



Hornchurch Cricket Club



CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

In last year's Autumn Newsletter I commented that Season 2003 was probably the best to date in terms of the Club's long 220 year history. A year later, we can look back over an outstanding year and realise that Season 2004 emulated and surpassed the previous year in every way. To finish the season knowing that promotion was gained to the Premier League in the first four divisions of the Shepherd Neame League was truly amazing. It must be noted that we are currently the only Club in the whole of the county of Essex to have all their Senior Saturday XI's playing at the highest possible level and to that end everyone connected with Hornchurch CC should feel immensely proud of what has been achieved not only in this but in recent years.

After a disappointing previous season our Saturday 1st XI successfully gained the long awaited promotion – if you first don't succeed, keep trying!

With Adrian Rollins, Jannie Dryer and Ben Montgomery joining an already talented squad the all round strength of the team was evident as they remained unbeaten throughout the entire League campaign.

Although the Rollins brothers topped the batting averages, four other batters averaged thirty or above, including Paul Murray Jnr who not only recorded his maiden League century but smashed the Club's record individual score with 210 not out, a record held for one year only by Sean Perry. Chris Drum & Jannie Dryer formed an awesome opening bowling partnership claiming nearly 70 wickets between them. There were so many outstanding achievements in all the Club's other teams as the 2nd, 4th and 5th XI's won their respective Leagues with the 3rd XI narrowly missing out but still gaining promotion as runners up. The strength in depth we now have at the Club enabled us to easily field six strong teams each week except, that is, when a certain football team namely West Ham accounted for over twenty players one Saturday when they went to the play-off at Cardiff. No further comment on that match from me (Editors Note: We should be able to field full strength teams next season then!).

Our Cricket for All youth coaching programme once again proved as popular as ever with almost three hundred different children attending throughout the summer. The success of our youth teams is testimony to the effectiveness of this coaching programme and thanks must go to the many coaches and helpers that regularly commit their time to this cause.

At our opening evening in July we were honoured to have as a guest speaker Will Jefferson, the talented (and tall) Essex batsman in attendance. His involvement on that memorable evening was immense as he answered questions, signed autographs, coached and even organised a game with the youngsters after the food and presentations have finished, a great ambassador for our sport and Essex Cricket.

In June we organised the inaugural Inter-Schools 6-a-side competition for under 13's. Eight local schools participated in two groups based at Fielder Sports and Harrow Lodge with the final won by Hall Mead School. We hope this becomes an annual event.

The strength of the Club is gauged not only by the success on the pitch but also in what has been achieved off the pitch. The financial support we have received from our sponsorship with Hornchurch Football Club, Grove & Dean, Robertson Milroy, Jack Petchey and Sportsmatch enables us to progress further forward and I know that all members of the Club join me in recording our grateful appreciation to those named and many others who so generously support our aims.

The ambition of our Club continues to be as strong as ever, over the next few months the Management Committee will be preparing for the higher challenges that lay ahead of us. We believe as a Committee we have firmly set the foundation of continued success and rely on all members to play their part, however small.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed the past season immensely, the good friendly atmosphere that prevails both on the pitch and in the Clubhouse is a great credit to all members and long may it continue.

Please make every effort to attend the AGM and, if I do not see you there, then may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

- Jeremy West - Chairman HCC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This is on Sunday 5th December 2004 at the Pavilion, starting at 6.15pm prompt. Major decisions regarding the future of the Club are made at this meeting so it is imperative that you attend. You are reminded that under the Club's rules if you haven't paid your annual subscriptions (those that haven't have been written to) you are not eligible to vote.

CLUB WEBSITE

The Club website -

www.hornchurchcc.org

Although not always as upto date as time permits, please keep checking as there will be new features appearing shortly.

Thanks must go to Mike Renny and Robin Sen for their time and patience.

If anyone is interested in helping update & maintain the website please contact either Mike or Don Miller. Any ideas on the site please forward them to the Management Committee.

