

Hello and welcome to the first Ashley CC newsletter of 2009. We are keen for as many people as possible to hear about us and to receive our newsletter, please feel free to pass this onto relatives, colleagues and friends who you think might like to hear about the club.

Announcements

Firstly we'd like to thank Geoff Garnett for the article in the Trafford Metro News earlier this month advertising the club and seeking help for our overseas players. Geoff now spends a lot of his time organising golf days and tournaments, if you are thinking of holding a golf day please drop Geoff a line and he will give you some details on the sort of event he runs. ggggarnett@aol.co.uk

Peter Roberts became a grandfather just before the New Year when his son, Ashley, presented him with a grandson, William Thomas, who weighed in at 7lbs 7oz. Congratulations to Pete and all his family.

Fixtures

Ian Barber has organised two pre-season friendlies for the club; on the 19th April the 1st XI will host Stockport and on the same day the 2nd XI will travel to Cale Green to play the Stockport second team. We are hoping to organise games for the 3rd and 4th XI, with possibly an inter club game taking place at Ashley at the end of April.

Fund raising

With increased costs associated with a cricket club (1st XI home games could cost in excess of £100 to stage with teas, scorer, match balls and umpires to pay for) we are promoting new ways for sponsors to help the club. We are offering the chance to sponsor the club for a week at a time, so for £50 you can sponsor the club for the whole week and there might be 7 games in a week. We would place sponsors details on the club website, on the sign at the top of the drive, in the pavilion, in match reports and near the scoreboard (or scorebox if it's built). We would be more than happy for supporters to split the total cost with another sponsor if they wish.

On the subject of increasing costs ex England rugby union player Brian Moore is spearheading a campaign to stop United Utilities from charging small clubs like ours excessive amounts for supposed drainage of surface water, some have seen their charges rise from £800 a year to £6,000. You can read more about this story here:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/> and then click on

[Join my campaign to save our sports clubs](#)

And you can sign the petition here if you wish:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/columnists/brianmoore/4077481/Join-Brian-Moores-petition.html>

The club is immensely grateful to everyone who has contributed to the various fundraisers over the last few years; the bonus ball is just about to start again with a £100 prize for the first draw on Saturday 10th January. Ian Horn has 2 numbers left to sell and if you would like to take part please contact him on jnhorn@aol.com

There is still time to enter the Ashley Sports Prediction Quiz, please email Steve Coleman at steveandspanna@hotmail.com for an entry form.

Senior nets

Message from the First Team Captain

Firstly let me start by wishing everybody a happy new year. I always look at the turn of the year being a sign that the cricket season will soon be upon us (although a glance out of the window suggests otherwise!!).I have been working hard throughout the winter to attract new players to the club, and hope to see some of them at the nets at the end of this month. Its also important that all current players try there hardest to attend the nets, in fairness the season begins in earnest when nets start and a good pre season allows us to hit the ground running come April time when the matches begin. No matter what ability, everyone is welcome to attend the nets, and with 3 lanes this year we will be able to put players in which ever lane suits there ability. Also if any player knows of anyone who fancies a change of club or knows someone new to the area who plays the game, then please, drag them along with you. If you can make an effort to bring the correct change (£3) it'll make things a lot easier for us...

Hope to see you all at the nets

Yours in Sport

Ian Barber-Captain

Seniors: Old Trafford Indoor Cricket Centre

27th January 2009 to 24th Feb 2009, 8pm to 9pm
3rd March 2009 to 7th April 2009, 9pm to 10pm

Junior nets

Altrincham Grammar School For Boys, Marlborough Road

First Session: Monday 2nd February 6pm to 7.00 pm (£1 per person)

Note changes to timings, nets will run for an hour, not 90 minutes

These nets will run for 10 weeks.

New junior players

Incidentally we are trying to recruit new junior players to the club, especially Under 9s, and we are in the process of contacting local primary schools offering youngsters

the chance to join us at indoor nets, if you think your school would be interested in hearing from us please get in touch.

For those keen to get a head start before nets, some coaching information from the ECB can be found here:

<http://www.ecb.co.uk/development/ecb-coaches-association/hitting-the-seam,372,BP.html>

<http://www.ecb.co.uk/development/ecb-coaches-association/technical-bulletins,1680,BP.html>

Grants

Thanks to Ed Hall at Shell we have a £350 grant to spend on new equipment, we will spend some of this money on new umpires coats, and we'd like to get them sponsored. Perhaps an opticians or a firm of lawyers or solicitors might be interested?

Our application to the National Lottery for help to buy sightscreens and batting cages has been turned down. We are looking at making an application to another body; if we are unsuccessful again we may have to fund the purchase of 4 new sightscreens from club money. We are waiting for a reply from 2 other grant bodies for help in paying for improvements to the pavilion and for help in providing coaching and equipment for the club.

Scorers and 1st Aiders

We are looking to recruit and train new scorers for the 2nd 3rd and 4th XI next year and we are keen to pay the right candidate; players, parents and juniors are all welcome to express their interest. If you would like to earn £20 on Saturday or Sunday along with a free tea and possibly a drink from the captain please get in touch. Training can be provided at the following course:

Cheshire Cricket Umpires & Scorers Association are running a free one day scorers course at Hale Barns CC on Sunday 15th March 2009, from 10:30am until 15:00pm, coffee/tea is provided but you are advised to bring own your lunch. More details are available from:

Hilary White 01625 615498 n7vvc@yahoo.co.uk or
Ian Bishop 0161 962 5833 ianbishop1934@btinternet.com

We would also like more first aiders at the club and there are three courses taking place locally this summer:

Toft Cricket Club	Sat	7th Feb 2009	12.30 - 16.30
Tattenhall Cricket Club	Sun	1st Mar 2009	12.30 - 16.30
Toft Cricket Club	Sat	7th Mar 2009	12.30 - 16.30

The club will pay all costs for those interested in the scorer and first aid courses, including costs associated with annual membership of any appropriate organisation.

