



BARNARDS GREEN CRICKET CLUB



BARNARDS GREEN CC SPRING NEWSLETTER 2010



Barnards Green Cricket Club

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INTRODUCTION

2009 was in many ways a wonderful year for the Green, as our Chairman Andy Lamb reported to the Annual Dinner and to the AGM. It was of course our 75th Anniversary year and we marked that with various events including the very successful cricket week at the beginning of September. Fundraising was difficult with a recession in full swing but the clubs financial position was more or less kept stable despite several investments in new equipment.

On the field the club had a record breaking season. The young 1st XI, led by Tim Williams for the first time, finished as runners-up in Division One, a country mile ahead of the third placed team. Tim's side pushed for the title all the way and it took an unbeaten season and a record points total for Pershore to eventually win their deserved promotion. The very young 2nd XI under new skipper Judd Doughty won the Division One 2nd XI title after a nailbiting race with Astwood Bank. The 3rd XI suffered from not being able to field consistently strong enough sides but the mighty 4th XI under captain Dick Brown also won their Division – Four South 2nd XI's – after an equally tense race with Canon Frome. The Evening League Team under Jez Clarke won no less than three cup finals. Both Sunday sides also enjoyed good seasons.

We were blessed with a superb overseas player - Nick Murphy - and especially pleasing was the number of young players who progressed and shone at all levels. Some of the oldies didn't do so badly either.

Last but not least, congratulations to Roy Mayo and the grounds team – our North End Lane ground came 2nd in the independent umpire's assessments for pitches and first overall in the League. Also, many thanks to Andy Wheeler and his helpers who made the Newland surfaces much improved in the past year or so.

So, 2010 has a lot to live up to. However, as Tim explains below, and as will become clear if you read through this newsletter, the club is in good shape and has plenty of plans in place to enable us to go into the new season with optimism.

Chris Horne

NEW NON-TURF NET FACILITY AT NORTH END LANE

As you probably know we plan to build a new 3 lane enclosed non turf net facility to replace the existing nets at North End Lane.

Thanks largely to tireless efforts by Andy Lamb we have now been successful in securing an ECB grant to cover much of the very high cost of the facility.

We have directly benefited from being ClubMark approved and for being a Focus Club, as without such status the ECB grant would not have been forthcoming. The net project has been a key target in our Club Development Plan logged with the ECB at regional and national level and so they have supported it.

You might like to know that the ECB has in the past year had requests from clubs for grants totalling £220 million versus an available pot of only £40 million, so they have certainly perceived us as being a priority club for support, and we are grateful for it.

We are also extremely grateful to be getting very generous support from the Joanna Brown Trust towards the costs of the excellent new facility (see below for further details about the Joanna Brown Trust).

THE CLUB CAPTAIN PREVIEWS THE 2010 SEASON

After a fantastic season for the club last year we are looking to build on our success. This means for the 1st XI working even harder in a bid to go one better and gain promotion to the Birmingham & District Cricket League. Make no mistake this will not be easy. Plenty of other teams in Division 1 will have the same idea and will be recruiting and training hard in order to make that next big step. Division 1, once again, promises to be an extremely open league and one where the team that plays the most good cricket will almost certainly prevail.

The effect of Nick Murphy was huge and leaves some big shoes to fill. We have been working very hard on the overseas situation with some extremely exciting options being presented to us - again we have been looking to secure a fast bowler with batting potential...see the article below for the result. We have managed to retain the squad that brought so much success last year (with the exception of Nick Murphy) which is excellent news with so many talented young players. Liam Paddock will be available from mid May through to the end of August and Philip Harris has had a successful stint in Western Australia with Nick.

Other movements have seen Adam Binks move into Malvern and so he has been able to increase his off field commitments to the club and also means he will enjoy a full pre season training. George Rhodes has taken up a position in the WCCC Academy and continues to work hard on his fitness and technique through the winter. Finally, Andy Ford will be completing his time at Cardiff University and hopes to be able to commit more time to the club.

