



YELVERTON BOHEMIANS CRICKET CLUB CLUB NEWSLETTER – 2017 SEASON – ISSUE 1

Dear Geoff

A Happy New Year to you and your family. We trust that you had a good festive break and are now looking forward to Spring and the start of the 2017 Cricket Season.

A brief recap....

The 2016 Annual General Meeting was held in October and although the attendance was disappointing with only 12 members present, the business of the Club was reviewed in order to close out the 2016 season.

As you may be aware, it was decided to postpone the election of Captain's due to the lack of members in attendance.

The 2017 Season focus

Following the review of the last season, your Committee has put forward the following 3 areas to focus on this year.

FOCUS 1 - Playing Standards

FOCUS 2 - Team Selection

FOCUS 3 - Finances

FOCUS 1 - Playing Standards

The 1st XI were unlucky to narrowly miss out on promotion in 2016 and will be once again be playing in D Division West in 2017. The Committee is concerned that the low standard of cricket in the lower divisions of the current league structure will have a negative effect on the Club's playing standards. In addition, many of the opposition grounds are not as good our own Langton Park. The Devon Cricket League (DCL) are also considering restructuring to form an 'all-though league' (1st, 2nd, 3rd etc. XI's all playing in one league structure) from the 2018 season. The current position of the Club's 1st XI may therefore dictate that we are placed in an even lower division in a new league structure, meaning a greater distance to climb up the league structure to attain a more suitable standard of competition. We therefore feel that the club MUST gain promotion in 2017 and furthermore must target to rise by a minimum of 2 divisions in the next 3 seasons (i.e. by the end of the 2019 season).

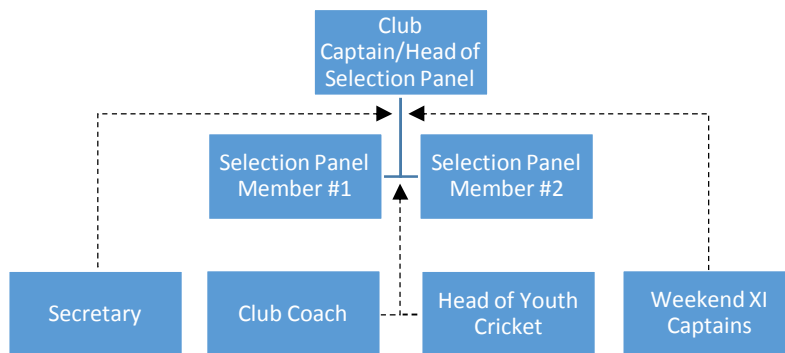
FOCUS 2 - Team Selection

Unfortunately Team Selection has been problematic over the last few seasons for a number of reasons and the Committee are concerned that this will hamper the Club to achieve **FOCUS 1**. The Committee believe that the current Selection Process has become somewhat dysfunctional and needs a radical overhaul. Having considered the approach taken by some other clubs, the proposal is therefore to suggest a complete re-structure of the selection process as follows.

A new Selection Panel (SP) will consist of 3 fully paid-up members and be responsible for selection of the 3 Saturday League XI's. The Club Captain is part of the Club Committee. The other 2 Panel Members are not Committee positions and will be co-opted to sit on the panel by the Committee. The panel will be chaired by the Club Captain and will meet weekly to select the 3 Saturday League XI's (18 weeks) + any other fixtures as required by the Club Committee. Although they will not form part of the panel, input from the Weekend XI Captains, Club Coach, Head of Youth Cricket & Secretary will be sought regarding:

- availability
- commitment
- form
- attitude
- payment of debts
- etc.

The new Selection Panel:



The new Selection Panel will hopefully ensure a more structured and consistent approach to weekly selection avoiding some of the issues that have arisen in recent seasons. The existing Selection Guidelines will be re-drafted to reflect the new approach and will be made available to the Membership.

FOCUS 3 - Finances

The Club's available cash reserves are extremely low as a result of the following investment(s):

- 2 years of Autumn Square Maintenance (£1800)
- Ground Machinery Replacement Purchases & Regular Maintenance (£1350 and £1440) per year
- Purchase of Square/Wicket Covers (£750)
- Barbeque Shelter £450
- Overseas Player £1000

In addition we have regular seasonal payments of:

- Cricket balls £1490 per year over the last 3 years
- Insurance £950 per year over the last 3 years
- Rent £2000 this year
- 3rd XI ground hire £325 per year
- Utilities £1204.29 per year over the last 3 years

In short, we need a minimum of £11,000 per year to run the club and without this we cannot function to the standards that we have strived to achieve over recent years.

Unfortunately, the income received through sponsorship has reduced as a result of the Club not currently having a Commercial Manager in post to drive this vital revenue stream. We would like all members to look into assisting with obtaining new sponsors or fundraising ideas.

Our cash-flow is therefore very important, and the Committee's 3rd focus for 2017 is on cash collection and reduction of expenditure where possible.

Whilst the majority of Members are considerate and promptly settle their debts, there are unfortunately a few members who are less considerate and the Club Officers spend a huge amount of time chasing payment of Annual Memberships, Match Fees and Bar Tabs. In the circumstances, the Committee therefore have little option but to 'harden' their stance in 2017. Further details of the new guidelines regarding payments will be circulated in due course.

Annual Club Membership

As a reminder, under the Club Constitution the Club Membership year starts on 1st January and the 2017 Annual Memberships are now due. The Club wishes to move to online payments to reduce administration and would urge players to take up this option to pay their Annual Membership. Further details are available on request from the Treasurer – Geoff Brain.

Details of 2017 Club Membership & Match Fees will be circulated in due course.

There remain a number of vacancies on the committee available this year which provide an exciting opportunity for Members and Parents of Colts Players to become more involved in the development of our ambitious club. The club can only function due to the efforts of volunteers who ensure the ground, facilities, administration and fixtures are available for the membership to enjoy over the summer. This work continues through the winter and summer, without which the club would not exist or operate. Please consider contributing some time to enable the club to achieve its development plan goals and provide enjoyable cricket at Yelverton for years to come.

Forthcoming Events in 2017 (list will be updated with further events added):

- Sunday 29th January – 1st Indoor Training Session at Torbridge School, Miller Way – 3.00 to 5.00PM
- Thursday 23rd February – Emergency General Meeting (EGM) – election of Captain's for 2017 Season
- Saturday 11th March – Club Fundraiser/Quiz Night – please contact Ian Dawe for further details
- Saturday 1st April & Sunday 2nd April – 1st Grounds Weekend - 11AM to 4PM
- Saturday 8th April & Sunday 9th April – 2nd Grounds Weekend – 11AM to 4PM
- Saturday 15th April – opening Club XI fixture
- Saturday 6th May – DCL Fixtures commence
- Saturday 2nd September – Last DCL Fixtures of season
- Thursday 26th October – Annual General Meeting (AGM) – venue and time TBC

Further details of the above events will be circulated via the Club's Pitchero Website, Facebook Page, Twitter Account, email etc.

Best wishes & good luck to all Members for the 2017 Season.

Come-on the Bohos!

YBCC Committee
January 2017