

## 2012 Chairman's report to the AGM

Ladies & Gentlemen of CWCC. This is my 5<sup>th</sup> and final report as your Chairman on our last season.

Of course the greatest and most outstanding highlight was our 1<sup>st</sup> XIs promotion to the HCPL – more on this shortly from Rohan. The worst thing was the wet weather that caused cancellation or abandonment of a large number of senior matches and a huge percentage of junior matches, not to mention the severe difficulties it caused Rosie in preparing the ground and pitches. Under these conditions it was very difficult for the Colts in particular to develop any momentum during their short season - more on this later from Patrick.

I will report under the four challenges I set for the Club at last year's AGM, always keeping in mind our 3 strategic values of Youth, Family and Community.

First was **to improve the bridging process for colts into senior cricket**. We have seen some progress on last year thanks to the efforts of Patrick, Lesley and Rohan and this is demonstrated by the fact that 17 Colts played for the 4<sup>th</sup> XI at various times through the season. A few of our senior colts attended senior training and were made to feel part of the group. However, I feel there is still more to be done in this area to ensure we have home grown cricketers regularly available for the senior XIs in future. As we do not have Colts teams for over 15s there is a gap in their progression unless they start enjoying the longer version of the weekend game. I would hope to see our boys develop a passion for our game so it becomes their preferred summer sport. Our seniors captains have done a brilliant job in making sure our juniors get involved in games, particularly in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> XIs, and I wholeheartedly compliment Charles, Jeremy and Simon for how they have handled this and encouraged the youngsters. A good measure of success here is when our senior colts apply for an account on the website, and regularly mark up as available for senior cricket.

Second was **to develop more officials and coaches**. Here we have had mixed success. The highlight has been John Chadwick's organisation of Umpires to cover more matches than last year. John and Ken Moore became qualified earlier in the year and John is actively trying to recruit. On the scorers front we are disappointed that more members and parents have not taken advantage of Brian's winter scoring courses. His February course now seems to include mostly members of other Clubs! We do need to keep a steady flow of new scorers for both our senior and junior fixtures. Regarding coaching, only Vikash Patel qualified this year but Steve has a number of names of players interested in becoming qualified when we can get places booked on the limited number of courses available. We have made representations to Herts Cricket Board that more courses need to be available and plenty of notice given about them. Ideally I would like to see a coach assigned to most of our colts teams but where this is not possible then it would be good to have team managers with some basic cricket training skills. However, I do recognise how difficult it is to get managers for each age group and Patrick does a great job in trying to fill these roles.

Third was **to get more parents involved**. I am delighted that Lesley and Pippa are on the Management Committee and are involving more parents particularly in providing Sunday morning refreshments during colts training. However, we need to go further towards parents or even grandparents taking on official roles in the Club to ensure the clubs future as their children progress through the Club. I am delighted to hear that Nigel Tyler will be more involved next season largely as a result of the passion his son Sam is developing for the game.

Fourth was **to plan for a new pavilion**. Denys and I have been particularly active on this front and have formed a new steering committee to develop plans to replace our much loved tired old pavilion by 2015. This will follow on from completion of the project to upgrade our square for Premier League cricket, the second phase of which was completed last month. Currently we are awaiting consultation with TRDC from which we hope to gain agreement to increase the clubhouse footprint to give us extra space, especially for ground and cricket equipment.

Finally I would congratulate our 1<sup>st</sup> XI success this season and pay tribute to the efforts of Tom Smithson, Rohan Lee and Ryan Evans in the selection, training and team spirit that they have developed that has led to their great achievement this season. Off the cricket field, I would also like to pay tribute to Rohan Lee and Simon Moore and their partners for orchestrating a successful Summer Party. Once again Patrick ran another excellent Community day of very sociable local gentlemen that made a substantial contribution to Club funds. I would also highlight the great job Mark Watkiss has done as Head Coach of our Juniors. Marks running of the Colts winter nets, Sunday morning training sessions and Summer Camps has been tremendous this year. Vikash has been a great help to him with additional help from Josh Bungard and some of the senior players whose children are now into the Colts set up. Well done Mark and your helpers. You have been a reliable and super servant to the Club this year.

To round off, I would like to mention the great effort that John Jenkins, with help from David Rayvern Allen, has made in liaising with Emma Peplow at Lord's, to make a series of audio visual stories about our Club. These are now becoming available on DVD and can be viewed on the Taking The Field website. They are a great record of the history of this Club and how we operate today.

In conclusion, I would like to record the Clubs thanks to John Roberts for their help in sponsoring the coaching from our overseas player. Ryan Evans contribution to the Club has been great these last two years. His training and coaching sessions for both senior and junior players have been a significant factor in the current success of the Club.

We as a Club are lucky in that we have several members contributing towards running of our organisation and for that my heartfelt thanks. Nevertheless, I would still encourage more members and interested parents to be involved in doing jobs that are necessary for smooth club operations. I would like to personally thank Denys and the Management Committee and the other role volunteers for their support in keeping this a vibrant and fantastic Club. Compared to some other cricket clubs, we have a great Club largely due to the great people in it.

Thanks you all.