The club are planning a pre-season team building trip to the Forest of Dean and will be attending 'Go Ape' and staying in Monmouth over night. If you wish to join us please speak to Chris Smedley with regards to bookings and deposits.

All in all it promises to be another exciting season for the club and hopefully one in which we rise to new heights. Nothing will be taken for granted and we are all fully aware that it is a new season and past achievements count for nothing and that hard work and good performance count for a lot!

Tim Williams

BILLTANSELL INTRODUCES THE NEW CRICKET MANAGER ROLE

Well, we are now busy getting ready for the new season. Us administrators have been up to our usual routine, attending meeting etc (when the snow allowed us!) and those lucky ones amongst us have taken a holiday. My main tasks, pre season have been to help organise the Go Ape, and sort out the job description for our new cricket manager H.

I will probably go to the 'Go Ape' weekend, but may not literally 'go ape'!! Its not that I am too old!! its just that I cannot stand heights, so it may be better for me to stay in the bar. I'm sure we will all have a good time.

As far as our new 'cricket manager' is concerned I am positive that this is a very good move forward. We have the ideal man in H. I am meeting with him at the moment to sort out his duties, but I am positive that his new job will be of great value to the whole club. We must all remember however that this is a new job and will take time to settle down, but we will be working hard in that direction. I wish H well in his new duties, and I will be available to help him any time he needs it. I hope all the players support him.

Best wishes to all, and I wish you a happy 2010 season, full of sunshine!

Bill Tansell.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW OVERSEAS PLAYER – ANDRE RUSSELL

BGCC have pulled off a major coup by securing the signing of up and coming Jamaican all rounder Andre Russell. 21 year old Russell is a fast bowler and middle order batsman with 7 1st class matches behind him already. This included a match for a Jamaica XI vs. the touring Australians in 2008 when he took the wickets of Andrew Symonds, Brett Lee and Phil Jacques and also scored 25 in the second innings.

Described by former West Indian Test Match captain Jimmy Adams as genuinely quick and an extremely hard worker Russell will be experiencing his first summer in the UK and was very pleased to take up the opportunity offered to him by BGCC.

For more information you can check Andre out on cricinfo.

The signing puts to an end a frustrating 3 month search for the overseas player for 1st XI captain Tim Williams. He said 'I am very excited to be able to welcome Andre to the club and the signing signals a clear intent from the club that we wish to go one better this year. We have had a long search and looked at many different players but I was determined to find a player of suitable quality for the 2010 season. Steven Hirst at cricx.com has been a huge help in securing this very exciting signing and we'd like to thank him for his efforts.'

Russell will arrive in Malvern in mid April in time for the start of the season.



The Committee would like to sincerely thank Tim for his tireless efforts over the winter to secure the best possible player for the Green.

PRE SEASON FRIENDLIES

The following pre-season warm-up games have been arranged by Andy Lamb & Tim Williams;

Sat 17th April 1st XI v. Old Elizabethans C.C. away
2nd XI v. Old Elizabethans C.C. at home

Sat 24th April 1st XI v. Hatherley & Reddings C.C. at home
2nd XI v. Hatherley & Reddings C.C. away

LEAGUE RULE CHANGES FOR 2010

There are no major league reorganisations or rule changes to report for 2010. The biggest change is that in the Sunday League (both Divisions 1 and 2) games will now start at 1.30 pm.

Bill Tansell

BGCC COLTS OUTLOOK FOR 2010

As we count the days down to the new season, the Colts calendar is once again a busy one with fixtures arranged for all age groups from under 16's down to under 10's. As the season progresses we also hope to arrange games for under 9's as well. Practice sessions for under 13's down will again be on a Wednesday evening from 6.30pm until 8pm starting on the last Wednesday in April until late July early August depending upon availability of coaches. Subscriptions for the season will be as last year (i.e. £22) with concessions if parents have more than one colt in attendance. Practice nights for other age groups will be shown on the club website so be sure to have a look at the colts section on the site.

