

## **LRGS 1<sup>st</sup> XI Cricket Season 2018**

**Regular season: P – 10 W – 3 L – 7 A – 4**

**T20: P – 2 W – 1 L – 1**

**Festival: P – 5 W – 4 L – 1**

**RGS Festival Winners – LRGS Player of the RGS Festival – T.Anderton**

With another young and developing 1<sup>st</sup> XI in operation this year and 5 good spinners capable of taking plenty of wickets on their day, the fortunes of this side were always going to be defined by how they finished the season rather than how they started it. Marshalled by the enigmatic and effervescent skipper R.Barker, the team would always demonstrate team spirit, resolve and resilience.

After a very wet start causing fixtures against Rossall (T20), King's Chester and the MCC to be rained off, this youthful and energetic 1<sup>st</sup> XI finally started their season off with the National T20 competition at AKS Lytham. A good win against Kirkham GS allowed vice-captain T.Anderton to return figures of 5 wickets for 4 runs off just 1.5 overs. In the regional final LRGS lost in an in-form Myerscough College, with C.Wilkinson top scoring with an impressive 32\*.

Two disappointing defeats at the hands of Bolton School and Merchant Taylor's followed, however it was a tight finish against Bolton School, with J.Wills scoring 57 and vice-captain R.Parekh picking up 5 wickets for 31 off 7 to help boost morale. J.Wills took his good form into the King's Macclesfield fixture the following week and top scored with 69\* whilst J.Derham scooped 5 wickets for 37 runs off 8 as LRGS enjoyed their first Saturday victory with an impressive 6 wicket win. A disappointing defeat against Birkenhead followed after half term, the one highlight being T.Anderton making his debut half century at 1<sup>st</sup> XI level, scoring a polished 53. This was the first of 3 half centuries and 2 centuries for the season for Tom, resulting in representative honours with Lancashire at both U16 and U17 level.

After half term the 1<sup>st</sup> XI took on Sedbergh. Choosing to bat first at Sedbergh, on a superb track, allowed T.Anderton to carry on his good form, as he top scored with 59. However, a total of 117 was always going to be difficult to defend but 6 early wickets provided the realisation that on their day, this bowling attack can take wickets anywhere, especially when supported by alert and athletic fielding – a hallmark of the side as the season progressed. Accompanied with a glorious spell of weather that lasted until the end of term batsmen started to score freely, fast bowlers enjoyed pace and bounce and our plethora of spinners were able to get maximum reward for their tight spells.

A sure sign of youth and inexperience, is inconsistency in performance and a poor midweek defeat to Barnard Castle was promptly followed by a series of exceptionally positive performances against gritty Yorkshire opposition in the shape of Woodhouse Grove (winning draw before match abandoned), Giggleswick (win) and QEGS Wakefield (win). Stand out performances coming from J.Chetham behind the stumps – the heartbeat of the side (12 catches and 5 stumpings this season); Y.Chabbra with an effortless 62 against QEGS

supporting H.Malik top scoring with a resplendent 80 and R.Parekh picking up another 5 wicket haul – this time returning figures of 6 for 15 off 10 overs.

Slightly more mundane performances followed at the hands of a far too strong OL's XI and the Manchester Grammar School (winners of the NW Merit League) however the boys could be forgiven for taking their eye off the ball as just around the corner was the annual RGS Festival to be hosted by LRGS for the first time since 2012. All under the watchful eye of Mr Ledward, in his last year as Head of Cricket and well supported by loyal sponsors; an army of parents; the best wishes of many Staff, old and new; glorious weather and hard baked wickets and the fantastic services of 5 out-grounds in the shape of Morecambe CC, Netherfield CC, Garstang CC, Lancaster CC and of course Torrisholme CC.

And so on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, a truly remarkable week began with T.Anderton scoring 104 against RGS Worcester at home on the Douthwaite in front of a partisan home crowd, helping LRGS to an impressive total of 245 for 6 off 50 overs and bowling RGS Worcester out for just 188. B.Woodruff was the pick of the spinners. Day two meant that the top two sides met at Morecambe CC and a scintillating 54 from the skipper R.Barker, 51 from Joe Wills and a ninth wicket partnership of 30 runs from the left arm spin-twins of R.Parekh and local hero J.Derham ensured a formidable total of 239 was posted. RGS Guildford sputtered in reply and once the in-form A.Gonella was dismissed early in his innings the result was never in doubt and LRGS cruised to a magnificent 36 run victory. A wobble against RGS Newcastle at Netherfield CC opened the door for the chasing pack as LRGS crumbled to an 8 wicket defeat. However, this only seemed to focus the minds of the boys as they then crushed RGS Colchester, with another century from T.Anderton as he finished the season with 589 runs and 20 wickets. A.Sealy causing the damage with the ball as he picked up 4 Colchester wickets inside just 6 overs.

The final day of the Festival allowed LRGS the opportunity to be in control of their own destiny and a win meant that for the first time in the schools' history, they would lift the trophy as outright winners - all on the Douthwaite and in front of another large crowd. After a troublesome start with the bat, LRGS settled the nerves and another half century from T.Anderton meant that a score of 199 was posted in 50 overs. Despite the best efforts of the RGS High Wycombe batsmen, they were always behind the run rate and as wickets fell, optimism grew in the home team ranks and finally when the skipper bowled a beautiful in-swinging yorker to dismiss High Wycombe for just 146, scenes of great jubilation followed – and rightly so! It has to be remembered that this side, galvanised under R.Barker's leadership and inspired by the opportunity to host the event, over-achieved in all facets of the game to win this trophy during a week of intense cricket in stifling heat and with a tearful Mr Ledward on the boundary to hand over the trophy, this really was a superb and fitting end to the season for everyone involved with LRGS cricket.

Mr G.A.J.Mason

Mr I.Perryman

## Seasons Averages

### Batting

T.Anderton: 589 runs at an average of 34.6	HS: 104	50: 3	100: 2
Y.Chabbra: 363 runs at an average of 24.2	HS: 62	50: 2	
J.Wills: 300 runs at an average of 21.4	HS: 69*	50: 3	
H.Malik: 272 runs at an average of 20.9	HS: 80	50: 1	
R.Barker: 254 runs at an average of 15.9	HS: 54	50: 1	

### Bowling

R.Parekh: 33 wickets at an average of 11.27	Best bowling 6-15 Seasons figures - O: 120 M:23 R:372 W: 33
T.Anderton: 20 wickets at an average of 10.8	Best bowling 5-4 Seasons figures - O: 43.1 M:2 R:216 W: 20
J.Derham: 16 wickets at an average of 23	Best bowling 5-37 Seasons figures - O: 96 M:16 R:368 W: 16
R.Barker: 14 wickets at an average of 22	Best bowling 4-4 Seasons figures - O: 72.3 M:10 R:310 W: 14

### Fielding

J.Chetham: 12 catches and 5 stumpings  
H.Malik: 8 catches  
T.Anderton: 7 catches  
R.Parekh: 6 catches

### LRGS Cricket Awards

LRGS 1<sup>st</sup> XI Player of the Season: R.Parekh  
LRGS 1<sup>st</sup> XI Young Player of the Season: J.Derham  
LRGS 1<sup>st</sup> XI Player of the Festival: R.Barker  
LRGS 1<sup>st</sup> XI Young Player of the Festival: T.Anderton