



Ashley Cricket Club

(Incorporating Old Altrinchamians Cricket Club - Merged 1987)

Minutes of Annual General Meeting Thursday 30th October 2008 – 7:45pm

Present

Steve Coleman, Dave Coffey, Jeff Thorpe, Liam Cusack, Dan Eadie, Kevin Tierney, Ally Horn, Dave Twiney, Dave Jackson, Dave Woods, Brian Birtles, Dan Shelston, Darren Hatchell, Dave Rice, Rish Agrawal, Chris Pendlebury, John Ward, Dave Deans, Simon Ferris and Ian Horn

Apologies

Jon Griffiths, Sefton Kwasnik, Ross McKinstry, Josh Wardle, Steve Logan, Matt Wilson, Ian Barber, Craig Knight, Andy Murray and Peter Burgess

Minutes of last AGM

These were read and approved as a true record

Officers Reports

Chairman

A season of consolidation for the 1st and 2nd XI's, the 1st XI doing well, retaining their position in the 1st division, the lack of an overseas player undoubtedly had an impact but not significantly. The 2nd XI managed to stay in the top division, despite a difficult season. The 3rd XI did well finishing mid table. The newly formed 4th team struggled somewhat finishing near the bottom of their division. I'll leave it for the captain's reports to highlight team and individual performances.

We need to look at our selection process for next season; I feel there needs to be a greater flow of players across all 4 senior teams and how we best introduce junior players into senior teams.

Hopefully we will be able to recruit an overseas player for the 2009 season. I would like to thank Ian Barber for all his efforts at the start of the 2008 season in trying to find someone [very frustrating]

It has been a satisfactory year financially, my "thanks" to all our sponsors for their support and contributions. A special "thanks" must go to Brian Birtles for all his efforts in securing several grants that have allowed the club to complete several projects

Junior cricket has continued to grow and many "thanks" must go to Darren Hatchell, Brian Birtles and everyone else involved, club players, coaches and parents for making this happen. We now need to continue to build on this great start.

Brian Birtles has been the backbone of the club again, without his drive and commitment Ashley CC would not have made the progress we have over the last few years.

Thanks to Jeff Thorpe for his sterling work in stocking and running the bar, he no doubt spent to many nights at the ground serving at hire games (more support would be appreciated).

Thanks to Dave Twiney for all the work he does in preparing excellent cricket wickets despite the dodgy weather we have had this season. The reputation of "excellent tracks" at Ashley CC is in safe hands.

More effort to organise social and fundraising events is needed. Dave Rice's "newsletter" now means we have an excellent means of communication to advertise events, we just need to organise more. The "Race Night" was a good success again, enjoyed by a good crowd and raised nearly £850, a little down on the previous year.

We really do need to organise more social events and need people to step up to the mark and get involved.



Members of the Meller Braggins Cheshire Cricket League
The Right Move Abroad Cheshire County Cricket League
The South Manchester Junior Cricket League



I am prepared to stand as Chairman again if no one else wants the position, it would be good to see a change. Work commitments are making it increasingly difficult to attend league meetings, it would be better if someone else could take up this role. If not I am prepared to continue but will need people to attend when I am not around.

Finally - Ashley CC has made good progress as a club over the last few years, we now run 4 senior sides and are looking to increase the number of junior sides, this is excellent news. We need to make sure we continue this trend; this will only happen if more club members become involved, it is your club, everybody needs to contribute to its success off the field as well as on it.

Bar Chairman

Due to the bad weather, bar receipts are down on last year.

Recording of money received from the till has been entered into an income vs expenditure software package and reconciled against outstanding stock at stock take dates.

It is disappointed to have to report that based on stock cost and stock sold we have a deficit of £301.85p. This equates to 9.14% of bar revenue and wipes out all bar revenue that is generated via our only fund raising event this year. The deficit is too large to be considered as normal error and we can only assume that due to the way we operate, some individuals are taking advantage of our open access to the bar facility.

The following is offered for discussion:

1. Security needs to be improved in front of the bar - shutters etc - timescale urgent
2. Access to the bar on match days / evenings - only authorised individuals / committee members behind the bar.
3. Recruit bar steward to reduce shrinkage etc.
4. Lease vending machines that club can fill. These are quite sophisticated these days and can vend bottles and cans - review cost vs employing steward.

Summary of Income vs Expenditure:	Income:	Expenditure:
Bar receipts banked:	£3004.00	
Bar sales (anticipated after stock take)	£3305.85	
Bar sales (shrinkage on sales)	(£301.85)	
Bar Costs (Total)		£2006.21
Bar Support Costs		£119.35
Bar Purchases		£1886.86
Bar Stock at close (less wine)		£261.09
Bar stock to right-off if not sold before sell buy date		£113.11
Bar Profit on sales:	£1117.14	

Secretary

Despite the relative improvements to the club on and off the pitch and the success we have achieved over the last few years we still don't meet up as a committee often enough, too few people are willing to help run the club and those that do run the club are over burdened. The interests of the members are not being fully served the way we run our club at the moment. We have no meaningful social or fund raising committee and this could be partly the reason why will post a significant loss this year. The club has many more players on the books now than ever before and we need to develop a sustainable programme of fund raising events quickly.

A selection meeting would never happen with all 4 captains in the same room; this led I believe to some disharmony. Players turned down the chance to play for certain teams; this too would generate disquiet and we must be better organised next year. I hope we can have a true club night with full nets supervised by the club coach with captains in attendance and coaches concentrating on specific aspects of individuals game, we should never simply have nets in the batting cage with 10 people slogging all night and losing practice balls in the surrounding fields. Next year we will be able to use match wickets to practice on with some forward planning.

We must have a selection meeting held behind closed doors where full discussions take place on who is ready for promotion to a higher grade. The more capable young players should be involved in senior nets and we should develop links between the senior and junior sides, this could lead to senior players mentoring junior players and would see the club fully integrated. We need to start producing 1st team players from within the club, having to recruit them is a time

consuming process and new recruits might not have the affinity for the club that a youngster who has risen through the teams has.

It was extremely difficult for many people at the club for us to operate without a 2nd XI captain. We must appoint someone to the role this year at the AGM, we cannot leave the meeting having suggested the names of a few people who don't want the job and then say we will find someone before the start of the season. If the post isn't filled I will find it difficult to continue my roles within the club.

The state of the pavilion and changing rooms after some senior games was not good enough. Too few people cleaned up after themselves. There should be empty bins in the home and away dressing room after every match, no left over food or rubbish in the kitchen and all cups and plates washed, dried and put away. Could I also ask that more people offer to take rubbish home with them? Don't leave anything outside the pavilion; it will get ripped apart by the local wildlife and need picking up the next day. We don't get a rubbish collection at the club, if you are too precious to tidy up after you have used the pavilion have a thought for the poor sod who has to clean up.

