

Welcome to all

Apologies from D Stewart, A Rabot, J Horrocks.

In Attendance E Shiff, A Neal, J Corbett, S Shiff, SJ Sherratt, S Sherratt, G Henderson, I Hughes, E Blowers, S Churchman, H Jaan, I Liversage, A Evans, B Ellis, J Courtney, P Croft, D Croft, N London, A London, A Sandalls, R Watkins, D Croman, G Jones, S Corbett, T Horrocks, D While, C Smith, K Winter, R Bibby, J Fairclough, O Williams, D Johnstone

Last year's minutes discussed. Confirmed as correct by: A Evans Seconded C Smith

Chairman's report:

Summary:

Last years strategy and beliefs reflected upon.

Key Areas of focus for the year – recruitment – starting a women's section – grow junior section

What actually happened?

1st team 10th

2nd team 3rd

3rd team 11th + Runners up (Embee Cup Final)

4th team 12th overall and Disbanded due to player unavailability.

Sunday 3rd team 9th

1st team specifics: Wanted to finish top 4 and cup final, match runs + wickets from 2015 (title winning season). How was this to be achieved?

Junior Cricket: Tough year. 40% loss in members. Critical to improve and invest into junior section.

Women's Cricket: Multiple tournaments entered, sponsor provided free kit, entered a winter league on the back of a Successful summer.

Thanks to volunteers: Captains, Selection Committee, Junior Coaches – Sue Sherratt, I Hughes, T Anders, G Henderson, A London, L Jones. Social Media – A Rabot, Sue Sherratt, K Jones D Watson. Social Events – C Smith. Ground staff T Watkins P Leech. Cricket Sec – E Shiff, J Corbett Other thanks to E Blowers, P Croft, J Eastwood.

Need to take responsibility for what we can control. Can't control Umpires/Weather/Tosses. Can control Attitude/Training/Commitment.

Wants for future:

Senior Cricket – Introduce a Director Of Cricket role to improve training and other areas of Senior Cricket

Junior - Outsource coaching to improve standard on a Friday and further develop Junior Section whilst attracting more.

Social – Another pre-season tour following on from last years success.

Other – Reward and recognition our volunteers. Possibility of Bar Vouchers etc to reward and encourage the people who give up their time to make the club a better place

Chairmans Report:

Going into 2022 we spent a significant time as a committee identifying the why, how, and what for the future of our Cricket section. Our purpose was defined as 'Making stories, friendships and memories which last a lifetime', with three fundamental beliefs sitting underneath, namely, 'we believe pride in our history can inspire our sustainable future, we believe in creating an inclusive, fun and family friendly environment and we believe we can develop our own talent via the bets facilities and infrastructure.' Finally, we had five programmes running across Senior Cricket, Junior Cricket, Social, Facilities and Communication. Our goals were ambitious, and we wanted to create a virtuous cycle of success – more fun, more members, more volunteers, more income, and more investment. Finally, we set specific targets to recruit over ten senior players, establish a Women's section and drive exponential growth in our Junior section following the success in 2021. It was brilliant to see that so much had already been achieved going into the season, for example, seven senior players recruited, two overseas players signed, return of All Stars, new Junior Cricket pathway developed, tour to Leeds, multiple social events (meals out, paintballing, music nights), two new sponsors, local media coverage, NBCC sliders and retro jumpers available, new selection policy created and sports massages available every Tuesday.

Unfortunately, the season did not quite go to plan on the pitch as we had all hoped! Our First XI finished 10th, Second XI 3rd (narrowly missing promotion back to the Premier division), Third XI 11th (resulting in relegation to Division One) and our 4th XI finished 13th (effectively disbanded halfway through the season) and our Sunday Third XI finished 9th. One of our biggest challenges is consistency of availability, which needs to be addressed for future seasons to create the competition of places to ensure our teams can be regularly competitive.

