

## Chairman's Report For AGM, 21 November 2013

Thanks to all members in our Disabled Cricketers Section, Junior Section (boys and girls) and Senior Section (men and ladies) for their contributions over the last year, a season which was blessed with a good summer.

I want to thank Officers for all their hard work and support, in particular Mike Waldron as Secretary, Chris Cousins as Treasurer and Stuart Edwards as Fixtures Secretary.

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 from comments we have received was an enjoyable day.

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, Coaches and Managers. 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 having a strong junior section (boys and girls) also ensures that we qualify for ECB Grants, which I will say more about later.

So a big thank you to:

Malcolm Webster supported by Sam Rowley, Mitchell Hoof and Tom Savage for looking after the U8 Junior Dragons.

Andy Johnson with support from Stuart Edwards and Neil Davies for looking after the U10s who had a successful year.

Mike Waldron for looking after the U11s with the support of Fraser Watson.

Simon Mackeen, Matt Chesters and Alan Myatt for looking after the Under 13s.

Mike Waldron with support from Dave Pope and Dom Musgrove for looking after the U15s.

We cannot do this without these Managers, Coaches and helpers and as you will see, names start to appear more than once.

Chris Sedgley established a girls cricket section in 2012 and they continued to develop with Chris' input and are now a major force within Shropshire girls cricket, winning the County U13 Lady Tavernors competition.

U16-18 Development Squad – A new development this year has been the formation of a development squad, offering coaching to youngsters, who have grown out of our junior section, but who can still benefit from coaching and help improve their game and their transition into first and second team cricket. Neil Davies, first teamer and qualified coach has got this off the ground for us this Autumn at Lilleshall with help in particular from Dave Wright. A big thank you to them both and hopefully we will start to see the dividend next Summer in improved performances.

Apologies if I have missed anybody out on the junior front.

We do however need more input, we are encouraging new parents to join in and support, as well as more senior players to support all the junior sessions as helpers or coaches. We are looking to put on an "Introduction to Coaching Course" early in the new year, aimed at encouraging people to get involved, which will involve commitment to a 2 x 3 hour course delivered by the Shropshire Cricket Board, which will be free to all our club nominees.

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

Thanks to Ben Byram in his second year as captain of the First Team. Performances on the field were improved, with Chris Waldron, Chris Miller, Gareth Hughes and Mo Zaheer having good seasons with the bat and Ben himself taking over 50 wickets. Though player availability again hampered Ben's efforts and we finished third in the League. Ben has also taken responsibility to lead the Selection Committee and encourage the captains to work as a team. In addition with others he has tried hard to find sponsorship, which is essential if we are to support an overseas player. Given the costs we chose not to have an overseas player last season, not even an amateur player.

In reality unless we can up our game in finding substantial sponsorship, secured for a number of years, having an overseas player may be difficult to do in the future and makes being competitive against sides who do have such resources and paid players, that much more difficult. Do you have any contacts that we could follow up for sponsorship?

Thanks to Dave Pope for undertaking the Second Team captaincy after Anthony Hyde's departure after several years in charge. Under Dave's leadership his Team had a very promising start to the season, but again player availability was inconsistent and results in the second half of the season tailed off. However overall it was a good season, with Dave restoring spirit in the side with players happy to play up for the First Team when required. For family reasons, which will restrict his availability Dave is stepping down but he leaves a good foundation for a new captain to build on.

Thanks to Jack Wilmot for captaining the Third Team. Jack was new to the role but did a good job, in a League where our Third Team often faces other club's first teams. The Team more than held their own, in spite of having, along with the Fourth Team, to cope with the loss of players due to unavailability higher up and late drop outs (something we must improve on). Jack too is stepping down as captain after a year.

Thanks to Dom Musgrove who has been the 4<sup>th</sup> Team captain for the last 2 years. Dom yet again last year endured the hassle of having to find players due to late withdrawals higher up, but he always put out a competitive side who played the game in the right spirit and with a lot of success. Dom too has indicated that he will be stepping down but is keen to continue playing.

Thanks to Dave Seaton for ensuring we put a Sunday Team out for friendly matches and giving everybody a full part in the game.

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 2013, which is a good point to make a plea to recruit scorers and umpires for each Saturday side. Do you know anybody who might enjoy taking on these roles?

Thanks to Dee, Jo and their team for delivering such superb teas and Mark and Dee for generally looking after us so well. I would also like to thank the St Georges Sports & Social Club and Management Committees for their continued support and "Critics Corner" (they know who they are) for their support at all games (home & away).

Finally on the playing side, thanks once again to Chris Sedgley for establishing ladies cricket at the club, supported by Steve Wall and Andy Hill. It was amazing to see this grow so quickly from the initial discussions we had, and pleasing to see the enthusiasm that our lady members bring to the game. I wish you well for the future. Given all that Chris has done over the last 2 years to establish girls and ladies cricket at the Club, it was most fitting that Chris was awarded the Mike Brennan - Spirit of Cricket Trophy this year.

Of course all this additional cricket just adds to the work required on the ground, outfield and squares and my final biggest thank you must be 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, 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. Also thank you to Graham Hoof for the work he does to support Paul and Dave.

My last Chairman's report referenced the sad loss of Eric & Millie Lomas and Mike Brennan, which on the positive side had led to the establishment of a Presidents Day event to raise monies for charity. The 2013 Presidents Day on the 30 June was held in memory of Jim Heath who had put so much into the Club, particularly with the juniors, in the 8 years he was with us, before his death from cancer in 2012. The day was also used to mark the official opening of the new nets, that Jim and his family contributed to so generously. The day was a great success and raised over £3,000 which was shared at the family's request between Birmingham Childrens Hospital and our Net Fund. Jim's wife, Christine has also joined our Junior Committee and helped arrange the very successful Junior Presentation evening.

In this report last year I mentioned that the new nets were no longer a vision but as we could see they were being built, thanks to the great work of Mike Waldron to obtain grant funding for two thirds of the cost (£50,000), and his work to lead the project. Well as I have already said, those nets are now a reality and what a resource we now have. Nothing comes without a cost and we must now work hard over each winter, to keep the surfaces clean and ensure they remain in excellent condition for many years ahead.

In addition to accessing grant funding for the nets, Mike Waldron our Secretary obtained other grant funding last season in the region of £9,000, of which half will directly benefit the club, geared to funding coaching related expenditure for juniors and ladies and for equipment that can be used by all. We have just heard that we have been reapproved as a Clubmark Club by the English Cricket Board for another 3 years, without which we cannot access new grant funding.

As you will hear from our Treasurer we have achieved a financial surplus this year, which is good, though as I said last year we still need to grow our reserves as for a cricket club of our size we need a larger reserve to deal with expenses we will have to face from time to time (for example a new wicket mower costs - £2000, covers - £5,000, sidescreens - £3,000, mobile net - £1,500, or outfield mower or pitch roller - £5,000+ each).

I firmly believe that we have the foundations at this Cricket Club to be a really successful and at the same time and perhaps more importantly enjoy our involvement whether as a player, volunteer, committee member etc. There is much to look forward to 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. We will be all the stronger if everybody can do a little bit more and encourage others to get involved too.

Thank you for listening.

Any comments or questions?

**Paul Taylor,  
Chairman,  
St Georges Cricket Club**