



THE BEAMER

CHAMPIONS!!!

"As the festive season kicks into full swing, The Beamer has come out of hibernation to think back to a truly amazing 2008 at Leigh on Sea Cricket Club. The last time The Beamer raised its head we were coming into the final furlong of the league season with all four teams going well in their respective leagues. Now as the curtain falls on 2008, we can look back to what happened in those last few games and bask in its glory.

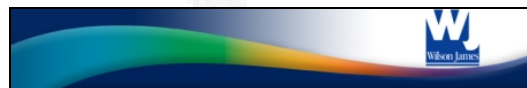
Firstly, the fourth team, after a walkover win against Hornchurch, were crowned Champions of the 4th XI East Division, earning Ken and latterly Paul's team promotion into Division One. Then on the very last day of the league season, the 2nd XI and 3rd XI came to the party.

With victory at Benfleet and the news that Gidea Park and Harold Wood had abandoned their game to the elements, Brian's 2nd XI followed the 4th XI to be Champions of Division 2. With Gidea Park 4th XI v Billericay 3rd XI also being abandoned, the third team needed a positive result to follow the promotion tide. After dismissing Southend for under 150 the 3's cruised home comfortably and the day was complete. Three teams promoted! Two champion teams! One great season!"

Ed.

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- Sponsors -



FINAL LEAGUE TABLES...

1 ST DIV 2	P	W	D	L	Pts
1. LOUGHTON	18	10	5	0	238
2. FIVES	18	10	3	3	234
3. WALTHAMSTOW	18	10	2	4	234
4. LEIGH	18	6	3	6	189

2 ND DIV 2	P	W	D	L	Pts
1. LEIGH	18	11	2	3	263
2. GIDEA PARK	18	10	4	0	254
3. HAROLD WOOD	18	10	2	0	232
4. HADLEIGH	18	4	7	4	175

3 RD DIV 3	P	W	D	L	Pts
1. CHELMSFORD 4's	18	16	0	0	313
2. LEIGH	18	7	4	3	201
3. BILLERICAY	18	5	6	6	194
4. O / S' DIANS	18	4	4	6	175

4 TH EAST DIV	P	W	D	L	Pts
1. LEIGH	12	8	3	1	175
2. WICKFORD	12	8	0	3	172
3. UPMINSTER 6's	12	6	2	2	156
4. ORSETT	12	3	2	6	100

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THE CHAIRMAN'S PERCH...

Well what can I say about 2008?

I'd like to start by talking about the almost dizzying list of achievements that LOSCC has been able to put together this year. With regards to the Saturday league season, this will have to go down as one of, if not *the* most successful seasons ever with the Second XI, Third XI and Fourth XI all being promoted. The Seconds and the Fours were both able to secure silverware for the club by actually topping their league.

Everyone involved with the club should feel extremely proud of this achievement. It was a joy to be in a happy smiling club for a great majority of last season and the celebrations after the last game was something that I will remember for a long time.

All of these teams will be looking to maintain the level in 2009 and the challenge we now face is building upon this success to ensure all our teams are challenging for success next year.

Outstanding seasons from established LOSCC players were seen last season, with standout performances from Dean Waller, Richard Stubbington, Dave Clarke, Joe Sexton, Paul Morgan and the return of two lifelong Leigh On Sea players Ed Freeman and Sean Elliott (albeit only for a brief period in Ed's case.) The arrival of new faces has only added to our success with Ross Daynes, Ryan 'Rusty' Madder, Dan Power, Sean Hamilton, Toby Giles and Dave Archer all contributing to the XI's they played in.

Tim Knox, our Australian overseas player this season, has provisionally agreed to return next year and I know we will all be happy to see him return.

Our youth section continues to flourish and this has begun to positively affect our senior section as the performances this year show.

- Under 15 League winners
- Under 13A League winners & champions
- Under 13B League winners
- Under 11A League winners

We are now in the nice position that next year we will be putting out a 5th eleven in the league, something we could only have dreamed of a decade ago. At a time

when many clubs are reducing the amount of cricket being played this is something we should be proud of.

Unfortunately we have had some examples of poor player behaviour during matches this season, I consider that we as a club have a very high set of standards in terms of behaviour and with it a fine reputation built up over our history. For 2009 an official Code of Conduct will be implemented and rigorously enforced for all club members, irrespective of age, the club expects all members to follow this Code. We can not and will not allow the good reputation of the club, hard-earned over many years, to be tarnished.

