



# The Only Way is Owens

## Introducing Myself

Hi and welcome to the first edition of The Only Way Is Owens! Our new, regular newsletter is about letting people know what is going on at Old Owens Cricket Club and within the local community cricket scene. We are very excited to be sharing all our activities and events at the club with you and encourage you to become a part of our family friendly club!

Introducing myself first of course. My name is Jim Clarke (that's me below, signing an autograph for Swanny) and I am the new Cricket Development Officer (CDO) for the club. It is my job to root out new links to the community through schools and various clubs. When a child joins Old Owens I do not just look at the child joining, but also the need to offer cricket for the whole family.



My ethos with junior as well as senior cricket is that everyone should have the opportunity to play cricket and to take an active role within the game. It is vitally important that **“Every Child Matters”** and when they walk off the pitch they can tell all their family and friends what it was like to have the opportunity to hit a ball for four, or to bowl out someone from the opposition. To me, you have five minutes to win over any child and get them playing cricket. With the high tempo and fun sessions that I run in local schools to promote cricket, I am confident that I can reach out to everyone who wants to play the great game of cricket!

I come from a family where my parents disliked cricket, which is obviously why my brother and I are cricketing fanatics! I found my love for cricket in 1982 when I was four watching my mum hit, in her only game, against my primary school teachers an amazing 102! Not many people can say they have a higher average than Don Bradman but my mum does :) I am also the second best brother at cricket in my family as well, out of two, but what I lack in talent to play cricket I make up for with my infectious drive and enthusiasm for the game.

I am also the CDO at Winchmore Hill, where I have built up a strong link with over 50 schools in the local community. In three years we have coached nearly 10,000 children in the community. I am also the CDO at Radlett and North Mymms, where we are building links in schools and community clubs.

My role at Old Owens is to build links to rebuild the previously highly successful junior section at the club. After meeting with Tim and Shaun, club chairman and secretary respectively, as well as many others at the club, I was sold on what the club means to those dedicated and hardworking individuals who have helped the club's senior teams climb through the leagues and impressively reach the Championship this season.

In future editions of the newsletter we will be sharing all fixtures, results and any social functions going on at the club. To us we are not just a cricket club, but a community social



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hub. If we miss out on just one person who wishes to play cricket for OCCC, that is one person too many.

## What are OCCC's community goals for 2019?

As well as three adult teams, this summer we will be offering:-

- Colts Cricket
- Walking Cricket
- Family Cricket (tennis ball cricket for the whole family)
- Women's/Girl's Cricket

## Coaching Badges

The aim of our junior cricket section will be to get as many people involved in cricket as we can. The successes at Winchmore Hill, where we have quadrupled our junior numbers in the past three years, is down to the fact that we have nearly 100 coaches at the club, so that each session is run with a very low coach to player ratio.

If anyone wishes to gain a cricket badge this winter and become involved in the Old Owens junior coaching unit there is still time. Hertfordshire Cricket has broken away from Cricket East this year and so Middlesex will be running our Level 1 cricket badge workshops.

The Level 1 coaching badge takes just 6 hours and it means that you can assist a Level 2 cricket coach in running a cricket session. It demonstrates the basic planning of how a session should be run and also is the foundation to doing the Level 2 coaching badge.

Please see the link to the scheduled coaching badges workshop below:

**April 28<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)** at Middlesex Indoor Cricket Centre:

<https://booking.ecb.co.uk/c/express/e1fc5b63-8009-438e-a465-c984051d4a5d>

If you fancy doing the course please contact me, Jim Clarke, on 07885 995414 or at [oocccdo@hotmail.com](mailto:oocccdo@hotmail.com).

We all look forward to meeting you soon!

*Strive with a will!*

**Jim and Old Owens CC**



PS. Find out more at our brand new website [www.owenscricketclub.co.uk](http://www.owenscricketclub.co.uk)