



Club Report 2023

My first year as club chair has been a very interesting start on getting to grips on how the running of a successful cricket club work. It has at times been challenging, but all in all very enjoyable and I would like to thank all the support I have received from the committee, playing and social members as well as the public who share an interest in the club. I would also like to say a special thank you to Andy Shield whose commitment to the club over the years, has put the club in a great place and has made my introduction a lot easier.

It can be reported that on the cricket field it was a successful year with all Saturday senior sides achieving the goals that were set out at the beginning of the season.

The first team was set the task of holding a mid-table position, so that we can look to build and progress over the coming seasons. However, the competitive nature and team spirit of the side, pushed them to 3rd in the league, and I believe without the fixture losses to weather, we could have been title contenders. It was also pleasing to see Henry Rendell make his WEPL debut at the age of 14.

The second eleven was tasked with gaining promotion, which they succeeded with a win on the last game of the season away at Kingsholm, to grab second place albeit on net run rate. Again, it was pleasing to see our youth players, playing a vital role in the side along with some of the senior players helping build a very successful squad of players.

The Third and Fourth Elevens, both continued to develop our youth section into senior cricket, with over 14 players under the age of 15 playing in senior cricket as well as players from our women and girls section playing a regular and vital role in Saturday open age cricket. Both sides stayed up in their respective leagues, but most importantly providing essential experience to the above-mentioned youth players, which puts the future of the club in a strong place.

The T20 team also won the Midweek T20 cup at a packed Ridings, beating Knowle by 98 runs.

The women and girls' section has struggled the past season with very few games played. This is now being looked at and a plan is being put in place to build the future of the woman and girls' cricket at Chipping Sodbury, as this is vital to the clubs progression in the coming years and I ask all members to give their support and encouragement that is needed to build, what I believe can be a thriving and successful part of the club.

Youth Cricket probably had one of the clubs most successful years in history, which shows the club is moving in the right direction.

The under 15s won the league and reached the semi-finals of the cup, which with a few decisions on the day going our way could have put us through into the final.

Under 13s Bears also won their league and the Under 13s Lions reaching the semi-final of the Cup. Under 11s completed a fantastic league and cup double, which was a major achievement.

It shows that the plan that was put in place just under 5 years ago is finally paying off. This of course could not have been achieved without the hard work, dedication, and time all the coaches, managers, parents, and players have put in.

It is also great to see that 9 boys and girls have made county honours.

The report shows that at Chipping Sodbury Cricket Club, the cricket offering is still very high with the 4 Saturday Sides, Sunday senior and Midweek T20 teams. Youth cricket offering All Stars, Dynamos', Under 9s, Under 11s, Under 13s, Under 15s, and with the introduction to Under 17s and under 16s sides for the 2024 season the youth section is growing in strength.

We will also be looking to introduce a 5th team, when numbers are available, with the intention of entering the Saturday 30 over league for 2025 season.

As mentioned above the Women and Girls section will be a major priority this season so that our offering for cricket is inclusive and diverse offering cricket for all standards.

Financially the club is still in healthy position, despite losing 6 weekends to the weather, which meant loss of income on match days, however the club saw a record turnover behind the bar. Due to the continued growth of the club and activity from numerous income and expenditure transactions, has resulted in more control from the finance committee sub-group. The group will have a 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. All future expenditures will also need to be approved by the finance group.

The club as always depends heavily on the support of volunteers and its members and the coming season we will need the continued support to achieve the club's goals.

- 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.

If we can all look to pull in the same direction, give support when needed, then I am sure that the club will continue to thrive and grow.

Jim Kendall

Club Chair.