



# ***Hornchurch Cricket Club***



## **NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2007**

### **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT**

As our season finished we were left to reflect upon it being slightly disappointing from one angle but greatly encouraging from another.

Except for our 1st all our other teams played in the top division of their respective leagues. Obviously this means playing at the highest levels and with the lack of availability of a number of senior players this season we have struggled particularly in the 2nd and 3rds where sadly both were relegated. After being in a promising position going by the last few weeks of the season our 4th's narrowly missed out on winning their league.

The 5th's and 6th's regularly fielded many youngsters giving them experience as well as highlighting the abundance of young talent we have in our club.

Our 1st team were very unlucky to miss out on promotion and had it not been for an abandoned game due to a poorly prepared pitch midway through the season, we may well have won the league. At the beginning of the season several changes were made including Paul Murray being installed as 1st team Captain. Under his leadership and the ever canny Chris Gladwin our 1st team developed into an excellent unit with a great team spirit.

Our overseas player this year Cameron Nupier proved a terrific asset to our club. In August he achieved the near impossible by scoring 100 runs and taking all 10 wickets in the same match a feat that has never been equalled before in the Essex Shepherd Neame league. Although our success was due to an all round team effort there were significant contributions from Kym Beazleigh and Jamie Went in particular. Without doubt the most encouraging aspect of our season was in seeing the emergence of so many talented youngsters. A number progressed to our higher teams with Billy Gordon and Lee Bones making their 1st team debut. Others have also developed considerably putting the future of our club in a healthy position. Our one achievement of the season was to a large extent due to our youngsters as we managed to win the over 40 under 15 Essex Competition.

The weather unfortunately played a big part in our Cricket for All Coaching Programme this year, with Monday evening in particular regularly attracting adverse conditions. However, with Francis Baptist departing, his successor Paul Murray filled the role with great energy and enthusiasm, may I thank him and the many other coaches who regularly help out. Also may I record thanks for the excellent commitment of our youth team managers, most of whom give up every Sunday and some week day evenings to ensure our youngsters continue to develop and enjoy themselves playing in the various teams.

In September we held our youth presentation evening with our guest speaker being Ronnie Irani the Ex Essex Captain and now Talksport presenter. Over two hundred attended the presentation to our various age groups as well as hearing many amusing tales from Ronnie. A few days later when he was presenting Talksport he mentioned the amount of nice looking mum's that were present that evening. As they say all publicity is good.

Although there are many encouraging aspects within our club, the one thing we have struggled with this season was the regular availability of serious players in their various capacity. We need help particularly in our youth department, running teams as I have mentioned is a commitment, but if it is shared it becomes considerably easier. If you are able to help in anyway please do so, the one thing you can be sure we will welcome it greatly.

Next season will be the club's 225<sup>th</sup> an incredible feat, lets make it special in many ways. Various events will be held to mark this historical achievement and I sincerely hope the great family atmosphere which prevails both on and off the pitch will be evident in all we do.

May I finish by thanking all our management committee and the numerous others who contribute in many ways, please make every effort to attend our AGM but if you are unable to may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Jeremy West – Chairman HCC

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

This is on Sunday 2nd December 2007 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 you are not eligible to vote.

## **TROPHY WINNERS 2007**

Trophy winners for 2007 are as detailed below.

Robertson Cup	Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> XI	Fielding	Paul Murray
Cander Cup	Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> XI	Batting	Kym Beazleigh
Mitchell Cup	Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> XI	Bowling	Cameron Nupier
Hennin Cup	Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	Batting	Lee Bones
Hembery Cup	Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	Bowling	Dean Skipper
Thurner Cup	Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> XI	Batting	Matt Sullivan
Edwards Cup	Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> XI	Bowling	Martin Hayward
Rainsford Trophy	Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> XI	Batting	Tony Willison
Scolding Cup	Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> XI	Bowling	Joe Defreitas
Notley Cup	Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> XI	Batting	Brian Roberts
Balmford Cup	Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> XI	Bowling	Doug Shewring
Brooks Cup	Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> XI	Batting	Chris Newland
Shewring Cup	Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> XI	Bowling	Jack Filtness
Stuart Cup	Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> XI	Player	Paul Murray
Rose Bowl	Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	Player	Billy Gordon
	Sun BL XI	Batting	Billy Gordon
	Sun BL XI	Bowling	Ronnie Saunders
Ede Cup	Colt 2007	Player	Billy Gordon
Cawthorne Cup	Over 40	Player	Chris Gladwin
Hickinbottom Cup	Most Improved	Player	Jamie Sorrell
Presidents Cup	Clubman 2007	Member	Rita Murray
Sport for All			Alfie Cossington

For those who didn't attend the excellent HCC Dinner and Dance recently where these trophies were presented, they will available at the forthcoming AGM – a good excuse to attend.

