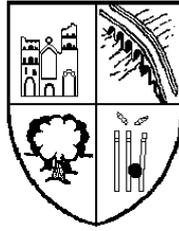


EYNHAM CRICKET CLUB
OXFORDSHIRE



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**45th Annual General Meeting (2018 season)
Sunday 02 December 2018**

Report of the General Committee

Chairman's report (Ian Miller)

The 2018 season just ended was our fourth full season using the new pavilion and the club is making steady progress both on and off the pitch. The senior teams have adjusted well to playing in the Cherwell Leagues, after many years playing in the Oxford Cricket Association leagues. The 1st XI finished mid-table in League 6 and the 2nd XI just missed out on promotion from League 10. Both senior teams are actively looking for new players to strengthen their sides but this is proving a little challenging. Many other local cricket teams are also finding it hard to attract young players so if you do know of anyone who is interested in the game, who wants to play league cricket, in friendly surroundings, on one of the best grounds in the area with fantastic facilities please welcome them and bring them along to the club.

Membership of the junior sections continues to grow and Friday night coaching with the junior "All Stars" has been very successful with more than 50 children aged 5-8 attending weekly. Cindy Creasey has once again done a fantastic job running this section helped by John Emberson, Sam Monk, Rob Huie and others. Unfortunately, Cindy will not be able to run this section in 2019 so we will be actively looking for someone to take on this role.

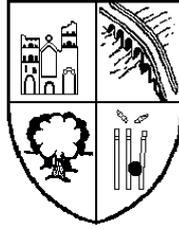
Some of the children who graduated from the "All Stars" last year moved into the Under 9s age group taking part in the 4 way Kwik Cricket league with some notable wins. The U11's have really shown their strength in this their first year playing 11 aside hard ball league where they finished a brilliant second place to Challow and Childrey. We have had five players playing for the county, Brandon Patterson, Freddie Arnold, Jake Smitten and Max Coppuck, with Oona McMaster representing ECC playing for the Oxfordshire Girls U13's.

On Sunday 15th July, the club hosted the second Women's Softball Cricket Festival and it was a great success. In perfect weather the teams played multiple short, sharp matches throughout the day which culminated in one big game at the end. The Eynsham Ladies cricket team was formed that day and over the summer they played many more games. The ladies are presently training indoors on Friday nights in preparation for indoor matches starting in January 2019. Well done "The Shammers".

Over the season, we have organised many sports and social events at the club as well as the regular Friday night BBQs enjoyed by many from the village. Frank Partlett has been instrumental in organising all the events at the pavilion expertly assisted by Gary Cook. Events like these are vitally important to the club and help greatly as the club struggles with its current financial position; thank you Frank and Gary for all your work.

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Our legal battle with HMRC over the VAT issue on the pavilion build continues. The club are in quite an unusual position as our First-Tier Tribunal appeal failed because the Tribunal (judge) decided on a sub-issue that was not relied upon or contended by either party and on which the Tribunal had not heard any submission in writing or orally. We appealed this decision to the Upper Tribunal (UT) and the substantive appeal hearing will take place in London on 17, 18 and 19 June 2019. Our team of solicitors have done some great work (*pro bono*) for us and HMRC have agreed to apply the Rees Practice which means they will not seek any costs from the Club which they incur in relation to the appeal. Without this agreement, the club could not have continued the appeal.

Our fourth season playing from the new pavilion has been a real success and I am sure that with the continued support of members we can build on our successes in 2018 both on and off the field in 2019.

1st XI Report (Sam Jones)

2018 saw ECC enter the unknown – a first season in the Cherwell League. We welcomed new faces into the side in the form of James Merrill, Dan Clarke, Ed Clothier and Robin King. All played their part throughout a tough season. Robin King, in particular, had a return of 20 wickets from his six games with his left arm Chinese spin magic.

