

## **Chorleywood Cricket Club Chairman's Report AGM October 8<sup>th</sup> 2008**

This is my first report as your Chairman. Firstly I am delighted to say that, apart from another miserable summer causing a number of cancelled games for both the seniors and colts sides, it has been overall a brilliant year for the Club. We have met many of the objectives we set ourselves for the year as you can see from the attached notes. What follows is an overall summary noting the highlights and lowlights of the year as I saw them. Much more specific detail will be given by the captains and officers in their reports to follow.

### **The Highlights**

1. Above all else, the cricket side of the Club has been superb this year under Simon's leadership supported by Ryan and the captains. Promotion for both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> XIs has been achieved through intelligent selection of the teams, some outstanding performances with bat and ball, and players' willingness to play for the Club and not just a specific XI. This has been one of Simon and the selection committees' greatest achievements – moving players between XIs to get the best balanced sides without upset, through good communication and explanation. I thank the playing members for supporting this policy. Another significant highlight has been the blend of youth and seniors throughout the sides and we have seen some significant development in our young players experiencing senior cricket. This bodes well for the Clubs future.
2. The quality of the wickets we have played on has been superb bearing in mind the dreadful weather conditions Rosey has had to contend with. Also the regular cutting of the outfield has kept the playing area looking good all summer. The repair work to the nets and keeping the surrounding grass trimmed has provided us with usable practice facilities thanks to Russell's efforts.
3. The bar profits have hit a new high thanks to Andy and his team. The regular manning of the bar from 5pm on match days and many of the colts fixtures has substantially increased the bar turnover and Andy and Helen have kept pace with the increase in re-stocking and removal of empties. The new equipment in the bar store has helped to make running the bar and cleaning the pipes somewhat easier. Barbara has been a huge help in the Bar Action Group in ways too numerous to mention as well as being nice to all the customers.
4. The excellent work done by the Pavilion Action Group and other helpers to get the pavilion ready for the season and keeping it in reasonable order throughout. It is not easy with such an old facility.
5. Brian's excellent roster for the Scorers Action Group that provided scorers for most of the matches, not to forget his super course to encourage more members to take up the coloured pens. Not many Clubs can boast of being so well endowed with scorers, thanks to Brian's efforts.
6. The use of York House facilities organised by Patrick and others that allowed us to accommodate the increased number of colts' matches scheduled this year. This has been a huge benefit for the colts and we hope to continue next year.
7. The organising of events by Alex, especially the successful dinner/dance at Denham Golf Club, the first for many years, and hopefully something we can continue. Simon's innovative champagne challenge added extra interest to the social fabric of the Club, not to overlook his super bbqs when weather allowed. Thanks to Nigel and others for arranging another superb Club Day, and to Patrick for a great Community Day. The bank holiday weekend bar takings set a new record. Bacon rolls and beverages went down well with the parents, managers and coaches on Sunday morning colts' practices, and made some extra funds for the Club.

8. The Club brochure, newsletters and publicity to the local press by Rob, JJ and his Action Group, including the various improvements to the website thanks to Martin.
9. Finally, I would like to single out the work done by Helen in contributing to several Action Groups with enthusiasm – her excellent scoring which included the first laptop scoring record at CWCC using software she purchased herself, her efforts on Andy's bar team, helping with the social side on the Events Action Group and stepping up to plate to provide a short notice chilli con carne for the end of league season social. Thank you Helen for your superb efforts appreciated by all.

### **The Lowlights**

1. The death of one of our Patrons Reg Galer in July. Reg was a great stalwart of the Club, playing for a very long time and serving as Treasurer for many years. We remembered him at Patrons and VPs day with a short obituary written by JJ, and there was a significant turnout of senior members at his funeral. Two of his cricket paintings have been left to the Club to hang on the new pavilion walls.
2. The untimely loss of Jane, VP and past Chairman Anthony Shuster's wife, who was much loved in the Club for many years. Her funeral at Great Missenden church was attended by many members both past and present.
3. The surprise resignation of Nigel Rothband from the Club after nearly 25 years' service. He remains a VP and we hope we shall see him at the annual get together of VPs. We shall miss his wit as well as his batting.
4. The tragic 1<sup>st</sup> XI batting collapse against Knebworth Park in the penultimate league match of the season, that made promotion uncertain for the last league match after being in the top two league positions for virtually the whole season. Fortunately we won the last match to clinch our position.
5. The delay of a year to our project because of the difficulty of getting our planning application in early enough to TRDC after we had secured agreement to proceed with our landlords, Chorleywood Parish Council.
6. Although we made a start with our new organisation, the Action Groups did not function quite as we had hoped, some being more proactive than others. The Executive Committee have agreed that greater responsibility for the running of the Club needs to be devolved to the Action Group Leaders and their teams. A modified organisation is proposed in the attached documents which I hope you will agree to implement next year. We do need more members to be involved and committed to make it work.

In concluding, I would like to thank the Executive Committee, especially Jane for keeping us on track, the Action Group Leaders and all those who have engaged in performing for the Club both on and off the field of play in the last year. We have a Club to be proud of made up of super people. This year has been the start of our development to even better things. Hopefully we shall shortly receive planning consent from TRDC to start work on re-siting our playing area further from the road, together with replacing our old pavilion over the next two years.

Finally, we shall again be setting down our challenges in terms of achievable objectives for our Club for 2009. We plan that these shall be agreed with the Action Group Leaders at a January meeting, similar to the successful one we had last January.

The future looks bright.