



## Lee Dixon, 1<sup>st</sup> XI Skipper reflects on one big season...

That was the season that was!

And as they say, they don't get much better than that. If Carlsberg did cricket seasons...

As we head towards our annual awards night, time to look back and reflect on just what we achieved in 2014.

I was privileged to take over the reins from 1<sup>st</sup> XI skipper, Steve Ogilby and after such a successful season in 2013, it was a pretty daunting challenge. So the hard work started back in the winter as we set about planning the forthcoming season.

We had Josh Henderson arriving from overseas, hungry youngsters like Harry Killoran and Jack Williams, a returning Ollie Law, all number of seasoned, eager pros and a wealth of burgeoning talent coming through the junior ranks. It was going to be tough to raise the bar and move the Club on even further.

That we managed it was down to commitment and hard work across the Club.

Gentleman Dan Riley dealt superbly with what is one of the toughest challenges of all – successfully captaining a second team whilst meeting the demands of the first and third elevens. Dan has been a great clubman and supporter.

We had Dave Fisher excelling as third team captain to win the league and a fourth team with Steve Henshaw and Phil Evans also landing us a title. 2015 will see the return of the thirds v fourths derby for the first time for a number of years. Great progress.

Great progress too at junior level with success across our age groups and great parent and coach support. The junior section – run admirably by Dave and Linda Killoran – is our backbone and our future. It's success is demonstrated by



the fact that in 2015 we're introducing a CBH Academy side to play senior cricket on Sunday afternoons – a great opportunity for our youngsters to make the transition.

The Club's growing success and ambitions are more important than anything – but it's also great to win trophies. That we landed the Cheshire Cup for the third year running and regained the Liverpool Echo T20 Trophy were good consolations to finishing runners-up to Hyde in the Championship.

And winning the Fred Graham T20 Trophy at home in front of our own supporters was special, on one of those glorious 'Filkins Lane days'.

Of course, the icing on the cake was Northampton and the professionalism, attitude and spirit of players, supporters and members that helped get us there. 'Special' doesn't even begin to describe those couple of days in Northampton and a great prize of a trip to La Manga.

Whilst we've had tremendous success on the field, the Club continues to prosper off the field too.

Our catering is second to none, making CBH the most welcoming of clubs. We've raised the bar too with our marketing efforts and with the launch of our new website. CBH is certainly a great place to be right now and for the foreseeable future.

I'm looking forward to 2015 when we go again. And we'll be looking to go even further.

Finally, some more 'thank yous'. To the Committee for their generous backing and support and of course to the two main ladies in my life, Mum and Natalie for their support and dedication throughout all the ups and downs.

Cheers!

Lee Dixon, November 2014