

Wadham college cricket Summer 2014

Summer of 2014 saw Wadham students and alumni united by a common passion for cricket. Together, Freebooters old and young, descended upon the very inviting and hospitable village of Burbage, Wiltshire, who hosted an evening Twenty20 match on the night of the summer solstice. Winning the toss and electing to bat first on a slow pitch, Wadham posted 132-9, with early notable contributions from Luke Peake and Michael Edwards. Following the somewhat customary mid-order collapse, a 10th wicket partnership from Rob Bakewell and Alistair Farley set Burbage 133 to win. As dictated by tradition, all Freebooters were obliged to bowl at least an over, but despite the varied bowling, the wickets kept falling, leaving Burbage needing 8 to win off the last over with one wicket in hand. With the light fading and our hopes diminishing, lady luck came to our side and Karim Habibi took an excellent running catch at long-on to secure a surprising victory for the touring side. A barbecue and an inevitable boat race later (which the Freebooters take to like fish at sea), a selection of cricketers traipsed with the crowds up to Stonehenge to witness the Summer Solstice. Following a couple of hours sleep the group made a swift return to Oxford for the President's Weekend. For the first time in a number of years, in part due to the excellent organisational and persuasion skills of Luke Peake and Paul Foley, the Freebooters past and present, were able to pitch their skills against one another on a glorious June afternoon on a side-pitch next to the President's Game. The old Freebooters (with the possible help of some ringers) made their experience count rapidly overhauling the students' total of 115 all out. In true Wadham style, everyone had the opportunity to bat, bowl and field. The evening continued with the President's Dinner held in the Old Library and as always much fun was had by all.

Many thanks must go to the President, Stephen Stow, for subsidising the cost of the President's dinner for students and we gratefully acknowledge WadSAS for their continued support of Wadham cricket alumni/student relations.

Alistair Farley, September 2014.