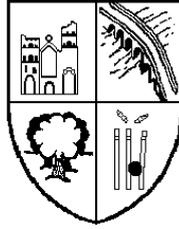
Our season got off to the best possible start after a 150-run victory over Banbury 4th XI after bowling them out for 37. However, halfway through the season we found ourselves bottom after a poor run of results, mainly due to incompetence with the bat. But that all changed when top of the table Challow arrived at School Piece, in a game that those who were there will never forget. Challow restricted us to a paltry 65 all out before ‘the miracle at School Piece’ came about. A fine display from Head (10 overs, 6-10), three wickets for myself and one from the Big Gerker saw Challow comfortably beaten by four runs. The sight of a naked Gerker running boundary laps will scar all who were there.

Two weeks later saw the return of Matthew Lake in a one-off game at home to Twyford. Matthew’s 100 teamed with 50’s from the skipper and the ever-young Ben Smitten saw us post a club record 385-5. We finished the season with back to back victories. This left us in a respectable fifth in our first campaign. Sam’s bowling twinned with Ben Smitten’s batting were key factors in our season.

I’d like to thank everyone who contributed and played a part during the season. I would also like to take this opportunity, to express my thanks for everyone who has supported me in my role as Club Captain. Frank, especially, and Gary for all the work they do, Sam Hollingshead for all the behind the scenes stuff and all those who have answered the call. This is a truly special club. I look back on my three years as Captain with great pride in what we have achieved. So, whoever

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takes on this role, I want them to know how special it is and what an honour it is. I will offer my full support to whoever succeeds me.

2nd XI Report (Luke Bowles)

Despite being one of the hottest days of the year so far, the campaign began with abandonment. It transpired that Shipton's second pitch doesn't handle rainfall too well. Unfortunately, this meant we lost 19 points which would prove to be costly at the business end of the season. Captain blooper #1 – forgot to let Kev know the game was abandoned. The following week was a forfeiture, for which the club has been compensated.

At last, we had a game of cricket in May, as we made the trip to Cropredy, with Kev sprinting quickly on the M40 westbound. To our surprise the fixture was taking place on a building site; a pitch which will be nice when it is finished. Losing the toss, I wasn't surprised when we were put in on a strip which makes Steventon's village green look like the WACA. We were skittled out for 90, with only a Wager/Seth 50+ partnership to show for our efforts. Cropredy made light work of the task in hand, only being delayed by Ready with 4-0-15-2.

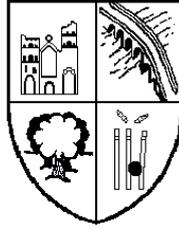
Week 3 saw Roland Margerison claim a stronghold on the club's list of top scorers with 195; dismissed by a catch on the boundary which prevented the double hundred which looked so possible. Certainly, a missed opportunity on my part to declare, but a lesson learnt in Cherwell tactics. Or evidence that timed cricket in Division 10 is unnecessary.

The trip to Dinton in week 4 was certainly the turning point in the season which prompted a title push. We turned up to Old Berkeley CC, which shouldn't be hosting anything other than a charity game on a Sunday. Losing the toss, we were put in and made 91. Kev Reid took the new ball for the first time ever in a league game and produced figures of 13-3-17-6 to dismiss the eventual league winners for 45. A special mention to Nigel who had the run around of a cricketing career but still showed up to take the final wicket of the match.

A win at Dinton was the catalyst for a four-game winning streak, with victories over Abingdon, Shipton and Westbury to take us from the lower echelons of Division 10 to a point where we had a chance of promotion. Unfortunately, the following week with unavailable players exceeding 20+, we travelled to Westbury for a must-win game with 10 men, which effectively became nine during the warm up. Picking ourselves up after this we achieved a three-game winning streak with wins against Bicester, Minster, and Thame. To beat Thame with 9 men was a great achievement all round with the distractions of the football, carnival, and heat. 135* from Gary probably helped too! After a tie with Didcot, and then losing to Dinton the week after, the season was over with four games to go, eventually missing out on promotion by 63 points.

So where did we miss out on promotion?

- Shipton – Dropped 19 points – weather



- Cropredy – Dropped 21 points – played on a building site
- Westbury – Dropped 23 points – poor availability
- Dinton – Dropped 17 points – poor availability
- Minster – Dropped 14 points – weather

Finally, thanks to every one of the 40 players who played for the 2nd XI this season. Although it was difficult to create anything of a team atmosphere with such a different XI each week, I felt we all had a good laugh together, even when there were frustrations with weather, availability and concessions. We certainly had some enjoyable victories (Thame, Bicester, Shipton) which went down to the wire.

