

2011 Chairman's report to the CWCC AGM

Ladies & Gentlemen of CWCC. Another year and another cricket season has passed already and it won't be long before we start again. The Club has had a good year in all departments other than the weather. Our cricket achievements in the season will be reported by our Cricket Manager and Captains so it is for me to report on the important other aspects that help to make this a vibrant and successful Club. Initially I will say how I think we are doing against our three key strategic aims, which you all know I'm sure are Youth, Family and Community.

First of all, Youth – under the guidance of Patrick we now have 200 Colts in the age range from 6 to 15 and 8 teams playing competitive league cricket. Our Colts section has gone from strength to strength and achieved such a fantastic reputation that some parents are bringing children some distance to join this Club in preference to their local Clubs. Patrick will report more on the Colts later, but suffice it to say that last months Colts Awards evening was a huge success. It was brilliantly organised by Patrick who enlisted his managers and some of our club officials and honorary members to present around 40 trophies to recognise the achievements of the boys. Patrick, this was a fitting end to the season and I thank you most sincerely for your supreme efforts again this year that will help to ensure the future of this Club.

Secondly, Family – through the efforts of Lesley and Patrick, there are now more parents involved in running the junior teams and helping with Sunday morning catering designed to keep the parents up here to socialize by providing refreshments. However, we still have not seen enough parents coming forward to offer to help in an official capacity as Jane, Peter and Helen did at least 6 or 7 years ago. This is something that Lesley, Pippa, Patrick and I need to work harder at in 2012, so that we have some succession plans and can fill the vacant roles in the Club as they occur. In particular I would like to see our strategic plan of establishing girls cricket come to fruition, through finding an organiser to take this on.

Thirdly, Community – as in previous years we hosted the five local primary schools Kwik Cricket Festival on the Common in May. Mark Watkiss and yours truly were present to tell the participants about the Club and handout flyers.

Last year I reported on the presentation several of us gave to the newly elected 17 Parish Councillors all about this Club its history and future plans. I'm pleased to report, that resulting from this and keeping the Clerk informed of anything we want to do, relations with our landlord have improved.

We have also established good relations with the new Headteacher, Duncan Gauld, at Christ Church School. We have worked with him on improving our playing field for our mutual benefit, by levelling some of the jointly used areas of the outfield using the soil from the square excavations.

As most of you know we are members of the Three Rivers and Watford Cricket Development Group (TR&WCDG) where information is shared between the 7 major Clubs in this area. This forum is helpful for our Club. At the meeting last month we hosted a presentation from the Club Cricket Conference, who are now working with ECB towards raising awareness of CCC as being the main representative body for all club cricket. We provided 4 of our top players to a TR&WCDG representative side against a CCC representative side that was coached and managed by Min Patel at Watford Town at the end of July. I watched some of it and the cricket was of a very high standard.

Thanks to John Jenkins and David Rayvern Allen, our Club has been selected by Lord's to participate in the MCC and University of Glamorgan's research into grass roots cricket. You will hear more about this in the coming months. Finally, David is giving a talk to the Friends of the Common on November 17th at the Chorleywood Library on the History of CWCC so again this is good publicity for our Club. We might even sell some more of our 150th Anniversary books!

Now, to briefly recognise and comment on a few of the many highlights from this year.

Firstly, I would like to pay tribute to Mr Fix-it Tim Pendered, who once again, single handedly built another sight screen for us and has done numerous repair jobs in the pavilion, including a gradual replacement of all the external shutters.

Secondly, I would like to recognise the efforts of our new Cricket Manager Rohan Lee. Rohan has brought a fresh approach to managing our cricket here. He has encouraged his captains, tackled the difficult job of selection in a fair and sensitive way and organised with Ryan Evans more formal training on Tuesday evenings. I thank him for all his efforts whilst maintaining his busy job at the Treasury. Coupled with this I would like to mention the fantastic job Charles Hardcastle does with Sam Hatfield in running the 4th XI. Charles has brought Colts in to play senior cricket, some perhaps, for the first time. He has ensured they all get into the game and their efforts are appreciated. More about this later.

Thirdly, I would give huge thanks to the Rose family. Lauren has been an absolute delight to have working at the bar. Rather than just staff it she has managed it with Mike Norris to give us a new record income. When she goes off on her world tour next year we shall sorely miss her and wish her well. Surprisingly, she is related to our much loved Mr Grumpy to whom I pay tribute to the many hours he has spent on our playing field keeping it looking nice and getting many reasonable tracks out of an aged and tired square, in weather conditions that were much harder to cope with this season.

Last but not least I would like to give my warmest thanks to Jane for her tireless efforts to keep me and our Committee on track through comprehensive agendas, lists of Action items and timely minutes over that last few years. Jane is standing down so this is her last formal Club

meeting, although I hope she will not disappear entirely from this Club. She is one of our unsung heroes and I shall be proposing her for election to Vice President in recognition of her outstanding contribution over many years.

Some of this year's other great contributions I want to mention. Close to the start of the season Paul Downing took responsibility for the organising of our super overseas player Ryan Evans. I think we all agree he did the Club a great service in getting Ryan.

Then we had a successful well attended Honorary and Past Members lunch in August, which was thanks to Bridget Finch and Ginnie Jenkins.

Other contributions of note were the acquisition and use in winter nets of a bowling machine by Steve Dunning; another successful Community Day organised by Patrick, which this year, included our MP David Gauke who played in the winning team; the use of our facilities for corporate entertainment that Steve championed, providing the Club with much needed additional revenue; and our successful application to ECB to cover 75% of the costs of replacing our square over the next three years. At this point I would also like to register an appreciation of Mark Watkiss for his excellent coaching of our young players, both professionally and voluntarily. This included Sunday morning practices and well attended summer coaching camps. He received excellent support from various players that included Ryan Evans, Peter and Andrew Dunning, Josh Bungard, Vikash Patel and occasional others, but, of course, he could have done with more.

In conclusion, I would like to comment on the challenges that I proposed for 2011 at last year's AGM. There were seven but somewhat disappointingly only one was fully achieved. That was the starting of the phased replacement of our square. Of the other six, some progress was made on four, but for two there was no progress. This was to start serious fundraising towards improved facilities. On this I am delighted to say that Denys has agreed to spearhead that vital aspect for the Club and, of course, it's future. The other was in social functions which, either did not take place, or were very poorly supported. I sincerely hope we can better this in 2012. Rohan has put together an excellent survey of players, asking for input on what they would like to see next year so I hope this will put us on the right track. Later in the agenda, I will summarise what I think are the Club's most important challenges in 2012.

I would like to end by thanking our Management Committee for their support and help in running the Club, along with many others through this year. The spirit in the Club is high and in spite of having a 'dilapidated shed' as our pavilion, we still have new faces coming to join us. I feel that says a lot for this Club and the people in it.

That finishes my report for the current year.