

**Dodgers Cricket Club**

**Season Review 2005**

## **Player Profiles 2005**

### **John Hilary**

JH continued to fight off the debilitating effects of age and a meat-free diet to chalk-up another solid season. Despite missing several straight full tosses he prospered with the bat, showing numerous glimpses of past form, but struggled with the ball on occasions and will be disappointed with his return of only eight wickets. The Holy Grail will be top of his agenda for next season if he doesn't get throttled for his hopelessly benevolent (for the opposition) umpiring.

High point: Smashing 76 to beat the Tomatoheads

Low point: Crashing the missus's car in a 0.5mph collision at Buckhurst Hill

### **Neil Priest**

Fourteen innings, eleven not outs yielding 489 runs at 163 tells its own story. Neil had another fabulous season, spoiled for him only when he had to leave first slip to "chase" a ball towards gully in the eighth game.

High point: Notching-up 96no with Nick Harrison to win the first 40 over game against the Rats

Low point: Pulling the ball into his eye while batting against ATOC. But as low points go, it wasn't all that low

### **Phil McBarron**

This was a disappointing season for the ageing Yorkshire maestro, with no fifties and an average of less than 30, while an economy rate of 7.3 with the ball tells its own sorry tale. Phil doesn't look comfortable at three for 20-over games and a return to opening would surely be in everyone's interest. He remains by some distance our most solid catcher and has seamlessly replaced Crawford as the moaniest old git in the side.

High point 1: An excellent maiden ton against St. Andrews

High point 2: Clean bowling Conway, Gundry and Godden at Sportsday

Low point 1: Realising his ton didn't count for the averages or his bet with Benn and therefore having to shell out the full cost of a round

Low point 2: Getting sunburned as Hampshire destroyed Yorkshire in the C&G semi

Low point 3: Being hit for 16 off 2 balls by Godden at Sportsday

### **John Carr**

This was a very typical season for JC – 155 runs at 19 and only two overs with the ball – but his calm demeanour was a major factor in steadying the ship after four consecutive losses in mid-season.

High point 1: Beer, beer and more beer

High point 2: Fags, fags and more fags

Low point: Being a whisker away from losing the game against ATOC by bowling Chris Jacobs and The Cat

Low point: No or bad real ale at Chiswick

## **Simon Cousins**

Simon cemented his place as the club's principal bowler with another excellent year and showed some talent with the bat too coming in after collapses against the Rats and Buckhurst. Won Player of the Season despite missing more than half the games: if only we could persuade him to play more often!

High point: A spell of 4-3-1-3 against Science Museum

Low point: Being given LBW in another ludicrous decision by JH having almost saved the game against Buckhurst

## **Kim Matthews**

The Cat continued to defy the years with nine catches, a stumping and – wait for it! – a first-ever wicket in the near-catastrophe against ATOC (figures of 2-0-22-1 taking his career total to 4-0-32-1). The Cat's batting didn't reach the highs of 2004, but turning up to play 19 times in a season ought to deserve a medal of itself.

High point: His wicket: as rare as cuckoos in spring... in Antarctica

Low point 1: A truly horrific drop when we were being destroyed by the Weasels

Low point 2: Missing a barrow load of run out chances

## **Tawhid Qureshi**

Tawhid continues to emulate his beloved Bangladesh, unfortunately. Moved up to open, he had to survive a mid-season crisis when he could barely hit the ball but emerged to average 16 overall. He desperately needs to avoid trying to flick straight balls through mid-wicket early in his innings. Brings much-needed energy and speed in the field but was only allowed 23 deliveries with the ball all year (24 balls too many by common consent).

High point: Bangladesh beating Australia

Low point: Back-to-back ducks against Superstars and English Heritage

## **John Cooper**

JC2 got his year the wrong way round, peaking in mid-May with a first-ever Dodgers hat-trick then suffering a severe lack of confidence and rhythm as the season wore on to finish with a disappointing 14 wickets at 30. It's hard to remember that John was once touted as an all-rounder and 16 runs at 5 despite playing 17 matches is not an unfair reflection. Remains the fulcrum of the club in every respect.