2004 SEASON

For those interested in statistics the following are a few provisional highlights of the 2004 season. At time of going to Press Britannic Lodge Statistics are unavailable so these only related to Hornchurch XI matches. A full breakdown of the Club Averages will hopefully be available at the AGM.:-

Senior Matches Played	- 133
Won	- 71
Drawn	- 30
Lost	- 25
Abandoned	- 2
<u>League Positions</u>	
Saturday 1 st XI	- 2 nd (Won 10, Lost 0, Drawn 7, Abandoned 1)
Saturday 2 nd XI	- 1 st (Won 10, Lost 2, Drawn 4, Abandoned 2)
Saturday 3 rd XI	- 2 nd (Won 10, Lost 2, Drawn 5, Abandoned 1)
Saturday 4 th XI	- 1 st (Won 11, Lost 1, Drawn 5, Abandoned 1)
Saturday 5 th XI	- 1 st (Won 11, Lost 2, Drawn 1,)
Saturday 6 th XI	- 1 st (Won 3, Lost 5, Drawn 3, Abandoned 3)
Highest Innings for	- 339 for 1 vs Britannic Lodge, Sunday 2 nd XI
Highest Inning against	- 321 for 10 vs Hainault & Clayhall, Sunday 1 st XI, League Cup
Lowest Innings for	- 60 all out vs Chelmsford, Saturday 6 th XI
Lowest Innings against	- 44 all out vs Stanford-Le-Hope, Saturday 6 th XI
Most Runs	- 1058, Paul Murray Jnr (933 – Adrian Rollins, 921 – Robert Rollins)
Highest Individual score	- 210*, Paul Murray Jnr vs Britannic Lodge, Sunday 2 nd XI
Total Hundreds	- 22
Total Fifties	- 104
Most Hundreds	- 4, Adrian Rollins (3 – P. Murray Jnr, 2 – A. Roberts, S. Davis, P. Brooks)
Most Fifties	- 8, Robert Rollins (6 – P. Murray Jnr, J. Ely, K. Shallow)
Most Overs	- 350.5, Francis Baptist
Most Maidens	- 73, Francis Baptist
Most Wickets	- 58, Francis Baptist (46 – J. Dryer, 44 - Chris Drum)
Best Bowling	- 8 for 21, Graham Farquhar vs West Essex, Saturday 4 th XI
Total 5 Wkts	- 22
Most 5Wkts	- 2, L. Sweeney, N. Adams, F. Grann, C. Drum, AJ Duploy
Most Catches	- 13, Anthony Sealey (9 – Chris Newland)
Most Wkt Victims	- 29, Ben Lee (2 Ct 7 St)

CLUB APPAREL

Cricket attire in the club colours complete with the HCC crest would make an excellent Christmas present and are available in various sizes from Doug Shewring.

Shirts

Long Sleeve £16.00
Short Sleeve £15.50

Sweaters (All Wool)

Long Sleeve £47.00
Short Sleeve £39.00

Caps

Baseball Style £16.00
Sun Hat £8.50
Helmet Badge £4.75
Badges £1.50



A CAPTAIN'S VIEW

A few thoughts from Robert Rollins, Saturday 1stXI Skipper:-

I would like to start by thanking the team – Guy's I'm proud of you all. There was a lot of disappointment in 2003 and I think another season like that would have been disastrous for us all..

The key to promotion is team harmony, coupled with ability and ambition. It was vital that we started the way we meant to go on. The challenges of the previous season, ie selection difficulties had to be overcome. The trust of the Club players had to be earned. This wasn't easy, being skipper is not solely about taking your team across the white line, off the pitch is where the game begins.

Selection and selection policy continues to be the one area in sport that carries immense emotion. Leaving someone out or replacing him is the hardest thing to do and it's the worst part of the position. I must thank the squad members who on occasions came into the team at short notice, never let me or themselves down and did the Club proud. I don't normally single out individuals but R. Burd, A. Sealey and A. Roberts were essential to our success, thanks lads. It shows that the Club has strength in depth and I hope those players along with others can push for 1stXI places next year.