I need to make special mention and thanks to all of those people who have made my first year as Chairman easier that it would have otherwise been and to plead with all members to continue to support this club both on and off the field of play to ensure our continued success.

2009 promises much and I sincerely hope we have as much success and enjoyment as we did this year.

Simon Burch

A (SHORT) WORD FROM THE CAPTAIN...

I started this season talking about having a five year plan of getting the first team into the Premier division in 5 years. Looking at the results from my first year, with the second, third and fourth teams all being promoted, looks like every team has performed except mine! I would like to congratulate the captains and all the players that helped contribute to this great achievement, we will certainly have to go some to top this year. I think that some of the changes that the cricket committee put in place at the start of this season, at least in part, reaped some benefits throughout the season.

From the first team perspective, I think we can take plenty of positives from it which I will talk about these in more depth in my stats report. I am as ever looking for the club to get better and better and I think from the fantastic base of this season we can look onward and hopefully upward!! Hope everyone has an enjoyable festive period. See you all in 2009!

Stuart Elliott



TEAM OF THE YEAR...

Before all our thoughts turn toward 2009 and the trials that will bring, we here at The Beamer would like to take one last look at the year that was 2008. A LOSCC panel was assembled to look through the records and come up with an XI of the year for 2008. This is what they decided on:

1. Dave Clarke (wk) – The sledgehammer was in awesome form for the second team for the first half of the season, being the first player to 300 league runs. He spent the second half of the season mixing between ones and twos, but always set a good pace at the top of the order and was a reliable performer throughout.

2. Richard Stubbington – Stubbo followed up a good 2007 with an even better 2008, this season he scored over 500 league runs, averaging 60 in the second XI. He formed a potent partnership with Dave Clarke when they opened for the twos, and was equally effective at number 3 later in the season.

3. Dean Waller – 751 league runs and 1114 altogether for 2008, Dean scored 30% of the all the first team runs in 2008, over 700 more than the next highest scorer!

4. Ed Freeman – Arriving into the twos on the 19th July, the forgotten man of Leigh-on-Sea Ed made an immediate impact upon his return scoring 95*, 46 in the twos, followed by 99, 39* in the first team. Scoring over 350 league runs in no time at all Ed slots in at number 4 in the team of the year.

5. Paul Morgan – A very good season from 'Sheephead' contributing well to the third teams early season successes with a well constructed 80*. For the fourth team he was a consistent performer, scoring a 66 and several 40+ scores. He takes the final batting position just ahead of Mark Sexton and John Monk.

6. Matt Wallace – Matt slots into the genuine all-rounders spot of number 6 after another solid year in the second team. Always the model of consistency Matt produced performances with both bat and ball, most memorably single-handedly turning the game against West Essex with 102* and 58* to win away at Walthamstow.

7. Tim Knox – The overseas player earns himself a number 7 spot (and the first stint umpiring) by being the leading wicket taker in the first team as well as having a tidy batting average of over 40. A good year for the import but then, we wouldn't give a Castlemaine XXXX for anything else!

8. Dan Power – What can you say about Dan Power? Heartbeat of the second team for the great majority of the season, he took 40 wickets in the season for LOSCC. Arguably the best spinner at the club and easily the loudest.

9. Sean Elliott (capt) – The Man of Glass returned to the fold this year after extensive knee and back problems that hampered his bowling for the last 3 years. He was the second highest wicket taker in the first team and proved once again how reliable a performer he is. He will also have to use his "come on fellaaas" as he leads the side.

10. Joe Sexton – A breakout season for 'Tiny Dog' Sexton, moving from the fourth team to a regular in the threes on the back of some sterling performances. Taking three 7 wicket hauls during the season and troubling all who faced him.

11. Dave Archer – The third team workhorse for large parts of the season Dave set to his task manfully, bowling over after over after over. Dave picked up almost as many wickets as he did nicknames and finished the season with over 30 wickets easily topping the third team table. His highlights will no doubt be the notorious 'jug game' and that he didn't actually break his finger

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CONTRIBUTE TO THE CLUB WEBSITE...

THE CLUB WEBSITE WWW.LEIGHCRICKET.COM IS STILL AVAILABLE ONLINE 24/7 TO BROADCAST YOUR NEWS AND VIEWS.

