

Wisborough Green Cricket Club

Chairman's report AGM 2021

Sunday 23rd January 2022 at 10:30am (held virtually via Zoom)

It was great that the 2021 Cricket Season was largely unaffected by the pandemic, and we were able to start the season normally with training and league cricket for juniors and seniors from the end of April. I would like to thank all members of the WGCC committee very much indeed for all their efforts to enable cricket to be played from the U6s to the U16s and including 3 senior sides (1st XI, 2nd XI & Sunday XI). All the committee members, groundsmen, captains, colts' coaches, administrators, and other volunteers (including scorers & umpires) should be proud of what was achieved to enable many players at all ages to enjoy the great game of cricket across the Club.

The junior section went from strength to strength during 2021 with over 140 registrations from U6s to U16s and many thanks to Jon Finn for his work in co-ordinating it all. There are many volunteers including coaches, parent helpers, administrators, team managers, scorers and umpires that contribute much time to ensuring that many can enjoy playing cricket at WGCC and the Club is very grateful to them all for their efforts. Sarah Meurer has developed further the girls' section during 2021 with training every week and the first all girls' match was played on the green where the WG team was victorious. WGCC is delighted to now have a girls' section at the Club and many thanks to Sarah who has put in so much of her time to make it a success. I know that she has already developed an ambitious plan for girls' cricket in 2022. More to follow in the Colts' report.

The senior section masterminded by the Club Captain Dan Vickery had a mixed season with the 1st XI having a very successful end to the season and staying up in Division 5 and the 2nd XI not having such a good run of form and hence being relegated to Division 10 for 2022. The Sunday side had much fun playing on the green with some spectacular performances. Many thanks to Dan Vickery for co-ordinating the senior section and the 1st XI Captain Johnny Farmer, 2nd XI Captain Frank Vickery and Sunday Captains Chris Marshall and Richard Mellor for all their efforts during 2022. Many thanks to Ken Vickery for organising the Sunday fixtures. It was great to see so many colts playing in and performing well in the 2nd XI and Sunday fixtures and this certainly bodes well for the future of the Club. More to follow in the Captains' reports.

Ahead of next season we are planning a recruitment drive during this winter to attract more Seniors and Colts to the Club with more promotion on social media as well as through schools and colleges. In addition, we want to build on the coaching and training that goes on in the Club so that we are providing high level coaching across the junior and senior sections as a matter of course to continually improve skills development and performance for match situations. Towards the end of 2021 we had a professional coach helping at Senior training and we plan for this to continue in 2022.

At the end of October, we received the sad news that Jean Eames passed away. Jean was a Vice President and part of our Club for many years, starting as a scorer in the 1980's. She was introduced by Peter Vallis, Jean was his secretary at Redlands Brick in Warnham and took over as Cricket Club Secretary during the 1990's. She struck the first blow for equality at Wisborough by forcing a vote on ladies being invited to the cricket club dinner which in those days was all male. The vote was tied with the then chairman David Horsman voting for the change. She was a friend to all and will be greatly missed.

WGCC has been very supportive of the green drainage improvement works that have been undertaken over the winter and look forward to a better draining green in the future. The ground around the square has been flattened to provide a safer fielding surface and as you can see the grass has come back well after reseeded.

Finally, all this is not possible without the time, effort and dedication of the many volunteers who contribute significantly to WGCC, and I would like to thank you all for all you do for WGCC.

I look forward to working with the Committee and others to ensure that WGCC thrives into 2022 and beyond.

Tarni Dixon