



## **Byfleet Cricket Club – Committee Report 2020**

In April we were potentially looking at a season with no cricket, no events/hires and no income. The immediate need was to raise some £6-8,000 to cover our fixed overheads and maintenance costs given our reserves were virtually at zero following the completion of the Clubhouse refurbishment. The Committee immediately took the following actions:

1. Launched a GoFundMe appeal, contacted both current and former members and raised some £3,500 – to all current and former Members who contributed the Club is extremely grateful.
2. We encouraged Members to pay subscriptions early and offered some incentives to generate funds quickly. Full details are in the Treasurer's report.
3. We took advantage of Government grants to support grass roots sport and received £10,000 via Woking Council in a matter of days. Given we had been trying for over 10 years to get funds from Woking BC to support our refurbishment without success this grant is most welcome.

The above actions secured the necessary funds to enable the Club to continue with confidence.

We also acknowledge the work by both the Surrey Championship and FBSCCL in organising a shortened season which enabled us to play some 25 matches in total (approx. 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of what we would normally play) and generate much needed bar and match fee income.

The Treasurer's report contains all the details and in summary we managed to make a small operating profit and pay off personal loans from 2019 but a significant loss after depreciation. Our finances remain strong and we can look forward to 2021 whatever the Covid-19 pandemic throws at us.

### **2020 Playing Season**

The Committee took an early decision not to run a 3<sup>rd</sup> XI in the Championship/FBSCCL competition as we could not guarantee we would have enough players. The Committee decided to effectively make the Sunday XI fixtures the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI – and a very successful season they had, winning their last 7 games on the trot.

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI struggled with availability of key players and the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI more than held their own in a strong group. Overall, we fielded 44 different players in the shortened season.

### **Ground Equipment/Maintenance/Car Park/Soft-Play**

There was no major capital expenditure on new ground equipment though we did spend £2,200 on having the gang mowers serviced. The outfield suffered significantly during the year and at the end of the season remedial work was undertaken to scarify, aerate and re-seed the worst affected areas. Initial results are encouraging and we will assess whether further work on the outfield will be necessary in the Spring.

In January/February next year we have also commissioned work to lop a number of the oak trees around the ground, removing overhanging or dangerous branches, lifting the canopy where necessary and removing dead wood. This work is being partly funded by the generosity of our local Surrey County councillor Amanda Boote with a £1,000 grant.

At the end of the season the Club was again offered the opportunity to buy the land at the back of the Clubhouse. An initial offer was rejected and we are trying to negotiate a deal. There is a fall-back of a lease agreement but the Committee would prefer to own the land to give us security and control. It is still the intention to tarmac the car park when finances allow.

The soft-play project, which replaced the nursery, unfortunately did not survive the pandemic. To try and help we waived the monthly contribution towards maintenance costs of the car park but this was not enough. It is unclear what will happen to the premises (still owned by the lady who set up the nursery) as it is only licenced as a nursery. If unoccupied for 3 months it must be removed. This period has long expired and the Club will continue to monitor the situation.

### **On-field**

The following milestones and records are worthy of mention. A full update of career records will appear on the website in due course.

Dan Bowman passed 200 wickets

Greg Clough passed 4000 runs

Malcolm Denham passed 1400 appearances

Lewis Deven passed 150 appearances, 100 innings and 150 wickets

Josh Hill passed 100 appearances and needs one more victim to reach 100 wk victims

Ish Hussain passed 450 appearances and 400 innings

Eddie Oxborough passed 100 appearances

Glyn Clough was the only centurion in 2020 – 101 v West Reading

Eddie Oxborough took 3 catches in 2020, two of which earned him the Champagne trophies for both the first and second elevens.

Louis Hansom has played just 31 matches for the club but has already taken 29 wickets.

