

Rolvenden CC Report

2025 proved to be another exciting year for Rolvenden CC, showing the strength of the community and team spirit within the playing group.

The First XI finished second in the Kent Village Cricket League Division Two, thus being promoted to Division One for the first time in the Club's history. A six-game unbeaten streak mid-season was key as were some great team performances alongside individual brilliance, in particular from Omar Zaman, who topped the KVCL Division Two batting averages.

Lasts season also saw the foundation of a second Sunday league team for Rolvenden CC, demonstrating the depth of club support. The Second XI joined the league in Division Four, registering four wins and finishing the season mid table, a creditable performance for the team in its first year.

Alongside the Sunday games, midweek cricket once again proved popular within the club. Teams were entered into both the Wealden Wallop and Hundred bash competitions, reaching finals day at Staplehurst in the latter but unfortunately falling just short in the semi-final. The midweek games were exceptionally popular and well-supported.

There was a memorable weekend of cricket in mid-August with the 50th anniversary of the Hindley-Thomas match followed by President's XI game against the village. During the weekend, we welcomed back many Rolvenden players from yesteryear including Paul Brabon, Claude Duval, Harold Hoad, Alan Stickels and brothers Simon (who came over from America especially for the celebration) and Tim Spelling.

We continue to upgrade our pavilion, now fitted with a new CCTV system, thanks to a kind donation from the Basil Russell Trust and if we can raise the funds, our ambition over the coming year is to add two sightscreens as well as covers for the wicket.

The quality of our cricket is in no small part due to our outstanding groundsman, Kevin Stickels and his wife Sharon, who consistently provide us with excellent wickets and have the ground looking a picture over the summer.

There is also a lot of unseen work behind the scenes by our Treasurer Peter Garrott and Steve Stickels, who works tirelessly to both raise funds and the raise the profile of Rolvenden CC.

As ever, we need to thank the generosity of our sponsors as well as the War Memorial and Basil Russell Trusts, all playing a crucial role in supporting the Club. A special mention too for our burgeoning number of Vice-Presidents including significant donations from the Hobson family, Simon Spelling, Angus Robson and Robert-Jaan Markwick.

Looking forward to another memorable season with the Club in good heart.!