



ASHFORD CRICKET CLUB

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Dear Cricket Club member,

Please find attached as part of the End of Season newsletter various reports from captains, managers and coaches.

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 22nd November. Papers relating to the meeting are provided here. Please take this opportunity to contribute to the direction of your club by attending the AGM.

The small committee of the club continues to work hard to ensure that facilities are constantly maintained and upgraded. The same people work on your behalf to ensure that ACC is an excellent place to both play cricket and to socialise with friends and family. This year the club has continued to maintain excellent links with the local community. We are represented at Spelthorne cricket meetings which are coordinated by Surrey. We had attendees at the Surrey Cricket Conference who subsequently returned and drove forward new policies which are for the benefit of all members. Two of these (Whistleblowing and Bullying) will be ratified at the AGM.

The club has moved forward with membership cards being reintroduced. The thinking behind the move is that there will potentially be a dual price system introduced by Ashford (Short Lane) Sports Club which is the parent club of both Hockey and Cricket. Once membership has been paid the card will be available for collection behind the bar. It was noted that at least 15 members didn't pick up their cards this season!

A small sub-committee continues to work hard on the new nets project. It was never going to be the easiest project to complete simply because its success relies on securing at least one major grant. Applications continue to be updated and submitted on the members' behalf. A second reason for the lack of substantial progress was the decision to support many members' wishes and to upgrade the artificial surface and to provide a cage facility for training. This has been a success as we have seen more people training and the facilities have enhanced the performances of many of our juniors. The club was also able to purchase new covers thanks to an ECB grant.

Many thanks to the people that have submitted the following reports from the playing side of the club.

1st XI

There was much excitement and anticipation at Ashford Cricket Club ahead of the 2018 season because there was a new man in charge – Dave Merchant. The season didn't get off to the best of starts with an early defeat to Byfleet but wins in the coming weeks followed against Hampton Wick Royal and Haslemere respectively. In truth the early season form was somewhat inconsistent with some very good and some very bad performances. There was a key moment when the team's fortunes really turned around though, we were 63-6 against a good Maori Oxshott team when skipper Dave Merchant and overseas William Elliott got together at the crease and put on a magnificent partnership of 120 to really show the fight and spirit required. This game ended in a draw with scores level but it was a superb fightback against a strong side that proved the catalyst for a great run of form over the next 6 matches, during which the side remained unbeaten. This showed what we were capable of achieving and gave everyone the confidence to perform. From this point on relegation was never really a threat with promotion an outside possibility, though it proved a bridge too far in the end.

Personal performances of note were William Elliott scoring 646 league runs at an average of 43, his 106* at Haslemere being a real innings of quality showing what he was about. Many of our strong performances were built around runs from Will and the club would like to place on record its gratitude towards him. Other players to score over 300 runs were opening batsman Chris Evans with 384 and Paul Frost with 348.

With the ball a very well done to the veteran chairman Jimmy Berressem with his 30 wickets, featuring 6-34 at Woking and 5-46 at Haslemere. Other bowlers with over 20 wickets were Dave Merchant with 26 and Andrew Tippell with 21. Credit to Ben Simper in particular for his superb 6-26 against Trinity Mid Whitgiftians where each dismissal was either bowled or LBW. There was another bowling gem unearthed midway through the season due to an injury, we are of course talking about spin bowling sensa, sorry, slow bowling sensation Jamie Tilt! He was a real find mid-season and gave the team great control, as well as bringing great energy to the side fielding at cover point with 12 catches and 3 run outs.

In Division 4 we were not always supplied by the league with an umpire so a massive thank you to Stevie who filled in when we didn't have one, an equally big thank you to Jack Frost for scoring each game for us throughout the season- it really is much appreciated and makes us look an efficient well-organised outfit. Cheers to Saad for the game where Jack had to depart early. Thank you also to Dave Hanks for providing the teas, as well as Simon his deputy on the rare occasion Dave couldn't be about, and thanks to Ian McAllan for organising some really good training sessions throughout the season.

There were a few what if's and maybe's had a few games ended different but alas that's sport for you. It was a great group to be a part of and I'm sure everyone is eagerly anticipating the 2019 season!