Matt Hockin is now the undisputed leading run scorer with a current total of 26577, followed by Malcolm Denham on 26206 and Tim Buzaglo on 26141. The nearest current player is Andy Savage on 11699, with Richard Buzaglo (16093) and Martin Rannie (11661) the only others to have passed 10000. Matt has made 1160 appearances and has batted in 1122 of those matches (96.7%) which, considering his time keeping, is quite an achievement.

There are no new members of the Hall of Fame (200+ appearances) but Sam Tyler on 189 could easily make the cut. Tom Hansom is on 180.

Other players approaching significant milestones are:

- Liam Blake 489 appearances
- Shaky Ahmed 590 appearances
- Roly Hockin 1194 wickets, 4905 batting runs
- Ashley Rannie 4994 runs
- Neal Jones 4708 runs
- Rob Deven 94 field catches

### **Colts 2020/21**

Given the pandemic and uncertainty as regarding whether any cricket would be possible and the shortage of coaches the Committee reluctantly decided to cancel Colts arrangements for 2020.

The good news is that both Lewis Deven and Charlie Black are on Level 1 coaching courses during the winter and, all being well, we will re-start the Colts in 2021. In the Spring we will embark on a recruitment campaign and decide age group coverage etc. It is likely that we will have 2, possibly 3, age groups covering up to the age of 12.

It is essential that all Members support Lewis, Charlie and Rob Deven in any way we can e.g. assisting on Colts nights, helping at matches, offering practical help. The future of the Club is in their hands.

It is also intended to run All Stars (Program for 5-8 year old's).

### **Overseas Player 2021**

No decisions have been taken yet regarding an overseas for 2021 until we have a clearer indication of what the season will look like. Riley Coutts has indicated he is keen to take up the offer from this year which had to be withdrawn.

### **Finances**

Please refer to the Treasurer's Report. The Club continues to be financially sound and extremely well-managed. The Club will need to continue to raise funds in 2021

for future works and the very active social Committee are planning a series of events, subject to any Government restrictions. One of the most successful and appreciated initiatives have been the close season Sunday roasts organised by Vicky Palmer-Cowlard, Lucy Collins and Becky Hurst. Vicky's roasts are superb and highly recommended!

The Committee have decided to raise subscriptions for 2021 to £90 for new Members but for those who paid subs in 2020 the fee remains at £75 for next season. This is the first increase for 5 years. Match fees remain at £10 and where a Member plays both days in a weekend it's £7 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> game. This all depends on whether teas are to be provided and should this not happen in 2021 then match fees will be lowered similar to 2020. We are determined to ensure we continue to offer affordable fees and excellent value for money. Because our finances are so carefully managed by the Treasurer, Byfleet CC fees are some 40%+ less than the average for Clubs in Surrey.

### **Sponsorship**

We are extremely grateful to all our sponsors who continued to support us in a difficult year. Our 2020 sponsors were Guillaumes LLP Solicitors, Pearce & Co., The Matthew Hackney Foundation, C & E Electrical and Sshhh Ltd.

We are actively looking for new sponsors and if you know of any organisation who might be interested please contact Andy Savage for the available options.

Last year we indicated planned enhancements and improvements, subject to financial considerations. These were, and remain, the following:

- New clubhouse roof
- Replace the veranda
- Tarmac the car park
- Second practice net
- Tree works (to be carried out in January 2021)

### **Summary**

It is worth repeating that the Committee remains focussed on the long-term plan for the Club i.e.

1. Maintain a good standard of friendly, affordable but competitive cricket within the Surrey cricket structure
2. Maintain and improve our Colts infrastructure
3. Continue to improve the Club on-field and Clubhouse facilities
4. Maintain a strong financial position and not chase success through imprudent financial decisions
5. Maintain the ethos of the Club as a community asset and not to lose sight of our heritage or become over-ambitious in our vision.

We would like to thank all those Members who contributed during a very difficult 2020 in whatever capacity. We will need everyone's continued support in 2021 to ensure we can successfully restart the colt's section which is imperative for the future of Byfleet CC.

Bernie Dodwell

President, Byfleet CC, November 2020