



## 2022 Annual Booklet

### Club Officers

President

Nick Priestnall

Hon. Treasurer

Nick Westhead

Hon. General Secretary

Chris Ward

Hon. Fixtures Secretary

William Buckland

Hon. Membership Secretary

Nick Hodgson

Club Safeguarding Officer

Mark Williams

[www.crypticscricket.club](http://www.crypticscricket.club)



@crypticscc



Cryptics Cricket Club

## President's Message

By the time you read this, the Club has already played three matches on our tour to Spain. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our first pre-season tour in Europe in recent years although there had been numerous such trips to Oporto during the Easter holidays in the early years of the Club. I see that four Cryptics were on both tours (Messrs Ward, Hutchinson, Winter and myself). The players on that first tour were well supported by Simon Westhead and Harold Fawcus. The pre-season tours have been a great way to encourage and recruit young players into the Club and thanks to the generosity of a number of former Cryptics and of those who participate in the Draw Club we have the resources to subsidise them.

Looking back on the 2021 Season and to such records as I have for the last 20 years or so, I find that we lost a higher percentage of matches than in almost any other season. This is something I hope we can put right in 2022! While playing Cryptics cricket is not exclusively about the results as we do not have a league table at the end, playing to win is undoubtedly important and always will be. Notwithstanding the results, there were some tremendous highlights. There were five hundreds for the Club scored by three players: Ruairi Willis and Sam Elstone both scored two, Hamish Nolan the other. We think that Sam Elstone's 204\* against the Free Foresters may be the highest score in the Club's history. Sam's batting that day was complemented by a match-winning 6-18 by Joe Ireland but his 155 against Barnes was in a losing cause! Sam's father David Elstone scored many runs and took many wickets for the Club too during his playing years.

In one of my first seasons as a member, the Club was given a Cryptics blazer by Jim Swanton. It had been made for him when he was somewhat smaller than he was by then! I have looked after it and have recently responded to a request by the MCC for blazers of wandering clubs. Hopefully, they will want this, and it will be on display in due course.

There is a wealth of club material in a number of different places. We are keen to get it in one place and to collate and catalogue it. We are seeking a volunteer to be Club Archivist; if you are interested in this please do contact me.

The Cryptics is so much more than a cricket club. In correspondence with the families of two Cryptics who have sadly passed away over the last few months, I realise that while they not only clearly hugely enjoyed their cricket for the Club, but they also made lifelong friendships. Long may that continue.

As always do look at the Fixtures List on the card and on the website and do NOT wait to be asked. Please approach a Match Manager about his game as early as possible. All MMs want to have not just full teams but competitive ones.

It is with sadness that we learnt of the death of former Club President Colin Dean on Friday 8th April. The Tour party in Spain were able to raise a glass in his memory. He will be greatly missed as a friend and a Cryptic, cricketer, committee member and President.

Finally, I look forward to seeing as many as possible at the dinner on 1<sup>st</sup> October at the OUOTC.

Nick Priestnall

## 2022 Fixtures

Details of the fixtures for the season are published on the fixture card but members are strongly encouraged to refer to the website which can of course provide up to date details of match managers and other information. Members are also able to apply to play direct to the match manager on the fixtures page. If you know of other cricketers who would enjoy our brand of wandering cricket, please do encourage them to play too.

## 2022 AGM and Annual Dinner

The AGM and Annual Dinner will take place on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October at the OUOTC, Falkland House, Oxford. The committee is very grateful to John Hamilton who has agreed to take on the organisation of this event. Please note that the dress code has been changed this year to jacket and tie for gentlemen. As in previous years, guests are warmly welcomed.

## Subscriptions and Match Fees

The Committee is maintaining the same Annual Subscription and Match Fees for the forthcoming season. The Annual Subscription is £30 which is waived for students until they have completed FE/ entered employment. New members are proposed to the committee and on selection are asked to set up a regular annual direct debit to the club.

Match fees:

All day game: £20 (£10 concession)

Afternoon game: £10 (£5 concession)

This represents excellent value for the cricket available. The Club is only sustainable though if it can encourage new members to join to maintain resilience in our player base and financial security.

## Club Clothing

Playing kit, training kit and sundry items badged for the club can be ordered from Serious Cricket. Follow the link below to set up your personal account to start ordering items.

<https://seriouscricket.co.uk/teamwear/stores/the-cryptics-cricket-club/>

Traditional sweaters in the club's colours can be obtained from Rochford Sports Knitwear Ltd 01749813240 or online at [www.rochfordsports.co.uk](http://www.rochfordsports.co.uk)

Club Ties and caps can be ordered from the Hon. Gen. Secretary, though we are currently seeking new stock.