As ever, we are looking for more qualified coaches, but also for helpers particularly on a Wednesday evening, so if you think you can help, please let me know.

We are always appreciative of help from parents in whatever capacity it may be, whilst we can provide managers and coaches for games, it's not always possible to get 11 colts in the back of a Mini!! Your support is much appreciated.

A new three bay net facility is to be built before the start of the season which should enhance training facilities for seniors and juniors alike, this will be a great attribute for the club, but please remember nets can be dangerous areas and players and spectators should always follow the net practice code and in particular, never turn your back on the net area!

We hope to arrange a skills evening for one Wednesday during the season and will look for colts to get themselves sponsored to raise a few extra pounds to help buy some extra equipment that we are seeking to obtain, sadly we have been ignored by the various bodies we have applied to for assistance so we have to go it alone. Further details will follow during the season.

So it's fingers crossed for a bit more sunshine this year and let the countdown continue.

Robin Longmore.

INDOOR NETS

Indoor nets have now started and will proceed from 7-9pm on Wednesday evenings until March 31st at the superb new facility at Malvern College (as used for training by Worcs CCC). All existing or new senior members are very welcome, as are Under 15's and Under 16's. The cost is just £3.50 per session for seniors and £2 for juniors.

LEAGUE FIXTURES

WCL fixtures begin for all four Saturday teams on Saturday May 1st.

WSCCL fixtures for both Sunday teams begin on Sunday 2nd May.

At the time of writing the Evening League fixtures are not yet available.

All fixtures will be published in the Club Handbook prior to the season and can also of course be accessed via the clubs website.

SELECTION POLICY

At the AGM, Cricket Section Chairman Andy Lamb reminded the members of the clubs selection policy. He said..."the policy will be what it was in 2009, that there should be a progression of priority of the Saturday XI's from 1>2>3>4 but that this fell down sometimes in 2009. This policy will be further addressed in 2010 with the selection committee to be chaired by the Senior Cricket Manager (Andy Harris). Progression of players coming "up" through the structure must also be a priority."

CRICKET TOUR 2010

It is planned to organise a Cricket Tour this year, after a break for the Cricket Week in 2009. The aim is to base the tour in the Cardiff area. Further details will be available soon.

SENIOR SUBSCRIPTIONS & MATCH FEES

As decided at the AGM, senior's subs and match fees have been held at their 2008 level again for the coming season. This means the same charges for 3 years running and great value for members. The following rates will therefore still apply:

SENIOR SUBS 2010

Subscriptions £75 for Club and Section if paid before 31st May.

£85 if paid after this date.

NOTE: players will not be eligible for selection if sub not paid by 31st May.

Subscription for Over 18 students and the unwaged £35.

Please pay your subs ASAP to Ian Scullion who will be coordinating subs collection this year.

SENIOR MATCH FEES 2010

Match fees £5.00 (£3.00 for the unwaged).

REMINDER – as last year, any player delivering a minimum of £150 of new sponsorship to the club by 1st April will receive their 2010 subscription FREE.

NATWEST CRICKET FORCE – MARCH 27th and 28th

The UK's biggest volunteer event is once again happening and BGCC will be participating by arranging pre-season works on our two grounds during the nominated weekend.

A full programme will be publicised before the day, but in the meantime, please contact Andy Wheeler (07791 047073) for further details.

At the time of writing (early March) we are still hopeful that the work can be accomplished before the new season, weather permitting. We will keep you informed of progress.

