

Southampton Master Mariners Cricket Team - Report for season 2008

Played 10 Won 8 Lost 2 (Five matches lost to the weather)

Despite another below par summer, weather wise, the SMMCC managed to play two thirds of their matches and ending the season winning eight out of ten matches - well above par I am pleased to report!

Results aside it was another enjoyable season, lots of good humoured banter, meeting past players at games who have 'hung up their boots' and all matches played in a good spirit and for me a joy and easy to captain.

Hardmoor was a picture and in wonderful condition when we turned up for the first game of the season and all credit to the ground staff there who have done such a good job preparing an excellent square and outfield.



This season 29 players represented the SMMCC with a 'younger' team in the first half of the season, whilst we had the services of the Warsash students, but ably carried on by the more 'experienced' players in the latter half. Some weeks it was almost possible to put out two sides and provide a scorer and two umpires - a headache for the selector!

The season got off to a good start with three wins on the bounce against Shirley CC, home and away and an away win against Porstdown, the latter match against a good youthful side that gave the mariners their belief we could push on and have a good season. Then followed a first defeat of the season against a strong Southampton Solent University Staff side at Hardmoor.

However the Mariners bounced back from this set back with five wins on the trot against the MCA, St Cross, Shirley CC (for the hat-trick), Overseas Mapping and the 'big one' against Winchester College Staff before losing the final game of the season, two days after the Winchester game, against Swanmore CC.

The 'unlimited' overs game against Winchester was a fixture that was resurrected after an absence of several years and was sorely missed from our fixture list. To be fair the Mariners used to see this fixture as a victory if we held out for a draw! Going back through the record books I have not been able to find a victory before now against this side.

On the hottest day of the year and played in the picturesque 'Walled Garden' ground, the mariners lost the toss and Winchester elected to bat. No one was more surprised than us to see Winchester struggle to 30 runs off the first 20 overs and the 50 coming off 30 overs. Winchester finally declared at 129 for 7 after 59 tiring overs in 29 degree heat, leaving the Mariners only 15 minutes and 20 overs, by the rules of the day, to achieve a win but win we did passing their total in only 27 overs with only 5 wickets down and five overs to spare. My thanks to the quartet of Red Funnel and Wightlink mariners who stepped in at short notice to cover regular Mariners holiday commitments!

Winchester were initially 'not impressed' by this vastly changed mariners side but sportingly said afterwards they enjoyed the experience of facing up to such a strong bowling attack and to their credit we were unable to bowl them out.

Playing Swanmore two days later was a match too far with a number of players feeling the effects of the Winchester game. However this is a relatively new fixture and one hopefully we can hold onto.

A new fixture for once would have been against Tangmere CC on the 5th October. Far too late in the season was the initial thought but although called off the day before due to horrendous weather, if it had been arranged on either of the two previous weekends or the weekend after, it would have been played in glorious sunshine under cloudless skies. Next year we hope to have a fixture in June against Tangmere.

Some facts and batting averages for 2008

Bowling (Nineteen bowlers used)

Most wickets in the season - Mike Atkelsky 16 for 187 (12 runs a wicket)

Best bowling performance - Mike Weston 4-11 (including a wicket with the last ball of the game to take the final wicket in his last match for SMMCC, for the time being.

Batting

Best batting average - Ian Bagshaw (66)

Most aggregate runs - Ted Banks 105 (Average 26)

Most runs in an innings - Mahmood 57 (against Winchester)

It was also pleasing that there were only 7 ducks from the Mariners, one of which was from a young guest colt, in the whole season and bearing in mind three ducks came in the last match. A good all round effort.

Also it is good to see the 'more experienced' players can still 'cut the mustard' and feature in Best Performances.

There are a lot of new faces representing the SMMCC with players regularly turning out from the MCA (3), MAIB (3), ABP (2), Warsash Maritime Academy (6), Wightlink (2), and Red Funnel (2) and not forgetting our players serving at sea who we see on an occasional basis and the retired Mariners still regularly turning out.

During the season we have had to say goodbye to Mike Weston our club secretary for many years after he immigrated to Australia to join up with John Lloyd in Tasmania. Along with one or two other players they almost have enough players for a SMMCC touring side!

My thanks to the regular umpires of Ian Bagshaw, George Gifford and Keith Edwards for their sterling work each week and playing when the necessity arose.

It was good to see John Hughes at several of our games, one of our regular guest players for many decades, who is recovering well from a serious stroke.

My thanks to all the SMMCC players who made captaining the side a most enjoyable chore.

Ken Warren

Appearances

Ken Warren (ABP)	10	Raza (Red Funnel)	3
Mike Atkelsky (Honorary Mariner)	10	Ian Bagshaw (Retired Mariner)	3
Jon Bennett (Mariner)	8	Tom Kane (Warsash)	3
Ted Banks (Retired Mariner)	6	Emeka (ABP)	3
Dan Walker (Warsash)	6	James Foster (P&O)	2
Josh Hawken (Warsash)	5	Edmund Hughes (MCA)	2
Richard Dunham (MAIB)	5	Peter Hunter (Warsash)	2
Mike Weston (Warsash)	5	Chris Walford (Retired Mariner)	1
Mike Evans (MAIB)	5	Mike Roles (Guest)	1
Tony Gill (MAIB)	5	Simon Oakley (P&O)	1
David Turner (MCA)	4	Mahmood (Red Funnel)	1
Ian Lawrence (Warsash)	4	Yasir (Wightlink)	1
Nick Salter (MCA)	4	Fiaz (Red Funnel)	1
George Gifford (Retired Mariner)	4	Mike O'Brien (Guest)	1
		Mathew Culmer (Guest)	1