Andrew Tippell, 1st XI vice-captain

Ladies XI

The Ladies season was affected by call ups to county squads, injury and other commitments. There were however some outstanding performances. Jenny Tippell was in fine form early in the season. She recorded her seasons best bowling figures of 9-1-17-4 in the game against Hayes. Jenny would finish the season with a 15 wicket haul and contributed solidly with the bat. This included being part of the highest 3rd and 4th wicket partnerships of the season. Katie Butler was the seasons highest run scorer with a total of 258. She also contributed behind the stumps with 4 stumpings.

Rhianna Southby remains in both the senior Surrey squad and the England Women's Development Programme, and was a member of the winning Surrey Stars squad in the 2018 KSL. When she was available she made a devastating impact on the team. The highest score of the season (157) came against Hayes in the game at Ashford with Rhianna contributing a personal 87. This also saw the highest opening partnership of the season (24) with captain Becky Halls. In the field on the same day Rhianna set a fielding record for the ladies with 3 catches in the game.

The highest batting partnership of the season (65) came against Ickenham when Yolandi Maynier and Elize Brown hit the ball to all corners of the pitch. Elize and Ali McCreedy were also able to contribute 35 for the 6th wicket which was the highest of the season for that position.

Elize Brown (49) and Elizabeth Hackney (32) recorded personal best league innings for the club, and Komal Joshi scored her first league runs and took her maiden wicket.

Three different players scored a total of five fifties.

Notable landmarks included Jenny Tippell scoring her 1500th league run for the club, Rhianna Southby her 1000th, and Elize Brown taking her 100th wicket.

Alison McCreedy

Men's Surrey Slam

This year saw Ashford enter the Surrey Slam for the first time. The midweek T20 competition proved to be a great success, and was enjoyed by all who took part. Through the group stage the team played well, winning three out of four group games, and finishing top of the group. Ibrar Rao and Afzaal Butt performed well at the top of the order, with Connor Cousens doing the business with the ball and Josh Wilson keeping wicket well. However, in the knock out stage we came undone, in a game which we could have easily won had our batting fired as it did in the group stages.

Thanks to everyone who played, hopefully next year will bring more tT20 to Ashford, and the younger players will grow on experience gained this year. A special thanks goes to Jack Frost for scoring in every game. Hope to see you all playing again next year!

David Robinson, Surrey Slam captain

2nd XI

It has been a successful year for the 2nd XI in 2018. After coming third last season we have bettered this by coming second and gaining promotion, which has taken 8 attempts. It could have been an even more successful season with the last game of the season being a final against Leatherhead. Unfortunately, we lost the match convincingly. This year's performance was the highest points gained by the 2nd team and the fewest losses since stats have been recorded on Surrey Championship Play-Cricket website.

There were some great contributions with the bat and bowl. With the bat Waseem Ahmed amassed 639 runs at an average of 42.60 with 8 fifties and also leading run scorer in the league. Waqas Ahmed with 385 runs at an average of 35 with 3 fifties. Muhammed Afzaal Butt with 345 runs at an average of 31.36 with 4 fifties. Other batsmen who made contributions were Gurpal Hundal (2 fifties), Chris Davies (2 fifties) and Ibrar Rao (1 fifty).

With the ball we had: Ali Syed with 30 wickets at an average of 19.87; Wendell Sebastian with 26 wickets at an average of 12.73; and Imran Khan with 25 wickets at an average of 21.72. Other bowlers who made contributions were Gurpal Hundal with 15 wickets and Ibrar Rao with 14 wickets. Waqas Ahmed also had a great season behind the stumps with 19 victims.

In conclusion, it was the aim from the start for the team to win the league and coming second was a real learning curve for the team in areas which we need to improve on going into a higher division but we are confident that with the improvements we are planning to make, we can again challenge for the title in Division 2. It was a real team effort from all who were involved this season and the same team ethic can take this team far for years to come. A special thank you to Mark Doggett who took time out of his life to travel with the team and umpire for us for most of the season.

Waseem Ahmed, 2nd XI captain

3rd XI

The season ended with Ashford 3rd XI finishing mid-table winning half of their games. A very enjoyable season and all games whether won or lost, were tense, close and played with good spirit by all sides.

The season got off to a poor start with a loss against Old Wimbledonians, the main highlight for Ashford being 4 wickets for 23 runs for Bharat Negi. However, the next four games were won by Ashford with some very good innings from Hasib Butt (64, 60), Ciaran Lewis (44, 71), Anup Edward (30), Paul Cousens (41) and Joe Balmer (32).

