

Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting October 2015

Our cricket this year has been generally excellent with some outstanding team performances . As the Captain's team reports will show the teams put up strong performances in each of the leagues. Particular credit should go to the 1st X1 for their performance in the revised Championship, winning their last three matches to avoid relegation in a strong division showed remarkable team spirit. . The 2nd X1 performed magnificently in their league to come second and gain promotion. Both the 3rd and 4th X1's produced creditable performances finishing 6th and 5th in their respective divisions. More detail is contained in the Captain's reports . In common with many clubs, we struggled to get Sunday teams out so your Committee is looking at ways to make Sunday cricket more accessible and attractive. Whilst the revised Saturday league formats with win/lose games seems to have been generally welcomed , we remain hopeful that the all day format for the Championship will be abandoned.

Teams do not just happen and without the hard work of all our cricket captains we would not be playing cricket so on your behalf I would extend the club's thanks and appreciation to: Tom Smithson, Jeremy Hinds (also for his role as cricket manager), Rob Dunstone, Simon Dare

Our Junior section had another successful year with many teams performing well, just not quite able to go on to win titles. As expected, allowing teams to defer games has proved immensely difficult for all the team managers and Patrick Ryan , who continues to do a wonderful job managing this vital section of the club. The Committee believes that by freeing up Sunday after training sessions for junior matches, this will help to alleviate some of the pressure on Patrick and his management team. As a club, we are indebted to this team for all their hard work and I would extend our thanks to them and to Mark Watkiss for his support of Sunday Training. I would also extend our thanks to all the parents who support the teams in various roles, as managers , at Sunday training with tea ,coffee and bacon rolls , driving and all the other numerous jobs the teams need doing.

In general, the square has continued to improve; perhaps weather conditions helped us as we did not have a particularly hot and dry summer. As we all know, it is difficult to get sufficient water onto the square and we have been discussing how to do this more efficiently, though not many easy fixes are available. I would take this opportunity to thank Michael Rose for the many hours he devotes to maintaining and preparing our square.

Financially the club did not have as good a year as 2014. On the cost side, the pavilion continues to require regular mending – this year it was the roof above the ladies toilet. Ground maintenance continued to increase in cost. On the revenue side, bar takings were down by about 20% mainly because we had fewer social events, no classic car event and fewer rentals of the clubhouse ,reduced sponsorship and corporate events. Once again, thanks are due to Owen Edis, for organizing the Fixture Booklet. John Chadwick's continued excellent management of the bar means that all club members readily support this area of our activities. Peter will report more broadly on the financial numbers and as a club we remain indebted to him for his continued support and guidance.

The pavilion remains the major issue for the club. Our thanks go to Owen Edis and Denys Downing for all their work progressing our plans. We have some initial quotations against contractor's designs but more work needs to be done to understand these better. Additionally, we have worked to gain support in the wider community this will assist any

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planning application we eventually make. Once again, our thanks go to Tim Pendered for continuing to nurse the pavilion through its various ailments.

It would be remiss of me not to mention all the support the club receives from many people who do not play cricket but are vital to the success of the club – often their work is not known to many of the members. Russell Hodgkinson has maintained the nets, clearing them every week for training, repairing holes and getting them ready for winter – our thanks go to him for all his work in the past. Russell will relinquish this task next season so we need a volunteer to take over. Additionally, our thanks go to Lesley Neal who has given marvelous support to the Committee as Club Secretary for the past few years, as well as organizing many other aspects of the clubs activities. Lesley would like to relinquish her Secretarial duties – again any volunteers will be welcomed.

As ever, we are all indebted to the people without whom none of the players would be able to enjoy their cricket. We are blessed with and highly indebted to all our scorers, our umpires, Jean and others for our lunch and teas. To John Chadwick and Helen Smithson for organising everything so efficiently and I know that everyone who plays understands and appreciates the support we receive this team – put simply, without you we could not play cricket.

I would extend my thanks to your Committee for all the support they have given me throughout this year and, on your behalf, for all their hard work throughout the course of the year. The club depends on members volunteering to take on roles so please, if there is anything you would like to do, you will be very welcome to join in.

Steve Dunning
Chairman
October 2015

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