

## Chair's Report to Broxbourne Sports Club Committee.

Dear Colleagues,

### **General.**

I am thrilled to have the privilege of chairing this amazing cricket club and hopefully helping to take it into the Premier League of Hertfordshire Cricket.

That is the aim and everything we do should be to be better in reaching that goal.

I should start by paying tribute to Tim Pedlar who has done a remarkable job in leading the club from being on its knees to being ready to push for a place in the top flight of Herts cricket – I know a lot of people have contributed, but Tim galvanised and structured the club in a way we should all remember, giving us a more professional base from which to continue upward momentum.

I would like to seek support from the Sports Club in pursuing continuity on our upward curve ensuring that we bring Premier League cricket to what is a premier place with premier facilities.

As a section, we will aim to bring in greater levels of sponsorship support, utilise the funds bequeathed to us by John Astin and become ever more efficient in collection of subscriptions and fees with early success by reaching agreement in principle for a Live Stream sponsor already.

Seeking greater success will mean employing a best fit player/coach who is likely to come from overseas and as we speak we are exploring all options in order to have agreement in place before the turn of the year.

### **Playing Report.**

The 2023 Cricket season will go down as one of the wettest for a good number of years, in fact over the 5 senior teams, we lost a total of 21 games due to bad weather.

On the playing front the 1<sup>st</sup> XI under the leadership of George Davies finished third in the Championship and at one stage had an outside chance of reaching the play-off game between the side that finishes ninth in the Premier league and the side that finishes second in the Championship.

No team in the history of Broxbourne CC has finished higher. The opportunity to develop further will depend on good coaching and judicious recruitment.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI finished third in division 4B, the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI finished fourth in division 9A & the 4<sup>th</sup> team finished fifth in division 10E. Our 5<sup>th</sup> team was very much populated by junior players and having lost points due to the Herts & Essex Borders League insisting on a grass wicket, the eventual league position was bottom, but the season was a success in terms of “bleeding” players.

On the final league weekend of the season, we were able to field 6 teams for the first time. This demonstrates remarkable support from our juniors and their parents, which we need to maintain as this is the lifeblood of the club.

It is our great desire to close the gap between the levels at which teams play.



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Women's cricket just goes from strength to strength with the Ladies winning their league again and securing promotion to a 35 over rather than 20 over competition for 2024, and we have plans in place to introduce an Under 15 9-a-side team and possibly a younger team.

### **Future Plans.**

In 2024 we have decided to have a President's Day which will be held on a Sunday in late June early July (date to be confirmed) We will be looking to hold a lunch at the Club with a T20 game in the afternoon. Details will be confirmed nearer the time.

We have started already to source a good (overseas) player/coach and I am sure you understand how important he will be.

A key aim is to secure more sponsorship deals at the club and we plan to knock on every door on Broxbourne High Street and offer opportunities for a range of deals.

There will be an Ashes over-50's game (England v Australia!!) during the season and we are considering a further one-day invitational tournament for one of our Colts' teams to support their development.

Additionally, we will be looking to revamp and improve our social media and internet presence, whilst ensuring that every home game on the main pitch is streamed through the You Tube channel.

We continue our proud association with Graces Cricket Club, which enhances our reputation as a progressive and inclusive club in the area.

Many thanks in anticipation of your continued support.

Yours in sport,

Gordon Picker

(he/him)

**Chair**

**Broxbourne Cricket Club**

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