The following game was lost to Sanderstead with Hasib scoring a fine 96. Next was a win against Worcester Park with Chris Lunn taking 5 wickets for 22 runs, ably backed up by Keith Manning and Simon Wilson with their combined 16 overs only costing 35 runs. A quick-fire 43 from Gareth Evans ensured the game was won by 7 wickets.

A loss against HWR where Connor Cousens took 4 wickets for 29, was followed with a win against Woking with Hasib scoring 73 and Chris Lunn 71. Gareth Evans scored 45 in this game as Ashford totaled 246 runs. 5 wickets from Taimoor Anwar saw Ashford through to win.

Cheam were the next team to visit Ashford and although Paul Wilson bowled very well this was a heavy loss for Ashford. In the next few games runs were generally hard to come by. A loss against Old Wimbledonians where Connor Cousens took another 4 wickets and scored 32 was followed by an abandoned game due to a poor park pitch against Esher who were unable to use their normal home pitches.

The next 3 games were lost, though there were good performances from Gareth Evans scoring 58 and Taimoor Anwar with 3 wickets for 7. Joe Balmer bowled very well against eventual champions Guildford giving away only 11 runs in his 6 overs.

Ashford performances picked up in the last few games and wins against Worcester Park and HWR included 4 wickets for Shaun Cousens for 18 runs, Ciaran Lewis with 4 for only 16, 38 runs for Paul Cousens, 47 for Hasib and a very good 42 by young Josh Wilson.

Fielding was generally of a high standard throughout the season. Players taking 5 or more catches included Paul Wilson (5), Taimoor Anwar (5), Paul Cousens (6) and Chris Lunn (8). Josh Wilson behind the stumps took 9 catches and made 4 stumpings. A great effort from Josh, an U15 in his first full season keeping for the 3s.

Players scoring around and over 300 runs included Chris Lunn (281), Ciaran Lewis (293), Gareth Evans (307) and Paul Cousens (310). Hasib Butt easily topped the scoring with 428 runs at an average of 39.

Four bowlers took 16 wickets or more. Simon Wilson, though playing only half of the season, took 16 wickets. Chris Lunn with 20 wickets and Taimoor Anwar with 22 were topped by Connor Cousens who took 24 wickets – a fine effort from an U15.

Thanks this season to: Saad Choudhary for helping to control team selection, ensuring that 11 players were found nearly every week for all 4 teams. Taimoor for skippering when I was away. Gareth Evans and Keith Manning for filling out the scorebook so neatly! Andrew the groundsman, who produced a fantastic square for us all season. David Hanks for the excellent teas which were appreciated by the 3rd XI and the opposition.

Paul Cousens 3rd XI Captain

4th XI

The 4th XI – playing in the Surrey West Division – were led this season by both Sean Cully (captain) and the vice-captain (Shahzad Raja)

Both would like to express their personal thanks to Chris Evans and Saad Choudhary for their continued support during the season and for always being there as a moral support and person to go to – for senior information – so thank you both.

Also a big thankyou to Andy Goulding for making it all possible in prepping such perfect pitches for us to play on each week & also to David Hanks for always keeping us going with the fantastic teas he provides all year through. Thanks David, they are the best in the league I reckon.

The team this year was a made up of a great mix of young and mature players. The young being: Riordan Cully, Udit Tedeja, Ben Sherriff, Liam Manning and Matthew Knight. The mature are Praveen Jugonoori, Raj Kumar Tahir Malik, James Gillespie, Kam Singh, Shahzad Raja, Sean Cully. And of course there are the very needed veterans, who continue to show they have what it takes to compete with the best of the best – Robert Evans, Robert Ford, Safdar Butt, Keith Pryke (a combined age of over 250 years!). Let's hope this blend of youth and experience may long continue for the coming seasons.

The star (4) bowlers of the season were:

- 1) Shahzad Raja- 22 Wickets - Best 4/21 - @ Strike Rt 28.68
- 2) Sean Cully - 17 Wickets - Best 4/10 - @ Strike Rt 24.76
- 3) Kam Singh - 15 Wickets - Best 4/22 - @ Strike Rt 41.47
- 4) Anup Edward - 5 Wickets - Best 3/46 - @ Strike Rt 38.40

The star (6) batsman of the season were:

- 1) Praveen Jogunoori - 357 Runs - Highest Score 109 - Average 35.70
- 2) Tahir Malik - 324 Runs - Highest Score 78 not out - Average 36.0
- 3) Shahzad Raja - 209 Runs - Highest Score 74 - Average 20.90
- 4) Robert Evans - 177 Runs - Highest Score 49 - Average 29.50
- 5) Matt Whitehorn - 111 Runs - Highest Score - 32 - Average 22.20
- 6) Robert Ford - 98 Runs - Highest Score - 37 - Average 19.60

The wicket-keeping was also shared this season between James Gillespie and Robert Evans, who both stepped up great this season: James Gillespie with 7 victims comprising 5 catches (1 catch as an outfield player) and 1 stumping; Robert Evans with 6 victims comprising 3 catches (1 catch as an outfield player) and 2 stumpings.

