

Cleeve CC 2010 AGM Chairman's Report – 24th January 2010

The 2009 season proved to be a very big challenge in many respects, particularly on the playing front.

The 1st team, unfortunately were relegated back to the B&D 1st Division after gaining promotion, in fine style, to the Senior Division the season before. With a little bit more application and luck we should have stayed up. Early on in the season we were in a few positions where we should have won games that we eventually lost by the narrowest of margins.

The noticeable thing was that the standard of bowling throughout the Senior Division was not as high as we expected, and initially we scored runs heavily. In crucial games we missed Mike Haswell due to his work commitments, and also we did not have the services of John Parsons for the whole season. We greatly missed John's bowling and wicket taking contribution, which we relied upon heavily in our championship winning side of 2008, together with his gritty batting.

The club continues to suffer from reducing player membership, and it is essential that we recruit new 20 to 30 year olds to bolster our aging player base, and youth raw talent.

We had to heavily rely on our youth players in the senior sides and they performed admirably, for which I thank them. The experience will greatly benefit them in the development of their cricketing skills.

It was a great honour to have the services of Craig Spearman for two league games. It was unfortunate that league rules prevented him from playing more games, as he would certainly have helped us to stay up. Thanks go to Rob Cave for being instrumental in Craig playing for the club, which will be remembered as one of the great events.

It was pleasing that the 2nd team managed to maintain their 1st Division status. This was achieved by significant hard work and effort by both senior and youth players, and strong leadership by their Captain, Chris Lewin.

Our Club Captain, Mike Haswell has decided to stand down. I thank him for his hard work and commitment throughout the season. My thanks also go to our 2nd XI Captain Chris Lewin for his efforts, again under very difficult circumstances.

Again, next season will be an enormous challenge for both senior sides to ensure that at a minimum we maintain our 1st Division status, and hopefully press for promotion. To this end it is essential that we strengthen our resources by recruitment of quality players. We must continue to work hard to achieve this.

The Sunday Team again had a successful and enjoyable season under the leadership of Mike Smith, my thanks go to him for his hard work and commitment.

Our youth teams continue to develop and improve. I am heartened at the quality of the players that are coming through the ranks. We should have some exciting times ahead of us as these players progress into senior cricket – are the future of this club.

The Youth Presentation evening was as usual a great success and very well attended. We were privileged that Steve Kirby of Gloucestershire County Cricket Club presented the awards to the players. Thanks to Rob Cave for his involvement in helping this to happen.

We again hosted the Under 13 six a side tournament, sponsored by Yeo Valley Lions. This event is again planned for this season.

We have a number of qualified coaches within the club, however we looking to increase these levels, so if anyone wants to attend coaching courses this year, please contact John Hance.

It is essential that Kwik Cricket continues within the club, therefore we are looking for a new set of volunteers to take over this important activity. Anyone interested should contact a member of the Youth Management Team.

We were delighted to hear of Chris Dent's appointment at Gloucestershire County Cricket Club, and his selection in the Under 19 side to tour Bangladesh. He is currently playing in the Under 19 World Cup in New Zealand. This is a magnificent achievement and a well deserved reward for all his hard work. We are extremely proud of him and pleased that Cleeve Cricket Club has had a part to play in his success.

I would like to thank all of the youth team managers and coaches for their continued dedication and hard work. In particular I thank Ian Morrell for his outstanding work during the last few years, as he is standing down as Youth Teams Manager. He will however continue to be involved this coming season as Under 17 Manager.

Again we were privileged to have hosted many prestigious games at the club, which is testament to the quality of the ground and facilities that we have. Amongst these were:-

- 2 Somerset youth games
- B&D League side versus North Somerset League side
- B&D Plate Final
- B&D Knock Out Cup Final
- Twenty/20 game against Gloucestershire CCC

Much credit must go to John Parsons, Ed Clode and Tony Carpenter for the high standard of the square and outfield.

Although we will not be hosting a Twenty/20 game this season, we are making every effort to again host the other games.

Our Child Welfare Officer, John Hance, has now handed over the reins to Sarah Taylor. Thanks go to John for his hard work in this role, and also to Sarah for volunteering for this very important responsibility.

Congratulations go to John Hance for achieving the Level 2 coaching qualification, and also Ian Morrell, Stuart Morrell, Dave Atkins and Chris Coles for becoming Level 1 Coaches.

Much credit must go to John Parsons, Ed Clode and Tony Carpenter for the high standard of the square and outfield.

We will again play in the Downs School Senior and Under 13 indoor leagues which will start in February.

The Chairman's game was again very competitive, and was this year won by the President's all star side.

The Youth Presentation evening was as usual a great success and very well attended.

This year it was decided by the membership to hold the Senior Annual Award Presentation evening at the club, with a buffet instead of a formal dinner. The event was not supported as well as was hoped and therefore we need to decide if we should revert to the traditional formal dinner format.

A number of events were held during 2008 to celebrate our 60th Anniversary. These included an Under 13 six- a-side tournament, B&D representative side game, ex-players luncheon, culminating in the Twenty/20 game against Gloucestershire CCC, which was a resounding success, so much so that we have been asked to host a similar event in 2009 as part of Chris Taylor's benefit season.

Special thanks are given to Andy Burrell for arranging the ex-players luncheon, and in particular John Hance and Rob Cave for their hard work in organising the Gloucestershire CCC Twenty/20 game.

Significant progress is being achieved against the objectives set in our 5 Year Development Plan. This is currently undergoing its annual review, and new actions and objectives being added. When this is complete, the updated Plan will be displayed on the notice board.

The Cricket Committee met on a couple of occasions during the year. We need to increase these this year. We are looking for a new Chairman to lead

the Committee this year. Anyone interested in taking on this responsibility should contact a Committee member.

The profit from running the bar this financial year has returned to a level similar to previous years, particularly due to the hard work by Tony Carpenter. This income is essential to the further improvement of the ground and facilities. Please be reminded that it is part of the terms of the membership that members aged 18 and over must do bar duty. Therefore when Tony Carpenter contacts you to arrange your turn, please make sure you do your bit.

Please also support the Cricket Club social functions that Tony Carpenter arranges. Such events are an important contribution to our income.

2008 was an expensive year due to our 60th Anniversary celebrations, therefore we all need to work hard to boost our finances. We all need to explore fund raising and sponsorship opportunities. Please speak to a Committee member if you have any ideas or contacts that we can pursue.

The Website was redesigned and re-launched last year by Rob Cave, and continues to be developed. Thanks are due to Rob, Bill Mather and Glenn Barr for their hard work and dedication.

Again we are most grateful for the financial assistance provided to us by our sponsors. Please use their services wherever possible.

My thanks again go to our Youth Team Managers and helpers, senior team Captains, groundsmen, John Parsons and Ed Clode, Bar Manager, Tony Carpenter, tea ladies, our scorer, Jason Soper, and the Committee for all their hard work and support during what has been an outstanding year. I again look forward to working with you all this year to take our club forward into the future.

Let us have an even better season this year.

Allan W Burn