Thanks to Ian Horn for organising the bonus ball competition and to those members who joined in. We need fresh ideas that will encourage people to put money into the club. Match ball sponsorship is down on previous years, simply because the few people that make an effort to raise money this way have grown a little disillusioned with the efforts of the majority. Maybe the current economic climate makes this sort of thing difficult, but £20 raised by each regular senior playing member would generate £700 and go some way to helping the club break even each year.

Some lads have asked about starting up an Under 18s league side, we have a squad of 14 players at the moment including several U15s who can make the step up; this team would play in the South Manchester league on Tuesday nights; so there would need to be some re-arranging of nets and Shell matches when we are drawn at home. This would also give the lads too old for Under 15s cricket and not able to play 3rd or 4th team cricket the chance to keep on playing at the club. We have some new players interested in joining us to play in this age group and we would need to be sure we had enough players around exam time. I'm keen for this side to start next year, hopefully with one of the older lads acting as manager/selector.

All the junior teams will need managers/coaches to run these teams, I will not be able to help select teams, open up the ground, move the covers off the wicket, score or umpire, tidy up, put the covers back on and then lock up after the game. I will not be able to do all the admin work that goes along with the junior sides, the results and scorecards have to be input onto the play cricket website after each game, teams lose points if this isn't done on time. We need a volunteer from each age group to do the match reports for the Ashley website and the play cricket site. It is a simple process, an individual needs to be registered on the site and then the player squads need to be input at the start of the season. On a match day the selected team is input, then the result and the batting and bowling figures are input. This site also provides averages for each division and the league as a whole. We might be able to adapt our website so that the play cricket reports appear on the results page.

Last year we had Martin Barrett from Cheshire cricket attending junior nets coaching the Under 9s and offering 1 to 1 coaching sessions to U13 and U15 players. This has been such a success that we must continue to run junior nets this way. Despite having some money left over from one of last years grants we are far from sure of having another Cheshire coach attend nets on Monday nights in 2009. Our only qualified coaches, Ed Hall and Rob McKie, had less time to spend at nets in 2008. We have spent large sums on getting players qualified and we need to see some benefit.

We have 2 lads who have signed up to do a coaching course and they will help with the expanding junior section, but they are volunteers with a limited amount of free time. I'm keen for us to actively recruit an overseas player or someone suitable for the 2009 season and use him to the clubs maximum benefit. Not because other clubs have one but because we are in a position to benefit greatly from having a suitably qualified coach who is also a talented player and will play 22 games for the 1st XI. Suggestions as to how we finance an overseas player who coaches at the club and how we reward others who attend junior nets are outlined in the Treasurers report.

We will need to renew our Clubmark award before the end of 2009 season. This time it will take lots of paperwork and several visits to the club by Cheshire Cricket officials. It won't be a simple operation and I will need lots of help from lots of people. If help isn't forthcoming then I won't do any work on Clubmark and we will lose accreditation and we will lose all access to ECB support & grants, help from Cheshire cricket and other Lottery grant money.

Thanks to the players who attended junior nets, Woodsy, Almo, Barbs, Liam Cusack, Stu Oldbury, Josh Wardle and Hatch. Also to Robbo who was all set to offer the boys his take on the game when it threw it down.

Thanks to the few people that attended the end of season work party with me; John Ward, Chris Pendlebury, Liam Cusack and Wes Semple (one of the junior parents!!)

I'd like to propose that we elect 2 Ashley members as Vice presidents: Arthur Lamont and Alan Booth.

Arthur is a past player and ex-president of the club now living in Ayrshire; he keeps in contact with us and makes a yearly visit to the club.

Alan played for the club in the 50's and is the club's only regular spectator, usually turning up to watch the 1st XI and operate the scoreboard.

Well done to Dave Twiney on producing some of the best wickets seen in the CCCL and MBCCL. Very many thanks to Dave Rice for his spell as Child Welfare Office which will come to an end tonight, he will act as Assistant CWO to Dave Woods for a year and will continue his great work with his database; and thanks to Dave Woods for stepping in to fill a very important role.

Thanks to the 86 different people who played senior cricket for Ashley in 2008. The club still needs players of all ages, so please get recruiting.

Players who have paid all or part subs in 2008:

Ally Horn	Dixie Deans	Alex Eaton	Michael Coffey
John Brownhill	George Power	Andy Thorpe	Mike Burgess
Chris Pendlebury	Ian Horn	Ben McKie	Niall Davies
Andy Murray	Dan Eadie	Daniel Tomlin	Oscar Armitage
Craig Knight	Jon Griffiths	Ed Lavers	Patrick Lavers
Richard Smith	Kev Tierney	Elliot Halliwell	Paul Ward
Dave Woods	John Burt	George Aspden	Rish Agarwal
Seamus Sons	Nomaan Hasan	George Thompson	Robert Gill
Ross McKinstry	Steve Coleman	James Semple	Robert Oldbury
Matt Wilson	Nick Holt	James Thompson	Rory Canham
Gary Tyms	Paul Leach	Joe Smith	Thomas Bragg
John Ward	Rick Shelmerdine	Joe Wright	Thomas McBride
Ian Barber	Martin Howe	John Cheetham	Toby Hawksley
Dave Alves	Brian Birtles	Josh Foster	Tommy Smith
Pete Burgess	Liam O'Doherty	Josh Wardle	Will Sloan
Dan Shelston	Dave Rice	Joshua Brookes	Matt Smith
Dave Jackson	Simon Ferris	Martin Blain	Matt Wardle
Harry Horsfall	Rob McKie	Matt Furness	Harry Hatchell

Opponents for the senior teams in 2009:

1st XI	2nd XI	3rd XI	4th XI
Winnington Park	Winnington Park	Oulton Park	Woodford 3
Hale Barns	Hale Barns	Stretton	Alsager 4
Congleton	Congleton	New Brighton	Macclesfield 4
Ashton	Ashton	Tattenhall	Brooklands 5
Mere	Mere	Middlewich	Runcorn 3
Davenham	Davenham	Widnes	Cheadle Hulme 4
Alvanley	Winsford	Winnington Park	Mobberley 3
Malpas	Runcorn	Hale Barns*	Nantwich 4
Trafford MV	Winsford	Sale / Ashton*	Bredbury 4
Northwich	Northwich	* To be decided	
Barrow	Stretton		

Treasurer

At the moment we are looking at a £2,100 loss for 2008 season. (If all debtors are received and when all creditors are paid then loss could be near £1700.) I have input various amounts into the draft accounts that I am anticipating collecting at the AGM and have put in some grants that we have will receive before the end of the month, and also included the expenditure relating to those grants.

It is ridiculous that we are holding the clubs AGM yet we are not able to present final accounts for the clubs approval. All amounts should be paid in well before the end of the season so we can have final accounts prepared for the AGM; I have spent too much of my time chasing money owed to the club and am tired of being ignored when I try to contact people, I have spent my own money and time traveling to meet people to collect money and phoning people to be told money will be passed on to me only to be let down repeatedly.

Expenditure is up by £8,000; we spent money much more on machinery and coaching this year but most of this was covered by the grants we received. Expenditure on nets is up but was almost covered by the money we collected at junior and senior nets.