Junior Cricket (Patrick Arnold)

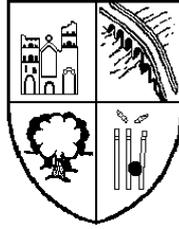
It's been another exciting year in the junior section where, on some Friday nights, we probably attracted 100 boys and girls learning cricket in some shape or form. Very many of these have been progressing through the All Stars programme which Cindy Creasey has run so brilliantly again this year. We expanded to 60 kids aged up to 8 years old and it really does set the scene for Friday night down at the club.

Some of those that graduated from All Stars last year moved into age groups with the Under 9s taking part in the 4-way Kwik Cricket league, with some notable wins against all the other teams. This is a great starting point for the children and it's been great to see so many U9's get into winning positions this year. Thanks, particularly, to Bob Newby, who has now annoyingly moved away, for so much help with this team this year. A highlight was when I think Henry Bryant, having hit the ball to long- on, completed his second run and turning for a third to face the bowler, saw the ball coming over the bowler's head toward the keeper. So what did he do? Obviously, he belted it through mid-wicket for an extra 4 (later denied by Mr Wyatt, their umpire and coach!).

Players used: Hana Arnold, Reuben Davies, Silas Clennell, Billy Creasey, Unax Pradera, Harry Stewart- Liberty, Poppy Smith, Edward Newby, Freddie Osgarthorpe, Daniel Watson, Joseph Barry, Gabe Godsall, Luca Osgathorp, Charlie Summers and Alwin Prince

The entire Eynsham U11's has really shown its strength this year. Players like Jess Davies, James Miller, Louis Phillips, Finlay C-F have, with others, stepped up admirably to the level required. In their first year playing 11 a side hard ball league, they finished a brilliant second place to Challow and Childrey. On their day they are a force to be reckoned with, and home and away wins against Oxford CC and Downs are proof of that. We would have had the same against Cumnor had we not lent three players to get the game on, one of whom eventually even hit the winning runs against us! That day was historic perhaps for another reason, as half way through the match, the team, already depleted of three county players Brandon Patterson, Freddie Arnold and Jake Smitten, lost Max Coppuck to the county match in Southampton as well. The cry came from the Wessex team for an extra player and Max, having already scored runs in the morning, took his

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opportunity which meant we had a total of four players in the Wessex team that day. Each of our boys took a catch or a wicket in the field and hours after Max had batted for Eynsham (25*) found himself opening the batting for Wessex and scored a further 20 runs in quick time in a very admirable Eynsham performance. Jake and Freddie were mainstays of the Wessex team this year, as was Brandon who was then selected to go on tour with the Saxons and was the main keeper on tour. Add Oona McMaster performing in the girls U13 this summer, you can see how well the juniors did in 2018. This winter a total of 10 Eynsham juniors are involved in county training so it looks good for another strong summer next year.

U11's hard ball league: P8 W5 D0 L3

All Stars Cricket (Cindy Creasey)

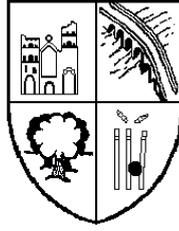
All-Stars once again proved very successful with 60 children registering for the 2018 season; this once again brought new families to the club. The programme ran for eight weeks and the children completed four activities each week - batting, bowling, catching and fielding. Each week the games were different and encouraged the children to use different skill sets. This is great start to cricket as it's all about fun. Once again some of these children will move up to the junior section next year.

A big thank-you is due to John Emberson, Sam Monk, & Rob Huie for their continued help with the running of All Stars each Friday evening during the season. On reflection, I feel 60 children was too many, as it was always a struggle to get the right number of parent helpers; 40 is a much more a manageable number. I'm sure All Stars will again be a great success next season.