In regards to the First XI, we reviewed all the league positions and results from 2013-2022. One of the alarming statistics was that we did not draw any games in 2021, and it was clear that we needed to become harder to beat. Similarly, in 2015 when we won the league we scored over 3000 runs, at an average of 150 per game, whilst taking over 180 wickets at an average close to 9 wickets per game. Clearly the game of cricket is more nuanced and winning the 'key moments' is just as important as the overall statistics, but it was good guidance for what we needed to achieve to have a successful season. Similarly, the First XI identified their purpose, 'pride in our history, responsibility for our future, leave a legacy for others to follow, set the standard for the club in everything we do' with a set of input measures to help us achieve the outcomes we wanted.

Although we did not win all the key moments, there are reasons to be proud, positive, and punchy about our future. We scored over 3550 runs, which is the highest since 2014 and an increase of 41% since 2021. In particular we had four players achieve 500 league runs. In terms of bowling, we took 148 wickets, which was an increase of 22% versus 2022, with younger players starting to break through and hold their own at Premier League level. To play all season with ten genuine homegrown players is something we should be incredibly proud of as a club. I would like to specially mention Dave While, who is only the second player (after Jesse Ryder) in the 'modern era' to score 500 league runs and take over 50 wickets in a season for NBCC. Dave is rare breed, demonstrating immense loyalty in an age where those with the 'right values and morals' are harder to find, he is undoubtedly one of the best cricketers we have ever produced and most importantly is a humble, kind, and outstanding person to have alongside you in the dressing room. Across the rest of the club, we have many reasons to believe, with twelve centurions and thirteen five fors – clearly, we have talented players who can perform.

Turning to Junior Cricket, unfortunately, it was a very tough year with a 40% decline versus 2021 (38% boys and 45% girls). Most of our players sit between the u9 and u13 age groups and therefore we are still a few years away from (hopefully) turning our talented Juniors into Senior cricketers. Junior cricket is the lifeblood of our club, and it is critical that we urgently improve our offering in comparison to our local competitors. We must accelerate our breath of recruitment by advertising on social media, building relationships with local schools and partnerships with other sports clubs. We must improve our retention of players through having more qualified coaches, more volunteers and creating a fun atmosphere

on a Friday night with a BBQ and music. Finally, we must start to reward and recognise players and volunteers who help grow and develop our Junior section.

One of our greatest successes was the introduction of our Ladies Softball team, with over fifteen members regularly participating in 'Fizzy Fridays'. Our team entered multiple competitions and even won the one which we hosted for local Wirral teams! It was great to see our ladies having fun, developing, and integrating into the wider club. I am personally excited to see how they progress in their winter league, and I am sure they will have continued success.

Overall, we have a huge amount to remain positive about and we must take a step back to appreciate that we have come together as one club. A huge thanks must go to those who volunteer; however, we still rely on too few to do too much, remember it is your club and you can help improve rather than take the easy option of sitting back and criticising those that do! A big thanks to our Captains – Simeon Shiff, Noah London, Doug Stewart, and Gaz Jones who continually make sacrifices to help others enjoy their cricket. To Sue Sherratt for her continued hard work on our Junior section, and Iwan Hughes for organising another successful summer camp. To our social media team of Armand Rabot, Derek Watson, Sue Sherratt and Kathryn Jones who work tirelessly in the background. To Derek Watson and Andy London who have both helped find much needed sponsors. To Charlie Smith who has been a breath of fresh air and organised multiple social events to help bring us closer together. To Steve Corbett, Tim Watkins, Phil Leech, Eddie Shiff and James Corbett who have helped with selection, the ground, and Cricket Secretary requirements respectively. To our regular helpers and managers in Junior Cricket, Tom Anders, Garry Henderson, Luke Jones, Simeon Shiff and Louis Botes. Finally, to Phil Croft, Josh Eastwood and Eddie Blowers who selflessly give so much to make our club a better place and epitomise the behaviours more should aspire to – thank you!