High point: His hat-trick: the poor woman could hardly believe it!

Low point 1: 7-0-66-0 in the slaughter by Weasels

Low point 2: was the victim of some insensitive captaincy by Tawhid which saw him relegated to 11 in the batting order below all the Warwick Castle latecomers, consigned to fine leg for most of the game and bowled for fewer overs than several of the Warwick batters

## **Guy Westhead**

Not a great season for Guy, with just 40 runs with a top score of 17 in his seven matches. The big question remains: when will he play forward to a delivery?

High point: hitting (OK edging) Gundry to the boundary

Low point: backing away so far to square leg against the Dealers quickie on a horror pitch at Wandsworth Common that he nearly ended up in the Thames

## Player of the Season 2005

	Name	Votes
1.	Simon Cousins	29
2.	Nick Harrison	27
3.	Neil Priest	25
4.	John Hilary	20
5.	Neil Benn	19
6.	John Cooper	16
9.	John Carr	7
9.	Kim Matthews	7
9.	Wood	7
10	JJ Dunning	6
12	John Adey	5
12	Tawhid Qureshi	5
13	Rod Paterson	3
16	Robert Fox	2
16	Chris Jacobs	2
16	Phil McBarron	2
20	Alex Luke	1
20	David Pope	1
20	Sian Priest	1
20	Guy Westhead	1

## Season 2005 Fielding

	Name	Ct	St
1.	Kim Matthews	9	2
2.	Phil McBarron	6	
4.	John Cooper	4	
4.	Nick Harrison	4	
6.	John Hilary	3	
6.	Tawhid Qureshi	3	
9.	John Carr	2	
9.	Rod Paterson	2	
9.	Neil Priest	2	
14.	Neil Benn	1	
14.	Simon Cousins	1	
14.	Chris Jacobs	1	
14.	David Patterson	1	
14.	Guy Westhead	1	

## Season 2005 Bowling

	Name	O	W	Avg
1.	Cousins	42	9	14.8
2.	Benn	81	21	15.0
3.	Harrison	24.4	5	17.2
4.	Hilary (J)	40.4	8	23.8
5.	Cooper	78.4	14	29.6
6.	Paterson	43	7	35.0
7.	Pope	32	3	59.0
Did not qualify for awards				
8.	Wood	3	3	4.7
9.	Dunning	10	3	14.7
10.	Fox	10.2	3	15.3
11.	Qureshi	3.3	1	18.0
12.	Jacobs	2	1	19.0
13.	Thomas	7.1	2	22.0
14.	Matthews	2	1	22.0
15.	McBarron	16.4	5	24.4
16.	Adey	18	4	25.3
17.	Luke	8	2	31.5
18.	Duggan	7	1	50.0
to end Season 2005 Qualification for awards: 20 overs				

## Season 2005 Batting

	Name	I	R	Avg
1.	Priest (N)	14	489	163.0
2.	Dunning	5	76	76.0
3.	Harrison	7	241	48.2
4.	Hilary (J)	8	169	33.8
5.	McBarron	15	271	27.1
6.	Benn	10	128	25.6
7.	Carr	9	155	19.4
8.	Qureshi	13	160	16.0
9.	Matthews	10	37	9.3
10.	Paterson	5	24	8.0
11.	Westhead	6	40	6.7
12.	Cooper	5	16	5.3
did not qualify for awards				
13.	Cousins	4	59	29.5
14.	Luke	2	16	16.0
15.	Taylor	2	32	16.0
13.	Jacobs	4	35	8.8
14.	Marr	1	7	7.0
17.	Fox	3	12	6.0
18.	Thomas	1	3	3.0
19.	Patterson	2	3	1.5
20.	De Groote	1	1	1.0
21.	Whitrod	1	0	0.0
to end Season 2005 Qualification for awards: 5 innings				

## **Player Profiles 2005 (continued)**

### **Rod Paterson**

Rod continued where he left off on his return to the Dodgers squad: bowling well but never quite getting the returns he deserved, perhaps due to having too much pace and bounce. He showed a little with bat and behind the stumps this year, so the Cat's retirement might have to be brought forward to 2039.

