GREAT CHART CRICKET CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2020 - CHAIRMAN’S REVIEW

Cricket as a sport is still facing challenging circumstances and despite England winning the world cup we have not seen a significant increase in people playing which would have helped local clubs.

Overall last season saw a number of achievements including our Saturday side recording 11 victories, 4 draws and only 5 losses in an incredible season with many stand out performances. The Sunday league side found things quite a challenge coming up against many sides that were just too strong but still put in many good performances to win games, some of which might easily have been lost. Our U13 colt’s side found things difficult at times which is not surprising as most of them were young for that age group and, provided we can keep the core side together we should be much more competitive this season. There were often around 20 kids at the Sunday training sessions and enjoying their cricket which is important for the sport. To conclude the review of the playing side, I would like to thank the captains and vice captains (Neil, Jim, Darren and Paul) for the work they put in during the season on our behalf. I would similarly like to thank those who have helped and supported the colts this year, in particular Jack Oldrey and Tony Cadd and all those other members and parents who gave up their time on Sundays and during the week to help.

We ran 2 successful boot fairs but unfortunately had to cancel the fireworks event owing to not having sufficient volunteers to be sure of being able to run the event safely. Whilst it was obviously disappointing at the time, especially for those people who had put in a lot of effort to prepare for the event, the weather that evening was not good so we might have struggled had we gone ahead with the event.

We also had other off-field things to deal with including someone driving through the main gates, smashing them to pieces and then setting the vehicle alight, a request for the air ambulance to land on the outfield to assist in a major RTA (they eventually decided to land on the playing field) and a request for assistance from the police just before the sad discovery of a body in the field adjacent to our ground.

We continued with our commitment to give something back to members in recognition of their support by having reduced prices for the indoor nets, half price match subscription for anyone playing 2 games over the weekend and another appreciation event. Our successful partnership with Ashford School enabled us to offer the indoor nets at a reduced rate and we enjoyed another fun evening with the annual match with our colts against a school side which was well attended once again.

As you will see from the accounts and Graham’s Treasurer’s report, we ended the year with a lower overall balance for numerous reasons. There are a number of areas the committee will be looking into; one such area being expenditure which we will have to restrict, having invested quite a lot over the last few years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Graham for the effort and commitment that he gives to his role as Treasurer; it is much appreciated. I would also like to thank Graham for the work he does as Fixture Secretary.

My appreciation goes to those who supported the work on the square during the season, including Chris Taylor, Paul Arnup, Neil Burgess, Chris Crowfoot, Jim and the captains/vice captains but special mention goes to Dave Daniels, Brian Edwards and Darren Laker who, between them, did a large part of the work on the square last season; thanks gents.

Lesley and Geoff have once again done a great job in running the bar and leading the social activities. Geoff has indicated that he will not be seeking re-election as Social Secretary at the AGM so this is a position that we will be looking to fill.

As I mentioned at the annual dinner, the Welfare Officer is a key role for our club and I would like to thank Hannah for fulfilling that role admirably including a visible presence most Sundays.

Paul Arnup has again done so much for our club in so many areas, in addition to his secretary role. Paul, your contribution was simply immense. I would like to thank Chris Taylor, Jim, Jack Oldrey and Jason Oldrey in their respective vice Chairman, players rep, Colts Manager and colts rep roles.

I must also mention Ray who is always available to offer his advice and support.

In addition to Geoff not seeking re-election as mentioned above, Neil Picton, Chris Taylor and Paul Davis have indicated that they will not be seeking re-election as Sunday Captain, vice Chairman and Saturday vice-Captain respectively so we will be looking for people to fill those roles.

I would like to thank all those people whose tireless efforts ensure that the club continues to be successful. Whether that’s helping with the bar, groundwork, at events etc. there are members who give countless hours of their time for which we owe our gratitude.

I do hope to see as many of you as possible at the AGM.

With my best wishes for the coming year.

Kind regards.

Nigel Champion

Club Chairman