

# **120<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Ashley Cricket Club**

**Held at the Altrincham Borough Bowling Club on Willow Tree Road, Hale, Altrincham,  
WA14 2EG**

**On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011 starting at 7:45pm.**

## **MINUTES**

### **Present**

Amer Mushtaq, Dave Alves, Dave Woods, Steve Logan, Dan Eadie, Linda Jones, Nick Holt, Shah Zeb, David Jones, Dave Deans, Brian Birtles, Dave Jackson, Ian Gallagher, Dave Twiney, Graham Park, Dan Shelston, Alex Wigfield, Liam Cusack, Martin Howe, Claire Arksey, Ian Horn, Steve Coleman, Rich Brewster, Nick Gray, Simon Ferris, Dave Rice and Jeff Thorpe

### **Apologies**

Nad Alam, Ally Horn, Pete Burgess, Rick Axon, Jon Griffiths, Chris Pendlebury, Andy Murray, Darren Hatchell, Ross McKinstry, John Ward and Wes Semple

### **Obituaries**

Roy Watson who played for the club in the 70's passed away towards the end of 2010.

### **Minutes of last AGM 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

These were accepted as a true record.

### **Acceptance of Officers Reports**

#### **Chairman – Dave Jackson**

2010 has been a mixed season on the field with our 1<sup>st</sup> XI avoiding relegation, my thanks especially to Grant Webb for his excellent contribution on and off the field, I wish him well for the future.

Ian Barber sadly left the club, again I would like to thank Ian for his contribution to our club, he helped our 1<sup>st</sup> XI to achieve and consolidate our place in the 1<sup>st</sup> division. Also congratulations to Nadeem Alam, returning to Ashley and winning the 1<sup>st</sup> XI player of the year.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> XI performed admirably finishing in a solid mid table position, with some great results throughout the season, congratulations to Dave Rice for picking up the player of the season. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> XI had a great season just missing out on promotion, a great effort from all those involved, congratulations to Pete Burgess for his player of the season award. The 4<sup>th</sup> XI also performed well, finishing mid table, a good effort as the pool of players for this team is quite extensive, the aim is to ensure all club members get as much cricket as possible, congratulations to Simon Ferris for the player of the season.

I would like to thank all the captains of the senior teams for all their efforts over the season. We

need a real effort to continue to attract and grow our playing membership, especially for our 1<sup>st</sup> XI as recruitment here strengthens all our senior teams.

Our junior section continues to grow and have performed admirably, this is the lifeblood of our club, congratulations to Harry Hatchell for his club award, for details of all the great individual contributions please see the junior reports.

I would also like to thank everyone who has been involved in the continual development of our junior section which is growing from strength to strength, parents, helpers, coaches, organisers, everyone, not to forget all our junior players, a great effort, the future of the club it is looking good in your hands.

I must not forget one of the most important contributions of all and that is for Dave Twiney who has yet again has provided excellent playing facilities; the ground and square have been excellent. In addition to Dave I want to extend my thanks to Ally Horn for his outstanding contribution on and off the field, also thanks to Wes Semple for his efforts over the season, if only we had a dozen of him [not on the field?]

Off the field a great deal of progress has again been made with club facilities continuing to improve, we all owe a great deal to Brian Birtles for his continued work and effort to make this happen and we need to support him more.

We need to continue this progress to develop as a club, to do this we need to make sure that there is an increased effort from all in helping to raise funds, Martin Howe has kindly agreed to lead this challenge, he really needs help and support from everyone in the club.

I would like to close by thanking all the funding organisations that have helped the club in recent years as well as all our sponsors; they are all listed in other reports or on our web site.

### **Secretary – Brian Birtles**

The club continues to make great strides in its efforts to organise cricket for so many people. We are indebted to the many volunteers that give their time for free and I am grateful for all the work they do. It would be wrong to list those people just in case I missed someone off so I will just thank each and every volunteer and hope they continue with the great work they do. The club is open to more offers of help and to all suggestions anyone might have as to how we can improve the club.

This year saw the construction of artificial nets on the railway side of the ground; the project was a huge undertaking and it was great to see the nets in use towards the end of the season. The construction costs totalled just short of £42,000 and the club needs to find approximately £6,000 of this over the next few years, the newly formed fundraising committee are hard at work coming up with new ideas to raise this element. There were other costs associated with the nets, not least legal costs of more than £1,200 and the ongoing cost of maintenance, depending on use, within 10 years time we might need to renew the carpets and this could cost a large four-figure sum.

These nets will be a huge help as we continue to provide cricket and coaching to our junior section, it is incumbent on all of us to make sure they are maintained and used effectively. In the current economic climate it is unlikely we will see any more grants of this size, currently ECB funding is only available for women's and girl's cricket and disabled cricket. The ECB have given the club a grant of £31,100, the Lord's Taverners have donated £4,000, Cheshire East council gave £500 and Cheshire Community Action gave £1,650 via their Grassroots grant scheme. We are grateful to all the funding organisations and I hope they will all be present when we officially open the nets next year. We are also extremely grateful to the Cheshire Cricket Board, Mike Woollard and Richard Newton, for all their help in securing the funding. The ECB offices at Old Trafford also provided a huge amount of help, especially Dan Musson, Regional Funding & Facilities Manager (North) who worked hard on behalf of Ashley, and many other clubs, and Janine Holt who made sure we got funding from the Lord's Taverners.

The club is also indebted to Will Wright and Richard Lomas for all their hard work in steering the club through the tricky business that is the planning process and Kevin Tierney for overseeing the

process of drawing up a lease for the piece of land the nets are built on. Their time, knowledge and effort were given freely and no doubt saved the club a large amount of time and money.

The fact that we host county games, are Clubmark accredited, have all our coaches registered with the ECB coaches association and attend the Trafford cricket forum ensures we receive the full support of the board, without this we would not have been put forward for funding. It is important we continue to develop our junior section and that we ensure full use of these nets in future years, not least to replace all the 1<sup>st</sup> team players that seem to leave us each year.

