



Shepherd Neame Surrey Championship



The 2007 Surrey Championship season was dominated by the weather, with some clubs having nearly a third of their matches abandoned by the rain and a number of others badly interrupted. The other major talking point in the Premier Division was the points deduction imposed on three clubs for registration irregularities. However no clubs suffered because of this. The ECB Premier League was won by Reigate Priory who were far away the best side in the division, winning 11 out of the 15 matches they were able to complete. Normandy were worthy runners-up. So nearly relegated the season before, they completely turned their season round, winning nine matches. Wimbledon were third while last season's champions Sutton finished fourth, finding defending their title a difficult proposition as always. A rare old battle at the foot of the division saw four clubs go into the final round of matches trying to avoid relegation. Guildford pulled off a stunning win over champions Reigate Priory and although Farnham won their game, the four points gained by Dulwich saw them to safety; Farnham and Weybridge being relegated. In Division One, Malden Wanderers won a quick return to the Premier Division and will be joined there by Spencer. Pyrford and Old Mid Whitgiftians were relegated. Brook were champions of Division Two and will move up to Division One for the first time to be joined there by East Molesey. Mitcham and Cranleigh were relegated. Epsom won Division Two and were promoted with the Bank of England. Edward Alleyn & Honor Oak and Maori Oxshott were relegated. Leatherhead & Cobham won Division Four, their third promotion in successive seasons. They will be joined in Division Three by Chessington. The Fifth Division was won by Old Hamptonians who are promoted with fellow old boys side Old Rutlishians. At the other end of the Fifth Division, it is sad to report that Addiscombe became the first founder member club to be relegated to the Fuller's Brewery Surrey County League. Ripley will join them in the County League next season. In the 2nd XI League, the Premier Division was won by Weybridge and the 3rd XI League was won by Wimbledon. Meanwhile, in the Championship Twenty20 Competition, Old Whitgiftians beat two Premier League clubs on Finals Day to take the Trophy. They then went on to represent the Championship in the Shepherd Neame Four- County Grand Final where they lost in their semifinal to Bromley. Finally grateful thanks must be given to sponsors, Shepherd Neame, whose support was very much appreciated. **Past winners** (last ten years): 2007 Reigate Priory; 2006 Sutton; 2005 Reigate Priory; 2004 Weybridge; 2003 Weybridge; 2002 Wimbledon; 2001 Guildford; 2000 Wimbledon; 1999 Weybridge (the Premier Division was created in 1999, prior to this the top league was called Division 1); 1998 Sunbury.



Fuller's Brewery Surrey County League

After one of the wettest summers on record, it was perhaps surprising that many issues had been decided before the last round of matches on 1 September. In a remarkable season, the eventual champions Croydon M.O. remained unbeaten. Remarkable because at the end of the 2006 season the club found themselves without a ground and had to rely on a variety of venues on which to play their home fixtures. For many clubs this situation would have led to closure, but to their credit it seemed to act as a spur to better things. For 2008 the club has secured the use of the excellent facilities at the LCCA ground at Plough Lane Wallington, and we are hoping that this move will secure the club's immediate future. Runners-up, deservedly, were Valley End who came so close to promotion in 2006. At 2nd XI level, Godalming triumphed, with runners-up Thames Ditton, another side that has performed strongly in recent years without reward. In the 3rd XI table, two sides from opposite ends of the county were successful, Oxted & Limsfield and Farnham. All these Xis will, subject to confirmation, be playing in the Surrey Championship in 2008. In our league cup competition, the final was keenly contested by Olinda Vandals and Valley End at Hampton Wick Royals' attractive ground. In an exciting finale, Valley End eventually prevailed to retain the trophy but by the narrow margin of three runs in the final over after Olinda Vandals had looked the likely victors. Other issues resolved: Relegated from Division One 1st XI – Wandgas and Frimley. Promoted to Division One 1st XI – Mellow, Old Tiffinians and Stoke D'Aberton. Relegated from Division One 2nd XI – Roehampton and Frimley. Promoted to Division One 2nd XI – Mellow, Hampton Wick Royal and Lingfield. Elected for 2008 – Deando Ruxley and West End Esher.





