

Charlbury Cricket Club 2020 AGM

Chairman's Report

A year ago I sat before you and delivered an enthusiastic and upbeat Chairman's report which congratulated and praised our members for all the hard work that had gone into the club during the twelve months previous.

I warned of upcoming challenges during the next twelve months; I wasn't wrong, but the challenges weren't what I expected...

Shortly after last year's AGM we had our Annual Fireworks night which was a complete washout; the rain didn't stop all day and numbers were dramatically down. It's a testament to all involved that we managed to break even on the night and that significant losses didn't occur. Sadly, when looking forward to this year's event; a wet November night is the least of our worries and we have already had to cancel.

You all know what happened during the early part of this year; we all became very familiar with words such as 'Covid', 'lockdown', 'Zoom' and 'bubble'.

It looked for a long time that we might not play any cricket this year. Indoor nets were cancelled, tour scrapped, a line put through pre-season friendlies, the league didn't start on time, our Spring Ball didn't happen, the annual Charlbury Beer Festival and a wedding we were meant to be hosting both had to focus on 2021 and a number of other events as a club we were all looking forward to couldn't happen.

However, as is the Charlbury Cricket Club way... we didn't stop or give up... 'cricket at home', where we saw also sorts of jovial video's, competitions and events, Zoom socials / quizzes for different parts of the club, work parties to improve our facilities and the application to many organizations for much needed funds. The various committees worked hard to ensure when it was safe to do so; CCC were as well equipped as any club to get our youth, our ladies, our midweek sides and our senior Saturday sides up and running.

This is a point that I'd like to touch on further, for a while when lockdown measures were first introduced I thought that us playing cricket at Charlbury wasn't that important in the whole grand scheme of things... However I was wrong. The gift that the short but most enjoyable cricket season gave us all, will stand us in good stead going into this winter, which as we all probably fear is going to get tougher before it gets better.

The effort behind the scenes that went on to ensure that we could get playing again in a safe environment was remarkable. Believe me it wasn't easy, but we got there and I want to thank all of you who were involved in making cricket happen at Charlbury during these most difficult of times. Not being able to see each other and interact with each other proved challenging but the focus and drive of certain individuals at this club is what sets us apart from so many others.

Now looking forward, I can't advise or predict what the future has in fold for our club. The ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and other issues will continue to present challenges for us to overcome. But I have no doubt that a very different looking Management Committee will lead us going forward and we will continue to go from strength to strength.

I urge you all to listen to each other, to debate, to help and support one another and to understand that there will be differences of opinions but to recognize that we have something uniquely special at Charlbury Cricket Club and that everyone has the clubs best interests at heart.

So now is the time for me to stop, but before I do I would like to thank everyone for all their support they have given me during my three years as chairman of Charlbury Cricket Club. A role which I have held with tremendous pride, for sure there has been difficult times but I have enjoyed myself immensely and look forward to what the future holds for us all.

Tom Eaton
22nd October 2020