



Report of Management Committee - 2010

This is the second year under the new Club rules which allow the AGM to be held in January and it now seems to be established that the report should go out in the name of the Management Committee rather than the Secretary, or the General Committee.

Awards:

Please see the full list in the panel alongside.

It was particularly pleasing to see Wes Strecker starting to bat with a maturity that started to match his ability to dispatch the ball to, and also over, the boundary in all parts of the field.

Fran Hall led the many people who put in a lot of effort to raise funds this year as well as putting in a full season's scoring for the 1st XI and getting the pavilion cleaner than it had looked for many a year at the start of the season. In particular she organised the very successful auction on the August Bank Holiday Fun Day which helped bring in over £1,200 on the day and fully deserved the award for services to PRCC.

The Year in Brief

- We started 2010 expecting that funding for the new nets would be readily available; we were mistaken.
- In early January we learned that we'd missed out on the 2009/10 funding round and that – worse still – the criteria for qualifying had been changed so that we were unlikely to qualify for 2010/11.
- We duly took up our place in the Thames Valley Cricket League in May but both teams struggled for most of the season, not least because half of the 2009 first team was unavailable most of the time.
- The junior section continued to run successfully, thanks to our team of coaches, led by Alan Dell, Craig Williams and Andy Hitchcock. It is unfortunate for PRCC that Alan decided to move away from the area mid-season, leaving a big gap to fill.
- We had to push Bucks Cricket Board hard to press our case with ECB and finally obtained an offer of funding for the nets towards the end of the season. Moreover the mix between grant and loan funding was far from ideal and conditional on getting the whole project completed by the end of the calendar year.
- Fortunately fundraising efforts had continued at a record level through the year, we had obtained planning permission at the end of February and we were able to book a slot with our preferred installer for the work to start mid-November.
- The installation went ahead with hardly a hitch and the nets are now in place although they won't be in action until just before the 2011 season starts.
- ECB had one final trick to play. Although we'd done everything to ensure that we would get the money at the right time we would still be waiting to receive the money if we hadn't chased them to see what had happened. In the event it came in just before Christmas – 10 days late but just in enough time to meet the payment date!

Cricket

- As in 2009 the 1st XI struggled and finished near the bottom of Division 4, albeit in the Thames Valley League rather than the Cherwell. The team will now play in Division 5B in 2011.
- The 2nd XI nearly suffered a similar fate, escaping relegation by the skin of its teeth. The one encouraging sign was the emergence of younger players who may well make their presence felt in the next couple of seasons.
- The Sunday XI – captained by Andy Sheldon – continued in its role of giving as much experience to juniors as possible and had another satisfying year. A start has been made in re-establishing a more permanent Sunday fixture list, with the long-term aim being to run 2 Sunday teams through most of the season looking more and more realistic.
- Pre-season Indoor Nets were well attended; for 2011 we looked at the possibility of using better facilities at RAF Halton. Unfortunately these were too costly and this time the sessions will be for seniors only for one hour on Sundays for 6 weeks in the run-up to Easter.
- Once again PRCC hosted Bucks fixtures including an over-50s match and junior county and district matches. We understand we've retained our reputation for being the best venue on the circuit.
- Last year's report stressed need to improve local press reporting and to adopt a systematic approach to ensure that we recruit prospective players. Nothing has changed here!

Juniors and Coaching

- The junior coaching programme continued to expand. The 2 new parent coaches made a significant contribution but, with the departure of Alan Dell, we need to add even more trained people to the team. If anyone is interested please contact me or John Bushby as soon as possible. The Club will do all it can to meet the costs of the training course.

Awards - 2010	
Services to Club:	Fran Hall
Batting:	1 st XI Wesley Strecker; 2 nd XI Pratik Bhattcharya
Bowling:	1 st XI Steve Greaves; 2 nd XI Andy Sheldon
All-rounder:	1 st XI Laurence Brooker; 2 nd XI Matthew Greaves
Players' Player:	1 st XI Wesley Strecker; 2 nd XI Pratik Bhattcharya
6-Hits:	1 st XI Wesley Strecker
Sunday Star:	Martin King
Young Player:	Matthew Greaves

Princes Risborough Cricket Club

- In the absence of facilities at Thame in 2010 we managed to make alternative arrangements for our juniors with PR School. This was successful and we expect to do the same in early 2011.
- The intended strategy of targetting PR School's feeders one-by-one failed to get off the ground. However – following our meeting with Bucks Cricket Board – it seems likely that BCB will fund a 'Chance to Shine' project based around PR School and its associated junior schools. This is likely to provide impetus to our junior programme and the Club needs to be prepared to take advantage of this
- Juniors reaching the county or district training squads for 2010 were Matt Greaves, James Willard and James Bee (U-15) and Alistair Bee (U-12).

Committee / Organisation

- Last year we commented that the General Committee needed to become more involved in the running of sub-committees. In 2010 it just didn't happen and people who take up Committee posts must be prepared to put in more effort.

Once again too few members turned up to the meetings arranged for the General Committee and the five members of the Management Committee ended up taking the brunt of the work.

- Although we have asked for nominations for posts in advance of the AGM again this year - to make people think about choices and limit occasions when a name is put forward from the floor without even consulting the nominee - there has been a disappointing response.

Finance

- This financial year was particularly successful and we are grateful to Jo Bee for her work in making payments, banking monies and keeping the books while running a busy family life and her university course. As a detailed report and the accounts will be available at the AGM and to those who log in to the website these comments are limited to general matters and a look at the future. It must be remembered that the statements reflect the position as at the end of September and since then we have spent a significant sum on the nets, aided by the ECB grant and loan.

- The bar was very successful during the year and contributed well; even though the weather was not as good as we might have wished it was still better than in 2009. Other social fund-raising activities with barbecue, race night, fun day and curry nights were augmented by Fran's auction on Fun Day and it is heartening to record the increasing contribution (in all senses) of the growing number of parents. The Dinner/Dance (after the end of our financial year) was again profitable thanks to Kevin Dodds and Bartercard.

- We need to keep raising funds to meet the cost of the net loan – we are committed to repaying £2,000 per year for the next 5 years.

Ground

- Throughout the season the square was kept in excellent condition by Andy Sheldon and, in particular, thanks are due to Jon Witney for his sterling work on the outfield (this is precisely what we said last year but it is hard to think of a better way of putting it).

Pavilion

- The intended removal of the scoreboard from the main pavilion and construction of a free-standing box as part of CricketForce did not happen. However the acquisition of a shipping container gives us much needed extra storage space for ground equipment and present thoughts are that consequently we might be able to move and convert the existing wood cabin to use as a scoreboard.

- On inspection the cladding on the water tower proved to be in a better state than we feared and it only needed a partial repair.

- Despite the attentions of Fran Hall and her helpers at the start of the season the main part of the pavilion is feeling its age. Plans are afoot to spruce this up during the winter.

Looking Ahead

While we have made a lot of progress in the past year there is still more to do and our Development Plan needs to be kept under review.

- After a poor year we must increase our playing strength and make more use of our youngsters.
- Many of the things mentioned last year remain on the 'to do' list, particularly the scoreboard, press reporting of matches and developing links with local schools.

Thanks

Thanks to all those who helped the Committee over the past year, in particular ace fundraisers Frank Spencer and Kevin Dodds. Having said that we do need more help in all areas; don't be shy – contact me if you can help.



Steve Greaves
(Chairman) December 2010