**Introduction**

With the new season just a few weeks away, we continue our peek into the playing personnel in Chilmark’s ranks this season.

Name: Ollie Clayton

Hair Status: Cautiously optimistic

Famous doppelganger (if you squint): Lou Reed

Games: 12

Runs: 488 @ 54.22

Wickets: 3 @ 11.33

Debuting last season amidst a haze of Chairman Jacobs percolated propaganda, Clayton soon made gospel of the Chair’s words by cracking 90 gilded runs against the Old Bedfordians, single-handedly keeping Chilmark in the game. Two more half centuries followed during a season that Clayton coloured with an array of dashing stroke play not seen since Mike Stott was in his prime. The batting award was duly awarded at season’s end.

His bowling was given only a brief outing last season, mostly due to its brutal effectiveness, which threatened to shorten an otherwise pleasant Sunday afternoon’s cricket.

Given Clayton’s employ in the City of London, a special poker game has been set up this season to further entrench him into the fabric of the team.

Name: Patrick Craig-McFeely

Hair Status: Dapper

Inventor of: The Pifco Fuzzaway (patent pending)

Games: 79

Runs: 1057 @ 22.49

Wickets: 61 @ 21.08

The Doc is the club’s patron gent. Rarely seen without a suit on (unless in his whites) his presence at Cleeves Farm always brings a sense of cordiality to proceedings. Occasionally he plays the game too and is famed in recent seasons for abandoning contemporary method and instead using his chest to intercept a fiercely hit shot otherwise destined to clear the fence.

With the bat The Doc is a consistent middle order contributor and has the bitter-sweet distinction of being one of just two members of the (out for) 99 club. His graceful swing bowling is equally effective, often surprising neophyte batsmen with sharp pace and movement.

Much was made of the Outstanding ranking Dr Craig-McFeely’s Hindon Surgery received from the CQC last year, but what is less known is that the waiting room there has the second largest collection of Country Life magazines in the NHS.

Name: Ricky Corbin

Hair Status: TFI Friday

Hidden talent: Understands Microsoft Excel

Games: 90

Runs: 1105 @ 17.00

Wickets: 56 @ 22.25

Once described as an enigma wrapped in a luxurious riddle, Ricky Corbin’s approach to the game is five parts enthusiasm, three parts equipment and two parts ability. It’s a beguiling mix that last season resulted in the invention of a unique and hopelessly ineffective new shot – the Corbin Scoop. The ungainly stroke yielded very few runs and possibly cost the team a game, however its real value (entertainment) was immeasurable.

His bowling usually finds the pitch.

Recently elevated to the position of club treasurer, Corbin is also the team statistician (and has the spreadsheets to prove it). It’s quite possible that this is the first time anyone from Warminster has held more than one job.

Name: Reg Allen

Hair status: Resilient

Nickname: Golden Arm

Games: 139

Runs: 621 @ 7.06

Wickets: 59 @ 25.44

No-one has played more games for Chilmark Cricket Club than Reg Allen, an indication that his body is as resilient as his hairline. His contributions during those games have gradually improved too, and Allen readily admits that he took three or four seasons to learn how to play the game. By 2016, though, we saw peak Reg, as he earned the moniker ‘Golden Arm’ following returns of 4-27 and 5-24 during consecutive weekends in May. The latter figures enshrined him for the second time on the club honours board – the only bowler thus far to achieve the feat.

His batting, however, is a less precious metal. A quintessential number 11, Allen executes his task as if a fisherman casting a bait net in the shallows. Whilst generally unproductive, it has on occasion reaped rewards, with last season’s match winning 41 run stand with Paul Butler on the Isle of Wight a prime example.

Reg has his own chair at The Black Dog and if you sit in it he will challenge you to an arm wrestle and you will lose.