## Review of 2021 Season

Played 20      Won 6   Drawn 5      Lost 9      Cancelled 5

It was a relief after the shortened 2020 season to be able to muster something close to business as usual with a healthy crop of fixtures. William Buckland was working to the eleventh hour to see this extended but vacillations in the face of COVID uncertainty meant that the season did not begin until the end of May. Of the five cancellations, only one was due to a shortage of players. From a handful

of match reports submitted (and available on the website) and scrutiny of score cards I have endeavoured to paint a picture of the summer of 2022.

As May petered out, Patrick Nolan summoned the first team of the season to raise the flag on the north bank of the Thames where runs were plentiful on the lawns of Hurlingham. A close finish saw the Cryptics end up a dozen runs short and nine down. Thence to the banks of the Berkshire Thames for a first game against the Flashmen at Culham Court. There was little that was flashy in this low scoring game which saw the Cryptics, after a generous first over which secured nearly a quarter of the runs required, dismissed some way short of the hosts' modest 147. By contrast, there was a high scoring game at Barnes where the Cryptics might be forgiven for some confidence having posted a good total courtesy of a substantial contribution of 155 from young Sam Elstone who would go on to play for Scotland in the ICC U19 World Cup. However, Barnes brushed this aside to win by four wickets. At the height of midsummer, and with rain having caused the cancellation of many other games that day, the Cryptics took to the field against Amersham in Shardeloes Park in another high scoring contest. The ball raced across the outfield as Amersham put away 301 for the loss of five. The Cryptics response faltered slightly after Ed Montague's 73 seemed to create a good foundation, but Ruairi Willis and Ned Bishop-Harper defied all that could be cast at them with an unbeaten fifth wicket partnership of 134 which included a century from Ruairi that brought us within respectable range of the target.

It would be late June before a first victory was secured, and this against the Stragglers of Asia. Again, the weather threatened mischief but did not deliver. The Cryptics laboured to 153 all out. The Stragglers got off to a strong start and as drizzle fell at tea, were riding high on 72-1. Fuelled by a cricket tea – this was a proper cricket match – and inspired by some outstanding fielding, including a memorable one-handed catch by Joe Pym, the Cryptics bowlers dismissed the Stragglers for 123.

The Cryptics of the North now entered the fixtures fray with a game at Ampleforth College against the Gentlemen of Cheshire. A chastening encounter, largely at the hands of Goodman who took eight Cryptic wickets for 37 runs ended any thoughts of a burgeoning winning streak for the club. After the drear of June, July brought temperatures in the 30s and on such a day the Cryptics returned to St Edwards School in Oxford for a first game against the Martyrs in a few years. The Martyrs posted a challenging 267-8, boosted by an explosive final 15 overs and, in the heat, the Cryptics response wilted slightly to 144-7, the only highlight being Craig Rintoul's 50 on debut for the club.

The Free Foresters secured a fixture for us in the Parks in Oxford at the end of July. The game became a rout after Sam Elstone scored 200 out of 292-4 for the Cryptics. Joe Ireland claimed another six-wicket haul for the club in helping to dismiss the Foresters for only 134.

The Annual T20 quad at Eton saw the Cryptics defeated heavily by the hosts in the first game before overcoming Australia House by eight wickets in the second. Meanwhile, back in the North, the Yorkshire Gents skittled the Cryptics for 118 and won by six wickets. The southern tour was reduced to two matches after difficulties raising a side at the start of the week. The Martlets were defeated by 142 runs thanks to a century from Hamish Nolan (one of five of the family playing in this game). Sadly, the form did not hold good and the Old Hurstjohnians left us a long way behind at Hurstpierpoint. There was a better contest in Durham where the only remaining two-day fixture on the card was played out. The Cryptics aggregated 402 and set the Pilgrims 250 to win in their second innings. Rain curtailed the climax with the Pilgrims 70 runs adrift and four wickets down.

There followed another heavy defeat at Warnford where the Hampshire Hogs snuffed out the Cryptics assault on their 240-8 a long way from the target. Will Bull who had scored so freely the year before top scored again but with a more modest 66 this year. At Hampstead the results continue to yoyo from year to year – it was the host’s turn to triumph in 2021 and after Samuel Ranger had taken 7-39 to reduce the Cryptics to 139, they won by 5 wickets.

The game against the Gloucester Gipsies was a curiosity. The Cryptics worked hard in the field and seemed set to dismiss the hosts for under 200 but a dogged 10<sup>th</sup> wicket partnership, that kept us out in the field for 65 overs, ended up being the difference between the two totals. For the Cryptics James Berwick took five wickets which included a catch at mid-wicket that had ricocheted off Craig Rintoul’s helmet at short leg. In reply, Craig and Jason Doole both scored half centuries, and we entered the last hour one down with 120 to win – and then only scored seventy of them whilst being bowled out.