If we take out of the accounts for 2007 and 2008 items of expenditure covered by grants and cost of clothing covered by donations and players contributions then expenditure is down by about £300 from 07 to 08, although by the time we have paid for Novembers insurance, Secretary expenses and Octobers ground expenditure then the two figures will be fairly even.

A few items of expenditure need to be covered in a bit more detail:

Cost of negotiating a new lease (which runs until 1 st Aug 2037):	£630
2 nd payment for 2007 rent paid in 2008:	£150
Service costs for mowers:	£500
Clubs contribution to the cost of a new spiker:	£800
Money spent on coaching courses not covered by grant:	£200
Loss on nets:	£170

We saved money on bar stock and we spent much less on the pavilion after having the exterior painted last year. The interior is probably due some updating; hopefully this could be done as a pre-season work party. We will shortly receive a grant (£3,400) from Cheshire Council to buy new bar furniture, fridge, freezer, oven, cooler for bar stock and garden furniture and we should probably avoid using the new tables & chairs to stand on when redecorating.

Although **income** for 2008 is much higher then for 2007, in 2008 we received £11,000 more in grants than the previous year. The 2007 figure also includes the majority of the income from the Bonus Ball scheme (£1129 out of total of £1,569) that Ian Horn ran and which has just finished, if Ian runs another scheme this year and into 2009 then the 2008 income figure will be boosted by the initial contributions. This could push the clubs losses down by £1000, however it still leaves us with a much lower income figure. If we exclude grants received from the 2007 & 2008 income figure then 2008 income has dropped by £5200. This can be accounted for by the following

Bar takings	down £1280
Fund raising	down £1300
Sponsorship	down £1110
Gift Aid	down £1430

Bar sales were affected by the poor weather and the lack of willing bar staff for the Shell hire games, the bar wasn't open for any of these matches. Junior games were always well attended but relied on parents to run the bar (takings could be £60 to £80 a game) when they perhaps should have been allowed to watch their children play.

We need to come up with events that use the bar but aren't affected by poor weather;

- Quiz night,
- Darts competition,
- Junior registration night,
- Junior presentation night including a Dads v Lads game if possible,
- Q&As with local sports personalities,
- more use of the bar at junior and senior games,
- run an effective kitchen offering teas, bacon butties, hot dogs, tea & coffees etc.

We might need to look at hiring bar staff to run the bar and kitchen rather than relying on volunteers, there are not enough members volunteering.

Other ideas include:

- Poker night,
- Book launches (offer the club's facilities to a local 22 year old sportsman trying to sell his latest ghosted autobiography),
- Birthday parties,
- Wedding receptions.

We also need to eradicate stock shrinkages; people are still taking beer, soft drinks, chocolate and crisps and not paying for them.

The only **Fundraising** that uses the bar is the Race Night. We can't expect to see the same people attending it and to have the same people sponsoring it each year. We need more events that will interest people.

We could have:

An "Ashley Heritage Number" like the test teams have, each player gets a number and that can go on his shirt or simply gets listed on the website. Number 1 could be auctioned off to the highest bidder then people are allocated number 2 onwards based on their length of membership at the club. If there are decent amounts bid other numbers (say 2 to 5 or 2 to 10) could be auctioned off.

A sport prediction quiz, you predict the outcome of 30 sports events, and the first 4 share 50 % of total takings, 50% goes to the club.

The Bonus Ball scheme will hopefully continue.

Dave Rice has organised for half a dozen or more Ashley members to run in the Wilmslow Marathon and the club may benefit from some fundraising.

Sponsorship has fallen by 70%, some of that is due to the good amounts obtained for shirt sponsorship in 2007, but only a few members are making any effort to attract match ball sponsors. This could be down to the economic crisis, but it has more to do with indifference on the part of most players. We also need to secure shirt sponsors for the 5 junior teams we may run in 2009.

An ex-players association to meet up at one of the home games, have a drink and a meal and sponsor the match ball collectively; this would expand on the great work Dave Rice did in organising the first Reunion night.

There are dozens of businesses in Ashley and Hale and we have made no attempts to contact them. We can't simply rely anymore on getting something done for nothing; we should offer someone the incentive of a percentage of any new money raised via match ball sponsorship. (Free annual subs if £750 raised, free annual subs & match fees if £1500 raised etc)

We have missed a trick in not getting the covers sponsored; this could be expensive but could bring a substantial amount into the club.

We could look to have a dedicated page on the website for all of the self-employed players/members of ACC, a kind of yellow pages, and ask for a small fee.

Could I ask everyone to ask let their employer know about Ashley CC and get them to consider supporting us.

The **Gift Aid** we received in 2007 could be considered a one off; we claimed it back from the Inland Revenue thanks to Andy Murray's hard work in securing over £5000 for new covers.

Gift Aid remains an effective way to raise money; we need to explore ways of taking advantage.

We could for instance offer members the chance to buy life membership, it might only appeal to a few people, but could bring in a large sum then we could then claim 28% from the Inland Revenue. I have been told that subs aren't eligible for Gift Aid, but there are ways around this, they could simply be classed as donation.

We need a few people to consider what existing contributions we receive could be enhanced by Gift Aid, race night sponsorship, match ball sponsorship, bonus ball money etc.

Perhaps a Trust could be set up with the aim to raise funds and make payments to the club.

The Vice Presidents list should be reviewed and new VPs could be invited to the list.

If anyone is interested in running a fund-raiser regardless of the amount of money it might raise for the club please get in touch with me asap.

Summary

Money owed to the club needs to be paid on time without the need for officers to chase it up week after week and into the close season.

Reduce the amount of bar stock we lose due to theft. So we need to increase bar security, people can still access the bar even if the improvised shutters are up.

We need more events at the club that don't rely on good weather. And more ACC members willing to organise them, most of the work can be done electronically or by a small committee of people.

More players need to volunteer to run the bar at junior games and hires.

More players helping at indoor and outdoor junior nets.

Advertise for a Commercial Officer to raise more money from local businesses with the incentive to earn some commission. We could offer this to any overseas player we recruit if we think he is capable.

Actively use Gift Aid to boost contributions to the club, email everyone a Gift Aid form they can fill in each time they make a payment to the club. Set up a Trust to maximise Gift Aid.

Use Sportsmatch to boost any donations to the club from businesses that are over £1,000. Sportsmatch is a government initiative that doubles any new investment to clubs.

Proposals

Senior subs go up to £100. Players who want to pay by installments must give Treasurer post-dated cheques at the earliest opportunity/before end of May 2009.

The option to pay £150 as a one off amount to cover annual subs and match fees is withdrawn

Senior players who commit to coaching at indoor/outdoor junior nets or who mentor a junior team through the season to be eligible for credits to put towards their subscription fees.

Attendance at the pre season work party will attract credits towards annual subscriptions.