Overall, a great positive season played by all involved. The team showed great sportsmanship and team moral which was demonstrated and shown on and off the pitch, with a great support shown by all players. Both captain and vice-captain would like to thank all of the players for their continued support throughout the season, and we look forward to welcoming you all back next year when we will all do it again and hopefully push for promotion.

Sean Cully, 4th XI captain

5TH XI / Sunday 2nd XI

The Sunday 2nd XI fixture against Bricklayers was played as a timed game this year. Both Doggetts passed 50 on the way to declaring at 201-9. Despite 3 wickets from Mansoor and 2 from Suhi, determined batting by the Bricklayers ensured a deserved draw. Another timed game was played against St James, who made 172-7 dec, 3 wickets for Keith Manning. Unfortunately, the weather intervened and we were only able to make 27-1 before hands were shaken.

The 5th XI played Hampton Wick in a limited overs game. Highlights were a stunning 46 for Riordan Cully and 30 for Raj Kumar in a total of 189. Craig Turner collected 3 wickets, but the Wick batsmen were always in control and won by 5 wickets. A timed game was set up against Bank of England at their stunning ground. The hosts made 215-3 dec, highlight was 2 wickets in 2 balls for young Azan Butt. In reply, Ashford battled out an exciting draw to end at 212-9. Riordan Cully made his second 40 + score in 8 days and Matthew Knight finished unbeaten on 71*.

Keith Manning, 5th XI/Sunday 2nd XI captain

The following people were deservedly honoured at the end of the season.

Hall Memorial Cup

The late Mr H W Hall was connected with the club from 1898 until 1940, his sons presented this Cup to the club in his memory, to be awarded annually "for playing ability - at the discretion of the General Committee." It was first presented in 1947.

HALL MEMORIAL CUP: James Berressem

Guvnor's Cup

This trophy was presented to the club in 1955 by M W F Caffyn, R W Gray, D L Hudson, A J Rudd and A E Rudd, in recognition and appreciation of many happy years membership. The title "Guvnor's Cup" was chosen to perpetuate a name well known and loved by members past and present. It is to be awarded "at the discretion of the General Committee, for playing ability in the Second XI (qualification a minimum of 12 matches played)."

GUVNOR'S CUP: Waseem Ahmed

Doug Neil Cup

The club purchased this trophy in 1975 following a donation from Mr Fuller in memory of Doug Neil (a long standing 3rd XI stalwart). The cup is awarded at the discretion of the General Committee, for playing performance in the 3rd XI

DOUG NEIL CUP: Chris Lunn

Butt Cup

Saftar Butt presented this trophy to the club in 1989. The cup is awarded at the discretion of the General Committee, for playing ability in the 4th XI.

BUTT CUP: Shehzad Raja

Alan Dedman Rosebowl

This trophy was presented to the club in memory of Alan Dedman. The cup is awarded at the discretion of the General Committee, for services to the Club (primarily off the field).

ALAN DEDMAN ROSEBOWL: Jack Frost

Crossley Cup

The Crossley family presented this trophy to the club in 1987 in memory of Geoff Crossley. The cup is awarded at the discretion of the General Committee, for playing ability within the Colts' section.

CROSSLEY CUP: Suhi Tamilarasan

Tweaker's Trophy

Mrs Whale presented this trophy to the club in 1993 in memory of her husband Bill "Tweaker" Whale. The cup is awarded at the discretion of the General Committee, for progress within the Club.

TWEAKER'S TROPHY: Josh Wilson

Top Team Award

Phil Saunders presented this trophy to the club in 1992. The cup is awarded at the discretion of the General Committee, for the best overall team performance of the season.