We were fortunate to receive some funding from the People's Postcode Lottery at the start of the season. This money allowed us to continue our programme of coaching in local schools. Our coaches were able to offer children at 5 local schools free, regular coaching in school time. We also developed a girls team from one school that was all set to enter a local tournament until rain interrupted and it had to be cancelled. We hope to continue this initiative next year and beyond, especially our efforts to run a girls team under the Ashley CC banner.

You can read more on the People's Postcode Lottery and their initiatives here: [www.postcode lottery.com](http://www.postcode lottery.com)

Towards the end of the season we established four new committees in order for the club to work more effectively. The Cricket Committee under Dave Woods' chairmanship will decide on things like selection policy, ensuring players get the best playing experience out of the club, identifying when the best junior players are ready to move into senior cricket if that's what they want to do, ensuring senior players look to help coach/manage the junior teams, player recruitment and retention, securing the best overseas player each year and many other tasks.

The clubs need for increase revenue streams is in the hands of Fundraising Committee chairman Martin Howe and his 12 volunteers, a mixture of parents, junior and senior players. They have had some great ideas as to what the club can do to improve cash flow, and they will be writing to all members soon asking what members want from the club, what sort of events will they support etc. As part of our efforts to publicise the club we have a presence on Facebook (Ashley CC) and Twitter (@bigbirdashley) and I would encourage everyone to follow us.

The Pavilion and Ground committee has a large number of projects to oversee, not least how to stop the livestock from surrounding fields from trampling on the outfield and square. Ally Horn has now started his new career with British Gas, but this small team will be working hard over the winter, and will no doubt appreciate a few more willing volunteers to help. We received planning permission from Cheshire East council to build a scoreboard in the south east corner of the ground; we had been given a large amount of free materials thanks to Darren Griffiths of One Stop Fencing as well as several other offers of free labour and materials; this project needs to be completed in time for the 2011 season if we are to meet new league guidelines for facilities.

Finally the Junior and Coaching committee will ensure we are running an effective and enjoyable junior section with lots of willing and well-trained coaches. They will also monitor the number of players we have at each age group and look to put them in the appropriate league structure or organise friendlies. As always we welcome parental input to this committee and we are searching for more players/parents willing to take coaching qualifications or learn how to score and umpire. We will have the assistance of the Cheshire Cricket Board as we seek to upgrade our coaching plans, we will also have a well-qualified and enthusiastic overseas player who is very keen to get involved on Monday nights.

Once again we were fortunate to have a successful overseas player at the club, Grant Webb not only scored runs, took wickets and held catches but helped out at every junior net practice and watched most Sunday home games. He led the side in several matches when Ian Barber left the club and attended every fundraiser and club event. His enthusiasm for the club and the game was evident to anyone who spent time with him and he has my thanks for playing a big part in keeping the first team in division 1 and for his all round efforts on and off the pitch. He also led the club to the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the Cheshire Cup for the first time in many years where a side made up predominantly of Sunday players performed admirably against our Premier League neighbours Bowdon, who were relegated at the end of the season. The club would also like to thank Paul and Simone Breedon for

employing Grant throughout the summer.

Looking forward to next year we are keen to take part in two initiatives that help community clubs like ours; vCricket and Cricketforce.

vCricket is a scheme that rewards young people aged 16 to 25 who volunteer at local organisations. We are looking for a volunteer co-ordinator to run the scheme at Ashley, the rewards for those taking part will be a boost to their CV, increased employment chances, as employers will always note time potential employees have spent volunteering and the chance to make a difference to their club. Volunteers are rewarded as they complete 25, 50 and 100 hours. In Cheshire this scheme can be tweaked to allow younger people to be involved in volunteering and to gain similar rewards. As this report is being written we have 4 players aged 23 or under who have signed up to take their Level 1 umpires qualification.

Cricketforce is a long running programme that allows clubs to renovate their facilities with help from Natwest, volunteers and loads of companies who offer reductions on various materials. This isn't a scheme we have fully benefited from in recent years, we have had our usual pre and post season work parties, but we can do so much more if an enthusiastic volunteers takes hold of this scheme we can make a huge difference to the facilities at Ashley.

Projects that need completing include the construction of a new scoreboard, renovation of the bar saloon area including new floor coverings, improved lighting, loft insulation, roof repairs and a general tidying up of the ground and outfield. If anyone wants to help with these two projects please make yourselves known to the executive committee.

Towards the end of the year Hale Barns approached us and several other clubs about setting up a Trafford clubs T20 mid-week competition; the objective is to provide more cricket for club members and to try and give junior players an introduction to senior cricket. We are very keen to take part in this new competition and will use it to encourage older junior players to make the move into senior Saturday cricket. Other sides that might take part are Woodford, Ashton on Mersey, Knutsford, Trafford MV and Lymm Outrington Park.

A new grant initiative offering sports clubs the chance to upgrade facilities, buildings and playing surfaces has just been launched by the National Lottery and the club is investigating two projects that might be supported; a project to remove all the thatch from the outfield, relay and reseed the grass and install drainage plus a project to build an extension to the pavilion and update the changing rooms, increase the opportunity for storage within the pavilion and increased security for the storage of all our ground equipment.

The senior sides will play the following sides this coming season with new teams from 2010 highlighted.

Division 1 Division A Division 3 West Division 4 West

Alvanley Alvanley Ashley **Alvanley 3**

Ashley Ashley **Brooklands 4** Ashley

**Ashton-on-Mersey Ashton-on-Mersey** Middlewich 3 Nantwich 4

**Birkenhead Park** Barnton **Mobberley 3 Neston 5**

Davenham **Birkenhead Park** Oulton Park 3 **Northwich 3**

Hale Barns **Cholmondeley** Oxton 3 **Tranmere Vics**

Northwich Hale Barns Runcorn 3 **Warrington 5**

Oakmere Northwich Stretton 3 **Wisaston 3**

**Prestbury** Oakmere Widnes 3

**Runcorn** Runcorn Winnington Park 3

Trafford MV Stretton

Weaverham **Weaverham**

### Treasurer – Brian Birtles

The club has made a profit of £1,031 this year, after a loss last year of £3,945; we have £5,650 in the bank as well as approximately £250 of cricket clothing in stock.