This system will work as follows:

Attendance at indoor nets, every hour you are there gives you £5 credit towards your annual subs

Attendance at the pre-season work party gives you £10 credit towards your subs

Attendance at an outdoor junior nets or coaching/umpiring at a junior match gives you £10 rebate on your subs, providing you have paid in full, or passed post-dated cheques to the Treasurer.

If someone attended all indoor nets, the pre-season work party and one junior net or junior game the credit would total £95; the remaining £5 would ensure they remain a paid up member.

The extra money raised from those who don't help at nets or the work party will subsidise any costs we incur on coaching/junior matches and would make up for the reduced subs received from those that do help.

Junior subs go up to £20

Each child pays £1 for every outdoor net they attend and every match they play.

This will help to pay for more coaching.

Ashley Cricket Club
Statement of Income and Expenditure
up to 30th October

2,007		2,008
£	INCOME	£
3,012	Annual Subscriptions	3,300
4,270	Bar	2,989
627	Clothing	77
2,397	Fund raising events	1,100
1,438	Gift Aid	-
5,100	Grants & Donations	16,040
1,355	Hiring	795
-	Utility refund	168
55	Insurance	-
-	League dinner	216
784	Match fees	1,030
-	Miscellaneous	80
583	Nets	929
1,810	Sponsorship	700
260	Tour deposit	-
21,691	TOTAL INCOME	27,423
£	EXPENDITURE	£
2,739	Bar	2,182
1,360	Clothing	494
-	Clubmark	122
120	Coaching	2,829
5,100	Covers	-
882	Cricket Equipment	890
260	Fees & Fines	362
49	Fund raising events	110
3,609	Ground	7,683
1,027	Insurance	972
-	League dinner	216
2,076	Machinery	10,103
441	Miscellaneous	295
464	Nets	1,054
1,506	Pavilion	525
442	Rent/Rates/Lease	1,421
280	Tour hotel deposit	-
597	Utilities	312
20,953	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	29,569
738	Profit/(Loss)	- 2,146
6,929	FUNDS AT THE START OF THE YEAR	7,667
7,667	FUNDS AT END OF THE YEAR	5,521

1st XI Captain

After a good winter of nets at Old Trafford hopes were high for another solid season in the top division of the Meller Braggins. We had bolstered our squad with the signings of Richard Smith, Seamus Sons, Matt Wilson, Nomaan Hasan and Stuart Redropp. Unfortunately attempts to bring in an overseas player had failed but nevertheless we were still in confident mood ahead of the seasons start. Weather had prevented us from playing any pre season friendlies and we were given a shock in the 1st game of the season by both the freezing temperatures and a Runcorn side that adapted far better to the conditions than we did, eventually clinging on for a draw after being 4 for 4 early doors. We then put together a great run of results, winning 5 out of the next 6 matches, the blip being a defeat at Alvanley. The wins against Congleton, where we chased down 220, Davenham, with 4 1st teamers missing and a crushing of our neighbours Mere were particularly satisfying. We then put in possibly our worst performance of the season, losing heavily at Trafford after being rolled out for just 75. Worse was to follow when superstar all-rounder Nomaan Hasan, revealed he wished to become a superstar for Bowdon Vale instead!! The pros of Brooklands arrived and simply blew us away, showing us the benefit of paying large amounts out to players in village cricket. A washout at Ashton and a home defeat against a strong Oakmere side took us to the midway point and a look at the table saw us in joint 3rd spot, only 19 points out of a promotion place.

The 2nd half would be tough for us as we were to lose a lot of players due to summer holidays, but a winning draw against Runcorn and win at Malpas, where loan signing Dave Baythorpe scored the seasons only ton, set us in good heart. The remainder of the season was a stop start affair with games against AoM, Alvanley and Mere abandoned and the rain forcing the players off at Davenham when we were in a challenging position. Defeats against Cholmondely and Congleton saw us slip down the ladder, before a home win against Trafford made sure we would be playing 1st Division cricket in 2009. A trip to the champions Brooklands looked daunting with 6 regulars missing, but a battling performance meant we took draw points. We had hoped that our last game at Oakmere would be a dead rubber game but with Oakmere needing 17 points for promotion we went there hoping to upset there promotion party but were comprehensively outplayed

This meant we finished the season in 7th place, with 7 wins, 7 defeats, 3 draws and 5 abandonments. In the cup we reached the Quarters before a defeat at the pros. With 5 games to go we were 27 points behind 2nd place yet many 2nd team players felt their survival was more important than the 1st teams chance of promotion, very disappointing and not right.

Overall an enjoyable, yet frustrating season for us. The goal to stay up was easily achieved, yet I feel a little disappointed that we didn't finish higher up the ladder. We had 7 players who made the handbook, Craig Knight the leading run scorer with 476 while Dave Alves was the leading bowler with 22 wickets. Liam O'Doherty, Richard Smith and myself all scored 200+ runs at over 20, while Dave Deans with 18 wickets was the next leading bowler followed by Dave Woods and myself on 16. A mention also to Dave Baythorpe who joined mid season and scored 253 runs @ 42, and was a bonus to us when numbers were down. In the fielding, Seamus Sons led the way with 8 catches, while another new boy, Matt Wilson took 12 victims behind the sticks and did a great job despite dislocating his finger before the Brooklands home game.

A massive thanks to Brian Birtles for all his help during the season, he really is vital to 1st team operations and the smooth running of all the club. We must do all we possibly can to take some of the workload off him.

Also thanks to Dave Twiney for producing some good cricket pitches in what has been another tough summer for us groundsman!!! Dave is always very helpful and often acts as our "12th man" in helping the home team get the required result.

Finally thank you to Angela at the post office who supplies us with teas every week.

I wish to continue as 1st team captain for the 2009 season and hope to see you all for a Christmas drink, before the nets start up in January

Ian Barber

2nd XI Captain

The stats show that of 20 games played, we won 4, lost 6 and drew the remaining 10. In a very tight league we were one of 3 teams that finished in joint 7th place, two points off mid-table and yet only 13 points from relegation.

We scored a total of 2,416 runs for the loss of 142 wickets, at an average of 17.014 runs per wicket.

Top runs scorer was John Ward with 334 runs at an average of 20.88 and the highest individual score of 79. His

welcome return to regular cricket provided a solid base on which the rest of the batting should have been able to, but mostly didn't, build on. When his physio allowed, Ricey gave Wardy good support, with 280 runs at an average of 31. His attempt to become the new Jimmy Saville, however, doesn't bode well for the start of next season as his post-marathon recovery period keeps him out of the game until May (the run is in March)

A valuable return to the batting line-up was Jimmy Felix who chipped in 227 runs in only 7 games towards the end of the season – let's hope he can play a full season next year as his quality makes a huge difference to the team.

A big loss for next year is Paul Leach who has emigrated to Wales – his 157 runs came at an average of 52, combined with many Kodak moments behind the stumps and the catch of the season when we played as a fielder.