TOP TEAM AWARD: Men's 2nd XI

Sportsmanship Award

Sue Griffin presented this trophy to the club in 1998 in memory of her husband Dick Griffin. The cup is awarded at the discretion of the General Committee, to the player who made the best overall contribution to sportsmanship throughout the season.

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD: Rebecca Halls

Ladies Award

This award is presented at the discretion of the General Committee, to the ladies player who made the best overall contribution during the season.

LADIES AWARD: Jenny Tippell

LADIES PROGRESS: Komal Joshi

Junior section end of season report

U10's Report

The U10's had a phenomenal season: winning all but their last league game; and winning their league. We then had a play-off game against Sunbury. On a tricky pitch and with a weakened team were beaten but there was an impressive debut for Daniel Philp.

We started the season with a convincing win over Chiswick & Whitton by 106 runs, a fantastic achievement in 20-over format cricket. A special mention to Niall Bailey who batted exceptionally well, showing a range of shots that surprised me. The outstanding performance was from Luke Evans who bowled 3-1-2-5.

The following game was a more tense with Kew. Despite only having nine players we were ahead of the game with two overs left but down to the last wicket. Unfortunately, inexperience took over and our batsmen went for a suicidal run and the game was tied. Some good batting from Sivam and Thomas Wells in this game both hitting boundaries in a low-scoring game. Again Luke starred with the ball bowling 3-1-5-4, including a hat-trick.

The rest of the games were close affairs with notable batting performances from Aryan Gupta, Satyam Patel, Pratham Dixit, Kaushal Thatta and Jay Lad. On the bowling front, there were impressive performances from Satyam and Sivam both taking 5 wickets and Kaushal, Niall and Thomas, each of whom took 3. Other wicket-takers were Saathak, Shanjeet Jay and Pratham. Abirut Selhi has shown himself to be a willing wicketkeeper, Arjun Singhal has produced some excellent leg spin and Jyot Trivedi has worked hard at his game and improved steadily.

A few thankyou's to Sravan for his coaching on a Friday night, second to all the boys and girls who turned out, to Gareth, Shamsheer, Tamil, and Dharmesh for scoring, collecting, money etc., and finally to all parents for allowing and getting your children to the games.

Mark Doggett

U11's Report

The U11's had a frustrating season with only six proper under 11's and the team made up with U10's and U9's. Thanks to all those U9's and U10's who helped make up the team. Towards the end of the season Ishaan, Sanjit and Dharmik played in the Ray Denne competition and will become a vital part of next year's U12's team. Oliver Heath and Jacob Pallett deserve special mention for their enthusiasm during training and games.

The team won only 1 of the 10 games they played and had 3 games conceded by the opposition. We finished 3rd in the Middlesex league. Our best result was a win against Chiswick & Whitton by 47 runs, in which Ashford scored 175 runs with Eman Iqbal finishing unbeaten on 52*. There were other notable contributions during the season from Satyam Patel, Uday Jolly and Varun Vijay.

On the bowling side we always try to make sure that all the players are involved in the game and will try to make sure that everyone gets to bowl an over during the game. Hence we had 22 boys all have a bowl.

Our best batsman this year is Eman. Not only has he captained the team he has also kept wicket and at the same time scored 118 runs at an average of 19.67.

Our best bowler this year, bowling 16 overs and taking 5 wickets for 110 runs, with a best of 3 for 24 against Valley End is Jay Lad.

The Manager's award goes to Satyam Patel who has been our best all-rounder. He has scored 83 runs without getting out and bowled 17-1-108-3. Satyam has also gone on to represent Hounslow Borough and been selected for both Surrey and Middlesex at U9's – definitely a player to watch.

Finally, thanks again to those parents who have helped out with scoring etc this season.

Mark Doggett

U12's Report

We had 9 games scheduled this season but due to weather (believe it or not!!) and concessions we played 6 matches. We only won 2 of these, though in all the other matches (Sunbury apart in the cup) we took every game down to the wire.

The highlight of these was Chiswick & Whitton away. At home we lost the game with 2 balls to go. Away we posted an impressive 183/3 with everyone contributing. Neel retired on 58, likewise Uday and Satyam on 32 & 15 respectively. Joseph hit a quick fire 22 off 12 balls and with only 3 overs left Pratham and Aarin Bhatt added a fantastic partnership of 28. We then went on to bowl C&W out for 59 with Varun, Pratham, Uday and Jay Ladd taking 2 wickets each and Neel and Satyam one a piece to complete a comprehensive 124-run victory. With more consistent team performances like that I'm sure with the potential and fantastic talent that the boys possess the team can only become more successful.

