

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held at the club on the last Thursday in October; the new 2nd XI captain is Alistair Horn who takes over from Andy Murray. New junior teams at Under 11 and Under 18 age groups were also formed, with Sefton Kwasnik agreeing to manage the former and Liam Cusack the latter, along with Rish Agrawal.

Dave Rice has been replaced as the clubs Child Welfare Officer by Dave Woods, the committee would like to thank Ricey for all his hard work in recent years helping to establish the junior sides. He has kindly agreed to be the Assistant CWO for a year to help Woodsy take on the new role.

Annual subscriptions for senior players have gone up to £80 a year and match fees are now £8 a game. Junior subs are £20 a year and we have introduced a practice fee and a match fee for all juniors of £1, these contributions will go towards a coaching fund and all money raised will be spent on coaching our increasing band of youngsters.

We will probably make a loss of £1,600 on the year, bar income is much reduced this year due to the wet weather and the reduced number of matches that were played and we need to come up with events that are enjoyable for all those who take part and don't rely on good weather. One idea is a sports prediction quiz where you predict the result of a number of events over the winter, spring and summer with all money raised split between the club and the people who finish 1/2/3 in the quiz. We just need a willing volunteer to run it, as most of the questions have already been set.

We also need more help at junior practice nights, if you can spare 2 hours between 6pm and 8pm on a Monday night from the end of April please get in touch. You don't have to get involved in the coaching if you don't want to, but help running the bar selling drinks and the kitchen, selling teas and coffees etc. would be much appreciated, and would help to boost club funds.

All the reports from the meeting will be posted onto the website shortly.

Pavilion and Ground

We have received a grant of £3400 from the Cheshire Community Action Group and this will go towards replacing the tables and chairs in the bar area and updating the appliances in the kitchen and behind the bar. It will also provide some outdoor furniture for spectators to watch the cricket from/shelter from the wind and rain. We have also just spent £4339 of grant money given to us by Biffaward on relaying 3 cricket pitches and hopefully these will be ready for use by the junior teams in 2009.

Macclesfield Council has just awarded us a grant of £500 towards the cost of replacing the flooring in the changing rooms, the entrance area and the connecting corridor; the Cheshire Rural Trust has awarded us £250 towards this project. We are applying to the Manchester Airport Community Trust Fund for a further £3000 and if that application is successful we will put £650 of the club's money towards the job and hopefully the work will be completed in time for the start of the new season.

Overseas player

We are actively seeking a player for next season, one who will hopefully play a big part in the 1st XI next year but also one who can help with the coaching at the club, if you have any contacts for possible job interviews for such a player please get in touch with the committee.

2009 Fixtures

The MBCCL fixtures for the 1st and 2nd XI's are now out, they can be found on the league website www.mbccl.co.uk and the umpires site www.mbcclua.org.uk.

The 1st XI will start at home to Ashton on Mersey on April 25th whilst the 2nd XI will take on Ashton away at Little Ees Lane. This tough start for both sides is followed by games against Davenham, and the two sides relegated from the County League: Hale Barns and Winnington Park. The season finishes

a week later than 2008 with Trafford MV facing the first team at home and the seconds making the journey to MacPherson Park on 19th September.

We hope to have a full fixture list for the Sunday sides soon; junior fixtures will not be available until the New Year at the earliest.

Juniors

We hope to secure funding soon so that we can provide all our junior players with an Ashley playing shirt for next season and we would like to offer local businesses the chance to sponsor these shirts. Please get in touch with one of the junior committee if you have any contacts that might be interested in having their company logo on the shirts, prominently displayed throughout the club and on the website.

Raffle

Luke Sutton has given us a Lancashire One Day cricket shirt, autographed by the team, and we would like to raffle or auction it off to raise as much money as possible. There will be a number of other autographed shirts available soon, hopefully an Altrincham shirt, a Blackburn shirt as well as Bolton and Hull City shirts and possibly an England football shirt. The club welcomes any ideas that will maximise our return on these items.

Bonus Ball

This has brought in much needed revenue for the club and we are grateful to everyone who has taken part. Ian Horn is to continue running this fund raiser so, if you'd like to continue helping the club or you want to enter for the first time please email Ian as soon as possible. jnnhorn@aol.com

The Spin

For those of you who like lots of cricket news the Guardian newspaper produces The Spin, a weekly newsletter you can sign up for here:

<http://sport.guardian.co.uk/thespinn>

It usually runs a competition as well, this weeks offers you the chance to win a book:

The Spin has chanced across five copies of the astonishingly thorough Cricinfo Guide to International Cricket 2009, edited by Steven Lynch and published by John Wisden, and would be honoured to give them all away as prizes you need to answer this question..

- Up to and including last week's third Test between India and Australia at Delhi (but excluding the fourth Test starting on Thursday at Nagpur), who is the leading run scorer in Test cricket in 2008?
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- Please email your answer to lawrence.booth@guardian.co.uk by 12 noon on Monday, November, 10. Good luck!

I think the answer is Virender Sehwag, but don't take my word for it

Coaching

Whilst reading through the website of the Devon Cricket league, we used to tour there, I came across this website which might offer you some useful coaching tips:

<http://www.earpsports.com/Cricketcoaching/28/Videofootage.html>