Top wicket taker was Nick Holt with 35 at an average of 17.74, followed by Rob McKie with 22, George Power with 21 and Chris Pendlebury with 20. The fact that the batsmen only scored over 140 on 5 occasions, and less than 100 in 7 games, meant we were often defending low scores which made it harder for the bowlers to take wickets. There were only 3 Mildred's – Nick Holt 6-31 and 5-48, and Gary Tyms with 5-31. Most improved players was Rob McKie who bowled with good pace and was unlucky not to take more wickets.

Another positive for the season was Andy Thorpe who kept really well and will be a worthy replacement for Leachy.

Thanks as always to Ricey, Pengo, Tysy and Nick Holt for helping out with the captaincy. Thanks to Rob and Rish for helping find players at short notice and thanks to Angela for keeping us well-fed through the season.

Overall it was a season of disappointment – disappointment that none of the younger players are interested enough in the future of the team to step up and help with the captaincy, disappointment at the reluctance of 3rd teamers to play in the 2nds and the apparent reluctance of 1st teamers to drop down to improve their form, and disappointment that we could have been relegated on the last game of the season.

Once again, I resign as captain. My suggestion would be that a couple of the younger lads – Ali Horn, Rob McKie, John Burt maybe – share the captaincy duties and begin to build a side for the next ten years. I am happy to help with selection, as I am sure are Ricey and Pengo, but I feel we need some consistency at the top.

Cheers,

Andy Murray
October 2008

3rd XI Captain

The 3rd team season of 2008 was what you could call a mixed bag but on the whole an enjoyable one. After the first five league matches won 3 drawn 2 and sniffing around top spot the team of experience and youth were talking about the prospects of promotion and there was certainly an air of expectation around the dressing room. A trip to Middwich [A game in which Ashley maybe should have won] saw the start of a dramatic slide on the batting front as 8 of the last 9 games were lost with only 100 or more scored in only 3 of those matches which saw Ashley finish 9th.

In total 33 players were used and 14 played just the one game usually due to Sunday morning last minute calls. There were a number of occasions where players dropped out due to either injury or illness however thanks to the help of Brian Birtles, Rish Agrawal and Liam Cusack we managed to have 11 players turn out for every game played.

The batsmen of the season were Dan Shelston 215 runs ave 23.89 hs 52 and John Burt 202 runs ave 16.83 hs 71. Dan was consistent through the season and in one game scored 50 out of a team total of 85 against Hale Barns. John was more in the destructive mould with 71 against Middlewich and 43* against Winnington Park at home his only flaw was wanting to play a shot every ball [Not the only player in the 3rds to fall foul to that this season]. John was also a superb fielder and a consistent bowler but yet to take more than 1 wicket in a match.

Two other innings this season that stood out was Ali Horns 93* against Alsager 3rds at home which resulted in a high scoring game in which Ashley nearly won chasing 209 ended up 191-5. However the outstanding innings for me was Ian Horns 81* against Stretton away which saw Ashley recover from 57-5 to 193-6 and he was supported by John Brownhill [57]. Balls were taken off middle stump and hit to all parts of the ground and it was true Ian Horn style batting and enjoyable for all to watch. Perhaps he should wear his jumper in 25 degree heat more often...

There were a few batsmen who did not reach their full potential this season after good starts and this resulted in the low scores which was incredibly frustrating for all concerned especially when bowling out teams such New Brighton [122] and Alsager 3rds [160] and not being able to amass even 100 against either of them.

On the bowling front Peter Burgess topped the bowling with 24 wickets including 3 five wicket hauls followed by Kev Tierney who took 12 in only 6 matches and Josh Wardle who took 11 in 9. It was a season of two halves for Josh who looks a very promising bowler who standing at 6'5" get good pace and bounce generated from a rather short run up. He knows himself he can be a bit wayward and after a good middle part of his season the break in South Africa would have no doubt disrupted his rhythm. His 4-18 at Stretton showed how destructive he can be especially when he pulls out the unplayable in swinging Yorker that he has in his locker. With work on his run up over the Winter Josh should be looking to take plenty of wickets next season.

Two young bowlers that came into 3rds towards the end of the season were Matt Furness and Alex Eaton. You can tell that they are both very into their cricket and were a welcome addition and even when they did not get a bowl kept up their spirits and knew their time would come and it did. Matt is a left arm over bowler and on his day as New Brighton found out can be a very difficult bowler to face as his 2-22 proved. Alex is very tall for his age and uses that along with a good action to generate quite a bit of pace and should be looking to open the bowling for the 3rds next season. His batting is also looking promising.

Others bowlers that put in a good spell or two during the season were Rish Agrawal, Tommy Smith, Liam Cusack and John Burt. Not to mention Dan Cockayne who played 2 games at the end of the season and looked to be one of the quickest at 3rd team level for a long time and hopefully he will manage at least half a season next year whilst juggling Uni and playing for the England Lacrosse Team. His smashing of 5 consecutive 4's off a rather gobby [But not in a bad way just irritating] New Brighton player entertained all and helped Ashley surpass 100 runs for the first time in a good few weeks.

The fielding on the whole was superb with a number of outstanding catches behind the stumps and in the deep. Matt Wardle's 1 handed diving forward catch in first slip and one out in the cow corner near the pavilion come to mind but the catch of the season was from seasoned pro Ian Horn against New Brighton of the bowling of Eaton for the first wicket of the match which certainly set the pace in terms of the quality of Bowling and fielding that day.

On the wicket keeping front 3 were used Andy Thorpe, Si Ferris and Martin Blain. Si and Andy did a good job behind the stumps however the young pretender Martin looks a fine prospect for a future as a 1st team wicket keeper with some top notch glove work.

My only criticism on the fielding front is the lack of chatter in the field. There were only a handful of players that tried to keep it going. We need to be able to talk some batsmen out as we were ourselves against New Brighton and Alsager 3rds and not let our heads go down if it not always going well for us.

There were only 2 games in which this did not happen and that was both Winnington Park games. At home chasing 143 [After Winnington being 90 for 2] Ashley were 59 for 4 but thanks to Burt [43*] and Matt Wardle [22*] Ashley won by 6 wickets with some destructive batting from both Ashley batsmen. Away – Ashley 172-8 Winnington Park were 96-2 and slumped to 146 all out and this was brought about by having confidence in all our own abilities and backing each other up. On the whole it was an enjoyable season and there is a positive out look for the 2009.

Thank you to Dan Shelston, Liam Cusack, Ian Horn and Si Ferris for help with the field placings and also your help off the pitch and especially to Brian Birtles for help behind the scenes. Thanks to Angela and Jeannie for the top quality teas and to Dave Twiney for the excellent pitches.

3rd Team Players Player of the Year – Dan Shelston

4th XI Captain

Despite the results (no wins) and the final position of last in the league the first season of the 4th XI was an enjoyable one. It introduced lots of new players to the club, gave young lads the chance to play league cricket and hopefully will continue to do so next season.