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PAYEDAY TO SPONSOR LOSCC 2009

The club is delighted to announce that local payroll company Payeday will be adding to the sponsorship of LOSCC for 2009 and beyond.

The deal struck provisions for significant contributions to the on-going improvement of facilities at the club, and will see distribution of new playing shirts to all playing members for the 2009 season.

An interview with Payeday manager, Keith Baker, will appear in the next edition of The Beamer!

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THE GRILLING I...

1. Name?

"Tim Knox"

2. Favourite shot?

"Lofted Drive"

3. What phrase are you most likely to be heard using on the cricket field?

"Come on lads keep working! Not very entertaining but most of the other stuff is just friendly banter! Mainly about Pidge"

4. How have you enjoyed your time in the Mother country?

"I have absolutely loved my time here; everyone from the club has been so welcoming and made my time here even more enjoyable"

5. Are you looking forward to getting back home and what have you missed most about Australia?

"Yes and no, obviously it will be nice to see friends and family again but on the other hand I've made some fantastic friends here!

Easily the weather is what I have missed the most, and my double bed! Sorry Kingy"

6. What would you say to the people that maintain you are not as quick as Chris Villani?

"How many runs did he make? Ha-ha I'd probably tell them they're right!"

(Quote from Steve Elliott upon seeing Knox bowl for the first time - "Well he runs in quick" - Ed)

7. What was it like being in Britain when they finished ahead of Australia in the medal table at the Olympics?

"Very disappointing, bordering on embarrassing considering the sporting talent of the Brits..... You haven't seen a small urn lately have you?"

(For the record books the final medal table read GB - 19 gold medals, Aus - 14 gold medals - Ed)

8. Will you be looking to return to the club in the future?

"Yes, I really hope I can return next year!"

9. What is your favourite nickname that you have been given by Leigh?

"Timmy (I hate that), but the best was Bruce Forsyth! I only saw him for the first time the other day and I must say well played lads!"

(Good game, good game - Ed)

10. If you could change one thing about Leigh on Sea what would it be?

"I would have to say the lack of numbers at training, and the frequency of the players being unavailable and obviously get the council to do more work on the wicket!"

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MEET YOU THERE!...

New Years Celebrations!

There will be various events over the New Year, with a New Years eve party at the club and 2009 drinks on New Years day both planned.

Details will be on the website so please keep up to date to join in the fun.

Pre season Fitness training

Thursdays: 20.30 - 21.30 @ King John from **5th Feb**

Pre season Nets

Sundays: 09.30 - 11.30 @ Southend High from **1st Feb**

These are open to ALL senior playing members.

Details of other events will be here in future months so please take note and mark them into your diary! If you want your event advertised then please contact us at

THEBEAMER2008@YAHOO.CO.UK



THE GRILLING II...

1. Name?

"Ben Giles"

2. Favourite piece of cricketing equipment?

"Chest guard - completely takes the fun out of an indoor nets session for the likes of Waller and Sean Elliott. Even Mark Sexton was queuing up to bowl at me when I was batting without one."

3. What phrase are you most likely to be heard using on the cricket field?

"Have we got drinks organised during the innings?"

4. Many club members won't know how you got on doing the much vaunted Lands End to John O'Groats bike ride, what happened?

"I think we all know I only got to Chester due to a knee injury. I'm waiting for my old man to retire and be a support vehicle unless anyone wants to come with me before that."

I don't think there's been a single person that hasn't laughed at my failed attempt.

Clarkey said to me "How does it feel to be a failure?" out in Leigh one Sat night. Suffice to say I had a sense of humour failure on a scale of Brian Pettitt not getting an lbw"

5. What is the injury situation like at the moment? What are the chances on you playing a full season in 2009?

"Who is going to be interested in the answer to this question? Things are ok, but as always an athlete's body is continually on a knife edge."

(As is the hypochondriacs - Ed)

6. Who is the most talented in the Giles family?

"Middle brother Nick - he is a teacher and hence chilled out and quit cricket at the top. Plus he has a girlfriend and does normal stuff."