This turnaround is to everyone's credit as we have all worked hard to support fundraising efforts and paid subs and match fees on time. We have also cut back on expenditure on equipment, on the pavilion and ground. We have invested heavily in a 3-lane artificial practice facility that has cost £43,700 including legal fees, another £400 of which will have to be paid out next year; this has seen our income and expenditure climb to over £60,000 and has left us with the task of finding £6,370 of the total cost out of our own funds over the next 5 years.

We are extremely grateful to all funding bodies that have supported the new nets and over the next 5 to 10 years and beyond we must make sure the facility is used to its maximum benefit and that we can comfortably pay of the interest free loan we have taken out with the ECB and pay for its future maintenance.

This project saw the formation of the fundraising committee to spearhead fundraising at the club, but I would ask all members and players to continually look to improve the cash flow of the club, please be pragmatic, rather than wait for someone to ask you if you can get your employer to sponsor a match ball, ask your employer, supplier or customer if he/she can help. You'd be surprised how much it costs to run a sports club, especially one like ours that requires cash flow 12 months of the year but is only "open" for 6 months of the year, (see analysis on page 24). For instance we spent £2,496 on the ground in the last 3 months of the year, on loam, grass seed, fertilizer, new equipment and servicing costs of most of our ground machinery, this is with little income over the same period, about £1,100. The cost of servicing our ground machinery for 2009 & 2010 are included in this year's accounts as we serviced them late last year and early this year

We have turned around a significant loss from last year and the main reason for this is increased annual subscriptions (£850) increased bar takings (£786; this figure is probably nearer to £1,000 as it has been difficult to accurately record money taken over the bar at various events held at the club, some bar takings may have been put under fundraising & sponsorship) and hirings (£300).

We have lost £1,686 in fundraising income compared to 2009 and this can be accounted for by a reduction in money raised via the events we ran in 2010 (£900) reduced sponsorship (£500). We failed to run a bonus ball competition or football pontoon in 2010, these two are very simple means by which we can raise money for the club, it would be great if someone was to step forward and offer to run these this coming year, or perhaps a 100 club?

Moving to expenditure on the pavilion and cricket equipment, last year most of the expenditure on the former was via grant funding, and this year most of the money we spent on the pavilion was after the burst pipe and was paid for by the insurance claim (£846). The amount the club has had to find from its own money to spend on cricket equipment has increased by £199; last year £5,800 out of £6,917 was paid for by grant funding; this year we spent £1,316

Winter nets ran up another loss in 2010, in 2009 we lost less than £200, this year nearly £400, this was due to too many weeks of low turnout at a venue that is too costly for us to continue to use.

This year has seen us recoup some of 2009's losses and I hope we can continue the trend in the coming years. I would ask everyone to get their annual subs paid sooner rather than later, please don't wait till the last few games of the season, come to matches with the right money to pay your match fees, this will greatly help your captain; everyone knows how much match fees are; try and get a match ball sponsor each, we do have plenty to offer our sponsors and finally get to pre-season

nets each week, again with the right money.

Annual subscriptions for junior and senior players will remain the same for 2011, as will match fees for senior players. There is a proposal at the AGM to offer reduced annual subs to new senior players in the first year of their membership.

The annual statement of income and expenditure for the year to 21<sup>st</sup> December 2010 is shown below.

## ASHLEY CC ACCOUNTS

### Year ending 21st December 2010

<u>2009</u>		<u>2010</u>	<u>+/-</u>
£	INCOME	£	
3,525	<sup>1</sup> Annual Subscriptions	4,366	841
3,492	Bar	4,278	786
125	Clothing	334	209
4,782	<sup>2</sup> Fundraising & Sponsorship	3,096	-1,686
6,750	<sup>3</sup> Grants, Loans & Donations	45,480	38,730
950	<sup>4</sup> Hiring	1,265	315
107	Insurance	831	724
196	League Dinner	112	-84
2,131	<sup>5</sup> Match fees	2,227	97
540	Miscellaneous	40	-500
976	Winter Nets	1,231	255
23,572	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	63,260	39,688
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
-	<sup>1</sup> Artificial Nets	43,730	43,730
1,937	Bar	2,965	1,028
338	Clothing	626	288
590	Coaching	1,540	950
6,917	Cricket Equipment	1,316	-5,601
606	Donation	396	-210
382	Expenses	460	78
259	Fees & Fines	390	132
4,932	Ground	4,978	46
1,176	Insurance	1,231	56
196	League Dinner	112	-84
370	Miscellaneous	544	174
1,112	Winter Nets	1,619	507
7,587	Pavilion	1,281	-6,306

1,115	Rent/Rates/Lease/Utilities	1,039	-76
27,517	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	62,230	34,712
- 3,945	<b>Profit/(Loss)</b>	1,031	
8,564	FUNDS AT THE START OF THE YEAR	4,619	
4,619	<b>FUNDS AT END OF THE YEAR</b>	5,650	

### Notes to accounts

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
1 Juniors (50)	2,010	1 Total Play	42,381
Seniors (38)	2,356	ECB Loan repayment	637
		(2 payments out of 20 made in Aug & Nov 2010)	
2 Race night	687	Fees	712
Sponsors	1,220		
Gift Aid & CASC	706		
Darts night	170		
World Cup draw	245		
Others	68		
3 ECB grants	31,110		
ECB Loan	6,370		
Cheshire East council	500		
Grassroots grant	1,650		
Lord's Taverners	4,000		
People postcode	1,800		
Garner family	50		
4 Colin Dixon	350		
Shell	480		
Steve Coleman	25		
Ashley Shoot	300		
Cheshire Cricket	110		
5 First XI	328		
Second XI	490		
Third XI	715		

