

## Aldermaston Cricket Club In 2016

2016 was a largely successful one for us on the field, with 15 matches producing 9 wins. This record flies in the face of some of our struggles to find a complete team some weeks and included some very good wins, including for the first time against Goring On Thames at the fifth time of asking, and against Chieveley in our first meeting. Our first home game of the season, against Cold Ash, ended in defeat, but we didn't lose again at home again until the Bucklebury match in early September. On our travels, we won four games out of eight, but the last of those wins was at Mortimer in mid-July.

We achieved a home and away double of wins against Bradfield and Ashford Hill, home and away wins against Mortimer, plus an away loss – our away win was an extra fixture arranged in a hurry after our original opposition called the match off.

Our opening day win at Bradfield was memorable for Josh Howell's unbeaten 49 which rescued the game from a decidedly uncertain position, while our home match on what turned out to be the last day of the season brought an opening stand of 102 and included Rod Howell's best score of the season (59), and later, a four-wicket haul for Ben Hardy (4 for 13).

Other statistical highlights included Ben Hardy once again ending up top of the batting averages and leading run scorer, with Garry Masters in second. No-one managed to get to a hundred, but Kieran got close with a whirlwind 96 in the home match against Ashford Hill. Kieran often bowled better than his 7 wickets in 10 games perhaps suggests.

Although among our bowlers there was only one five-wicket haul, (Josh Howell, 5 for 26 against Chieveley), there were eight four-wicket innings, four of them from Mark Whitelock, who finished the season with 28 wickets and an average second only to Josh, who took 11 wickets in his 6 matches. There were also 20 wickets for Ben Hardy and 16 for Garry Masters.

Wicket-keeping duties were shared around, and there were a total of 8 dismissals in the 15 matches.

Fielding wise, Ben Hardy was top of the outfielders with 10 catches, but there were 7 unrecorded catches this year – if anyone knows who took them or would like to claim them, please submit your claim to the scorers.

We welcomed several one-off 'guest' players this year, including Ashford Hill's Richard Warner, who played for us on his side's home ground and made 34, and Steve Hanney, who scored 51 at Mortimer and kept wicket, taking two catches. Cameron Grain played for both us and the Sinton XI at Charlbury and impressed in a good opening spell for us and later took a wicket for the Sinton XI.