I have to say a great thanks to all the boys who turned out for us this year, a few other u12s and also a few lads from the younger age groups as we did rely on them quite heavily. So a big thanks to those that I haven't already mentioned: Rishi K, Kaushal, Aryan, Oliver Heath, Arjit, Arya, Saarthak who all chipped in with valuable runs and wickets between them all. And a special mention for Eman who kept wicket for us for most of the season and also opened for us on quite a few occasions, scoring a lot of quick runs at the top of the order and doing fantastically well.

I'd also just like to say a big thank you to all the parents for getting the boys to the games on time, especially the away ones, which I know can be hard work. And a really big thank you to Khush Jolly who has helped me on match days and also run a couple of games when I wasn't available.

Our best batsman this season has been Neel Bakshi with 137 runs in just 3 games played, a top score of 65* and 2 not outs which left him with a fairly healthy average of 137!

The bowling award goes to a player who bowled 18 overs over the 6 games this season and took a very impressive 6/75 at an average of 1 wkt every 12.5 runs and is still only an u10s player. The winner is Satyam Patel.

And finally my manager's award goes to a player who has bowled, batted and fielded fantastically well this season. He was only second to Neel in the batting awards by 3 runs and despite only being an u11 has captained the team on occasions this season doing a great job. He's a fantastic all-round player and is mature beyond his age with a great cricket brain. He's humble, polite and just a proper good lad with a really exciting future. My manager's player of the year is Uday Jolly.

Andy Potter

U13's Report

This year the U13's were only entered in the Middlesex plate and Ray Denne competitions so only played four late season games. The lads tried their best and there were some excellent performances: Neel made 25 and 18 and bowled well; Edward 24; and Thomas 23*. Sherjeet deserves special praise for his improvement behind the stumps, which culminated in his two fine stumpings against Egham. Contributions were also made by Luke, Uday, Eman, Sid and from younger players Satyam, Sivam, Nevan, Aarin, Shanjeet and Arjun.

Our best batsman was Sid who has made massive improvements technically and produced scores of 23 and 24 with powerful shots all-round the wicket.

The bowling award went to Roheen, who took wickets in all four games including 3-16 against Windsor and 2-10 against Egham.

The Manager's award went to Joseph. He took wickets, scored runs and is a top fielder – he took an outstanding catch over his shoulder near the boundary. Joseph also played in the club's 6 a side competition and the pick of the bowlers for his team.

Gary Denne

U14's Report

With only six regular full-age players the u14's team is made of many talented players from younger age groups.

During the season we suffered from some dubious tactics and umpiring decisions from our opponents but the team (players, coaches and parents) showed great character in accepting these decisions and not reacting during the game. While I was umpiring the game at Indian Gymkhana, on a used pitch with multiple crease markings, the boys ran out a batsman. Arshad and the boys came up and asked to recall the batsman as he had mistaken the line. I was very proud of them, a fine example of the true 'Spirit of Cricket'.

The players this year – Akshay, Ryan, Sudar, Joseph, Neel, Sid, Uday, Sherjeet, Edward, Thomas, Luke, Eman, Will, Roheen and Harjot – all made contributions and have improved technically during the season – each of them has the potential to be a genuine all-rounder.

This year's best batsman was Milind for his consistent scores and hard-hitting batting, including match-winning innings of 60 and 50.

The bowling award went to Satyam for figures including 3-11, 2-4 and 2-5. He has made massive strides this season and has the potential to improve further.

Arshad claimed my manager's award this year. He has been an ever present player. Although he did not score as many runs as in previous years, he has bowled consistently well, including a match-winning 3-19.

I would like to thank Andy, Craig, Ian, Matthew and Khush for umpiring, scoring and helping at matches and on Friday evenings.

Gary Denne

U15's Report

The U15s had a very good season, achieving some excellent results and playing with great enthusiasm at all times. 13 games were played with over half of the games being won by the team. This was a very good effort by the boys as we were in the top league facing very strong teams with county players such as Sunbury and Wycombe House. On top of the positive league performance, the team reached the Plate Cup Final – another great effort by the whole team.

In the matches we played, we used all U15s who attended training, plus some U12s, U13s and U14s. Twenty-one players were used throughout the season and all participated in batting, bowling and fielding in various games.