Chris Horne

EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2010

The 2010 season promises to be an exciting season for the club on and off the pitch and the need to continue to raise funds is as important as ever. As well as some familiar events we've got some new ones as well. Throughout the season we'll have numerous 'H' powered BBQ's and any help you can offer will be gratefully received. A new idea we'll be doing this season is introducing an IPL - style auction prior to the club's annual 6-a-side tournament. As always, your support is paramount to any of these events and if you can bring people from outside the club (friends & family) along that will help us raise much needed money for the club.

An evening with...Friday March 19th

"An evening with..... Steve Rhodes and Daryl Mitchell" hosted by H&W Radio's Dave Bradley will kick the season off in grand style. A great precursor to the new season, this sportsmen's evening will be held on Friday 19th March at 7pm.

Hereford and Worcester Radio presenter Dave Bradley will compere the evening which includes an interview with Worcestershire CCC coach Steve Rhodes and Daryl Mitchell Worcestershire's vice captain and opening batsmen.

The evening kicks off with a hearty meal of pie and mash. Dave Bradley will lead the evening from here covering some tricky questions for Steve and Daryl including WCCC's fortunes for 2010, tales from Steve's England career and reflecting on Daryl's first 1000 run season.

After a chance to recharge glasses Dave will take questions from the floor which can be emailed in advance to adambinks1@hotmail.com or dreamt up on the night.

Tickets can be purchased from Tim Williams, Jez Clarke, Adam Binks or Richard "Croc" Brown. They are priced at £15. Get in fast!

A Day At The Cricket...Wednesday August 18th

After last years first (and successful) attempt, the club will once again be hosting a special "Day at the cricket" at New Road. It is on Day 3 of the county championship game against Surrey. Those attending will certainly be getting a VIP ticket! The club will have exclusive use of the marquee – a great place to watch the cricket from. There will be teas and coffees on arrival, a superb three course lunch, a bar, a traditional afternoon tea, free scorecards, plus car parking spaces. The county is donating a signed bat for us to raffle, and there will hopefully be appearances by some of the players. Tickets will be advertised for sale in due course, at just £35 each or at a 10% discount for anyone booking a table of 10. This will be a great day out for all players, family members, friends or supporters of the club – and an opportunity also for our sponsors to entertain their guests. Contact Chris Horne (07729 804040) or Rich Brown (07891 592605) for further details.

Please note: The club is delighted if any members wish to arrange fundraising events for the club. However please note that all events involving monetary outlay must be channelled via Rich Brown to the committee, so that the committee is aware of events and can support them.

Rich Brown

GREENS TONY CREASE WINS PRESTIGIOUS MCCC AWARD

Green stalwart Tony Crease has received a prestigious award from the Midlands Club Cricket Conference at their annual dinner at Edgbaston recently. Tony picked up a "Cricketer of Year (Administrative)" award for "off the field contributions".

For those of you not aware of Tony's "chequered" past he has been an integral part of our club for the past 50 years. He has been not only a player but Captain, Chairman, Secretary, Colts Coach, Groundsman and he has done just about everything asked of him and usually more. Tony is currently retired but spends the majority of his days at the club doing something or other for the benefit of the club and its members for no reward. For example, this winter Tony has organised the painting of the dressing rooms and showers at North End Lane.

He still sits on the clubs management committee. Well done Tony - and thanks from everyone at the club.

About The Joanna Brown Trust

Barnards Green CC is proud to support the Joanna Brown Trust. Set up in loving memory of Joanna Brown, The Trust aims to...

"Encourage and enhance people's involvement in healthy recreational activity by providing equipment and facilities"

Jo was passionate about sport and being active. The Joanna Brown Trust wants to provide people with the opportunity to not just experience sport, but excel in it. Whenever there are sufficient funds in the Trust to make a difference, The Joanna Brown Trust will identify a good cause that Jo would have been supportive of and provide them with sporting equipment or facilities. Close consideration will be given to the type of equipment or facilities provided to ensure that the aims of The Joanna Brown Trust are achieved.

For more information, latest news plus forthcoming events please visit our website – www.TheJoannaBrownTrust.org.