



**BYFLEET
CRICKET CLUB**

FOUNDED 1876

Byfleet Cricket Club – Committee Report 2015

2015 was a year of nearly but not quite. It was probably too much to expect another promotion for the 1st XI but they came close, finishing 3rd having been in contention all season, the 2nd XI had a poor start but came on strong in the second half of the season, the 3rd XI in their first season in League cricket “blooded” many of the older Colts into adult, competitive cricket (which was the primary aim), and some became regular 2nd XI players. The Sunday teams enjoyed many less competitive but equally enjoyable games, the Development XI and Under-19s T20 team performed creditably and the Colts continued to flourish. Notable highlights were:

1. Elizabeth Hackney and Leo Collins were selected for their respective Surrey age groups
2. George Mickley scored his maiden senior 50 for the Club at age 13.
3. Matt Hockin just failed to score 1000 runs for the season in the last game, being brilliantly run-out by Brent Kay fielding as substitute for the opposition!
4. The 1st XI were awarded the Sports Woking Team of the Year 2015 in recognition of back-to-back promotions plus have been shortlisted for the Surrey Sports Awards 2015.
5. Ish returned some remarkable bowling figures for the 2nd XI, coming from nowhere to win the 2nd XI bowling trophy.
6. Sam Tyler, at the age of 16, was the leading wicket taker for the Club and established himself a permanent position in the 1st XI.
7. Glyn Clough won the Fullers 2nd XI Premiership batting trophy.

Woking BC have been very supportive in re-instating the Byfleet Rec square which the 3rd XI use. We provided feedback to the Council on the ground conditions and preparation by the contractor and they have undertaken to see how the square can be improved in 2016. We should all acknowledge the organisation and arrangements that Iain and Linda Bowman made, ably supported by Rob Deven, to ensure all the facilities required to stage 3rd XI games on the Rec were provided (tent, teas, scoreboard, scorer etc.)

Full season reports for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Colts teams will be available at the AGM.

The new Clubhouse continued to dominate the Committee’s time. We failed to gain the necessary grants for our original proposal and a revised, and probably more practical design, has been approved which will reduce the cost considerably. The

architect is drawing up the final plans and these are available for review at the AGM. The rough estimate for the new design is in the region of £175,000. The fund raising continued apace and the Club has just short of £60,000 saved towards the costs, which was our target for end-2015. We raised some £15,000 in 2015. We are confident the Ride London grant of approx. £25-£35,000 for refurbishment will be forthcoming when we re-apply and we are exploring other options to raise the remaining funds.

We are also in the final stages of acquiring the land at the back of the Clubhouse for £9,000.

Construction **will** start in Autumn 2016 – we have enough funds to at least construct the shell and prepare the necessary infrastructure for the utilities.

As a result of the new electric cable being laid at the back of the Clubhouse by UK Power Networks, we were given compensation in the form of new containers and an extended car park, which will serve us well in the future. This work is nearing completion.

To meet the requirements of the Surrey Championship, and as an interim measure until the new Clubhouse is available, we are constructing an umpires changing facility and scoreboard during the winter where the current BBQ is located. This has taken longer than expected as Planning Permission was required. Once the Clubhouse is completed, the umpire's facility will become additional storage.

We need to continue fund raising efforts in 2016 and the target is to have £75,000 for when construction begins. The Committee is looking for additional fund raising volunteers to help achieve our aims – as things stand, too much is falling on too few shoulders.

The Committee remains focussed on the long-term plan for the Club to:

1. Continue our rise through the Surrey cricket structure
2. Maintain and improve our Colts infrastructure
3. Seek additional facilities to support the demand for cricket in the area
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.

The option of a totally new ground as part of the Local Plan which includes a multi-purpose sports ground for cricket, rugby and potentially other sports with Clubhouse is still alive. However, this is some years away.

The monthly newsletters were not so monthly this year – primarily due to the editor spending most of his working week abroad and the weekends umpiring. Hopefully time will be found next year to deliver a monthly summary.

On the financial side, despite increased investment and expenditure, our finances remain strong. However, we must cover our day-to-day costs and, unfortunately, we need to increase the general fees to members to cover these costs. Full details will be presented at the AGM but I will make one important point – we must support our sponsors and present a professional, smart appearance when representing the Club. The Crabtree Partnership sponsors the adult teams and are willing to extend the sponsorship when the current deal ends and the Club and Members must support their initiative. For too long we have had a hodgepodge of shirts with different logos (or none at all) which make Byfleet look unprofessional, uncaring and lacking any pride. Part of the proposals include incentives for acquiring the latest Club shirt as part of the subscription.

In the last Committee Report we mentioned the need to update the Club management structure to reflect the changing nature of the Club. You will have received a draft proposal from the Committee for consideration at the AGM. The Club's structure is basically the same as it was when founded 140 years ago. As a Club we need to update our structure to reflect a more commercial, modern approach and capitalise on the opportunities opening up to us, to share the load and involve more people to help us achieve our objectives.

If the proposals are accepted in principle by the AGM, a new Constitution will be drawn up for voting on at an EGM sometime in 2016.

Next year is the Club's 140th anniversary and Caroline Rannie has offered to organise a celebratory dinner. Some of you will remember she organised the 125th celebration which was a great success. More details will be released in the Spring.

I would like to thank again all those Members who contributed during 2015. It would be unfair to single out particular individuals for fear of missing out others. The Club is extremely fortunate to have a few individuals who devote unbelievable amount of time to run the Club for little/no reward and make it the success it has become but we need more direct support from Members. What humbles me most is the on-going contribution and support from the ladies of the Club in many different ways e.g. Emily & Rita Buzaglo, Linda Bowman, Lucy Collins, Corinne Mickley, Adeline Fahey, Tracey Bateman, Shelagh Denham, Linda Dodwell, Nancy Savage and many others.

I look forward to another successful year for the Club, both on and off the field.

Bernie Dodwell
President, Byfleet CC
November 2015