At the HAC, going into the last hour, the Cryptics came closer than they believed they might to chasing down the 232 runs needed to win. Skipper Ruairi Willis (75\*) was left to rue leaving his onslaught just too late so that we were just 8 runs short at stumps.

The curtain came down on the playing season at Standlake with a final win against the Downs. The Downs were bowled out for 181 with the tail being largely dispatched in a devastating 13 ball spell from Ruairi Willis (3-1). He then went on to score his second Cryptics century that secured a four wicket win with time to spare.

The season was drawn to a conclusion with the dinner, held at the OUOTC in Oxford at the end of September. Attendance was lower than usual but having had to cancel the 2020 dinner due to COVID it was good to be able to gather socially at last to celebrate the cricket that has been played.

Chris Ward

**v. OU Authentics** **Cancelled**

**v. Cambridge Crusaders** **Cancelled**

**v. Hurlingham** **Drawn**  
 Hurlingham 236-6 O.Logan 92  
 Cryptics CC 224-9 J.Atkinson 75 H.Robyns 4-52

**v. Flashmen** **Lost by 47 runs**  
 Flashmen 147 all out R.Willis 4-21  
 Cryptics CC 100 all out W.van der Bijl 5-8

**v. Barnes** **Lost by 4 wickets**  
 Cryptics CC 265-5 S.Elstone 155 D.Riches 65  
 Barnes CC 271-6 Symes 117

**v. Amersham** **Drawn**  
 Amersham CC 301 for 5 dec A.Palmer 101\*, D.Ishaq 60, P.Weston 52\*, A.Rajapaksa 50  
 Cryptics CC 268 for 4 R.Willis 106\*, E.Montague 73

<b>v. Stragglers of Asia</b>	<b>Won by 30 runs</b>
Cryptics CC 153 all out	N.Ashton 40 D.Dasgupta 4-43
Stragglers of Asia CC 123 all out	J.Dexter 42 M.Stafford 4-16
<b>v. Gentlemen of Cheshire</b>	<b>Lost by 57 runs</b>
Gentlemen of Cheshire 180-6	
Cryptics CC 133 all out	Goodman 8-37
<b>v. MCC</b>	<b>Cancelled</b>
<b>v. St Edward's Martyrs</b>	<b>Drawn</b>
St Edward's Martyrs 267-8	B.Jacobs 76
Cryptics 144-7	C.Rintoul 51
<b>v. Free Foresters</b>	<b>Won by 158 runs</b>
Cryptics CC 292-4	S.Elstone 204*
Free Foresters 134 all out	J.Ireland 6-18
<b>v. Eton Ramblers (T20)</b>	<b>Lost by 72 runs</b>
Eton Ramblers 179-7	
Cryptics 107-8	T.Atkins 52
<b>v. Australia House (T20)</b>	<b>Won by 8 wickets</b>
Australia House 104-8	
Cryptics CC 105-2	
<b>v. Yorkshire Gents</b>	<b>Lost by 6 wickets</b>
Cryptics CC 118-9	
Yorkshire Gents 119-4	
<b>v Old Amplefordians CC</b>	<b>Cancelled</b>
<b>v. Sussex Martlets</b>	<b>Won by 142 runs</b>
Cryptics 251-6	H.Nolan 105, J.Wilson 64
Sussex Martlets 109 all out	T.Whyte 5-36
<b>Durham Pilgrims</b>	<b>Drawn</b>
Cryptics CC 232-6 & 170-8	J.Westhead 62, O.Erasmus 53
Durham Pilgrims 152 all out & 180-4	S.Brigham 61, C.Steel 85
<b>v. Old Hurstjohnians</b>	<b>Lost by 95 runs</b>
Old Hurstjohnians 252-7	Robinson 58, May 51*
Cryptics CC 157 all out	
<b>Incogniti</b>	<b>Cancelled</b>
<b>v Hampshire Hogs CC</b>	<b>Lost by 92 runs</b>



### **Obituary**

We have learned over the past year of the death of the following members of the club and extend our condolences to their families and friends:

Colin Dean  
John Woodcock  
Peter Spencer  
Douglas Henderson



The Second Century Draw Club

The Second Century Draw Club has been established to help fund the participation of young cricketers in Club Matches including overseas tours. Can you help?

Draws take place every month and the winners are announced on the Cryptics website

[www.crypticscricket.club](http://www.crypticscricket.club)

Prizes are sent direct to winners.

A minimum £400 will be distributed this year in the form of monthly prizes of £25 and £10 with additional bonus prizes of £50 on special occasions.

**REMEMBER – YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!**

You can join at any time for a minimum of £24 a year

For further information contact:

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