Although we cannot shy away from the impact of not having an Overseas Professional in 2022, for example, on First XI performances, Junior and Senior Cricket coaching and overall atmosphere in the club, we must take responsibility for what we can control. Too often we turn to areas we cannot control, as opposed to focusing on our attitude, commitment and training to do the right thing. Clearly, we are at a moment in time where we must reverse the downward trend for the future of our club. Damien Hughes from the High-Performance Podcast identifies that a commitment culture wins more often than other types of cultures, after a long-term study into the success of Barcelona FC. There are five key areas to building a commitment culture. Firstly, build a view of the bigger picture – the team must have a clear sense of why they do what they do. Secondly, be aware of the 'arc of change' i.e., the change is always hardest in the middle. Thirdly, provide evidence based, relevant and formative feedback to drive behaviour change. Fourthly, create cultural architects who demonstrate by doing the commitment behaviours needed to drive change. Finally, ensure authentic leaders with integrity maintain the right culture.

In the best-selling books Atomic Habits, author James Clear states "outcomes are what you get, processes are what you do, and identity is who you are." Clear argues, behaviour change that is incongruent with self will not last. The ultimate form of intrinsic motivation is when a habit becomes part of your identity. Therefore, one of the key changes we must make, is to identify our mission – to be the best club to play, watch and learn cricket. If every time we are at NBCC and we ask ourselves is our behaviour linked to the identity of being the best club to play, watch and learn cricket, we will start to move to higher levels of intrinsic motivation and commitment.

It is important that our committee clarify our priorities for the 2023 season. For Senior Cricket we will focus on recruiting two overseas players, eight other players, bringing in a Director of Cricket and improving training. For Junior Cricket, securing free membership, more qualified coaches, school visits and summer camps will be our priority. For Ladies Cricket, we will aim to offer free membership, renew sponsorship, and continue to provide playing opportunities throughout the winter. Socially, we will continue with winter events, a pre-season tour, regularly quizzes and music nights in the season. Finally, I want to explore how we reward and recognise our volunteers and continue to try to bring in new sponsorship opportunities. Please reflect on where you could help!

Overall, it is imperative that we remember the 'three Cs': confidence, consistency, and commitment. Be confident in the future of NBCC – we have brilliant facilities, infrastructure and talent coming through. Be as consistent as you can be, to help stabilise our Senior cricket performances. Finally, commit – commit in everything that you do for NBCC as that will drive the behaviour change we need to be the club we all want to be.

Captains reports

1st team included in above

2nd team:

2nd team season review

"Firstly I'd like to say thanks for all the commitment everyone showed in 2022. Everyone got on board with what we wanted to achieve. Unfortunately promotion wasn't to be as we finished just 3 points short. Taking the positives out of this season though we have really set ourselves up as favourites to be in that top two next year.

Luke Terry was a massive bonus for us - not only his runs on the pitch but in the changing room! We hope to see Luke again and if not another young Aussie!

When I look back on this season it's pretty clear where it went wrong. We failed to beat the top 2 teams, Leigh and Rainford. Coming away with just 2 draws from them both. Next year we must also beat the teams that are contending with us.

Loads of great personal performances, the few that stand out to me are

Andrews Evans 7 for 21 vs Wavertree

Again pies with another 7 for 48 Vs Bootle in the final game of season

Elliot Griffith's 5 for 1 Vs Fleetwood Hesketh

Sam Cureton 5 for 40 Vs Rainhill

Giles Sinclair 4 for 12 Vs Rainhill in that unbelievable 20/20 game.

Danny Johnno 4 for 37 Vs Wavertree

This brings me to my first award which is players player. We've bowled him into the ground this year and without this fella we wouldn't have been able to bowl sides out and I hope he's still got more in the tank to give!

Finishing on 73 wickets

Andy Evans

Onto the batting and I think it's pretty obvious who is leading run scorer.

Luke Terry finished on 1024 second team runs with 2 x 151s not out and a 101!

Fantastic to have him on and off the field!

Plenty more achievements though -

John while 123 Vs rainhill

Craig Bennet 99 Vs Fleetwood hesketh

Armand rabbot 90 Vs Southport trinity

Sam Jones 74 Vs northop hall

Tom horrocks 66 not out Vs Southport trinity

And Danny Johnstone with 64 not out Vs Fleetwood hesketh

That brings me on to the last award which is the Eddie blowers award. This fella has been a genuine all rounder for us this year. He's done it all!

