

Chairman's Report 2012

First some thanks

Thanks to all members in our Disabled Cricketers Section, Junior Section (including our newly formed girls section) and Senior Section for their contributions over the last year.

In particular I want to thank Officers for all their hard work and support, in particular Mike Waldron as Secretary and Chris Cousins as Treasurer and Malcolm Webster as Vice Chairman. You may not be aware that Malcolm has stepped down from the Committee due to work commitments but will continue to work as a coach with the juniors and undertake a number of other tasks.

Thanks also to all other Committee Members for their contributions, but particularly Dave Cadman for his work on the 6-a-side Funday and raffle, which brought in valuable income once again this year and Stan who continues to work for us behind the scenes.

I want to say particular thanks to others too for their input over the last year:

Thanks to all who support our Junior Section in particular the Junior Committee. They are the lifeblood of the club and we must do all we can to develop junior players as the primary source of senior cricketers and first team players. But it also ensures that we qualify for ECB Grants.

We cannot do this without the Coaches, Helpers and Managers. So a big thank you to Malcolm Webster supported by Stuart Edwards and Sam Rowley for taking the Junior Dragons, Andy Johnson and Fraser Watson with the U 10s. Chris Sedgley and Simon McKeen for their work with the Under 11's well supported by Matt Chesters who completed his level 1 coaching qualification. Mike Waldron for his work with the Under 13's and Neil Davies for his work as a Coach. The late Jim Heath and Heath Forrester for their work with the Under 15s. Also thanks to Tom Savage. And so importantly Chris Sedgley for establishing a girls cricket section. We must also say thank you to Sue Chambers for taking the registers at the junior sessions. And finally on the junior front thanks again to Heath and Jane Forrester in particular for their work in putting on the Junior Presentation Evening that was a great success again this year. Apologies if I have missed anybody off.

We do however need more input, we are encouraging new parents to join in and support but we do need more senior players to support these sessions as helpers or coaches.

Turning to Seniors I want to thank all Captains. Being Captain is a responsible job that requires high levels of commitment to do the job well.

Thanks to Ben Byram in his first year as Captain of the First Team. Performances on the field were much better than in recent years all be it against some sides of a lower standard. Ben has also taken responsibility to lead the Selection Committee and encourage the Captains to work as a team. In addition he is working hard on the sponsorship front, essential if we are to continue to support an overseas amateur by paying their airfare and accommodation costs. I think everybody recognises the input we got from Tim Lyne last season.

Thanks to Anthony Hyde for undertaking the Second Team Captaincy. I understand Anthony is stepping down after several years in this role and I want to say a big thank you for all your input. Anthony has been a long standing member of the club and has served

us well both as First and Second Team Captain. I hope you will continue to be a member of the club.

Thanks to Liam Forrester for captaining the Third Team. Liam too is stepping down after a year, but again thanks for all your efforts in what has been your second year as a Captain at the Club..

Thanks to Dom Musgrove the 4th Team Captain. Captaining the lower teams is never easy, but the 4th Team can be particularly testing, but praise to Dom for ensuring that we always put out a side who proved very competitive.

Thanks to Dave Seaton and Mike Myatt for agreeing to ensure we put out Sunday sides, but unfortunately the exceptional weather only allowed 2 games to be played.

It was good to hear positive reports about the end of season awards presentation evening, so again thanks to the captains for organising. We agreed to widen the number of awards on offer for each team, which was at a cost, but hope it will prove worthwhile for future years

And we must not forget our disabled section, who continue to provide opportunities for people with a range of disabilities to participate in competitive sport in a socially inclusive way.

Thanks to Ellen Hassal for undertaking the First Team scorer role in 2012, Liam Pritchard for umpiring with the 2nd Team and Dee and her team for delivering such superb teas.

Finally but certainly not least can I say my personal thanks to Paul and Dave Smart for the work they have done yet again on the ground. I doubt any of us really know how many hours they put in a week in a voluntary capacity to prepare the squares, wickets and outfield for junior and senior cricket, not only in the season but throughout the year. Of course this year they have had to contend with the wettest summer in living memory so can we all put our hands together and thank them.

I made some comments last year about the need for all of us as members of St Georges Cricket Club to change our approach to participation in our Club. This included the lack of most members supporting fund raising events, the level of availability of players, the unwillingness of players to play in teams as selected, an increasing trend towards players saying they can only play at home, lack of support towards the junior section, the lack of a social side, etc.

I am pleased to say I think things are improving but there is a long way to go – so again would want encourage every member to do their bit.

Last year in my Chairman's report I reported on the loss of Eric and Millie Lomas and Mike Brennan. In their memory we decided to establish an annual Presidents Day event to raise monies for the causes nominated by each family. I am pleased to say the day was a great success, raising over £2,500 to be shared between the causes.

Of course during 2012 we lost another notable member, Jim Heath after a long battle against cancer. Jim in his 8 years with the club had put in a tremendous amount of work in our junior section and had become a well respected member of the senior committee and undertook the role of Fixtures Secretary. We owe a lot to Jim not least because he left us

£3,000 in his will and instructed that this sum together with half the proceedings from his funeral, a total over £4,500 should go towards our Nets Project. We have agreed that the 2013 Presidents Day even will be in Jim's memory and his family have already agreed that the proceeds will go to benefit the Severn Hospice and the Nets Project.

In last year's report I said, and I quote, "Mike Waldron our Secretary has initiated a project with the support of Chris Dirkin from the Shropshire Cricket Board to access a grant from the ECB to develop a new set of practice nets to replace the existing nets. The cost is likely to be in excess of £40k and it is too early to get too excited but we are quietly confident though it will take a lot of work to pull it off and even if successful in the grant application it may be 2 years before they are in place. This makes our continued support for disabled cricketers and development of a girl's section even more important as they are standards that we must meet along with maintaining our junior Clubmark status if we are to meet the criteria for a grant application.

Well I am please to be able to report that a year ahead of plan this has become a reality thanks to all the hard work of Mike Waldron, who put together the ECB grant bid, submitted a successful planning application and has spent hours liaising with all the respective bodies. The nets will be in place for use next season. We need to thank the Recreational Ground Management Committee for their active support. We have had to take out a small interest free loan to make this a reality so we need to enhance our fundraising efforts to ensure we can pay the loan back without impacting adversely on essential expenditure. But it should prove a tremendous resource for all playing members in the years ahead. At the same time we are looking to update our equipment for use with the nets and have already purchased a new bowling/fielding piece of equipment.

I firmly believe that this shows we have the foundations at this Cricket Club to be a really successful club and at the same time and perhaps more importantly enjoy our involvement whether as a player, volunteer, committee member etc.

Among many positives we have achieved a financial surplus, which is good, though as I said last year we still need to grow our reserves as for a cricket club this size we need a larger reserve to deal with sudden day to day expenses (such as a new mower), let alone emergency contingencies (such as a new outfield mower). The Sports & Social Club is in a stronger position than it has been for some years in difficult trading times and we have the support of such good stewards in respect of Mark and Dee.

So we have a good foundation and there is much to look forward too and if re-elected I am looking forward to an enjoyable and exciting year as Chairman. But please play your part in taking the club forward and encourage all those who are not here tonight to do likewise.

Thank you for listening.

Any comments or questions?

Paul Taylor, Chairman, St Georges Cricket Club