It's always pleasing and rewarding to watch players progress and make a marked improvement. Paul Murray has justified the faith that both the Club and myself have in his talent and believe him to be a future Captain.

The spin twins Salisbury and Hemmings (L. Sweeney and M. Whitlock) performed brilliantly. They never shirked responsibility and proved to be true all rounders, and on many occasions bowling or batting us out of trouble, or placing us in a match winning position. These two are vital to the team next season in the Premier League.

Two of our best team players are B. Lee and S. Davis, both never whine (well not to me anyway) and always do their utmost for the team. They are what every Club member should model themselves on, they train hard, play hard and full of useful advice.

Just a quick note to thank C. Drum, J. Dryer and A. Rollins. There were in the team to perform and all three did exactly that throughout the campaign, thanks guys.

The team I'm sure would not be in the position it is without the help from the boundary prowling advisory team. Pat always ensures that everything is organised, scorer, transport, directions, etc. He even offers tactical advice some useful, a lot not so, thanks Pat. We are all clubbing together for some new shoes for you as you must of worn out several pairs during the season patrolling the boundary. P. Murray Snr, Ed's and Big Al our very own Barmy Army, thanks for your fantastic support.

Thanks must go to Jackie for making the opposition slow and lethargic after tea, I wish I had thought of that tactic earlier in my career. Seriously, outstanding teas, second to none (except my Mums) but I'm a bit worried about lunch and tea in the Premier League next season.

Finally, thanks must go to the Chairman, always ready to listen and full of encouragement. To the Management Committee who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make Hornchurch what it is today. I'm glad to be involved with Hornchurch Cricket Club and here's to another successful season in 2005.

- Robert Rollins

SHEPHERD NEAME ESSEX LEAGUE UMPIRES GRADINGS

Independent Umpires who officiate at all 1stXI and some 2ndXI matches grade the facilities, playing area, hospitality and discipline of players throughout the season. In line with the improvements made in all areas of the Club this is no different. We attained scores of 9.14 (max 10.00) for Discipline, 10th out of the 40 Clubs in the League, 17.98 (max 20.00) for the Pitch Condition, 1st out of 40, so yes it's official we now have the best pitch in the League, and 14.70 (max 15.00) for Hospitality, 2nd out of 40.

We continue to try to improve or maintain all the ratings above and welcome all officials, spectators and players to Harrow Lodge.

HORNCHURCH & NOVEMBER

Looking back some ninety years and seeing the recent Festival of Remembrance Parades brings the thoughts of what went on in November back then. November brought both sorrow and excitement to our then Hornchurch village. First there was the parting of many loved ones off to the trenches of France and Belgium in the First World War. Amongst their numbers were many Hornchurch cricketers, more of that later.

Further excitement arose from the arrival of the Sportsmen Battalion to Hornchurch. Stationed at Grey Towers the home of Hornchurch Cricket for many years and official residence of Colonel Holmes President of the Club from 1890 – 1912.

The Sportsmen assembled at London's Hyde Park, marched through to the Mansion House where they were greeted by the Lord Mayor of the City, then onto Liverpool Street to board the train. On their arrival at Romford they were greeted by enthusiastic crowds lining the streets. Leading the way were the local Cottage Homes Band who marched them into Grey Towers to commence their training before being sent to the front a year later. It was reported that their send off resulted in the largest ever crowd to line the streets of the village.

Who were the Sportsmen? They came from all sports, football, golf, boxing, tennis and of course cricket. Famous names such as:-

E.H. 'Patsy' Hendren	Middlesex and England (51 Caps)
Andrew Sandham	Surrey and England (14 Caps)
John 'Bill' Hitch	Surrey and England (7 Caps)
Ernie Hayes	Surrey and England (5 Caps)

These men were idolised as they walked through the village. Great cricketers were classed as Gods in those days, the David Beckhams of their day.

