented the 1st XI, and other excellent contributors were Oliver Feast and Alex Dickinson. The U15 group were largely successful, particularly the 15Bs who only lost 2 matches all season. This was down to the depth and enthusiasm shown by all the lads in that year group. Jonny McDuell captained the As superbly, and was rewarded with 1st XI representation towards the end of the term. The U16 age group won some excellent matches and continued to display the sort of team ethic that is a model to all other teams in the school. This is an age group full of characters and fighters, and they will serve the club well over the next few years in the senior teams. The 6th form teams were not quite so successful as their younger club mates. The 1st XI won 11 of its 22 matches, with Sam Kumar scoring more than 800 runs at a tick over 40, and James Kettleborough scoring 760 runs at a tick under 40, including 2 hundreds. Christian Davis took the spoils with the ball, claiming 31 wickets at 19 for the summer. The 2nd XI often struggled for numbers in the exam term, but fought courageously in a number of tight games and won some cliff hangers. They were well led by Ben Cawood and Adam Bedford.