



## The Philanderers CC

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A long, long time ago, even before the UK became a socialist state, I began the first Newsletter of the season but known only to my innermost thoughts never progressed any further. However, it has suddenly dawned on me that time is rapidly running out before the 39<sup>th</sup> year of the club is marked by it becoming the first to be entirely devoid of a Newsletter. So doubtless to everyone's disappointment I have decided that I can't allow this to happen, so sorry.

I seem to recall that early in 2024 I severely doubted whether the club would have sufficient players to fulfil a fixture list of any depth. However, I was persuaded otherwise and arranged the reduced number of 7 matches.

As the club had become the closest to being moribund than previously in its' existence I decided to do away with actual membership & subscriptions. In fact, the number of players fell away further but we still managed to play 4 games, winning 3 and drawing the other. A couple were cancelled because of inclement weather whilst the third fell by the wayside owing the opposition being unable to raise a side. Nevertheless, one club record was broken that of the highest innings total when scoring 339 versus CamCeylon.

However, the club did in effect play some additional cricket in the guise of the Cambridge to Casablanca Cycling CC which is the brainchild of George Dean. A side containing 8 current and 2 former Philanderers took part in a charity match for Cricket Builds Hope, of which Will Hammond is the Director, winning against Kensington CC at Fenner's in August. Later in the Autumn a CtCCCC tour party, containing 10 Philanderers, descended on Rwanda for a week-long tournament. In all The Philanderers raised / donated £885 for Cricket Builds Hope and for which Will was duly grateful.

I have to say that the recent reduction in playing strength caught me a little by surprise. This has inevitably led to the significant reduction in the size of the fixture list and an enthusiasm deficit from myself. Let me now show you the magnitude of the late downturn in the club's fortunes with the following statistics starting from the 1986 inauguration of The Philanderers CC.

Year	Playing Numbers	Fixtures	Social Functions
1986	16	12	3
1995	17	20	7
2005	20	17	4
2015	29	28	3
<i>most recent years</i>			
2020	32	19	4
2021	41	23	5
2022	39	15	2
2023	28	12	2
2024	20	7	1

What the above details seem to indicate is as follows:

The early years show much better individual player support and the wish for (bonding) social functions. In 1995 we had a summer ball when over 150 attended! The above is in large part due to there being many more locally based players. In recent years despite the apparent flourishing playing numbers and indeed excellent results - ah, the ten-year unbeaten record - the fixture list has diminished due to much less individually consistent player support and as regards social events these have all but disappeared apart from the golf day. This is effectively the result of many players now living in London although a decade without a tour (Rwanda excepted!!), previously unheard of in the club's history, mirrors the apparent bonding deficiency. Sorry if all of the above is of course perhaps blindingly obvious.

Looking forward to next season, which will be the club's 40<sup>th</sup> year, I am arranging 6/7 fixtures and Ed Dodson has kindly agreed to organise the Golf Championship once again. I trust that there will be no drop off in support for either ball striking endeavour. On that note I shall now terminate this one and only Newsletter for 2024 by wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a thoroughly enjoyable philandering (as may be applicable) New Year.

Phil

19<sup>th</sup> December, 2024



*CtCCCC in Rwanda with many recognisable faces on show!*



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