## **WHAT DOES HE MEAN?**

He says: I don't mind where I bat.

He means: As long as it's in the top five.

## 2007 SEASON

For those interested in statistics the following are a few provisional highlights of the 2007 season. A full breakdown of the Club Averages will be available at the AGM.:-

Senior Matches Played	- 147
Won	- 52
Drawn	- 28
Lost	- 56
Tied	- 1
Abandoned	- 10
Number of Players	- 144
<u>League Positions</u>	
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> XI	- 3rd (Won 8, Lost 2, Drawn 6, Abandoned 2)
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	- 9th (Won 4, Lost 8, Drawn 5, Abandoned 1)
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> XI	- 10th (Won 1, Lost 9, Drawn 6, Abandoned 2)
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> XI	- 3rd (Won 9, Lost 1, Drawn 5, Tied 1, Abandoned 2)
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> XI	- 10th (Won 2, Lost 10, Drawn 3, Abandoned 3)
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> XI	- 6th (Won 6, Lost 9, Drawn 1, Abandoned 0)
Highest Innings for	- 310 for 6 vs Harold Park, Saturday 3rd XI
Highest Inning against	- 276 for 8 vs Hainault & Clayhall, Saturday 1st XI (League Cup)
Lowest Innings for	- 39 all out vs Fives & Heronians, Saturday 5th XI
Lowest Innings against	- 27 all out vs Walthamstow, Saturday 4th XI
Most Runs	- 805 - Paul Murray (797 – Kym Beazleigh, 713 - Lee Bones)
Highest Individual score	- 151 – Brad Hodgkiss vs Harold Park, Saturday 3rd XI
Total Hundreds	- 10
Total Fifties	- 85
Most Hundreds	- 2 – Billy Gordon, Brad Hodgkiss, Cameron Nupier
Most Fifties	- 8 - K. Beazleigh (6- Paul Murray, 5- Lee Bones)
Most Overs	- 278, Dean Skipper (258.4 – Cameron Nupier, 187 – Jamie Went)
Most Maidens	- 41 – Cameron Nupier (38 - Dean Skipper, 38 - Jamie Went)
Most Wickets	- 55 – Cameron Nupier (51 - Dean Skipper, 35 – Alan Foxtan)
Best Bowling	- 10 for 42 – Cameron Nupier vs Shenfield, Saturday 1st XI
Total 5 Wkts	- 19
Most 5Wkts	- 4 – Cameron Nupier
Most Catches	- 16 – Dean Skipper, Myles Wells (15 – Cameron Nupier)
Most Wkt Victims	- 36, Paul Murray (29Ct, 7St)

On reflection it would appear that the ball dominated the bat over the season with the number of Hundreds & Fifties being scored dramatically less than recent years. Some would argue that the weather was the cause rather than good bowling!

One longstanding partnership was however broken – the 9<sup>th</sup> Wicket partnership held between Doug Shewring and Nigel Chapman from 1984. This partnership was extended to 77 unbroken from 75 unbroken by Cameron Nupier, 114no and Dave Kiff, 4no (you can tell that Dave spent a lot of the time leaning on his bat) in that now infamous match where Cameron took all 10 wickets and scored a century.

And finally the prestigious Duck Cup for 2007 goes to:-

Fred Watson who had 13 innings & 6 ducks!! – better luck next year

## WHAT DOES HE MEAN?

He says: I had a fair season with the bat.

He means: I managed to get into double figures a couple of times.

## **REFLECTIONS OF THE 1<sup>st</sup> XI CAPTAIN**

At the start of the year being the Captain of the Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> XI was looking an exciting prospect with the squad of players I had to choose from.

Once the season had started with a good League Cup win at Benfleet and a good effort away to Premier league champions Hainault & Clayhall, I couldn't wait for the league season to get underway.

There were some great performances in the cup games especially from newcomer Craig Smith who claimed 7 wickets on his debut. Also an early ton for Kym Beazleigh.

The league season started with a convincing win at home to newly promoted Horndon-on-the-Hill where our new overseas player Cameron Nupier got his personal tally of to a flyer with a 6 wicket haul.