Fourth XI

694

	Actual			Artificial nets		Artificial nets excluded		
	Income	Expend	Net +/-	Income	Expend	Income	Expend	Net +/-
Jan	480	835 -	355			480	835 -	355
Feb	811	841 -	30			811	841 -	30
Mar	8,920	1,182	7,738	6,370		2,550	1,182	1,368
Apr	23,566	1,160	22,406	21,191		2,375	1,160	1,215
May	12,963	23,817 -	10,854	9,919	21,680	3,044	2,137	907
Jun	5,278	17,605 -	12,327	1,650	14,491	3,628	3,113	515
Jul	1,169	1,378 -	209		223	1,169	1,155	14
Aug	2,727	2,405	322			2,727	2,405	322
Sep	2,244	1,661	583		319	2,244	1,342	902
Oct	4,879	2,645	2,234	4,000		879	2,645 -	1,766
Nov	25	1,006 -	981			25	1,006 -	981
Dec	198	7,694 -	7,496		7,017	198	677 -	479
	63,260	62,230		43,130	43,730	20,130	18,499	
Profit		1,031				Profit	1,631	

### 1<sup>st</sup> XI Report – Dave Woods

It has been a difficult season for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI with the club abruptly and without warning, losing their captain of 4 years but one that still saw several highlights and the bleeding of three talented young players. Indeed Northwich midway through the season witnessed the youngest Ashley side in living memory secure a creditable high scoring draw with seven players under 21 years of age, and Grant Webb the 2nd oldest in the team at 26 years old. Regrettably, your correspondent, not so long ago the young buck, was now the old man.

Ashley welcomed Grant Webb into the club from Sydney and despite a terrible mid-season with the bat relative to his ability, he still managed to score 749 runs including two centuries, take 26 wickets, and snaffle 20 catches mostly at slip. His century against Northwich was perhaps the best I have witnessed in my time at the club. His contribution went far beyond the 1<sup>st</sup> XI and was a great supporter of all the club events, as well as the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> XI whom he followed most weeks.

As a coach and Child Welfare Officer I would also like to place on record my sincere thanks to Grant for his enthusiasm and commitment every Monday throughout the season with our junior players of all age groups. It has been a great experience to play with Grant this year and he has built on the great work done by each of our previous overseas players in recent years and reinforced the belief of the committee that we should continue in our attempts to attract an overseas player in 2011. Our thanks to Ian Barber for identifying and recruiting Grant, and supporting him in the early weeks of the season, before sending him to Coventry, which strangely wasn't on Grant's list of places to visit.

Back to the cricket, the season started off reasonably well with three wins from seven including a rain off. Runs for the top order including new signing and opening bat; Mark Farrell, and wickets spread around the bowlers, and Paul Hanrahan picking up 5-37 against Davenham. Particularly memorable was a great win at Oakmere with contributions right down the order as ACC scraped over the line in the last over with 16 year old wicketkeeper Martin Blain on debut snaffling 3 catches, executing a run out, and fearlessly crashing the winning runs over cover in the final over for a tense 1 wicket win. From this great high it went downhill for a while following the shock resignation of the captain.

Grant Webb stepped in as skipper and unfortunately for him and the rest of the lads it coincided

with poor availability and several injuries that deprived him of senior players. This resulted in some of the worst batting performances in recent memory, and certainly one that ranks as an all time low. Scores of 30, 66, and 70 were simply shameful as confidence seemed to drain from the side week by week.

Thankfully good performances against Hale Barns and Winnington Park showed glimpses of what the inexperienced line up were capable of. Harry Horsfall scoring an excellent 84 not out to chase down 191 at home, and a debut ton from Andy Shakespeare as he amassed a chanceless 120 not out.

The Cheshire Cup provided a welcome distraction early in the season with Grant scoring a century against an experienced and well-remunerated Chelford side including former Pakistan test and ODI player Shahid Mahboob. After putting Chelford to the sword Ashley travelled to South Downs Road to play a strong Bowdon side. Unfortunately we didn't put enough runs on the board and despite rattling them with two quick wickets from Josh Wardle, Bowdon's young Lancashire academy star, Jordan Clarke, rescued the game for them and smashed 90 in 30 minutes to end the cup run for another year but it was a good experience for a young Ashley side.

Back to the league and the 1<sup>st</sup> XI were losing senior players like wildfire, with Gandy and Alves missing most of the season through injury, Farrell missing 60% of the season through work and holidays, Logan discovering he had the knees of a 60 year old. Nad nursed his Achilles through the season, Hanrahan missed most of the season with work commitments, Tyms picked up more injuries than wickets, and of course Woods dislocated yet another finger. Shakespeare also left in a huff dismayed by the poor batting.

Batting was the real Achilles heel of the side this year and nowhere was this more evident than at Weaverham, which saw a pitiful response of 30 all out after the home side had plundered 240-6. Further poor batting followed against a lively pace attack at Alvanley and we were twice hustled for 57 and 70 by champions Stockport.

Despite some poor performances, team spirit remain good and the team picked up a couple of good wins against Davenham (with George Power rolling back the years to rip out their top order and return figures of 5-20), and Mere, and but for a suicidal run-out involving yours truly we would have recorded a remarkable win against promotion winning Malpas.

The bowlers worked hard all season and whilst never being able to blast a side out, deprived as we were of 3 of the quickest bowlers in the league for most of the season. The attack led largely by Nad Alam needs reinforcement next year, but this year he did a great job and deserves his MVP.

This year also saw a big improvement in our fielding with the exception of Weaverham where we perhaps dropped more catches in one game than we had shelled all season. Fielding is an area we can all strive to improve through effort and practice and I would hope that the 2011 captain will take this on further. It is hoped that that next season more players will turn up early and get out there to practice their skills on a match day prior to the game.

In terms of player development Harry Hatchell, Matt Wardle and Martin Blain stepped up from the 2nd team, with Ben Barrow and Tommy Smith becoming established in the 2nd team and all showed great character, temperament and ability which bodes well for the future. I have great faith in each of them and expect them to make great strides next year and contribute match-winning performances.

