

Club Report 2022

With the constraints of COVID finally removed, the club in the past year has been able to engage in full activity with a high degree of success.

It can be reported that the playing aspect of our club was highly active and successful. The pinnacle of the success being the return of the First Eleven to West of England Premier League cricket for season 2023. This achievement was supported by the remaining senior teams who engaged in much cricket activity with varying degrees of success, that is if fulfilling fixtures is a measure of success. High level of senior cricket was demonstrated by the club being winners in the inaugural Wednesday T20 League. Sunday cricket made a welcomed comeback primarily due to the leadership of an individual who had the passion to get cricket moving on Sundays.

Women & Girls, particularly senior women engaged in many cricket fixtures, again mirroring some of the senior teams with varying degrees of success, pleasing to note that several members of this section of the club chose and were welcomed to participate in senior cricket. Women & Girls cricket is flourishing nationally and is supported and driven by the ECB, the club should align itself to this strategy to assist in growing this important aspect of our club, particularly as it is likely that participation in WEPL cricket it is mandatory to have a women's and girls' section.

Junior cricket due to the efforts of club coaches has blossomed during the year with high degrees of achievement, success includes a high win ratio than has been the norm in previous years, impressive results over the established stronger clubs, and the involvement of at least seven of the junior players in County Age Group cricket is testimony to the success being achieved. The involvement of junior cricketers in senior teams is important to the overall direction of the club, continuing involvement and progression in premier cricket will assist in retention of junior players, but remembering that we provide cricket for people of all ages, genders and abilities as an inclusive club.

The overall cricket offering has been enhanced by the investments made in buildings (pavilion), ground (nets etc) and equipment (mowers & cutters). These projects have been well funded and led by several people. It is pleasing to receive feedback from the local community who are not involved in the club directly but take the time to offer positive comments on the quality and appearance of the club in general. Many thanks to all those involved in this aspect of the club's progression.

With Chipping Sodbury/Yate continuing to grow in terms of population established and aspiring cricketers arriving in the local area we are without doubt the club of choice for cricket.

Financially, the club despite the external challenges society has faced have been in a healthy condition which has enabled the investments made to various facets of the club in recent times. However, due to the growth of the club the activity from numerous income and expenditure transactions, there has been a need to realign the financial management of the club's finances resulting in the

formation of a finance committee sub-group. The responsibility of this group at this moment in time is its infancy but will include more robust governance of the clubs' finances to include visibility, purchase and income processes, cost and revenue controls, our financial activity ensures what we offer our members is fair and viable without creating cost pressure on the club. The first significant output has been the production of an operating budget based on historical financial detail. This budget demonstrates challenges the club faces which need to be overcome by improving revenue generation in simplistic terms.

In this area the increase in the number of sponsors in the varying commercial offerings has seen decent growth, the club is extremely grateful to this segment of our club and the revenue generated is crucial to its sustainability and potentially meets some financial challenges. Engagement with commercial partners needs to be an ongoing piece of work in the clubs' operations.

Everything that we have achieved has been to the efforts and high level commitment of many people, the club is fortunate to have a high volunteer base that drives the club forward. The club should be very grateful to the efforts of these people particularly as they are in the main volunteers. As with any large organisation it is natural there may be at times churn in the people involved. With this the existing Chair, Fixture secretary and Secretary have what is the best description stepped aside not away. The club thanks them for their endeavours and commitment whilst in post. Fortunately and reflective of the culture of the club people have come forward to take on these roles. The club thanks them for their involvement and supports them in their own endeavours in the times ahead.

Whilst this report is rather reflective and noting the past cannot be changed but the future can be shaped, the forward focus among other elements, the club should be around the following in level order not a list of priorities.

- Be inclusive, our cricket is open to all
- The first eleven are the barometer of the club, remaining and progressing through WEPL is essential
- Focus on revenue generation
- The Youth eleven continues to be the backbone of the club's development.
- Women's & Girls is a full integral and valued part of the club
- Everyone continues to enjoy being part of Chipping Sodbury Cricket Club.

Finally the club thanks everyone for their hard work, support and commitment during the past times and hopes it will continue.

Chipping Sodbury Cricket Club is a great organisation to be involved in not complacent or the finished article but work in progress.

