



Report of Executive Committee to 31 December 2008

For the first time this report runs up to the end of the calendar year as a result of the decision to defer the main business of the AGM to (23rd) January - we hope to make this permanent with the changes to the Club rules which we have publicised as much as we can. We needed to make some of the changes anyway (for ClubMark) and we have taken the opportunity to update other parts which had served for some 60 years and rather looked their age. The Committee met 11 times with a much lower average attendance which reflected pressures of business in the current economic crisis. We hope that the new Committee structure will help us to keep the Club running well.

The Club was saddened by the loss of another stalwart from the past – Ralph Lee who died in March was our President in 1971 and 1972.

Awards:

A side benefit of deferring the meeting date is that it's now possible to congratulate the various award winners (see alongside) and still maintain the tradition of keeping the details under wraps until the Annual Dinner when the presentations are made.

The annual award for Services to the Club went to John Bushby who put in a lot of work on ClubMark, the rules and other aspects of running the Club.

We also made special presentations to Paul Strong & Simon Stanway to mark 50 centuries and 200 Bucks wickets respectively.

Awards - 2008	
Services to Club:	John Bushby
Batting:	1 st XI Adam Morton; 2 nd XI Paul Daly
Bowling:	1 st XI Andy Hitchcock; 2 nd XI Andy Sheldon
All-rounder:	1 st XI Gary Evans; 2 nd XI Kevin Dodds
Players' Player:	1 st XI Nick Thomas; 2 nd XI Andy Sheldon
6-Hits:	Adam Morton
Young Player:	Damien Pitt

Highlights of the Year

- The 2nd XI gained promotion as champions of Division 9B of the Cherwell League
- PRCC was recognised as a 'focus club' and achieved ClubMark accreditation
- Paul Strong scored his 50th century in all cricket on 30 August 2008 in the 1st XI game against Kimble.
- Club rules to be completely revised

Cricket

- The 1st XI struggled, but survived in mid-table in Division 4. Although we adopted a policy of selecting the strongest team we suffered because of injuries to key players, notably captain Jon Witney. In particular we needed a replacement for Jon to provide continuity in the captaincy role and are fortunate that Adam Morton will be prepared to take this on in 2009.
- The 2nd XI had a superlative season finishing first and gaining promotion under Matt Fields' inspirational leadership; however there was a dearth of players pushing towards a 1st XI place although one or two may develop to this level in the near future.
- The Sunday XI under Andy Sheldon stuck strictly to a brief to try to give as much experience to juniors as possible and in this respect had a satisfying year
- The Midweek League unfortunately proved to be a waste of time and effort, with only 2 fixtures played out of a total of 7. This was particularly disappointing because Damien Pitt and Craig Williams did very well in getting PRCC organised. In consequence PRCC will not be putting a side into the senior league for 2009
- Cherwell League: you may have heard about the problems which arose at the League's AGM in November. The Committee has kept abreast of the situation and considers it has covered the possible legal implications of unwise action by others. If appropriate we will give an oral update at our own AGM.
- Pre-season Indoor Nets were again well attended and this year's have been arranged on Sundays for 8 weeks from 15 February to 5 April 2009.
- Bucks fixtures hosted at PRCC included an O-50 match and a 2-day U-17 fixture
- For the future we need to improve local press reporting and to adopt a systematic approach to ensure that we recruit prospective players.

Juniors and Coaching

- We are pleased to record that Matt Greaves and James Bee have been selected for the Aylesbury Vale U-14 training squad for 2009. In 2008 Rory Johnson gained selection to the Aylesbury Vale u-12 squad. Damien Pitt, Imran Khan and Ali Bee have also been recommended for Bucks trials in their respective age groups.
- The u-13 XI ended a very successful season with 2nd place in the Midweek League, with a record of won 5, lost 2. For 2009 the Club will run teams at u-13 and u-15 level even though these may struggle as some of the players are in the next lower age group. With added experience they should do well in 2010.

We need to develop a proper coaching structure to take youngsters through from earlier age groups into senior cricket (we should have had a plan as part of the ClubMark process). Fortunately we hope to have Alan Dell as a second Level 2 coach and together with Craig Williams (who intends to go on to Level 3) we should be in a good position to do this.