Clearly over the winter we need to seek reinforcements to both our batting line up and bowling attack and I would encourage everyone to use every contact they have to try to attract quality players to the club to add quality and improve competition for places.

I would also like to place on record my sincere thanks to Steve Logan for his support and considerable efforts throughout what was a difficult season for him personally. Despite his struggle for form and serious knee condition, he performed the roles of coach, senior player, selector, and captain, putting the demands of the team and the club at the forefront and for that I will remain extremely grateful.

In closing I would like to add that the team and club officers have learned many lessons from this season of adversity and I am confident it will act as a catalyst for putting the team back on an upward trajectory in the coming years.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> XI Report – Dave Rice**

On the face of it 7th position with 295 points constitutes a good effort, however when you look the points split, circa 200 in the first half of the season and 95 in the second half, there is evidence of an alarming slide. I'm sure that the newly formed Cricket Committee will address the reasons for this for the forthcoming new season as it is of paramount importance that the Second XI remains in this very competitive league in order to provide a good breeding ground for aspiring First XI cricketers.

As was reported last season some of our younger players continued to emerge and it was excellent to see Harry Hatchell and Martin Blain play for the First XI and both made telling contributions. James Semple and Ally Berryman both played at least fourteen games each and made significant contributions; James with a highest score of 28 and Ally 35. Hopefully they will maintain their progress next season and should both set themselves a target of 300 2<sup>nd</sup> XI runs for next season. At the mid way point of the season Ben Barrow joined us and showed excellent technique in defence and gave the batting some backbone this being shown with an undefeated 60 against Winsford batting through the whole innings. Ben should look to score 400+ second XI runs next season, hopefully from the position of opening the innings.

With the ball Rish Agrawal bowled well especially in his first spells and we also saw the emergence of Zain Sardozai who bowled with some pace at the end of the season. We would have liked Matt Wardle and Rick Axon both to have been available more but University and Travel commitments starved us of their availability.

The not so young Ashley players contributed well, Dave Rice made 'the book' with 417 runs at 34, Dave Royle averaged nearly 30, also Harry Hatchell blazed 244 runs including an impressive 98\* against Oakmere in a game where we chased down 237 to win by 6 wickets with 4 overs left. The week after this we beat Alvanley by 1 wicket chasing 200 and a few games later we hit 242 in beating Stretton by 3 wickets.

On the bowling side George Power and Gary Tyms took 23 and 21 wickets respectively whilst Nick Holt and Rish 18 wickets each. The side badly missed Chris Pendlebury who only played one game all season due to a dog walking injury. But, in your correspondents eyes all the plaudits most go to Skipper Ally Horn who sacrificed his own batting position to give others a chance and led the side with enthusiasm and optimism when others might have thrown in the towel.

It is disappointing that it seems that players within the club do not wish to play competitive Second XI cricket as come Friday some weeks all the other senior sides were fully covered whilst the Seconds were still short of a full side. This situation must not be allowed to continue and I know it is a priority issue to be addressed by the Cricket Committee.

We cannot let a report finish without giving massive thanks to Brian for his unstinting support, Dave Twiney for producing the best wickets in the league bar none and to Jeannie Horn and Angela from the Post Office for excellent teas.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> XI Captain – Pete Burgess**

Another season which saw Ashley's thirds in the running all season to gain promotion but this time sadly falling at the last hurdle by losing at Winnington Park on the last day of the season, such a disappointing end to a great season that was not affected by the rain allowing all 18 games to go ahead with 10 wins 2 Draws and 6 losses.

Availability was good this season with 10 players involved in 9 games or more which certainly helped steady the ship and build on the team spirit from last season.

8 players in total made the league handbook:

Batting: - Brownhill average 36.31, H Hatchell (33.50), Burt (32.36) and A Murray (25.77)

Bowling: - P Burgess 43 wkts, Harrison 26 wkts, M Burgess 20 wkts, J Wardle 17 wkts.

The first half of the season saw an opening batting partnership of Brownhill and Hatchell which saw the junior member Hatch take the lead smashing attacks to all parts of the ground whilst Brownhill held the Ashley innings together. One example was at Stretton when the first 4 balls of the innings went for 16 resulting in the opening quickie resorting to spin in his next over and the 50 was up within 6 overs. Hatch's last innings opening for the 3's was a quick fire 74 at home to Runcorn before he graduated to the first team thus limiting his appearances.

There were some solid batting performances from Brownhill, Burt, Murray, Ollie Griffiths and Tommy Smith throughout the season with the latter two hitting their first 50's for the club.

Such performances enabled Ashley to hit some big runs including a huge 272-7 at home to Runcorn the highest 3rd team total I can remember in my 14 years at Ashley CC.

The bowling had a consistent attack of Harrison, J Wardle, Burgess M, Burgess P and Burt taking 118 wickets between them at an average of under 19 a piece, this was also backed up by on the whole some very good out fielding with Tommy Smith and Martin Blain sharing the keepers duties.

Looking back on the 2010 season it was good to see how the Under 19 members of the squad Matt and Josh Wardle, Harry Hatchell, Tommy Smith, Martin Blain and George Harrison had come on from previous season with them contributing with all aspects of their game and also enjoying their cricket.

There is one player who deserves a special mention and that is John Burt who is moving back to New Zealand in January. He has been my vice captain for the last 2 seasons and in total has captained a full season in my absence. Playing his first game for Ashley 3's in 2007 he has scored 1054 runs averaging 26.35 with a highest score of 106\*, taken 31 wickets at an average of 25.8 along with 21 catches; most of them being of high quality, 3 in particular this season, 2 of them saw him charging in from the boundary and diving full stretch and an outrageous one handed effort at deep mid on.

John, along with Dawn and Ella, will be greatly missed by all at Ashley and we wish them all the best of luck. A good cricketer and a great bloke to boot.