We used 49 players in total and 25 of these played only one game; the captain appeared in all 14 games played and bowled the most overs, not bad considering his keenness to retire. Leading run scorer was Darren Griffiths who had stopped playing for Bowdon CC 25 years ago but scored 221 runs at an average of over 27. Without his runs we would have been pushed to break 100 each week. Dave Jackson and Akshat Jahanmogan provided another 230 runs between them at a healthy average. Only once did we fail to turn out a full side, the first game of the season at Bredbury. The

Bank Holiday weekend double header would have proved troublesome if the 3rd team game hadn't been re-arranged; next season we should look closely at the fixtures and make sure we don't have the 3rds and 4ths each with 2 games in 2 days.

Dan Eadie produced the one great bowling performance of the season with a six-fer away to Nantwich; this was probably the best wicket we played on and due to a quirk in the fixture list we played both games at their ground, something I'd be quite happy to do every season as it one of the best grounds I've played on. Matt Furness bowled a fantastic spell at home to Mobberley, his 5 overs went for 8 runs, 7 off these came off the 2nd and 3rd ball of his last over. Matt and Josh Wardle along with Tommy Smith batted very well in this game against a side that had a very quick bowler who was determined to test the middle of the wicket. He only switched from this tactic when he sent down a beamer at me. Tommy withstood a barrage of bumpers to add 70 for the 1st wicket with John Brownhill. He got into line and hooked most of his runs down to fine leg. At one point he told me he felt sick but he stuck at it to score 38, with 8 boundaries. Matt and Josh also batted well in testing circumstances, Josh was there for 15 overs as we batted out a draw; very negative but everyone was determined not to give them a win.

Rob McKie raced to Macclesfield when the 3rd XI game was called off and bowled with some pace despite the wet conditions. Akshat Jaganmohan got into the team as a bowler but his batting proved a revelation. He top scored away at Nantwich and Brooklands batting at 9, eventually the skipper moved him up the order and he opened at Mobberley and batted serenely before the home umpire triggered him. Once he gets rid of his black trainers he should be looking for a place in the 3rds. Steve Logan and Ian McClure both made appearances towards the end of the season and both are undoubted Saturday players. Another quality knock was Alex Eaton's 43 at home to Cheadle Hulme, he soon moved into the 3rd XI and although his batting failed in comparison to his 4th XI knocks his fielding and bowling were excellent.

All our opponents were County League sides with the exception of Northwich and Brooklands, with the latter now back where they want to be and the former striving hard to join them; and it shows how strong sides from that league are compared to the Meller Braggins; all the sides we played against seemed to have a good mix of old pros and talented youngsters; these youngsters could invariably play for their clubs 1st XI on a Saturday and we were on the receiving end of some good knocks from lads of 15/16/17 years of age as well as some fiery spells of quick bowling or canny spells of spin bowling from similarly talented lads.

We were the poorest side in the division, but several times we had chances to win games; we had Macclesfield at 80 for 5 in both games and yet they managed to post good totals that we couldn't chase. We were dismissed for double figure scores three times, the lowest being the 33 we mustered against Bredbury, who were one of 3 teams to beat us by 10 wickets. We should have beaten Mobberley away but were hindered by some poor umpiring and we should have done better at home and away to Cheadle Hulme.

The fielding was poor with teams able to take easy singles almost at will sometimes, and we did grass far too many easy catches. That said Martin Blain did well to take 6 catches and a stumping in the 7 games he played, not much beat the bat, and Rick Shelmerdine constantly showed himself to be the best fielder and took the seasons best catch, a one handed effort in the deep at Nantwich.

Most weeks we were simply beaten by much better sides, but the 4th team is something that we should continue with, hopefully it can be used to give some of the younger players an introduction to league cricket and provide older players the chance to prolong their Ashley career and put something back into the club. It was disappointing that some of our younger players didn't want to play some weeks; maybe it is a reflection of the quality of the other sides and some of the hammerings we sustained.

Our opponents will continue to be strong and talented County League sides though and we are still the only Meller Braggins club with a 4th XI. There is a new 5th division for 2009 with Northwich 4ths moving from the Cheshire Alliance, Prestbury putting a 3rd XI out who may play at Kings School in Macclesfield, Burton, a team out on the Wirral near Neston, Sale 4ths who will be playing all their games away from home, Bramhall, Poynton and either Elworth or Heaton Mersey. So the 4ths will no doubt be everyones favourite for relegation, the Altrincham FC role.

Thanks to everyone who turned out for the side this year, thanks to Steve Coleman for his ruthlessness in collecting the match fees, thanks to Dan, Darren and Jacko for all the lifts and to Jeannie for her excellent teas.

4 th XI batsman of the year:	Darren Griffiths
4 th XI bowler of the year:	Dan Eadie
Champaigne moment:	Rick Shelmerdine's one handed catch at Nantwich

Child Welfare Officer

It gladdens this ageing cricketers heart to see our junior section continuing to grow and bear fruit, with the lads not only doing well within their own age groups but serving the Senior sides with distinction. For this thanks must go especially to Hatch, Brian, Stuart, & Sefton along with all the other parents, senior players and coaches who have given up their time so readily.

From an administrative point of view there have been no problems with junior membership forms being received from the vast majority and again thanks to Brian for this.

As I mentioned in last years report, this has been my final year in the role as I feel the CWO should be in a position to attend junior nets on a reasonably regular basis to keep an eye on things.

As the section continues to grow I hope that more parents will become more actively involved either on the coaching side or organisationally by collecting subs, looking after the bar and perhaps in the fund raising effort.

I will continue to look after the Ashley CC members database which I feel is a great tool for communicating with the members / supporters with the regular newsletters. If anyone knows of any former Ashley CC / Old Alts CC players and supporters who would want to be added to the database then please let me know.

Finally as I stand down I must once again thank Brian for his assistance over the last few years and hand over the reigns to Dave Woods who I know will do an excellent job.

Dave Rice
DaveRice@talktalk.net

Groundsman

Oct/2007 – finished Autumn renovation concentrating on strips 3-12 (inc)

26/Oct - Sarel rolled square, spread more fertilizer and seed

Nov – Sprayed with worm repellent, built shed for the new roller

4/Dec – Pitch inspected by Cheshire pitch inspector for ECB machinery grant application. Finding was good density of grass, good root length, possible root break. Changed application from mower to spiker.

11/Dec – Spiked pitch with CAG spiker, sprayed for moss.

8/Feb - Mowers sent for service.

22/Feb – Hedges have been trimmed, lot of tyre marks. Very cold.

28/Feb – Winter fertiliser.

29/Feb – New roller and mower delivered. Clearing ditches.

March – Started rolling, 18 hours done before first match.

April – Pre-season matches rained off. Got 76 bags of Mendip loam cheap from Tattenhall.

19/April – First game of the season, 2nds won.

14/May – Outfield vertidraind

17/June – SISIS spiker arrived

The season progressed as seasons do, wet periods in July and (especially) the middle and end of August.

13/Sept – Last game, 2nds drew.

21/Sept – Autumn renovation complete – 80 bags Mendip over strips 3-12 inc

27/Sept – Strips 13,14 and 15 renewed by contractor – paid for by grant.

