

## 1<sup>st</sup> team 2016

In what started optimistically at the beginning of the season the first team underachieved from what should be expected from this talented group of cricketers. Though despite the overall positioning of eighth in a strong league the team did secure six wins and were only just a credible six points below sixth on the table. Despite this the side did put in some impressive performances including a demolition of eventual promoted side Luton Town and Indians, and an unsuccessful but credible result with an understrength side against league champions Letchworth Garden City.

The positives of this season belong to the young bowling attack of Jamie Smithson and Andrew Neal who both started to deliver on their potential. Jamie whilst on his way to winning his first XI player of the year trophy was peerless in his efforts this year. Burdened with being the strike bowler for the first time in his first XI career he had a strong output of 33 wickets at 16.82 and was invaluable both with the new ball and when required for a powerful second or third spell. Secondly the introduction of Andrew Neal into the first team was a great success for the club and offers much promise for the future. Swinging the ball both ways at a lively pace was no more evident than the Hemel Hempstead game where his 3 for 16 off 7 was one of the bowling performances of the season. Alongside Andrew the team also saw the debuts of Will Bryant, Ray Collins, Ed Rogers and Gavin Brown all providing much hope for the future of the club. Other notable individual performances this year belong to:

- Scott Aspinall 125 against Hoddesdon at home
- Callum Neal 109 against Flitwick away. First century in senior cricket.
- Andrew Dunning 94\* against Hemel Hempstead at home
- Ryan Evans 5/20 against Luton Town and Indians at Home
- William Pendered 5/27 against Hemel Hempstead away
- Jamie Smithson 5/49 against Dunstable away

As my final task as captain I would like thank the efforts of all those involved with supporting the team this year. Starting with the work of Mike Rose for the countless hours he spends preparing a wicket each. Secondly the work of Helen, Brian and Steve who have been pillars of reliability each week. We are extremely lucky to have the best scorers in the league and their organisation have covered my insufficiencies on many occasions. I would like to acknowledge the work of cricket director Jeremy Hinds. Lots of calls and last minute organisation is a truly thankless task and I would not have been able to be as confident stepping into my position if it weren't for his support. I would also like to thank Tom, Ed and Scott who have each stood in for my absence at different times this year. Personally I have had a disappointing season after failing on too many occasions. However, these senior leaders proved what it means to support each other through difficult times. Finally, as I depart the captaincy I am pleased to have seen the tireless work of committee members this season and I have been astounded how each member wishes to build on the strong foundations that our club has been laid on.

As we look forward to next season there may well be some personnel changes, but as custodians of the club for a short period only it is our responsibility to ensure that we continue to work together in making Chorleywood a positive place to be both on and off the field.

I hope you enjoy the festive season I look forward to seeing everyone again in the New Year.

Thank you for your support

Ryan Evans