- Congratulations to Damien Pitt who went for a trial at Lord's in December - it was ludicrous that initially he was not considered for the Bucks age group team.

Committee / Organisation

- **ClubMark:** Early in the year we took a decision that it was essential to gain accreditation as soon as we could and set up a sub-group comprising John Bushby, Andy Hitchcock and Nick Thomas. Our first thoughts were that we would only manage this in 2009 but in the event – and taking advantage of a favourable environment – we were approved in September. The work involved reviewing many of our procedures, making risk assessments and drawing up a complicated 5-year Development Plan which had to be entered onto the ECB system (compulsory for ClubMark and Focus Clubs).
- **Changes to our rules** were needed to obtain ClubMark accreditation, for example to ensure that the Club's assets could not be dissipated by transferring them to members. We took the opportunity for a wholesale update which we hope will be approved on 23 January.
- **The existing committee structure** had become too unwieldy because many members were – for good reason - infrequent attenders and thus many decisions were taken by a few. Our proposed rule changes mean that day-to-day running and decision making will be in the hands of a sub-committee of 5 people. Limiting the number of members on the management committee to 5 and asking others to work on sub-committees should enable us to take a more focussed approach.
- **The lack of a Team Secretary** to free captains of the task of finding out availability and confirming selection has now been by-passed. The new website software allows communication by email or text messaging and has proved a very good and well-used investment.

Finance

The year passed successfully - a detailed report and the accounts will be available at the AGM so these comments are limited to general matters and a look at the future.

Having ClubMark / Focus Club status at least gets us to the starting line for obtaining potential grants, but the economic outlook is bleak. We must work hard to maximise income (e.g. more sponsors and advertisers are always needed) and to reduce outgoings (such as the water bill and heat/light which was far too high).

Ground / Facilities

- Ground – throughout the season the square was kept in excellent condition thanks to Andy Sheldon in particular. Thanks are also due to Jon Witney for his sterling work on the outfield
- We purchased a replacement outfield mower and managed to find a buyer for our old one.
- New changing room doors were installed but we reluctantly decided that the damaged area on the verandah had to be patched up as an urgent Health and Safety issue and had to shelve a long-term solution.

Looking Ahead

While we have made a lot of progress in the recent past there is still more to do and our Development Plan needs to be reviewed in light of the general economic climate.

- We have identified new outdoor non-turf nets as a priority for seniors and juniors alike. We are examining funding possibilities for this and other projects from sources such as the ECB and the Buckinghamshire Foundation 'Grassroots' scheme and we need to make better use of CricketForce and volunteers.
- In the short term the League seems intent on imposing panel umpiring further down the line; this will impact on the 1st XI and would mean that we have to spend money on facilities for the Umpires' Room.
- We need further equipment storage as well as new sheeting and wheels for the wicket covers. It has been suggested that a shipping container would meet our needs
- Public Relations – arrangements for press reporting of matches fell down in 2008 and this needs to be sorted out for 2009 onward. We have obtained banners (suitable for re-use in PR Library, Information Centre etc) for a display at Wycombe Library throughout January / February and have taken advantage of WDC's offer to print flyers for use there.
- As part of the ClubMark process we need to develop links with local schools, but to do this we need yet more coaches and all need to belong to the ECBCA. We have expressed an interest in developing a School Strategy with funding from the Sport Unlimited initiative which aims to get more of the 5-19 age group involved in high quality sports activities

Thanks

Thanks to all those who helped the Committee over the past year. In particular we mention Monica Spencer whose spell as Treasurer has assisted us greatly over the past 6 or 7 years (together with Frank who has deputised for her at meetings and who happily will continue to assist us) and also Derrick Wallace whose short spell as Secretary freed JB to spend more time on the ClubMark project and getting the new website up and running.

On a personal note I would like to thank our retiring President Mike Witney who during his presidency has been a tremendous support to me as Chairman. I know that Mike intends to continue his involvement around the club for which I'm sure we will all be grateful.



Steve Greaves
(Chairman) December 2008