Next season sees the 3's under new captaincy with Ollie Griffiths as Skip and Mike Burgess and Vice Skip and they will hopefully lead on the 3rd team to promotion next season after 2 seasons of so near but yet so far.

I have enjoyed my 3 years as skipper of Ashley 3's and look forward to helping the new partnership move the team forward in the 2011 season and beyond.

Captain's player of the season John Burt

Players Player of the season Peter Burgess

Champagne Moment Mike Burgess 5 wickets in 4 overs v Runcorn resulting in a win from nowhere

Right Guard Sweaty Kit Award George Harrison [2nd year running]

#### **4<sup>th</sup> XI Captain – Brian Birtles**

A fantastic season saw the fourths win 8 of their 18 games; they had only 1 win in the previous season. This year's stats were slightly misleading as we had lost two games but the league management committee decided that our opponents had fielded ineligible players, this saw us move up from 8<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>. We didn't register a complaint, one of the teams who beat us had registered a complaint about another club with the league and ended up getting investigated themselves; the rules are quite clear on who can and can't play, so we feel we can claim with some justification to have deserved our final placing; in the end only 30 points off a promotion place.

There were some outstanding performances this year, in no particular order, Si Ferris hitting his first ton, and carrying his bat, adding an unbeaten 183 for the first wicket against Woodford with John Ward, Dan Eadie once again in the wickets, this time a record breaking 21, he also averaged 8 with the bat, Darren Griffiths overcoming a difficult season with the bat to return as a potent opening bowler, his 6 for 46 in the home game against Bredbury was great to see. Ally Berryman showed how much he has improved as a batsman, he managed just over 100 runs for the 4ths but was involved in two good partnerships of 60 and 90. Rich Brewster scored over 200 mostly very patient runs and went onto help the 2nds out later in the season, as did Imran; his bowling is more than capable of taking lots of 2<sup>nd</sup> team wickets.

Finally our catching and fielding has improved immensely, the final home match a good example with Ally holding onto 4 difficult catches and James Semple taking a blinder to remove danger man Colin Rowe which set us on the way to our first win against Bollington.

Overall this was a season of many highs and the whole squad can be proud of the improvements we have made this year. Next year we may well line up in a re-organised Division 4 set-up, we could be placed in the West and will have to take on some tough sides, it's a challenge all the players are up for I'm sure. Thanks as always to all the players, the parents of the younger players who travel and support us all the time, to the groundsman Dave Twiney for all his hard work and I look forward to seeing you at nets in the New Year.

#### **Child Welfare Officer – Dave Woods**

This is now the end of my third year as CWO and whilst I still very much enjoy playing and intend to continue for some years yet, my involvement with the junior section both as CWO and as coach has left me feeling re-invigorated and consequently I am happy to stand for re-election for 2011. I believe we have continued to make great strides with our junior section and I am keen to help us maintain this drive forward and go from strength to strength.

It fills me with great pride that we have so many young people at the club who are clearly enjoying their sport and their time down at Ashley. As one of the club's less naturally talented players I take great pleasure in seeing all our junior players improve on a weekly basis, and increasingly more players making the step up to senior cricket and not only enjoying it but making a genuine contribution to the game and just as importantly, to the team spirit. Indeed we had 2 players of 16 years of age representing the 1st X1 every week and there are several other U18's who played regularly in the 2X1 who are waiting in the wings for the 2011 season.

2010 saw good participation across all age levels and especially at practice nights both during the winter and the summer seasons. With more qualified coaches in addition to the much valued contribution of our overseas players Grant and Mothi, the practice nights were very enjoyable and skill levels improved across the age groups. With the exciting new practice facility that was completed at the end of the season we anticipate being able to offer more quality time batting and bowling on good surfaces, which will also free up more of the actual playing area for practice and fielding games.

I am also very pleased to report that our junior section won their first silverware in the club's recent history with the U9s winning the Sale CC Under 11 end of season tournament. Congratulations to all the boys and to their coach Liam which is a reflection and reward for their hard work and

enthusiasm this year.

There were two minor incidents involving the use of bad language in match scenarios that I feel I must report on. One in which one of players was the victim being abused by opposition, and one in which one of our players was the perpetrator after being dismissed. Both matters were addressed in house either on a club to club basis or through a quiet word with the players concerned who were warned as to their future conduct, and no further occurrences were noted. However this did reinforce the need for all senior coaches and players to be very watchful when using language in and around the cricket club when junior players are present so that this type of behaviour is not promoted.

Looking forward to the 2011 season the junior coaching team are keen to develop a framework to provide greater focus on individual skills with the use of tailored development plans. We are also excited by the signing of our overseas player for 2011; Dylan Freitag from Melbourne who is the Junior Co-ordinator and Senior Coach at his club and will bring great experience and different skills to our junior program. We will be circulating Dylan's CV in forthcoming newsletters and hope that all members and parents will use any contacts they may have to help us identify work opportunities for Dylan.

We continue to seek support to team managers and coaches across the age groups. This could include anything from helping with a few catching games at practice, transport to games, help with scoring or even just making sure players are kitted up correctly at matches. Simply providing a little help once per month on a rota basis would make a huge difference.

Whilst I genuinely think we are improving year on year, we can't think of everything or provide everything we want to do. If any player, parent or supporter has any feedback or suggestions as to what we can do better, then please let me or any of the junior coaching team know and we will do what we can to take that forward.

Finally I would like to thank all junior coaches, team managers, parents, and players for an enjoyable season. And to Brian Birtles for inspiring me personally and for his unstinting commitment and enthusiasm for cricket at all levels.

### **Under 9's – Liam Cusack**

Following on from our first season last year the benefit of a years playing and coaching became obvious as we had a very successful season in which we won many games quite easily and the few we lost were all by a few runs. I personally think we were the best team in our league this year also we played every game in the right spirit including offering to play for opposition when they were short.

