



Cornwood Cricket Club – Chairmans Report 2020

Hello club members, sponsors, VP's and supporters,

So a very brief 2020 cricket season has come and gone.

Under the bizarre circumstances we have found ourselves in this year, we should be thankful for small mercies, as at least we have achieved eight weekends of competitive cricket from the end of July. The club committee decided that we would zero rate our membership rates for the shortened season as we were unable to offer the full club experience.

All of our senior teams, mens and ladies, have managed to participate in some exciting matches and we should congratulate the Devon Cricket League for creating, at very short notice, competitive, localised, and friendly competitions, without any need for excessive rules and regulations. It was just what was needed for this season. Well done to all our players for making the most of it. Each home match at Cornwood required a match supervisor to be in attendance to ensure our Covid prevention rules were being adopted and that names were taken of all persons attending the match, for track and trace purposes. Thanks to our volunteers who adopted the supervisor role on match days.

Our groundsmen Paul Skeemer and Dave Matthews have once again worked tirelessly to prepare the decent playing tracks and keep the outfield in pristine condition. We would be lost without their efforts and also those who help to maintain the surrounding ground. Many thanks for all your efforts folks.

Another bonus has been the opportunity to play some colts cricket at Under 11, and Under 13 age groups. Mini leagues were established with all games being played as friendlies. Being able to play these games and keeping our young, talented players enthused with cricket has been essential in keeping engagement levels high. Without doubt 2021 is likely to be a very positive year for young cricketers at Cornwood CC. Thanks to our colts team managers, coaches and also the parents for going the extra yard to ensure that the children have been able to play some matches this summer. I know we are currently exploring all possibilities of being able to offer some indoor coaching over the winter period, so stay tuned for an update from Nick Goodliffe.

With the “rule of six” now in effect, we are unable to hold end of season presentation awards at either senior or junior level, so last season trophy winners have the benefit of another years success .

Unfortunately due to the Covid-19 restrictions and strict ECB guidelines, we havent been able to offer much of a facility during the short season, but our social members, VP’s and supporters have at least been able to watch some great games of cricket.

In order to be able to open the club this summer, several of our club committee members were heavily involved in satisfying the requirements, as stipulated by the ECB for cricket clubs, including a thorough risk assessment process which had to be followed.

I’d like to thank our volunteers who played their part in ensuring all conditions were satisfied before we could even open the gates.

Although we haven’t been able to open the pavilion for anything other than toilet use, we have managed to run a small table top bar, providing limited refreshments on match days. Thanks to those who organised and stocked the fridges and to all those who kept emptying them !

*This year we have rolled out our own website ... www.cornwood.cc
As I’m sure you will appreciate this can be very demanding from a time*

perspective and requires a decent level of knowledge to be able to set everything up. Bradley Nicholls stepped forward in the winter to take on this role and offered his services entirely free of charge to build our website from scratch. If you haven't yet had opportunity to view the website, please take a look, as it has an excellent structure and looks really professional. Thank you Bradley for accepting this challenge and delivering such a fantastic looking website for the club. This will become the primary communication platform for the club.

You may also have seen a lot more social media activity over this short season. For 2020 the committee appointed Declan Gray in the co-opted position of Social Media Officer. Declan has done a sterling job getting the club's Instagram account set up for the with links into Facebook and Twitter postings. Why not join our Instagram "[cornwoodcc](#)" and see these communication platforms take off further in 2021. Thanks Declan for all your hard work, getting this off the ground.

Our club AGM was scheduled for Weds 14th Oct, however under the current restrictions this is not able to happen. We will not be able to hold an AGM in the normal way, but our committee is currently working on a solution that will address the key requirements we need to have in place as we look forward to the next season. More will be shared with our members in the coming days via club email.

I would like to congratulate Cornwood CC vice-president Preston DeMendonca for his successful nomination on Radio Devon's recent competition to have a GWR train named after him. Preston has been inspirational in the way he has rallied our local community during the Covid crisis, setting up the Cornwood Good Neighbour's Group. We are all thrilled that the "Preston DeMendonca Express" will be rolling into a station near you soon.

Thanks to all our club supporters and sponsors for continuing their support for Cornwood CC during such difficult times.

Particular gratitude goes out to our long term, main sponsor Ivor Dewdney Pasties Ltd for such wonderful, continued support. This season they have generously provided us with a new fine cut mower and implemented a discount promotion for club T20 kit purchases. This is in addition to their normal club donation.

Also on the commercial front, we had increased the number and cost of

matchday sponsorship opportunities, including season long, team sponsorships and a trial of a man of the match award for the 1st XI. With help from right across the club, every sponsorship opportunity had been filled before the season was due to start and the fixture book was looking good in terms of advertising revenue. Sadly we were not able to progress any of this, but a number of our sponsors and supporters kindly made donations to the club despite there only being a very limited season. The commercial work for next season is already underway, so if you know of anyone who may like to take up a sponsorship opportunity then please put them in contact with our Commercial Manager, Mike Richards (you can use the email address below and reference for Mike's attention)

As a club we are richly blessed with many volunteers, who help out in a wide variety of ways. To me this is what makes Cornwood CC so special. For 2021, in addition to inviting new players and social members to join us, we would also like to welcome new volunteers. If you are interested in helping, in any capacity, please get in touch.

Our new cub website provides details on how to join as a member or should you have any queries you can email us at cornwoodcc@live.com

Membership subscriptions are currently closed until start of 2021.

This summer our membership fees have been zero rated, next season we will be aiming to keep our rates amongst the lowest in Devon, whilst offering some of the best facilities .

I hope everyone in our wonderful cricketing community continues to stay safe during the winter months, by maintaining both their physical distance and a strong community spirit.

We'll be back in Spring 2021, by then we hope to resume some normality in cricket, with Cornwood CC strutting out to achieve another successful season in the top flight of the Devon Cricket League.

Regards

Graham Baskerville – Cornwood CC c

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