Ladies Cricket (Cindy Creasey)

The ladies' cricket has gone from strength to strength and at training on a Friday night we regularly saw 15-20 players. We took part in the Ladies Summer Softball festival and hosted our own which proved a great success, and the most fun one! Our skills are getting better, and over the course of the summer, with help from Ian Miller and Patrick Arnold, a vast improvement could be seen. The ladies continue to practice with indoor nets and are entering a winter softball league. Thank you to all who helped with the Softball Festival and supporting the ladies.

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2017 Awards

		2018
1	Pete Jones Trophy (most wickets)	Sam Hollingshead 36 wickets
2	Andy Macauley Trophy (most runs)	Sam Jones 434 runs
3	1st XI Player of Year	Ben Smitten
4	2nd XI Player of Year	Kevin Read
5	Senior Player of the year	Nigel Walker
6	Junior Player of Year	Charlie Partlett
7	Clubman of the Year (Services to Eynsham CC)	Patrick Arnold
8	Bob Weller Trophy (best single performance)	Roland Margerison
9	Mary Jones Trophy (cricket played in the right spirit)	Tom Prentice
10	Chairman's Award	Gary Cook Andrew Partlett

General Committee (Allen Stevens)

The General Committee comprised the following and has met four times during the past year.

Richard Lake (President)

Ian Miller (Chair)

Patrick Arnold (Junior Secretary)

Luke Bowles (2nd XI)

Gary Cook

James Gulliford (Treasurer)

Pete Jones

Sam Jones (1st XI)

Frank Partlett (Pavilion Officer)

Cindy Creasey

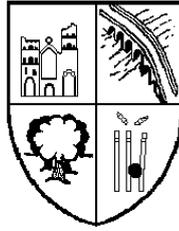
Margaret Stevens (Welfare)

Allen Stevens (Secretary and Fixtures)

As well as focusing on day to day issues of club management the committee has also discussed the following key issues during the year - Finances (general organization, VAT appeal, loan repayment), event organization and Cherwell League progress.

The fact that the committee felt the need to meet only four times this year reflects well on the state of organisation in the club, largely down to excellent administrative control exercised by Ian Miller, Gary Gook and Frank Partlett and support at club events and junior cricket by all members, young and old.

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Ground (Gary Cook)

With the wettest winter in the UK for around 250 years the ground had a good start to the season but with the onset of the hottest summer since records began, coupled with no rain from mid-June through to - well now, the ground has suffered somewhat. The square was watered as much as possible but still suffered from being too dry since there is gravel less than one metre below the surface. The outfield suffered badly, and is still struggling to recover. However, it has a good base of grass and so will hopefully recover well by the spring.

Pitch management was difficult this year as there was no moisture in the soil at all making preparation difficult. Copious watering helped, but match day wickets were often inconsistent due to the surface breaking up slightly due to a general lack of moisture. It was a difficult job balancing trying not to let the wicket dry out too quickly yet timing it such that the surface was dry for the match.

Square renovations were completed in early September thanks to help from club members and has now almost fully re-established.

Rabbits continue to be a problem.

Financial Report 2018 (James Gulliford)

The accounts for the year ending 30 September 2018 show a loss of £2,828.60. However, this doesn't tell the whole story as the club repaid £5,000 of the outstanding loan. This puts the accounts in the red. Without this equity reduction there is an operating surplus of £2,172 arising from the club's activities for the year. It is the club's intention to try to repay £5,000 of the loans accrued, *per annum*.

If we compare 2018 and 2017, we saw reduced ground hire of £1k, reduced pavilion hire of £500, bar profits down by £1.3k, sports camp income down by £800 and the increased loan repayment of £2k. The club's income stood at around £22.5k, which has reduced compared to 2017 due to fewer events taking place (club dinner, Siemens summer event, wedding, two fire service events, President's Day etc.). The ground was hired out less by ISIS and the overall bar takings were down due to the above. With the reduced income from these events and the increased loan repayment to have around £9k at year end suggests a healthy overall financial situation at the club.

In 2019 we would like to remove at least another £5k of debt from the club and to achieve this the club would need to avoid any large scale ground expenditure and increase the event income. Hopefully, the positive increased exposure in the village will increase the number of local hires and bookings and cause all revenue streams to improve further.
