

The 2011 season showed early promise for Chertsey's 1<sup>st</sup> XI. Greg Burton's men won three of their opening five games and thoughts quickly turned to another promotion push following the near miss last year.

The three wins all came at home with Godalming, Oxted and Merrow dispatched as Chertsey started their campaign at the right end of the table. However, the season was to end in bitter disappointment as the weather, availability and sub-standard performances confined them to relegation to the Fullers league.

The turning point in the season came in the side's home clash with Maori Oxshott. Having posted 266-7 dec Chertsey ripped through the Maori and were looking comfortable at 41-6. However, the rain that was to become synonymous with the summer months paid a visit and spared the visitors' blushes. By the time the teams resumed play there weren't enough overs left to secure the 13 points and Maori escaped with an undeserved losing draw. In the games that followed, two were abandoned without a ball bowled and their crucial must-win game against Old Hamptonians in the penultimate week of the season was reduced to 30 overs a side.

Despite the disappointment of the season there were performances to herald. With the bat Kartik Menon shone again with 492 runs at 45, the highlight coming in the away fixture against Old Hamps where he scored 107 of the teams 160. Opening pair Andy Ford and Chris Gibb made 329 and 350 runs respectively at averages of 30 and 22 while Ben Hanger, Jon Dodd and Zeeshan Mehtab made useful contributions. With the ball the dependable spin twins of Will Cooper and Dan Shepherd again led the way. Cooper took 25 wickets at 23 while Shepherd backed him up with 20 at 15. Skipper Burton's 16 wickets came at 25 apiece and all-rounder Mehtab took 12 victims.

Although the feeling of the season was one of disappointment the younger players in the side will have a chance to grow and mature throughout the Fullers campaign and the side will be targeting an immediate return to Surrey Championship action.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI blended youth and experience well this term to secure a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish in Div 4. Led by Phil Boast they played decisive cricket, only drawing once in the season and will be looking to push on for a promotion charge next year. The highlight of their eight wins came against old rivals Woking and Horsell as they chased down 176 in final over with one wicket remaining, Matt Peruter the hero as he scored 40\* from number 10. Individual performances came from Stuart Eagles with the ball as his leg spin claimed 26 wickets at an average of 18 while Boast backed him up with 20 dismissals at 19. Mark Nuti and Peruter formed the remainder of the old guard in the attack and both took a five-for on their way to 16 wickets each this year. Youngsters Jamie Chapman and Jacob Loveridge often took the new ball and did so to good effect, taking 13 and 10 wickets each. With the bat the captain's lower order runs often steered his side in the right direction and Boast topped the side with 313, including three 50's, at an average of 45. Opener Tim Beer again had a solid season, clocking up 224 at 20 while Matt Wiggins contributed 206 at 29. Peruter had his best ever season with the bat and his 201 at 29 even earned him a spell at number three!

The 3's, as has become standard under Mark Pulling, started their league season extremely well and occupied a promotion place for some time. However, as is typical with 3's cricket availability couldn't quite be sustained and the side finished in a credible eighth place in Div 2. Again the weather played its part and the side lost three matches to the elements but the youngsters in the side, along with the core group of experienced players picked up six wins during the season and will look for more of the same next season. One of those experienced men, Martin Allen, particularly shone with the bat

scoring 275 league runs at a 46. His top score of 75 came in partnership with the side's other senior performer Chris Smith, who scored 81 in a losing draw at Streatham and Marlborough. Smith made 204 runs this season at an average of 23 and the pair were by far the leading lights at the crease this year. Simon Smith and 3<sup>rd</sup> XI wickets have gone hand in hand in recent seasons and 2011 was to be no different. His 33 wickets came at 16 apiece and was the fifth best return in the league, a monumental effort. Skipper Pulling, claimed 21 victims at 14 with a best of 4-9 against Pyrford but it was the emergence of Jamie Anthony that will please the skipper the most. 14 year-old Anthony's left arm seam claimed 19 wickets at a measly average of just 12 and he represented both the first and second XI during the season.

Thanks must go to Jane Nuti, Murray Sanger, Jim Denyer and Gareth Amer for all their efforts to help the club with teas, pitches and umpiring during the season.