Excluding the wicket keeper, all of the remaining 21 players (including U12-14s) bowled in some of the games. In many games, most of the players bowled giving them experience and helping to improve their skills. Sixteen of the players took wickets which included Arshad, Waqar, Neel, Ben, Joseph, Udit, Adithya, Satyam, Hamza, Adash, Sadar and Tanvee. Good performances were also made by Saduar, Asim, Jai, Milind and Het. When thinking about the bowling award this year, there were four other players who stood out. The award was a close call between Azan, Connor, Musa and Suhi who all took 6 or more wickets. Of these, Suhi took the highest number of wickets at an average of 14 runs per wicket, very similar figures to last year. A fantastic effort by a junior that regularly appeared in Ashford's 2nd and 3rd XI on Saturday and often played on Sunday's too.

There were some good batting performances by all members of the squad. Some of the contributors, totaling over the season between 20 and 40 runs included Musa, Adithya, Arshad, Adash, Ben and Waqar. Slightly more than this was Azan who contributed 76 runs helping the team out at critical times. A long way ahead of the scores mentioned was Josh, whose 290 runs came at an average of over 36 runs. Josh top scored with 86 not out against Twickenham. However, ahead of Josh was Suhi with a fantastic 349 runs including a fine 107 not out in partnership with Josh against Twickenham. Suhi finished the season with a very good average of 35 runs. But just above Suhi was Connor. Connor scored 362 runs with his best innings of the season against Sunbury who won the league and are a very strong side. Connor defended his wicket very well and was not out on four occasions. Along with Suhi and Josh, Connor led by example and batted very sensibly all season.

Along with Josh, Connor played nearly every game for the 3rd XI this year and it is great to see youngsters coming through and performing so well in senior cricket.

Most of the team really tried when fielding. The important things such as backing up, chasing and throwing the ball to the wicket keeper quickly, were performed well by nearly everyone. I was pleased to see Het and Tanvee always backing up well and really making an effort in this area. Catches and run outs were taken by Connor, Ben, Tanvee, Josh, Suhi, Waqar, Udit, Arshad, Joan and Musa. Two fielders really performed exceptionally well often fielding out by the boundary. Ben chased everything and was never scared of the ball however hard it was coming to him. Suhi was very similar and they were both a great example to others.

Wicket-keeping duties were performed by Josh, who had a great season taking 6 catches and affecting 5 stumpings. This is a very hard role and Josh had a very good season in the U15s, U17s and 3rd XI.

The manager's award could have gone to many of the players. I would like to thank all of the 17 players who participated in what was a very enjoyable season. After a lot of thought, I awarded this year's trophy to Udit. Along with most of the squad, Udit turned up for nearly all training sessions and played in nearly all of the games. He constantly listened to advice and really tried to improve in every game. Udit has one of the smoothest run ups with his bowling taking the activity very seriously. He has also made himself available for the 4th XI, occasionally playing in the 3rd XI and playing on Sundays too. Well done Udit.

I would like to thank Simon Wilson, Ian McAllan and Chris Evans and others who all helped with training this age group on Friday evenings – big thanks! Huge thanks, again to Simon Wilson for scoring many times this season. It has been really appreciated and the team missed you when you could not attend later in the season. Finally, as in previous years, a thank you to all the parents who drove to the away games.

Paul Cousens

U17's report

This year we had a mixed season, considering most of my players were busy with their GCSE's, but we did not concede a match, this showed great commitment from all the players. I want to say a big thank you to the u15 players who helped us this season in the absence of the U17 lads. Also a thank you to all the parents who took their kids to all the games. Well done to all the boys: Connor, Bilal, Tanmay, Taran, Jaskirat, Vishesh, Josh, Ben, Suhi, Aditiya, Adarsh, Azan, Sudhart, Musa, Arshad and Het.

Also I would like to say thank you to Mark Doggett and Paul Cousens for helping me again this season. They have been a great help as they are every season.

The batting award went to Tanmay – a very special player who plays with a passion and was the highest run scorer this season.

The bowling award went to Connor, who shows 100 per cent effort every game and was the highest wicket-taker this season.

My manager's award went to a very good all-round player who gives it his all every game and never gives up. Well done Musa.

We would like to say a big thank you to Sharon Lewis who is stepping down from junior cricket this year. For the past eight years Sharon has managed a junior team and been the junior membership secretary. Sharon's work behind the scenes has been invaluable with taking the register and collating the information from this for Surrey Cricket, collecting the membership fees from parents and keeping the club database up to date. Sharon you will be missed, thank you.