From then on in it was difficult to have a consistent starting eleven due to this year's availability. This also bought a chance for some of our youngsters to make there 1<sup>st</sup> XI debuts. Lee Benson who was thrown in the deep end had some great moments in the team especially a memorable innings at South Woodford. Billy Gordon also made a huge step up to the side displaying great maturity in the roles he was given.

The were some great moments over the season. Two I think should be mentioned are Chris Gladwin's one hundredth hundred, a great moment for him in his long successful career, and Cameron's 100 and 10 wickets in the same game. An excellent achievement which I don't think has been accomplished to many times at any level.

The only game I feel let the squad down over the season was the fixture against Loughton at home, where our ground was declared unfit for play and we only received 6 points against the team at the bottom of the league. This was the point of the season that most defiantly cost us promotion.

Overall I was very happy in my first year as Captain that we managed to maintain 3<sup>rd</sup> in the league and we will look forward to going one better next year.

There are a few thank you I would like to finish off with. First off all to Kelly who puts up with my cricket talk 24/7 all through the year. Muz Snr and Mr Benson for collecting the subs all year long. To Mr Went, Mr Mitchell, Mr & Mrs Smith and Mr Sweeney for there support all year. A huge special thank you to Marie Ann Went who does the scoring week in week out, and Jackie as she continues to supply the best tea's in Essex.

May I take this chance to wish everyone a happy Xmas and a prosperous New Year. All the best

Paul Murray (Muzza) – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> XI Captain

## **OLD HANDBOOKS**

There are a number of Essex League Statistic Handbooks for 2007 available. Additionally, there are a small number of Club Fixture Cards from recent years to add to your collection. Anyone interested should contact Doug Shewring. First come, first served, deadline is the start of next season when Doug has threatened to throw them away.

## **WHAT DOES HE MEAN?**

He says: I don't mind turning my arm over if needs be.

He means: I couldn't bowl much worse than this lot.

## **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.

## **THOUGHTS OF THE YOUTH COACH**

In the first year as head coach it was a miserable year to start with due to the weather.

Once the weather was out the way and the coaching was underway it became a successful year on and off the pitch for the youngsters in the club. We had more than 200 children turn up to the sessions throughout the season. With the promise of a lot of the kids coming through the club looks in great shape for the future.

I would like to say a big thank you to Ben Spray who gives up a lot of his time to help in a more senior role with a lot of the coaching. A big thank you to all the other coaches who have helped throughout the season. – Paul Murray Head Coach

## **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 Chris O’Sullivan or Doug Shewring.

### **Old Style Shirts**

Long Sleeve £8.00

Short Sleeve £7.50

### **New Style Shirts**

Shirt £18.00

Trousers £18.00

### **Training/Leisure Gear**

T Shirts £10.00

Shorts £10.00

Track Suits £40.00

C4A T Shirt £ 5.00

### **Sweaters (All Wool)**

Long Sleeve £47.00

Short Sleeve £39.00

### **Misc**

Old Style Baseball Cap £16.00

New Style Baseball Cap £5.00

Sun Hat £8.50

Badges £1.50

Sweatbands £3.00

## **SHEPHERD NEAME ESSEX LEAGUE UMPIRES GRADINGS**

Independant Umpires who officiate at all 1<sup>st</sup> XI and some 2<sup>nd</sup> XI matches grade the facilities, playing area, hospitality and discipline of players throughout the season. We attained scores of 8.87 (max 10.00) for Discipline, 32nd out of the 40 Clubs in the League, an improvent of last year but still very disappointing.

A score of 17.50 (max 20.00) for the Pitch Condition, 2nd out of 40, proving that when prepared properly we consistently play on a quality surface.

With a score of 14.50 (max 15.00) for Hospitality, 7th out of 40, it goes without saying that the teas win the day everytime, only losing points on our changing rooms, and our welcome – must have caught Muzza on a bad day.

We need to continue to improve our Club discipline next year as this is still poor.

## **225 YEARS OLD CELEBRATIONS**

Next year sees the Club reach an historic landmark of 225 years in existence. Plans are afoot to celebrate this feat with a cricket week during August. Watch out for further news and if anyone has any ideas or is willing to help in the organisation of this event please contact Paul Murray Senior or Junior, Doug Shewring or the Editor.

## **WHAT DOES HE MEAN?**

He says: I played too late.

He means: I missed it.

## **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.

## **TEAM CAPTAINS & YOUTH TEAM MANAGERS**

There are those who are born to lead and those that aren't. Which category do you fit in?

With a large number of teams the Club is always looking for Captains and Youth Team Managers to organise players both on and off the field. With regard to the Youth Team Managers you can easily just be a parent who doesn't play the game but is good at organising.