Taking 19 wickets

Scoring 432 runs

And grabbing 13 catches.

My player of year award goes to Danny johnno

Lastly I would like to thank the selection committee for their support and hard work.

Hopefully with a strong recruitment drive throughout the whole club this winter the 2nd team will be pushing for their top two spots next season and will be playing premier League cricket in 2024!

Thanks

Simeon Shiff"

3rd Team:

Exciting to be 3s captain at 17. Honoured. Inconsistent sides throughout the season. Unfortunately ended in relegation. Some highs: AL 151. JC 4 wickets. Great cup run with great highlights. Rolling northern in the semi-final after they turned up expecting to beat us. Won by 10 wickets. Consistent sides have the talent to put in great performances. Thanks to those who helped me as captain throughout the season. Thanks to those who were as committed as they should. Best of luck to the captain next year.

Junior Section report:

See above captains report

Safehands Report:

KW – nothing to report.

Election of Officers and Captains.

Chairman: Adam Neal

Secretary: James Corbett

Sec Support: Edward Shiff

Fix Sec: Edward Shiff

Junior Sec: Sue Sherratt

1XI Captain: Adam Neal

2XI Captain: Simeon Shiff

3XI Captain: Ben Ellis

Sunday 3's Captain: Iwan Hughes

Above elected with an Unanimous Vote

4th Team official to be confirmed when/if the team is entered. Is it sustainable to run based on last year? Possibility of combing with another club or replacing with a midweek T20 team to supply members with games.

Questions?:

4th Team. Why shrink the club when we want to grow?

Based on last season it wasn't feasible to run a team as the team was kicked out of the league. Sending teams to compete with less than eleven players isn't fair on the members playing and could be detrimental to the juniors in the side. Risk of them leaving cricket all together if continue to have seasons in adult cricket like last year.

Wayfarers situation. Significant amount of issues this year with the ground. What is being done?

Fundamentally the help financially Wayfarers brings is beneficial. Current economic crisis and clubs position means solutions to any and all issues will be sought. Committees are looking into it further.

First team values looking ahead to next year?

Want to sign an overseas pro to be more competitive. Possibility of 1 or 2 more paid players. Committed to homegrown players but more contracted players makes us more competitive and more reliable availability across all teams.

Groundstaff positions?

As far as Adam Neal knows Groundstaff saying the same.

Overseas Pro. What are we going differently?

Issue last year was original pro dropping out late. He was told he was close to a position in the Sri Lanka Squad. Second pro had a multitude of issues, Covid 19 , Ukraine, Visas, and more. Should be sorted for next season where this isn't an issue, although a different pro is being sought after.

Finances. Why does the fact we didn't have a overseas paid player not reflect in the financial predictions?

Many reasons. Economic climate currently, drop in memberships, more. Desire for free junior memberships to increase member numbers. Would result in more bar takings higher retention of players into senior cricket and their paid memberships then. Discussions needed with membership sec to make this possible.

Awards:

1st XI:

Player of the Year: David While

100's: David While, Sebastian Botes, Daniel Cooke

Hattrick and 5fer: Matthew Thompson

Peter Joiner Awards for outstanding performances: David While

2nd XI:

Players player of the Year: Andrew Evans

Player of the Year: Daniel Johnstone

100s: Luke Terry x3, John While

7fers: Andrew Evans x2

3rd XI:

Player of the Year: Andrew London

100s: Andrew London

4th XI:

Player of the Year: Garry Henderson

Sundays:

Player of the Year: JJ Stuffins

100s: Charlie Smith, Matthew Cumner, Armand Rabot

Under 21's Player of the Year: Daniel Cooke

Under 16's Player of the Year: Hakim Jaan

Women's Player of the Year: Emma Cooke

Club Person of the Year: Edward Shiff

Thanks to all for attendance

Close.