

## WadSAS 2013, Wadham Cricket summer tours

2013 saw Wadham Cricket and the Freebooters make the most of the glorious British summer by embarking on two gruelling cricket tours to London/Cambridge and West Farleigh, Kent. For the third consecutive year Wadham alumni and students convened under a common pretext to showcase their cricketing abilities and have fun. It must be noted that none of the rebirth of Wadham alumni cricket would have been possible without the support and guidance of the president, Stephen Stow, generous to both cricket and college in general. Stephen's subsidies for students to attend cricket dinner, and contribution towards previous tour costs in Cambridge (2011) and Wiltshire (2012) deserve mention. Much thanks must also go to Paul Foley, 1987 and Luke Peake, 2006 for getting the ball rolling and organising those tours.

The first of this year's tours started in South London with a Saturday Twenty20 game against the Midnight CC and after losing the toss the Freebooters took to the field in the midday heat bowling and fielding admirably to restrict the hosts for 131-5. The Freebooters aggressively set about their target, despite early setbacks. Following some rapid hitting by Michael Edwards, 2007 and Alistair Farley, 2007, the Freebooters were seen home in style by Benjamin Portwin, 2006 and Luke Peake to record one of few on field victories. After a short trip to Cambridge and a long 'nets' session, the Freebooters faced their next opponents – Churchill College MCR – captained by alumnus Thomas Collett, 2007 in a test match-style Twenty20 game the next day. Despite the pace bowling of fresher Benjamin Szreter, 2012 and his best efforts as a test match opener the Freebooters were behind after the first innings and never looked like overcoming a determined Churchill side due to a combination of another 'gloriously hot' day and their exertions the previous day. Nevertheless, Wadham Cricket was the winner and as David Primmer, 2010 summarised 'The cricket tour was a fantastic opportunity as an undergraduate to both meet new alumni, but also maintain good contact with graduates whom I met during the early years of my undergraduate degree. Experiences like the cricket tour are invaluable in keeping up the friendly, sociable atmosphere that Wadham as a College thrive on, even after leaving the college. I would hope that WadSAS will continue to promote and support such events, so future undergraduates can participate in similar events.'

WadSAS is gratefully acknowledged for subsidising accommodation to current students and helping with the rental of the grounds and without its generous contributions the numbers of students on tour would not have been possible. The second tour in late July saw the Freebooters pitted against West Farleigh, Kent on a picturesque village ground in a declaration style game. The Freebooters won the toss and found themselves on the brink at 58-7 after 14 overs, but after a special innings from Dominic Hewitt, 2008 (87 not out) and notable contributions from Paul Foley (38 not out) and Michael Edwards Wadham Cricket declared on 229. The declaration proved to be just short as West Farleigh won in the last over despite the best bowling efforts of Robert Bakewell, 2007 (2-13) and the amazing catching prowess of David Primmer who took three great catches in the deep.

Whilst on the tour to Kent, Wadham Cricket were given a guided tour around Keepers Nursery, one of the UK's largest and most interesting fruit tree collections, by partner and alumnus Karim Habibi, 2007. As detailed by Habibi, the nursery contains over a thousand varieties of fruit trees and specialises in the production of high quality trees of rare varieties to the public. On the visit, students and alumni learnt about the various steps involved in fruit tree propagation, from planting rootstocks, to bud grafting to the fine art of pruning and tree training. Unfortunately, due to the very late 2013 Kentish Spring delaying the development of the orchard grown fruits, the Nursery had to substitute its end of tour unique plum and apple tasting for a much enjoyed and equally unique homemade juice and cider tasting experience.

Plans for similar trips next year are already underway with a tour to France proposed courtesy of recently retired organiser of alumni cricket Dr Rob Young. We hope that through the generous support of WadSAS we can expand the growing network of alumni and students drawn together through Wadham Cricket. As always, we are very keen to involve as many alumni and students from as many generations as possible, to play, watch, and befriend the cricket club and the Freebooters. If you wish to get in touch then please contact the development office or find us on facebook as Wadham Cricket.

Alistair Farley, September 2013