



SECRETARYS REPORT 2022

I write this after a good season of cricket for the club. The men's first team maintained their division one status, the seconds finished second in division 6A and are hopeful of promotion through a league re jig. The Sunday XI finished second and have been promoted to division one for the first team.

The development of the ladies team continued to blossom with numbers remaining high throughout the season. The season 2022 also saw our Lady Bears play competitive soft ball cricket for the first time and not only that but they managed to finish third in the COUNTY!!!! Well done to all the ladies and to the coaches led by Dave Charlton and Simon Barker.

The oldest of our junior teams, the under 15s, had an great season. Not only did many of the squad play regularly in the Saturday 2s and Sunday league side, helping the senior sides achieve the success above, but strong performances across the team with bat and ball all season saw them WIN the Weald of Kent U15 league 2022, against some very strong competition, including the Mote, Linton Park, LBJ and Sissinghurst, only losing out on the championship trophy due to a "unique" end of season playoff on the Green against 2nd placed Linton Park.

The under 11s and 13s had what can only be described as a "challenging year". Due to the lost seasons of Covid, the majority of the U11 and U13 squad were playing hardball for the first time with many being at the younger end of the age groups (under 10s in under 11, under 12s in under 13). There was some excellent commitment on and off the field and a real desire to improve their skills. Some new members towards the end of the season also added some more depth and so hopefully this experience will help to improve results into 2023. Thanks to David Patton for managing both ages in 2022, and also to Tim Croom for his support and especially parents John Savage, Darren Edwards, Karl Salter and John Simpson for providing much needed support – hopefully a few of these and other parents will consider volunteering and taking coaching courses in 2023.

At the minis end of the club we had another strong year. The under 9s began the new season on Sunday mornings in May with over 50 excited children from ages 5 – 9 and



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Any comments, questions or queries please contact David Patton, Hon. Chairman Bearsted Cricket Club
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Bearsted Cricket Club Committee

The Green, Bearsted, Kent

Hon. President
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only a few volunteer coaches, led excellently by Tim Croom and Marcel Boonaert. After a few weeks the decision was taken to split into a new under 7s and under 9s section which worked very well. The under 7s have come on leaps and bounds whilst the split of the under 9s allowed them to focus on development which led to great success. The under 9s are looking very strong! In the new Kent Forty5 competition they finished SECOND in Kent (!) and for good measure they WON the Weald of Kent 8 a side!! Well done to all involved – we are looking to seeing many of these under 9s moving into the under 11s and also some starting to play incrediball league games early in 2023.

Off the pitch, the committee were informed at the start of the season that Ray and Sandra Jeffery would not be able to carry on with their work in the pavilion at Bearsted. It has been very noticeable that they were not doing this job as there were occasions where a last minute call for toilet rolls or squash was made and that the pavilion was not as tidy as it perhaps should have been. We wish to thank them both for their long stint of helping the club in this way.

We unfortunately lost some vice presidents this year, Mrs Jean Corps and Ted White and we also found out about the passing of Colin Fleetwood. A moving tribute was made to all three on the club website by the Chairman. The club has purchased a replacement bench for Ted and has placed plaques onto our memorial bench for Colin and Mr and Mrs Corps, Mr Corps being a former playing member.

Thanks go to Barry Watling, John Savage and Dan Skinner and the now fit again Jerry for umpiring again this year. Thanks also to Robin Cross and Helen Turner for scoring regularly again.

Thanks also to Simon Barker for preparing the grounds at both Hollingbourne and Bearsted. From 2023 we have a regular formal tenant at Hollingbourne in the form of Kent Royals, who have just been accepted into the Kent Village League on Sundays. They have been using the ground for the last two seasons, giving Bearsted CC a regular income, however it would be nice to see Bearsted using the ground more often, perhaps with the regular event of a Saturday 3rd XI or Sunday 2nd XI. There are investigations ongoing to install a permanent artificial net there with two lanes so practice sessions will return to Hollingbourne should this come to fruition I would imagine.



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Thanks also to our Chairman, David Patton, who does a lot of work behind the scenes, things that no one probably knows about unless you are on the committee. He deals with a variety of issues, too many to list here, along with holding down a very busy job and having a young family. I know that the workload is becoming a bit much for him so some help is needed and is detailed slightly more elsewhere.

One thing I think, as a club, we need to improve on, is to thank those that give up their spare time for the greater good. If its a pint or a G & T in the pub or a more formal way of thanking, all club members should be grateful for the efforts of all volunteers. On the back of this, I wish to thank all the committee members for their service this year and to all those who do volunteer in one way or another, and I apologise if I have missed anyone.

I am aware of a few vacant positions for the 2023 season. Secretary, fixture secretary and club safeguarding officer as well as ladies captain and vice-captain. In my opinion, some new blood on the committee would be good too. As it stands, writing this, we are due to have a committee meeting this week but it won't be able to go ahead as there are currently only 3 confirmed attendees. This means that the meeting cannot go ahead as there will not be a quorate to make any decisions for the club. Please do consider taking on a position and helping YOUR club in the 2023 season. These positions are explained further in an attached document.

Congratulations to all the trophy winners in 2022 and we look forward with interest to the remaining 3 trophy winners, hopefully to be presented at a similar event at the Yeoman as was held earlier this year.

All that is left to say is that I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing many of you in the 2023 season.

Steve Pearce (Hon. Secretary)



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