Another area that shows the progress made was the number of Under 9s who played for the under 11s and I mean played they didn't just make up the numbers; none of the players were in the least bit overawed by playing two years above their age group, this again shows a lot of promise for Ashley as a club in the future

I will not mention individual players as we play as a team and that ethos has helped us gel and make all new players welcome as they have joined through the season; but our team ethic extends beyond players to our team of parents who have given me great support this season (especially getting a team to Alderley Edge for 9am on a Saturday morning.)

I hope we all enjoyed the junior presentation night and this will be an annual event with more notice given in future; also thank you to the mums who had put their hands up to play in game against their kids.

Going into the next season we will lose some players to Under 11s but will also have some of our original younger players coming into their own as I feel confident they will fill the gaps and take on greater responsibility.

I am already looking forward to winter nets at Sale Grammar School and another fun and successful season

## **SALE TOURNAMENT**

Having been invited to the Sale Cricket Club tournament that was unfortunately rained off earlier in year we managed to field a mainly Under 9s team in an Under11s tournament, although to be fair Tommy and Josh from the under 11s were two of our South Trafford district players

On an enjoyable Sunday we won the tournament, the first of many trophies I hope for this group of players. As usual we played with a smile on our faces and won our games with relative ease; as usual we were the best fielding team and the best supported team with our travelling fans offering great support.

Hopefully next year we can defend this trophy, as most of our team will again be eligible to play. As this is a new tournament the trophy will forever show Ashley as the first winners and we will be presenting trophy and putting picture up in clubhouse at the start of next season

Finally can I say what a pleasure it has been to coach such a good group not just as cricketers but as well behaved and well mannered children

## **UNDER 11's – Sefton Kwasnik**

Thankfully the weather allowed great progress to be made with the under 11's this year in terms of matches played. We ran 2 teams, 1 playing out cricket for the first time, the other playing pairs. Although we had over 20 boys in this age group we did struggle to get 2 teams out, and sometimes had to borrow brothers and sisters.

A nucleus of players provided the main core for both teams, in particular, Josh Foster (player of the year), George Johnston, Ben Ashworth-Kwasnik, and Tommy Ryan played a lot of cricket, and all represented Trafford Boys as well.

We had some great results including a dramatic pairs cricket win against Cheadle in the dark and wet at Woodford Rec. Considering we lost 6 players at the start of the season the boys did very well especially against teams of similar experience.

On a go forward basis we need to improve the use of time in educating the boys and maximizing training nights, both indoors and outdoors, but with the new all weather nets hopefully a rota can be drawn up to give the boys the practice they need. Also some of the boys also played under 13's and next season we need to make sure we give them as many cricketing opportunities as possible, even if we have to play farther a field at Under 12s as well as Under 13s.

We also need a little more parental support, as it can be embarrassing not to have a scorer and helpers when we entertain teams or travel.

All in all a great and enjoyable season, thank you for giving me the opportunity of contributing to player development and running the team. I hope to be able to contribute again next season

## **Under 13s**

The under 13s worked hard all year in a league full of strong teams and they didn't let some heavy defeats get them down. Their first win at Bowdon Vale was the result of team work and keeping a cool head when the game got down to the final few deliveries. They were supplemented some weeks by Under 11 players and they all showed what a fearless bunch they are, especially when they were

up against sides with county players.

I want to thank all the parents of this squad who continue to support the players and the club, especially Angela Atkin who worked tirelessly to organise the lads and made sure that we had a full side most weeks and coach Ian Gallagher who was at training most Monday's and got the best out of all the players.

Most of the boys will be eligible to play in this age group again and I hope they continue to enjoy their cricket and continue to benefit from the hard work they all put in at training and during matches.

### **Under 15s – Wes Semple**

The Under 15 season got off to a poor start with a lack of players leaving us no option but to concede games. We brought in several under 13 players who all played above themselves and meant no more games were conceded.

As the season went on we picked up four or five new players and we began to win matches. On the batting front we discovered our own Freddie Flintoff in Ally Berryman; Ally mauled several sides with his gung ho attitude and he finished a brilliant fourth highest run maker in the league.

Then there was Alex Eaton who started late in the season but still managed to top the league batting averages. Also Ben McKie became mister dependable with the bat.

On the bowling front Ben opened the bowling with Alex and they were consistently a fine partnership. Then James Semple, leading wicket taker, and Joe Smith finished them off.

On the whole a great season, thanks for some great support from Dave Coffey who came to every game and did the scorebook and helped with running of the team.

### **Groundsman's Report – Dave Twiney**

This season we used the three pitches re-laid in 2008 for the first time, the verdict was generally good - batsmen reported lower than usual bounce. Hopefully this is because the new loam has not yet fully consolidated with the underlying surface - so future seasons should see this gradually improving.

We had allocated two pitches at each end of the square for juniors - so in theory the club could play 2 U11s or 2 U9s or mixture simultaneously. As far as I'm aware this was never done and in general the U9s and U11s pitches were not well used. I left pitch 6 to be available for County Juniors - and once again this single fixture turned out well with good weather and plenty of help from the club on what proved to be a successful day.

I'm convinced this single fixture helps us no end in dealings with the County and ECB for grants etc.

The early season was notable for good weather and a lack of rain. Good pitches resulted in high scores. There were no problems with waterlogged outfield. By July we were seeing the outfield turning brown and the square desperately needing water.

As United Utilities announced a Hose Pipe Ban at the start of July the rains returned - and didn't stop for most of the remainder of the season - however I don't remember losing any Saturday fixtures.

I have found that with care I can get a worn pitch back into use in around 6 weeks. This year we used pitches 7,9 and 11 twice. There is room for consolidating our pitch use to fewer strips - especially if we could improve access to piped water to the square.

Roughly our pitch use was -

- 1 U9 (18 yd) matches 2
- 2 U11 (20 yd) 2
- 3 (22 yd) practice
- 4 U13/U15 (22yd) 11
- 5 (22 yd) 2
- 6 (20 yd) County Juniors 1
- 7 (22 yd) Senior League 8
- 8 4
- 9 7
- 10 5
- 11 6
- 12 3
- 13 (new pitch) 8
- 14 (new pitch) 4
- 15 (new pitch ) (hires) 16
- 16 U11 0
- 17 U9 0

A couple of discussion points from the season - am I wrong or did the U9/U11 play hardly any home games? What pitch requirements do they predict for next season?