Least not we forget those men whose ground had been taken over by this Sporting Battalion. Well over twenty Hornchurch Cricket Club members went to war. At least four were deemed never to return to their usual summer 'hostilities'. QMS. C.H. Baker, Cpl F. Fulcher, 2nd Lieut. G.W. Franklyn and Pte. R. Dawson paid the ultimate price. R. Dawson it appears was a very active member of the Club as early as 1904 appearing in the batting averages as well as the Treasurers report where he is paid 5s (25p) a week for 21 weeks for keeping the ground (Grey Towers) in order. A further £2.10.0 for 'pitching wickets for matches'. In addition 2/6 was received for the hire of his pony presumably to keep the outfield short?. The total of £13.10.0 was recorded for upkeep of the ground. A little different to the sums of money needed today.

The Rev. C. Steer, an active member of the Club and St Andrews church was also Chaplain to the Forces. He returned from the war with a Military Cross.

Of interest to both Hornchurch and Britannic Lodge members E.G. Bratchell (Jnr) a signaller in the R.G.A. played his part.

In 1922 it was reported in the Essex Times a tablet to the memory of those of the Sportsmen Battalion who gave their lives during the Great War has been placed on the North wall in St Andrews church, take a look next time you go there.

Our thanks go to the Club Historian Peter Edwards for the above. If anyone has anything they think may be of interest or importance to the history of the Club they should contact Peter.

INTER COACHING & TRAINING

The winter coaching and training sessions are currently being finalised and will start in January (so don't eat too many mince pies at Christmas!), dates, times and venues will be advised separately. Keep looking on the website.

PAVILION USE

Members are reminded that the pavilion and it's facilities are available for private functions. Any bookings should be made with the Club Secretary, Jackie Cubitt.

UMPIRES AND SCORERS

The Shepherd Neame Essex League have embarked on a campaign to recruit Umpires and Scorers to stand in the lower team matches. Players have a responsibility to know the laws of the game so why not come along and get a better understanding of the lbw law instead of using the philosophy - if it hits your pads you're out (mentioning no names!).

Courses are held at the Pavilion every Wednesday during the winter . Anyone interested should contact Doug Shewring or Norman Balmford for further details.

"100 CLUB"

The 100 Club exists to provide much needed funds for the Club and also gives members and friends a chance to win prizes. Draws take place on a monthly basis at the Pavilion throughout the year, with the summer draws taking place on a Saturday evening whilst the winter one takes place at the monthly Management meetings.

As the title suggests there is a maximum of 100 numbers in each draw and each number costs £12 per annum - only £1 a month. There are three prizes each month £20, £10, £5 with two bumper draws in June and December of £100, £50, £20. Recent winners are:-

May

91 – D. Whitlock
53 – R. Stannard
83 – S. Durrant

September

94 – Mrs D. Worham
96 – J.N. Balmford
5 – D. Skipper

June

41 – Mrs G. Davies
90 – R. Joyce
78 – D. Shewring

October

76 – D. Tunney
57 – J. Syms
99 – C. Wolstenhome

July

70 – Mrs K. Scolding
79 – T. Graham
18 – P. Sweeney

November

56 – D. Shewring
41 – Mrs G. Davies
74 – I. Ede

Aug

11 – J. West Snr
4 – J. West Snr
45 – Mrs A. Storey

There are now only two numbers available so why not have one of them. They are:- 58 & 92.

Those who have been winners but owe monies have not been notified of there 'success'
To obtain a number contact Brian Storey.

MEMBERSHIP

If you have moved, are about to move, or change telephone numbers during the closed season, would you please inform Lance Malkin as soon as possible. This will enable us to send important information to you in the future as well as keep our records up to date.

EDITORS COMMENT

A shortened Newsletter this time due to time constraints but I hope informative.

The Management Committee, would like to take this opportunity in wishing all our members, parents and supporters a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year and let's hope that next year we can continue collecting trophies.

If you have any comments or suggestions for the next proposed issue of the H.C.C. Newsletter, then please contact Don Miller.