High point: Becoming an uncle

Low point 1: Bowling Gaught and having it no-balled quite ridiculously by Shakoor Rana Conway for being too high. Yeah, right!

Low point 2: Charging a suicidal single against Science Museum then finding there was an over left

### **David Patterson**

New-boy David had a difficult start to his Dodgers career with 44 runs from 5 innings. With careful study of his elders and betters in the squad (well, elders) he should pick up enough techneeeeeeeque to build on this dramatically in coming years.

High point: His rather stylish whites

Low point: Being castled by Gundry without moving

### **JJ Dunning**

For those with long memories, web-recruit JJ is a clone of Kevin Roper in that he's a big lad who swings the blade frequently and the ball occasionally. There's one important difference though: he sometimes turns up. Dismissed only once in gathering 76 runs and picking up three wickets at 15 for only 4.4 per over is a fair reflection and there's plenty more to come.

High point: Snatching a dramatic victory with the bat against ATOC

Low point: Skipping St Andrew's against a combined Dodgers/Warwick Castle side on a day dubbed "Bloody Sunday"

### **Nick Harrison**

Another newcomer, Nick performed superbly and oozes class on the field, especially when he's batting. His averages of 48 with the bat (two fifties) and 17 with the ball - both third in the season's lists - may even understate Nick's efforts. Another fine recruit.

High point: A match-winning 82no against the Rats

Low point: His motor, which has seen better days

### **David Pope**

Deadly Dave wasn't quite so deadly this year with only three wickets at 59 and an economy rate of more than 8 per over. Perhaps he ought to sign for Buckhurst, where he performs well every year? Didn't get to bat all year and that first catch remains elusive: very and perhaps permanently elusive.

High point: Causing the Buckhurst Hill batters the usual sweating, convulsions and sleepless nights

Low point: Suffering a horrific drop by Captain Benn which would have yielded another Buckhurst wicket

### **John Adey**

Our chairman was able to make six appearances during the year and his new slim-lined physique brought some success with the ball. He's closing in on 100 career wickets... slowly.

High point: 4-0-6-2 against Science Museum, including an athletic caught-and-bowled

Low point: Freezing his bollocks off along with 6 or 7 other hardy souls who turned up in pouring rain for the rout against English Heritage

### **Alex Luke**

Alex is a bit of a lad and recklessly jeopardised his season by breaking his leg skiing during the winter. Bowling figures of 8-0-63-2 from his three matches confirmed his "luxury" status.

High point: Looking a million dollars with his classical batting techneeeeeque

Low point: Scoring sod-all runs again

### **Chris Jacobs**

Chris suffers from the same slight technical deficiency as Tawhid and JH when he's batting: he keeps missing straight ones. There's surely more in the tank from Chris than he's shown to date, but not bowling. Cruelly forced into the attack against ATOC alongside the Cat, he was lucky to concede only 19 runs in his two overs (but bagged his second career wicket).

High point: His recent marriage

Low point: The loss of his bachelor status

### **Robert Fox**

GOL recruit Robert appeared in three matches towards the end of the season and certainly caught the eye with both bat and ball. Get him a 25-year contract someone...

High point: Solid as a rock under pressure against Buckhurst to secure the draw

Low point: Getting injured in the same game at the start of a potential marathon spell

### **Neil Benn**

Last, but by no means least, professional Yorkshireman Neil enjoyed a very satisfactory season, particularly with the ball where his 21 wickets at 15 represented a decent return. Also scored some useful runs but at a strike rate that would have embarrassed McB. His most notable achievement was becoming the first ever Dodger to complete the double of 1000 runs and 100 wickets. Amazingly bought a full round to celebrate with only slight prompting

High point: The Holy Grail

Low point: The slaughter in the sun against a cocksure, arrogant and nasty Weasels side



Season Review 2005 by Neil Benn, John Cooper and Phil McBarron  
[www.dodgerscricket.org](http://www.dodgerscricket.org)