

Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting November 2016

Our cricket this year has been mixed with some excellent performances in patches when availability allowed the teams to get some stability. I will leave it to the Captain's team reports to describe their seasons in detail. Again the 1st XI performed well winning critical games to ensure that they stayed in the Championship. The 2nd XI struggled and with the availability really hampering them, they continued to fight hard but were relegated. The 3's and 4's both did well but again there were issues of availability.

In October, we held a players meeting to try and identify ways in which the season and the cricket we play can be improved for the enjoyment of all. There were many good suggestions and we will work on these but the main source of dissatisfaction was the length of games, this we will try and address with the League.

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: Ryan Evans, Jeremy Hinds (also for his role as cricket manager), Rob Dunstone, and Sam Hatfield who did a marvelous job bringing the younger players and their Dads into the teams.

Our Junior section had another successful year with many teams performing well, some were just not quite able to go on to win titles but the highlight was the U11's who won their own end of season tournament at Tring Park. The Junior section adopted Friday training and Sunday fixtures with enthusiasm and it was great to see so many teams, wonderfully supported by parents, relaxing and enjoying the Common. In addition, our U19 team had great fun and we look forward to this continuing next year. As a club, we are indebted to Patrick Ryan and his management team for all their hard work and I would extend our thanks to them and to Will Pendered, Mark Watkiss and Ryan Evans for their support of Sunday and Winter 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 serving of bacon rolls, driving and all the other numerous jobs the teams need doing.

Financially the club did very well this year. On the cost side, the pavilion continues to require regular maintenance but we did not have any incidents requiring significant expenditure. We will however be looking at some refurbishment over the close season. On the revenue side, significant new sponsorship was received from Robsons and Mission Communications – with thanks to Neil Ret and Patrick Ryan. I would also, take this opportunity to thank Terri Pinnock for her donation to the club on behalf of her late husband Nicholas. Once again, thanks are due to Owen Edis, for organizing the Fixture Booklet. John Chadwick's continued excellent management of the bar and the success of Sunday games, has meant that we continue to enjoy significant income from this amenity. Peter will report on this year in more detail and also present a review by Myers Clark of the last 3 years accounts. We are deeply indebted to Peter for all his hard work maintaining a very disciplined oversight of our finances so he will be missed as he will be stepping down as Treasurer at this meeting. I am sure you will all join me in thanking him for his huge contribution to the club.

The replacement of the pavilion remains the major strategic issue for the club. Discussions with the Parish Council continue about the lease – these are positive and we are assured that there is no issue about renewing our lease and the PC is very supportive of cricket on the Common and wishes to see the club thrive. We continue to explore options with them about how to have a more 'commercial' lease that would help us to attract funding for the

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new pavilion This will continue to be something we will focus on in 2017. Once again, our thanks go to Tim Pendered/ Chris Tweedie for their support and continued nursing of the pavilion.

As ever, we are all indebted to the people without whom none of the players would be able to enjoy their cricket. Michael Rose for his commitment to preparing wickets and his maintenance of the square that continues to improve with each year that passes. Once again we owe a great debt of gratitude to our scorers and umpires excellently managed by John Chadwick and Helen Smithson , who also organises our teas with particular thanks to Jean. Every player knows how invaluable this support is for our club and without their commitment, we recognize we would not be able to play cricket.

My report on the year would not be complete without saying how sorely missed Simon Dare was by everyone. His stats show that he was the greatest cricketer to ever play for the club but, more than this, he epitomized everything the club stands for and we hope that we all continue to maintain his standards and make him proud of a club he so admirably represented.

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. We spent some time at the Players' Meeting discussing the fact that the club relies on members contributing more than just playing. We now do not have any team captains for season 2017 – so we need more support from the members if the club you enjoy is to continue in a healthy state.

Steve Dunning
Chairman
November 2016