7. What is your most embarrassing moment as a cricketer?

"After being punished for 5 balls in the 1s in the 2007 season I signalled to Mark that I wanted to come off - not realising there was another ball to come. His reply was something like "You're definitely coming off but how about finishing the over first hey"

(Ben reached the dizzy heights of number 9 in The Voices 2007's golden moment's countdown with this little episode - Ed)

8. Other than "Brad Pitt with a better face" describe yourself and what you bring to LOSCC?

"I never said that. Stubby made that up. I've got OCD and will invariably help anyone out so long as it doesn't mean locking up. OCD is really bad with locks."

9. What is your favourite nickname that you have been given by Leigh?

"I suppose Ben Chin due to my exceptionally long face. Paul Boughtwood thought its circumference was more than a metre in one of the bets last year"

10. If you could change one thing about Leigh on Sea what would it be?

"Tricky - there are so many. I think there should be a ban on older players saying they used to bowl at 90mph or average 70 with the bat. When I'm in my 50s and the kids ask me if Sean bowled at 80mph, I'll just laugh and tell them the truth."

On a serious note though - I would change the pipes/coolers behind the bar.

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DEAR DAMO...

Once again the letters have been flooding into The Beamer offices; it seems that more and more players are experiencing problems they need help with. The Beamer has again been able to persuade the clubs foremost psychological expert to look into these issues.

(For legal reasons the identity of those writing in has been protected)

Dear Damo,

As I move steadily through the teams at LOSCC, where I eventually will be one of the best bowlers in the club, I feel that my undoubted style and phenomenal (boy band-esque) good looks are not getting the attention they deserve. Stephen Elliott and Ben Giles are always getting admiring glances but I get nothing.

I know that I am only young but as I am twice as talented as most other players and I feel that I should be getting more respect. What can I do?

JS, 15

Mate...

For starters don't confuse 'admiring glances' with fair dinkum staring. Ben's Jaw line and Steve's dress sense are like a car crash....you can't help but look.

Look little fella you're on the right track with your ability to talk a good game and that's what you need when you're at a club that doesn't recognise pure talent....like mine. On the looks front it's always going to be hard with the 'old man' holding you back. His uncle fester style image and his obsession with shorts that are tighter than Stubbo's wallet will always have people wondering about your future trends....

All I can say is use those rather large ears of yours and listen to your uncle Damo....Good luck!

Dear Damo,

Having missed all of last seasons cricket due to a hectic social calendar, numerous male escort gigs and seemingly continuous hairdressing commitments, I feel I have slipped down the club's pecking order somewhat.

As a former first team regular, I don't want to lose my high standing at LOSCC. How can I maintain my position despite having not played for a year?

LW 31

Mate...

I think the problem here is as clear as the nose on your face...it is the nose on your face mate, it's a problem! Ever since you had a few feet taken off the old shnoz you seem to have developed a vanity that even Warney would be proud of. Strewth....bloody pedicures, manicures, face lifts, hair hats...there's talk around town that you could be older than the great Benaud himself!

Now I'm a good looking guy and I've maintained this with a good old sausage Sanger, beer and fags...its perfect mate.

If you want to be back firing on the field I would say completely change your game too. Cricket isn't about little defensive pokes and running between the wickets like your chasing an underage shelia....it's about dispatching that red leather to cow corner at every opportunity. I've said it before and I will say it again....GO HARD OR GO HOME!!

Dear Damo,

This has been my first season as club Chairman, and by and large it has been a fantastically successful year. Two league titles and one second place, amazing stuff. You would think I would have no problems, however I am concerned about next year. How can I, just one man, keep performance levels up across the whole club?

SB, 46

Mate....

Bloody oath that's quite the predicament! The cricket season is a long way away at the moment mate. so what's the G.O.? Kick back after this season, bask in that glory mate!

I think the best thing you can do in terms of keeping your reputation at its current high level is to get an Australian involved as the clubs 'performance director'. I could....sorry I mean....he could, look at where the teams need motivating and what (good) areas they need a boost in. Set about getting those cameos turned into match winning knocks..... Damo style.

In the longer term I wouldn't worry too much about keeping up performance levels for the club after the last few seasons I would worry about keeping yourself up mate. I've heard that after a weekend of cricket getting yourself out of the old arm chair on a Monday is a bit of a challenge. Let's not even mention your ability to stand at about 10pm on a Saturday night in the club house....

Maybe stop playing devils advocate and start playing more golf, much more relaxing, I'll even give you a game, jeez I'm a grouse golfer though.

Until next time guys, I'm outta here!