AJ Sports Surrey Cricket League

An interesting season for Division One as, one by one, teams dropped out of the championship race leaving Surrey Seamers to take the honours for the first time. They maintained a settled side throughout the season and achieved their success despite having problems finding a suitable ground on which to play their attacking cricket. They were well served by their wicketkeeper, MN Jayman, who was voted Best Batsman with 444 runs at an average of 44.40. He also took 11 catches and 14 stumpings! R Hassan also played an important part in the Seamers' success, and was voted the All- Rounder of the division with 310 runs at 25.83 and 18 wickets at 13.22. Old Thorntonians were runners-up and P Samanta of Sheen Park was the Best Bowler with 25 wickets at 12.32. In Division Two, Putney held off a strong challenge from John Fisher to win the division, with Economicals taking the third promotion spot to fill a vacancy in the top flight. Two founder member clubs fought out the Division Three title, with Deando Ruxley A pipping Redhill & Old Coulsdon to the post by 0.08 of a point. A new club to the league, Ottershaw & Hamm Moor, won Division Four dropping only one game. Sutton were runners-up, their second promotion in two seasons. Another new club, Old Mid-Whitgiftians, were undefeated in winning Division Five ahead of Merton A.

The new sponsorship from AJ Sports has proved a great success and the league was honoured to have two former Pakistan captains, Rashid Latif and Asif Iqbal, to present the awards at the Twenty20 finals day and the league's annual presentation dinner at the Richmond Hill Hotel. Past winners: 2007 Surrey Seamers; 2006 Old Thorntonians; 2005 Old Thorntonians; 2004 Abahani; 2003 Abahani; 2002 Whyteleafe; 2001 Lambeth Enterprise; 2000 Lambeth Enterprise; 1999 Abahani; 1998 Malden Wimbledon Haraambe.

Surrey Downs League



As with most cricket competitions across the country, the weather played a big part in the Surrey Downs League during 2007. More games were lost than for several seasons past. However, once again Division One was topped by a new name, Brockham Green. This was their first Championship win and we have now had seven different dinners in the past ten years. One club, West End Esher have decided to move to fresh pastures, and we wish them every success. However, we have very quickly been able to fill the two vacancies with Netherne putting a 2nd XI into Division 4, where they will be joined by a club fresh to League cricket, Woldingham Village. Past winners: 2007 Brockham Green; 2006 West End Esher; 2005 Headley Old Freemans; 2004 Claygate; 2003 Tadworth; 2002 West End Esher; 2001 North Holmwood; 2000 Capel; 1999 Tadworth; 1998 Capel.



Surrey Trust League

Once again, despite the weather, the Surrey Trust League made great strides in 2007. The first important initiative saw the creation of a second tier called the Development League, using all of the same rules (coloured kit, orange ball, coloured stumps, 40 overs) but lowering the age restriction to six players under 18, four of whom have to be under 16. Nine clubs fielded sides and the competition was won by a very deserving Old Whitgiftians side. The second innovation was a zonal competition. The play-offs provided two finalists from those who won their zones to compete for the Trust League Trophy (Banstead and Spencer) and two finalists from the runners-up to compete for the Wasim Raja Shield (Cheam and Ashtead). Banstead and Cheam ended victorious and as winners of the Trust League Banstead will now play Bexley in the Surrey v Kent final at Banstead in a curtain raiser on 20 April 2008...it should be a great start to the season.



l'Anson League

The l'Anson League continued to expand and now comprises 34 clubs in Surrey, Hampshire & West Sussex. In 2007 there were five divisions with a total of 62 teams. In 2008 we expect to have another four teams. The l'Anson Cup (Division 1) was won by Puttenham (above), Division 2 by Harting, Division 3 by Grayshott II, Division 4 by Blackheath and Division 5 by Grayshott III. The evening knock-out competitions were won by Elstead and Grayswood.

