

Presidents Report AGM

The older I get the faster the summer seems to go, but it was great to have a summer of cricket again in 2021 as 2020 was a very truncated season. It was almost back to normal with league cricket on a Saturday, Sunday cricket and lots of junior cricket which is always a delight to see.

I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work, the season was a season of planning and re planning as Covid restrictions came and went, and things were up in the air almost until cricket got going. Tarni and the team did a fabulous job of making sure that all was prepared, and the season ran smoothly. Some of us missed the cricket teas which were a casualty of Covid, and some of us were taken back to our early playing days arriving at the ground fully kitted out when changing rooms were still closed. Nevertheless, cricket was played, runs were scored, wickets were taken, catches held, memories were made, and camaraderie was had.

It was in 2004 I first got involved in cricket at Wisborough Green, unintentionally I might add, by borrowing the Kwik Cricket gear on a Friday night so a few of our sons could enjoy themselves before we Dads slipped off for a beer or two at The Cricks. I found myself playing later that season through the persuasion of Mike Longhurst and I am glad of that Friday meeting in the bar, and I still enjoy turning out today.

Since then, in my slightly haphazard way, I have become more and more involved in fundraising, firstly to find a ball sponsor for the junior cricket and then raising money for the roller and the cricket nets as well as supporting the necessary development of other places for play and practice in the village. Over the years this has meant trying to come up with inventive ways to raise money. We have welcomed Lashings to the ground, a Phil de Freitas eleven, had a race night with Bobby Davro, applied for grants, sold a picture of the green and many more, smaller events. A cricket club is never cheap to run!

I am delighted that we were able to keep and expand our sponsors at the start of the 2021 season and have commitment for sponsorship from AJW, Objective Wealth, Savills, West Sussex Antique Timber, Rockbourne & Headroom4Health for three years. It is the highest level of sponsorship we have had since I have been at the club, and this provides a solid financial backbone to the club. To all our sponsors, we wear your logos happily and we salute you for what you bring to Wisborough Green CC.

The Green Drainage Improvement works have required not only the Sports Association as a partial funder but for the cricket club to also contribute. This has meant a big commitment and some fundraising quiz nights over the winter have been fun and are helping cover some of the costs.

The bigger project may be just around the corner, the new pavilion plans have been submitted to Chichester Council for approval and if accepted it is then that the real fundraising begins in earnest, I am involved in this and I hope to have your support as members of the club when the time comes. Before that it would be great if you could take the time to consider the project and the plans and send your thought / approval through the planning department.

For the golfers among you there will be a charity golf day on the 28th September at Cowdray in teams of four as part of this fundraising . Please let me know if you are interested in playing and I will add you to the list of people to send the details to.

Finally, I am trying to get to grips with running the century club. These are big boots to fill. Whilst I will never be as administratively savvy or have the accountant's eye for detail that Ray Greatorax has, I am determined to make it work. I am pleased we have over 20 new tickets sold to new members, but I am aware some existing ticket holders (may) have dropped out. For those who pay by standing order I thank you, for those who need reminding to sign up you will be receiving reminders from me shortly, for those of you who keep telling me you would like to join then please do. Here is the link

<http://www.wisboroughgreencricket.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/WISBOROUGH-GREEN-CRICKET-CLUB-CENTURY.pdf> .

The draws were a little irregular last year largely due to isolation for the first few months and I hope that this year we can resume to the following schedule. First draw at the AGM, second draw at the opening game of the season, third draw on Presidents Day and the final draw at the end of season dinner. As Ray says, its win;win. You've got to be in it to win it. Half the money goes to the club and half is paid out in prizes. No one can lose out.

But let's start where we began, with cricket, and look forward to another summer where a few juniors get captured by the game and it becomes part of their lives. Let's look forward to seeing our first women's cricket match. Let's look forward to conversations on the boundary and in the bar with friends new and old and drink a toast to WGCC, its 280 years of history and the hope cricket is still being played on the green in 2301.