Fixtures and Pitch use –

My fixture list at the start of the season showed 93 home bookings, of which 22 were rain affected if not cancelled due to rain and 6 were cancelled for various other reasons.

Pitch use was :-

1 – practice	10 – seniors – 8 games
2 – practice	11 – seniors -5
3 – U9s	12 – seniors and hires – 12
4 – U13s – 9 games	13 – not used
5 – U15s – 6	14 – hires – 13
6 – seniors – 3	15 – not used
7 – seniors – 4	16 – not used
8 – seniors – 4	17 – U9s
9 – seniors – 5	

proposal for pitch use next season -

1		not used
2	U9	18 yd
3	practice	22 yd
4	practice	
5	juniors	U13/U15
6 - 12	seniors	7 strips for all league and CUP games,
13 \		
14 >	newly relaid	may be used towards end of next season
15 /		
16	hires	
17	U9	

Under 9's Report 2008 season

The season was severely rain affected, with more games being cancelled than played.

Of the Competitive games played, we only lost 1 to Alderley Edge, when 1 key player was absent. That night was a real highlight as we were able to field 2 teams, also two teams put out for Grappenhall away. We won 4 games.

Nets went well and were professionally coached.

I don't like to single out individual players as they all played well and contributed to the success of the team.

The boys all enjoyed it and the future looks good, although next season I understand it moves to 10 a side so we will need to possibly recruit, or ensure we retain current numbers.

On fixture planning can we please try to avoid places like Disley away for a 6 o'clock start on a weekday, as parents cannot commit to this.

Can we have more games at home? In 2 seasons I think we have only played 4 times at Ashley.

Sefton Kwasnik.

Ashley U13's report 2008 Season

The under 13's had another highly enjoyable and successful year.

Brian, Stuart and myself decided to employ the same policy of the previous year, in that we were determined that all the kids would get the equal opportunities to bat and bowl.

We believe this policy ensures that the children enjoy themselves as well as continuing their cricketing development.

We do not view finishing highly placed in the league as a sign of success. I was frustrated in seeing other teams employing only 5 bowlers, with those same 5 players opening the batting. We frequently had 10 different bowlers in games as well as continually changing the batting order. We had 14 different bowlers throughout the year, bowling an average of 20 over each.

The team won 5 games in total with notable victories over Brooklands, Lindow, Newton Heath, Wythenshawe and Ashton on Mersey.

Under 13 Player Profile

Alistair Berryman is our very vocal and very talented wicket keeper, if I recall correctly, Alistair turned up to watch his mate in the first game of the season and was promptly handed the wicket keeping gloves. I can guarantee Alistair will be annoying opposing batsmen for many years to come. Alistair also represented the under 15's

Thomas Bragg is a very promising left arm seam bowler who came on leaps and bounds this year, if it wasn't for injury Thomas would have picked many more runs and wickets than he did. A very nice young fella who has the ability to bowl with swing and seam. Thomas also represented the under 15's

Michael Coffey arrived a few games into the season and quickly ingratiated himself into the team; Michael has developed very well as a spinner and gets more than an odd ball to 'rip'. Michael has an absolutely fearsome arm and can hurl a ball from the boundaries edge like a meteor.

Alex Eaton had a phenomenal year for both under 13's and 15's, topping the league batting averages in the U13's. There were times in the season when it looked like Alex would never get out, in fact he had a 'red inker' in nine out of his fifteen innings for the under 13's amassing an amazing 350 runs at an average of over 50. Alex also played for the senior teams throughout the year. Alex also represented Cheshire a number of times throughout the summer.

Hishan Felix had an unbelievable year. Hishan is still young enough to represent our under 11's next year, so to be representing our under 13's with such distinction was amazing. Hishan bowled 14 overs at a miserly rate, consistently threatening to take wickets. His determination with the bat was fantastic and a joy to watch.

Tom Graham is another very promising player. Tom took a number of very good wickets at regular intervals throughout the season, with his right arm medium/fast bowling and athletic fielding. Tom is a vocal and valuable member of the team. Tom also represented the under 15's.

Toby Hawksley is another player who joined us during the season and ended up playing nine matches. Toby proved an excellent acquisition taking a number of vital wickets throughout. Toby was another one of our excellent array of fielders.

Ed Lavers is very committed all rounder with a sound resolve and fierce spirit. It was quickly established that you shouldn't be anywhere near Ed when he gets out. Ed scored over a hundred runs as well as taking 6 wickets and 3 catches. Ed also represented the U15's and the senior teams

Ben (the skipper) McKie had a fabulous season. He juggled the bowler's superbly; he set his field with thought and precision and arranged his batting order fairly. None of his captaining duties effected his individual performances, Ben scored valuable runs, took 7 wickets and five catches for the U13's. Ben also represented the U15's, taking 8 wickets, which placed him 15th best bowler in the U 15's league. Ben also represented the senior teams

George Paton (Thomas Bragg's doppelganger) and close friend of the skipper arrived a few games into the season. Another hugely likeable young man and talented cricketer, George was soon amongst the wickets and the runs as well as being a panther like fielder. George also represented the U15's.

James Semple blossomed again this year and is developing into a very good cricketer. James has a very good attitude to the coaching he receives and implements it out in the middle. Always at nets, so always likely to improve. James was the highest wicket taker with 9 and also scored some aggressive runs. James also represented the U15's taking 5 wickets in a dozen overs.

Will Sloan emerged this season playing 10 games in all. Will quickly showed enormous potential and is destined to become a very good player. A hugely likeable young man with a fine temperament, it was a delight to see his determination shine through.

Joe Smith had an excellent season scoring freely at times. Joe was another batsman with a number of 'not outs' and compiled 128 runs, which propelled into the top 25 batsmen in the whole league. Joe also bowled a high number of overs taking some very important wickets.

Joe Wright was another popular and vital member to the squad. Joe played 10 games in all and distinguished himself with the ball and in the field. Joe took a number of important wickets throughout the season.

Josh Brookes played in the last 2 games of the season having never played the game before, he responded superbly to the coaching he got from Martin Barrett and will be in the squad for 2009.

We would like to thank all the parents, grandparents, siblings and relations for their terrific support and congratulate their ability to consume enough alcohol to improve the bar takings this year.

Ashley U15's report 2008 Season

What a season!

The U15's didn't play many games but with more than half the team still able to play at U13 they managed to provide some fantastic performances, see the following match report

Make a note of the date, Sunday 8th June. On this day, Ashley's history book was revised. On a blisteringly hot morning two young batsmen strolled out to the crease. An hour or so later both returned on unbeaten hundred's.

I believe that this is the first time in Ashley's history, that two Ashley batsmen have scored century's in the same innings.

Matt Wardle 103 not out and Tommy Smith 100 not out were the two batsmen in question. Both batsmen guided, nudged, hooked, pulled, cut and drove all round Newton Heath on the way to chanceless hundreds.