If you feel you have something to contribute and would like to take part in the success of the Club please contact a member of the Management Committee.

## **WINTER COACHING & TRAINING**

The winter coaching and training sessions are currently being finalised and will start on January 14<sup>th</sup> at Abbs Cross Sports Centre 7.00pm till 9.00pm for the youngsters. Contact your Youth Manager for details.

For the rest nets will be available at Chelmsford on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January 9pm till 10pm, contact Doug Shewring.

Sunday morning trainings sessions at Chafford School for the U16 are currently being organised and are hoping to start in the New Year, contact Barry Bones for further information,.

## **WHAT DOES HE MEAN?**

He says: Well batted.

He means: Lucky bastard! Should have been out six times.

## **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.

## **HORNCHURCH VS UPMINSTER**

So Upminster,our longstanding local rivals gained promotion to the Premier League. I can think of many Old Timers who now sadly long gone who would seeth at such news.

Hornchurch vs Upminster rivalry goes back many a year but was never at it's strongest than in the late 1940's and 1950's – it really was war. League cricket today is a stroll in the park compared to back then. At the root of this rivalry during this period were two fiercely competitive individuals – in the Hornchurch corner was Tom Mitchell, one of the best allrounders in the Club's history with bowling being his strongest discipline. In the other corner for Upminster was Stan Eve, a prolific batsman who played for Essex.

During the late fifties an all day game at Upminster saw the home side struggling at lunch on 79-6. Needless to say Hornchurch were on a high and during lunch at the Corbets Tey Country Club a more than ample sampling of the beaujolais saw them joyous and keen to return to the fray and wipe them out. However, Upminsters George Clements, an ex Norfolk Captain had other ideas. His 61 aided by Rudds 28 not out saw them declare mid-afternoon on 189-8. One hour later Hornchurch were reduced to 36-6, at 116-9 Roger Mitchell (son of Tom) played a catch back to the bowler Clements – the scream of “catch it” from Stan Eve could be heard in Southend so was the importance of winning against Hornchurch.

To make matters worse in later years Tom Mitchell moved into a flat overlooking the Upminster Ground. On match days he would wander over and stand at one end of the ground, Stan Eve would stand at the other. One player would make the customary circuit of the ground, walking up to Tom would hear him ask:- “isn’t that Stan Eve over there?” – “It is” came the reply, “ I got him out nearly every time we played” retorted Tom.

Continuing his walk around the ground the player would walk upto Stan Eve who would ask:- “isn’t that Tom Mitchell over there?” – “It is” came the reply, “ I used to smash him all over the ground every time we played” responded Stan. Just goes to show that the rivalry still existed beyond the playing field.

Sadly Stan Eve is no longer with us and Peter Edwards attended his funeral where the church was packed with all the local cricket fraternity, old & new and a lady rector read out a report from the Daily Telegraph of Stans century playing for Essex vs Northants at the Old County Ground Brentwood.

I’m sure there are many more stories of the rivalries between these two local Clubs. Perhaps you can recall them and put pen to paper (or finger to keyboard) and send them to the Editor for future publication.

We wish Upminster the best of luck in the Premier League (well not to much!) and if things go to plan next season we will miss playing them in 2009 – we get promotion and they get relegated.

Our thanks go to the Clubs’ Collector of Historical matters 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.

## **THE TOUR OF 98**

Yes folks, it’s nearly ten years since that infamous tour to Bournemouth took place. Having recently found the before and after Tour brochures I only think it fair that in future editions I should share what went on with those members who keep asking about it.

Well – what goes on tour stays on tour so they say, so I will have had to severely edit what is put in the Newsletter on the grounds of severe embarrassment and law suits.

So look out and beware all those individuals who had a great but unforgettable Twenty First Birthday whilst away, not forgetting the Jooster incident!!

We may be allowed back to the South Coast now as hopefully the memories of the locals have faded so if anyone is interested in organising a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary trip down memory lane to Bournemouth get in touch with the Management Committee.

## **WHAT DOES HE MEAN?**

He says: Yes, no, come one, wait, go back, oh bad luck, sorry.

He means: That’ll teach you to flirt with my wife.

## **EDITORS COMMENT**

I hope this Newsletter has been informative as well as a good look back over past times. Look out for the spring edition where we will have details on players, coaches, Cricket –for – All programme & the all important early fixtures.

It now only leaves that 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 bounce back, continue improving and make Hornchurch the best in Essex.

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