

Bearsted Cricket Club

The Green, Bearsted, Kent

Hon. President
Geoff Chapman

Hon. Chairman
David Patton

Hon. Secretary
Vacant Position



Dear Friend,

Welcome to the 2018 season at Bearsted Cricket Club!

I hope you wintered well and were able to survive the “Beast from the East” trilogy... The first instalment was exciting, an event that comes about once every few years, the second came a little too soon after the first, didn't quite live up to the hype and was just a little disappointing, and third – well I heard a rumour it was coming, but think it turned out to be a bit of a damp squib and went straight to DVD!

Unlike last year, to me the winter seems to have dragged on a little this year and so I'm sure like me you are looking forward to the mornings and evenings getting lighter, the temperature warming up and cricket returning to our wonderful village green.

Now congratulations to all of last season's award winners! It was a tough season on the field but that didn't stop there being some excellent performances and more importantly lots of commitment from many people at the club. Well done to all the winners and thanks again to all the committed volunteers, without whom the club couldn't function; you know who you are.

During the last close season, we tried to make a few changes to the committee structure and the administrative infrastructure at the club. As expected this was met with a few teething challenges during the year, specifically in levels of commitment to using of the online website and member management system. However, this year we really must up our efforts to use this system for storing personal data as, from May 2018, we as a club will be directly impacted by the incoming General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), which replaces the old Data Protection Act, and can lead to fines for non-compliance.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask all officers, captains and members to do what they can to help us embed this system in our daily cricketing lives. It can be a very powerful and secure way of organising events and communicating with our teams and supporters, I'm sure if we all try we will learn to love it! Remember, if you would like to play cricket for Bearsted CC this season or keep up to date with the goings on, please make sure that you have set up and continue to maintain your profile on the website (www.bearstedcricketclub.co.uk).

At the AGM in November it was also agreed that, after the trial run last season, we would revert to the original larger committee structure. This would hopefully encourage more people to get involved and it has been great to welcome some new faces to the group this year – although we are unfortunately still searching for an Hon. Secretary.

It's important to say that the officers and committee members are all volunteers who work to ensure that the club is run for the benefit of all players, members and the community around us – so if you do have any questions, ideas for development or would like to volunteer or partner with us in any way please do get in touch. You would be welcome to join a committee meeting, or you can email me at chairman@bearstedcricketclub.co.uk.

During this close season the focus has been on renewing and updating our main sponsor agreements and with that we have been refreshing our playing kit and other leisure wear options. In terms of main



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sponsors, we are grateful to Gullands Solicitors who continue as our main senior club sponsor, and we'd like to welcome our new back of shirt sponsor for the senior sides, Ferris & Co – already a valued long-term supporter of the club – and LMOB electrical contractors, who have become our first junior cricket sponsor.

At this point I'd also like publically thank one of our outgoing main sponsors, GForces, not only for their direct financial sponsorship over the past few years but also for their substantial in-kind contributions to the club during that time in terms of systems set up, knowledge and insight and also the time dedicated by members of their teams to help with various tasks. Thanks to Giles Smith, Simon Upton (both of whom took and active part in our committee), Matt Ellis, our excellent end of season dinner DJ, and Ivan Waldren for their valuable support.

Moving forward, the new Gray Nicolls Online Club shop (which is available via the Club Shop menu on the website) is now open for business, and it includes a wide range of match, training and leisure wear options all nicely embroidered with the famous Bearsted CC crest.

To ensure the best possible coverage for our new sponsors, whilst doing our best to reduce the impact of a shirt refresh on playing member bank balances, the committee and the club has agreed to cover the cost of a new 2018 season playing shirt for all senior players who pay their membership subscriptions before the end of May (ideally as early in the season as possible to make us look great on the field of play!). Please contact Tim Lush, Hon. Treasurer for more details or to pay your fees and order a shirt.

During the dark and cold evenings of winter, the committee has also been discussing options to continue to improve our facilities. We had to carry out a substantial service and repair on the "new" mower from last season, not a small task or investment, and have also replaced the missing guttering to the front of the pavilion, purchased new poles for the rope around the square, bought some new poles for our practice net and have been considering options for a small extension to the side to help with storage – we hope to discuss more on that over the coming months.

On the playing side, our indoor practice sessions are now behind us and the 2018 season kicks off with several friendly games from early April onwards with league games for our senior and junior sides beginning in late April early May. To ensure you are aware of where and when we are playing please find enclosed a copy of our fixture card for the upcoming 2018 season. I hope that this will allow you to plan some visits to the Green to either play or watch and support your local village cricket club the coming months.

After the slightly disappointing season in 2017, the 2018 season looks promising with rumours of increased availability and some good players returning to the club. We hope this means we will be able to play some consistently excellent, exciting and successful cricket across all of our senior teams.

After suffering relegation last year, our Saturday 1st XI, captained by Mark Sandhu, will be representing Bearsted CC in the 2nd Division of Kent County Village league. This continues to promise high-quality competitive cricket for players and spectators alike and we will be pushing hard for promotion back to Division 1.

Equally, the Saturday 2nd XI, once again led by Tim Croom, will be hoping for some consistency on team selection with a target of promotion out of Division 7 firmly within our sights. Our Sunday League XI, again



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under the stewardship of Yannick Oakland, after avoiding relegation on net run rate will continue to play a very good standard of cricket in Division 3 of the Kent Village League.

We will of course also continue to run our increasingly successful junior and minis section with training and matches throughout the summer. As we now enter the third year of our now flourishing U9's age group, 2018 will see a large number of children progress to a new Under 11's team, so we will be looking to encourage more boys and girls between school years 2 and 4 to come along and start their cricketing careers in the green. The now highly skilled boys and girls moving up will continue to develop their abilities by playing in the U11 Weald of Kent Junior Cricket Development League and will join the U16 playing in the Weald of Kent Junior Cricket League.

Finally, like all clubs, we continue to run thanks to the hard work of our volunteers and through the valuable financial support of our sponsors. We are extremely grateful to all our existing and long-term supporters, but there are of course many opportunities for people, of all abilities and interests, to get involved in 2018. You can support the successful running of your local village club in many ways, and we would welcome the support of as many of the local community as possible – whether it be through playing, scoring, umpiring, general volunteering, sponsorship or coming down and supporting. You will be more than welcome!

You will be able to keep up to date with all the results, tables and news by visiting our website or by following our official Facebook page and Twitter feeds. If you have any questions, comments or enquiries please feel free to contact me directly via email (chairman@bearstedcricketclub.co.uk) or the club via our website or official Facebook page.

Here's to another enjoyable and successful summer of cricket in Bearsted.

David

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Hon. Chairman | Bearsted Cricket Club



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