



Report of Management Committee - 2009

Under the new Club rules this year's AGM will be held on 22 January (2010), thus making it possible to bring our report up to the end of the calendar year. We had a little heart-searching about whether this should be a report of the Secretary, or the General Committee; in the end we decided that this should go out in the name of the (new) Management Committee.

Awards:

The full list is in the panel alongside. A special mention is deserved for Kevin Dodds whose work behind the scenes meant that our financial state is very healthy and truly merited the award for Services to the Club.

Young Imran Khan shows every sign of developing as a player and has already started to make his mark in the senior teams and was well worthy of his awards. It's also pleasing to record that his was not the only name considered for the junior award and this bodes well for the future.

Awards - 2009	
Services to Club:	Kevin Dodds
Batting:	1 st XI Paul Strong; 2 nd XI Paul Daly
Bowling:	1 st XI Steve Greaves; 2 nd XI Andy Sheldon
All-rounder:	1 st XI Andy Pitt; 2 nd XI Graham Linger
Players' Player:	1 st XI Laurence Brooker; 2 nd XI Imran Khan
6-Hits:	1 st XI Adam Morton 2 nd XI Andy Peattie
Young Player:	Imran Khan

The Year in Brief

- The completely revised Club rules were duly adopted at the resumed AGM in January
- After a period of confidential discussions we applied to join and were accepted into the Thames Valley Cricket League to fill a vacancy which arose for 2010. We are grateful to the Cherwell League for waiving the requirement to give them a longer period of notice and allowing us to switch for next season and ask all members to pull together to make this change a real success.
- The junior section continued to expand, thanks in particular to Alan Dell, Craig Williams and Andy Hitchcock
- Post-season efforts have been concentrated on raising funds and evaluating quotations for installing new nets close to the railway station. Although we hope to get the facility in place for the start of the new season the timetable depends on ECB funding (and weather conditions, which are currently less than ideal).

Cricket

- The 1st XI struggled and finished near the bottom of Division 4 despite a number of notable performances. The perennial problem of injuries to key players was aggravated by match cancellations which always seemed to occur against the weaker teams. For 2010 Adam Morton has said that he wishes to step down from the captaincy.
- The 2nd XI suffered from having 3 captains during the season and did well to finish in 4th position in the newly-constituted Division 9 (an amalgam of teams from the old Divisions 8A, 8B and the higher finishers from 9A and 9B). The Management Committee is grateful to Graeme Pitt for stepping into the breach in the first instance and to Andy Sheldon for steadying the ship for the second half of the season.
- The Sunday XI – also captained by Andy Sheldon – consolidated its role of giving as much experience to juniors as possible and had another satisfying year. The time has now come to re-establish a more permanent Sunday fixture list, with the long-term aim being to run 2 Sunday teams through most of the season.

• Cherwell League:

- A motion to expel Kidlington CC was carried even though our legal advice suggested that this was unwise. Fortunately there were no repercussions.
- Umpiring – the arbitrary application of a panel system caused some difficulties at the start of the season but we managed to get round them
- The inaugural League Cup was of doubtful value and was much too early in the year

• **Thames Valley League:** In mid-season an approach was made by TVCL to see whether PRCC would be interested in filling a vacancy which would become available in 2010. Detailed discussions both internally and outside had to be conducted with discretion and this meant that open consultation was not possible. Therefore it was done by word of mouth and confined to active members and others who could be contacted easily. An analysis of likely travelling times showed that differences were likely to be marginal and the consultation showed that a good majority of members would favour a move.

The Club decided to apply and in September Thames Valley member clubs voted by a large margin to accept PRCC for 2010. We attended TVCL's 2009 AGM and received a warm welcome; it is clear that the new League is run in a very business-like and approachable manner.

- Pre-season Indoor Nets were well attended; unfortunately we have been unable to get all the sessions we need for in 2010 so will be for seniors only for one hour on Sundays for 6 weeks from 21 February 2010.

Princes Risborough Cricket Club

- PRCC hosted 3 Bucks fixtures: an O-50 match (unfortunately rained off shortly after the start) and 2 one-day U-15 matches. Feedback suggests that we are regarded as the best venue on the circuit.
- 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

- Indoor nets were well attended at the start of the year but unfortunately we have been unable to book the same facilities at Thame in 2010; we are currently trying to make alternative arrangements for juniors with PR School.
- We are pleased to record that Matt Greaves and James Bee were selected for the Aylesbury Vale U-14 training squad for 2009.
- The junior coaching programme expanded again during the year and it's pleasing that we now have 2 parents who are currently attending ECB coach training.
- In 2010 we intend to switch our school strategy by starting to target PR School's feeders one-by-one.

Committee / Organisation

Although the new Committee structure worked well in many ways, taking the pressure off Committee members did little to improve the poor record of attendances referred to last year. To be blunt too few turned up to the four meetings arranged for the General Committee; losing the valuable help of Matt Fields and Graeme Pitt (respectively 2nd XI Captain and Committee member) exacerbated this. However the Management Committee thinks - and hopes - that it was able to keep the Club running well.

- The General Committee needs to become more involved in the running of sub-committees.
- For the first time we have asked for nominations for posts in advance of the AGM. This is intended to make people think about choices and limit occasions when a name is put forward from the floor without even consulting the nominee.

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.

- Generally finances have done well and we are particularly 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.
- The bar was very successful during the year and contributed well even though the weather was not as clement as we would have wished.
- So too did other social fund-raising activities (with barbecue, race night, fun day and curry nights) 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 especially profitable thanks to Kevin Dodds and our Bartercard connection.
- We need to keep raising funds to meet the cost of the nets (more details below).

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 (this is precisely what we said last year but it is hard to think of a better way of putting it).
- A massive water leak meant that a complete re-laying of water supply pipes was needed. The total cost was shared with the other clubs.
- Drainage of the outfield is becoming a problem and will need attention soon.

Pavilion

- Verandah re-surfacing etc cost around £700 and was done by volunteers led by Kevin Dodds and Matt Fields as part of the ECB CricketForce initiative; other pre-season jobs included kitting out the Umpires' Room complete with hand-basin and bench seating.
- We intend to remove the scorebox from the main pavilion and hope to build a new free-standing box as part of CricketForce 2010.
- The showers, which had been unsatisfactory for some years were replaced and a new mixer valve installed.
- the cladding on the water tower needs to be replaced before the start of the 2010 season

Practice Nets

- In April we decided that in view of the financial situation this project would need to be delayed and the PRCC Development Plan scheduled this for 2010/11
- In September we heard that ECB funds would be available and needed to be used up before end-March 2010, so we decided to change the plan to install them in early 2010. Our case is in the pipeline for obtaining a grant (obtaining ClubMark / Focus Club status last year was undoubtedly advantageous as without this we would not qualify).
- Quotations range from around £23,000 to £33,000 (once the inevitable VAT is added on). ECB is likely to fund 75%; if it doesn't the work will have to be delayed while we raise more funds.
- A planning application was submitted in early December.
- We have visited several other clubs and after evaluating the options have selected a preferred installer.
- An update will be given at the meeting.

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.

- We need to consolidate the playing side of things for our first year in the new league.
- Unfortunately some of the things mentioned last year remain on the 'to do' list, particularly equipment storage, press reporting of matches and developing links with local schools.
- But we do anticipate that the long awaited-outdoor non-turf nets will become a reality in 2010 although we are dependent upon ECB financing.

Thanks

Thanks to all those who helped the Committee over the past year. In particular we mention Frank Spencer for his sterling work in getting adverts for the fixture card and in running the 100 Club.



Steve Greaves
(Chairman) December 2009