It was a day where you just had to be there and many of us were and will remember it for a very long time. Two Ashley batsmen make unbeaten hundreds in a 20 over innings, the team went on to win by an incredible 145 runs.

The game was one of the teams 3 victories in a shortened season, the other two being against Ashton by 6 wickets and Whalley Range by 10 wickets.

Again, we ensured that all the lads had equal opportunity to bat and bowl, indeed the eight U13's drafted into the team bowled 67 overs between them.

Incredibly we had four bowlers in the top twenty performers in the league, they were Tommy Smith, Alex Eaton, Ben McKie and Matt Furness. When you consider Alex and Ben are both U13's players, it makes the achievement almost unbelievable.

Under15 Player Profiles

George Aspden had a quiet year by his standards. However his commitment and endeavor and vocal encouragement got the team through some sticky moments. George still qualifies for the U15's next year.

Martin Blain was again outstanding as the wicket keeper, Martin seems to be maturing into the role with every game. As well as starting for the U15's Martin regularly kept wicket for the 4ths, 3rds and 2nd teams taking eight senior victims in those games. Martin still qualifies for the U15's next year.

Matt Furness is unfortunately a Liverpool fan, what he does have to his advantage though is that he is a top class cricketer. I am told he sense of direction leaves a lot to be desired, but not when he has a cricket ball in his hand it doesn't. He arrows the ball at speed at middle stump, Fozzy took 9 wickets for the U15's and 5 wickets for the 3rds and 4ths.

Harry Hatchell replicated his previous season, in that he found his best form half way through the campaign. A vicious striker of the ball, who can change a match very quickly. Harry represented the 4ths and the 2nds this season and made some valuable contributions. Harry is also the expert sledger and has contributed some top quality retorts. Harry still qualifies for the U15's next year.

Robert Oldbury was again an enigma this year. Robert is sometimes a little reluctant to come on to bowl, but when forced upon, he usually devastates the opposition. Against Didsbury, Robert was dragged on to bowl, at the point Robert came on we were being put to the sword, two overs later Robert had ripped out the middle order and ended up with 3 wickets in two overs. Roberts bowling can change games very suddenly. Robert also took 5 wickets for the 4th team. Robert still qualifies for the U15's next year.

Tommy Smith was outstanding this year and as one of the senior players led by example. Tommy was one of the centurions mentioned earlier, it was a fantastic knock. Tommy is a great all rounder and was devastating with the ball as well. Tommy finished with a batting average of 42 and took 11 wickets for the U15's. Tommy also scored over a hundred runs and took 5 wickets for the senior teams.

Matt Wardle (the skipper) was our second centurion and had the best average in the league, Matt ended up as the second highest scorer in the league as well. Matt captained the side skillfully and fairly juggling his team round to ensure everybody got a good game. Matt appeared for the 3rds and 4ths and got runs and wickets for both teams

Many thanks to all our senior players for their coaching sessions, we all really appreciate your time and dedication. Thanks again to Dave Twiney for the excellent wickets prepared, we were the envy of the league.

Brian, Stuart and I regard the season as another overwhelming success, based again on 'smiles on faces' and the development of the children. To have under thirteen players representing the under fifteens and the senior teams is a statement of the quality of both squads.

I would like to state that with the juniors teams expanding to four next year we do need to get more of the parents to volunteer as managers etc. However, with the excitement and commitment shown by them I confidently expect this to happen. I believe we need to make it happen though.

I would also like to say that we have some very talented players in the junior ranks and I firmly believe that if they are called up to the senior teams, they should be given encouragement and be allowed a chance to perform.

Finally, without Brian it wouldn't have happened. Many thanks Brian from all the junior teams.

Darren Hatchell

Plans for 2009 season

Some lads have asked about starting up an Under 18s league side, we have a squad of 14 players at the moment including several U15s who can make the step up; this team would play in the South Manchester league on Tuesday nights; so there would need to be some re-arranging of nets and Shell matches when we are drawn at home. This would also give the lads too old for Under 15s cricket and not able to play 3rd or 4th team cricket the chance to keep on playing at the club. We have some new players interested in joining us to play in this age group and we would need to be sure we had enough players around exam time. I'm keen for this side to start next year, hopefully with one of the older lads acting as manager/selector.

At the same time we don't have enough players to put a league team of Under 9s out; if we can find enough players we will play friendly games against some local sides. We are also short of Under 13 players at the moment, although we have plenty of Under 15s.

All the junior teams will need managers/coaches to run these teams, I will not be able to help select teams, open up the ground, score/umpire and then lock up after the game. I will not be able to do all the admin work that goes along with the junior sides, the results and scorecards have to be input onto the play cricket website after each game, teams lose points if this isn't done on time. We need a volunteer from each age group to do the match reports for the Ashley website and the play cricket site. It is a simple process, and only takes a few minutes to input everything; an individual needs to be registered on the site and then the player squads need to be input at the start of the season. On a match day the selected team is input, then the result and the batting and bowling figures are input. This site also provides averages for each division and the league as a whole.

Brian Birtles

Election of Officers

President	Geoff Garnett
Chairman	Dave Jackson
Bar Chairman	Jeff Thorpe
Secretary	Brian Birtles
Treasurer	Brian Birtles
1st XI Captain	Ian Barber
1st XI Vice Captain	Craig Knight
2nd XI Captain	Ally Horn
2nd XI Vice Captain	
3rd XI Captain	Pete Burgess
3rd XI Vice Captain	Liam Cusack
4th XI Captain	Brian Birtles
4th XI Vice Captain	Steve Coleman
League representatives	Dave Jackson & Ally Horn
Child Welfare Officer	Dave Woods
Assistant C W O	Dave Rice
Junior managers:	
U9	Brian Birtles
U11	Sefton Kwasnik
U13	Darren Hatchell/Stuart Oldbury
U15	Darren Hatchell/Stuart Oldbury
U18	Liam Cusack/Rish Agrawal
Vice Presidents	Arthur Lamont & Alan Booth

All the above officers were elected unanimously.

Proposals for Rule Changes

- | | | |
|------|---|----------|
| i) | Senior subscriptions to rise to £100 for the 2009 season. | DEFEATED |
| ii) | Senior subscriptions to rise to £90 and mach fees to stay at £7 | DEFEATED |
| iii) | Senior subscriptions to rise to £80 and match fees to rise to £8 | PASSED |
| iv) | The option to make a one off payment of £150 is withdrawn | PASSED |
| v) | Junior subscriptions to rise to £20 for the 2009 season. | PASSED |
| vi) | Junior players to contribute £1 per outdoor coaching session
and £1 per match played. | PASSED |
| v) | Senior players to earn credits/reductions to subscriptions by attendance at junior nets, junior matches
and pre-season work party. | DEFEATED |

Any other business

Ian Horn will continue to run a bonus ball scheme, anyone wishing to continue to take part should contact him asap.

Liam Cusack and Steve Logan are taking UKCCII coaching courses in the New Year.

Meeting closed at 10:25pm