If we could get suitable hosepipes we could water areas of the square even with the low water pressure we seem to get at Ashley. Basically by sticking a punctured pipe on the end of a new hose and leaving running overnight. This would obviously incur some cost - for water consumed as well as the cost of getting some decent hosepipes.

I should like to propose this as a project for next year - as it will greatly improve the speed with which a worn pitch can be recovered as well as allowing for better pitch preparation in times when we are not getting regular rainfall.

### Election of Officers for 2011

The following officers were elected unanimously:

OFFICE	2010 HOLDER	NOMINEE	PROPOSED	SECONDED
PATRON	Vacant	No nomination		
PRESIDENT	Geoff Garnett	Geoff Garnett	Brian Birtles	Dave Woods
CHAIRMAN	Dave Jackson (retiring)	Dave Rice	Brian Birtles	Dave Jackson
SECRETARY	Brian Birtles	Brian Birtles	Dave Jackson	Martin Howe
TREASURER	Brian Birtles	Brian Birtles	Simon Ferris	Liam Cusack
BAR CHAIRMAN	Jeff Thorpe	Jeff Thorpe	Brian Birtles	Ian Horn
LEAGUE REP – MBCCL	Brian Birtles	Brian Birtles	Martin Howe	Dave Jackson
LEAGUE REP – PSCCCL	Brian Birtles	Brian Birtles	Rich Brewster	Dave Jackson
1 <sup>st</sup> XI CAPTAIN	Steve Logan	Alex Wigfield	Dave Woods	Steve Logan
1 <sup>st</sup> XI VICE CAPTAIN	Alex Wigfield	Steve Logan	Martin Howe	Alex Wigfield
2 <sup>nd</sup> XI CAPTAIN	Ally Horn (retiring)	Nick Holt	Dave Woods	Dave Jackson
2 <sup>nd</sup> XI VICE CAPTAIN	Vacant	No nomination		
3 <sup>rd</sup> XI CAPTAIN	Peter Burgess (retiring)	Oliver Griffiths	Pete Burgess	Liam Cusack
3 <sup>rd</sup> XI VICE CAPTAIN	John Burt (emigrating)	Mike Burgess	Pete Burgess	Brian Birtles
4 <sup>th</sup> XI CAPTAIN	Brian Birtles	Brian Birtles	Liam Cusack	Simon Ferris
4 <sup>th</sup> XI VICE CAPTAIN	Vacant	No nomination		
FRIENDLY XI CAPTAIN	Vacant	No nomination		
T20 CAPTAIN	Vacant	Steve Logan	Brian Birtles	Dave Jackson
VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR	Vacant	No nomination		

<b>JUNIOR ORGANISER</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	<b>Brian Birtles</b>	<b>Rich Brewster</b>	<b>Liam Cusack</b>
<b>FIXTURE SECRETARY</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	<b>No nomination</b>		
<b>CHILD WELFARE OFFICER</b>	<b>Dave Woods</b>	<b>Dave Woods</b>	<b>Brian Birtles</b>	<b>Rich Brewster</b>
<b>LIFE MEMBERSHIP</b>		<b>John Longworth</b>	<b>Andy Murray</b>	-

### **Proposals for Rule Changes**

All new senior members to pay half annual subscriptions in their first season of playing membership  
 – Proposed by Dave Woods, seconded by Simon Ferris.

This proposal was unanimously accepted by the members

### **Any other business**

#### **Fundraising**

Martin Howe outlined the plans for fundraising activities for the coming year, they include: Darts night, Race night, BBQ, shirt and banner sponsorship, use of [www.easyfundraising.org](http://www.easyfundraising.org), Halloween party, paintballing, day at races, night at the dogs.

One major fundraiser will be the first Ashley CC Beer festival (23<sup>rd</sup> July) for which we will need 8 or 9 major sponsors.

Martin is keen to hear what events people will attend and wants feedback on all events held.

Other ideas include bag pack at Tesco, sale of club ties, caps and cuff links.

We would like to re-launch 100 club, football pontoon or bonus ball competition.

Graham Park suggested a more targeted approach to attracting sponsors and offered to sit in on a meeting to go through this

Brian Birtles appealed for volunteers to try and establish the club amongst the shops and businesses of Hale.

#### **Ground & Pavilion**

Dave Twiney wants to establish a water supply to the square so that he can get pitches back in use more quickly.

Claire Arksey suggested all jobs that need doing on a regular basis should be listed in the pavilion and players encouraged to offer to help. Liam Cusack thought a notice board should be put up to list these jobs and also to list forthcoming social events. It was important that all events become regular events and then will become fixed in member's diaries.

A rota should be drawn up so that toilets and showers are cleaned on a regular basis.

We should look at replacing the carpet in the saloon area; perhaps we should approach a local carpet company for free/discounted carpets

A grant will be sought to pay for 2 new sightscreens, and we need to provide some form of sightscreen behind the new nets

The local press had offered to provide us with half a page each week to provide information on match reports and such like.

We should put some form of sign up to attract new players passing the ground

Summer camps could be put on at the club if numbers permit

Junior players and parents should be encouraged to take umpiring and scoring courses

It was thought the Roebuck pub might be a suitable after match venue for 2011 and beyond

The club needs to try and establish some form of girls cricket at the club; this would help with potential grant applications

Then club has identified an overseas amateur who it is hoped will arrive in early April, along with one or two other players who will strengthen the 1<sup>st</sup> XI everyone is asked to report back if they know anyone who might have a spare room or potential employment.

John Allott had been invited to become the clubs next Honorary Life Vice President, in honour of his time at Ashley which started in 1930 as scoreboard operator and ended in the late 1960's as secretary.

**Meeting closed 20:54 with the Chairman thanking everyone for their attendance**