Qaisar Sheikh

Adrian Chessman Cup

The Adrian Chessman cup is awarded to the junior team which has been adjudged to have the best league season. All the teams had an argument for winning this year:

- the U17's managed to get a team together for all their games and finished second in their division;
- the U15's put up a strong performance in their first year in division 1;
- the U14's were in contention to win their division until some 'creative umpiring' cost them a crucial win;
- the U12's showed great team spirit culminating with a win against Hampton Hill;
- the U11's again showed great team spirit playing with very much an underage team.

But this year's winners are the U10's who, as mentioned above, only lost their last game of the season winning their division. Well done to all the players involved in the team

Ashford Juniors Award winners 2018

	Best Batsman	Best Bowler	Manager's
U10's	Aryan Gupta	Luke Evans	Thomas Wells
U11's	Eman Iqbal	Jay Lad	Satyam Patel
U12's	Neel Bakshi	Satyam Patel	Uday Jolly
U13's	Siddhant Singhal	Roheen Shazad Raja	Joseph Potter
U14's	Milind Bakshi	Satyam Selhi	Arshad Vohra
U15's	Connor Cousens	Suhi Tamilarasan	Udit Tuteja
U17's	Tanmay Desai	Connor Cousens	Musa Ahmed

U9's Managers Awards Senul Fernando and Charlie Ledger

The Keith Cook Award

The Keith Cook Award was donated to the Club by Christine Cook in memory of Keith who passed away in 2003. It is awarded annually to a Junior who has demonstrated the "Spirit of Cricket" and was won this year by Josh Wilson.

Mark Doggett, Junior coordinator

All Stars Cricket

This summer Ashford enjoyed strong interest for its second edition of the ECB's All Stars Cricket programme. Run on Sunday mornings for eight weeks during May and June, the initiative is aimed at 5-8-year olds. The sessions are designed to get the children and their parents to share quality time together taking part in fun, cricket-themed activities. In 2017, the programme started with 12 participants, all of whom returned in 2018, and with this year's new entrants our numbers more than trebled to 29.

Once again we were blessed with a block of dry and very warm Sunday mornings so each week our All Stars could have fun batting, bowling and fielding in activities such as Caterpillar cricket, Diamond cricket, Bowl-a-goal, Star strike and Rocket fuel batting. The influx of kids meant we had to modify sessions so that the 3-4 activities planned for each week were run concurrently with small groups of 8-10 All Stars moving around each activity within the hour. This was only possible thanks to the support of a group of committed helpers. Particular thanks must go to Asma Bawa and Graham Ledger, parents of second-year All Stars Amina and Charlie, who have really bought in to the programme's ethos and the club by helping to lead activities at every session. Help from Vasu Vijay's mum Geetha taking the register each week was invaluable too. Thanks must also go to activity leaders Chris Evans, Ali McCreedy, Gill Bonham and Gordon Smith - Gordon going beyond the call of duty in joining me trying to bat away hundreds of water-bombs hurled by the All Stars in our final Big Splash Cricket activity on a blazing hot July Sunday.

During the summer Armaan, Charlie, Megan, Rayan, Ryan and Tejas - six All Stars bitten by the cricket bug - took the next step and also joined our Under 9s group training on Friday evenings, with second-year All Star Charlie collecting one of this year's Under 9s manager's award. Well done Charlie! And congratulations to all this year's All Stars, all of whom brought great energy, enthusiasm and fun to every Sunday morning. I hope to see many of you back next summer either at Under 9s training on Friday evenings or at the next instalment of our All Stars Cricket journey.

Jim Berressem, All Stars Cricket lead activator

It is very rare for this writer to name individuals but on occasion achievements and efforts should be recognised, publicised and celebrated. The numbers of people that give of their time on behalf of the club is impressive. At the last count 48 members were registered as “active volunteers” (as recorded for Clubmark and ACC Development Plan).

But volunteering at the club should not be seen as “a life sentence” and rightly the end of this year will see flux in roles as several helpers take a step back from club commitments, offering others the opportunity to step up and contribute. After 12 years, Jasdev Rehncy is to step down as our president. We thank Jasdev for his valuable contributions while in post, a period during which the club’s achievements included winning the Surrey T20 Cup back in 2008.

Mark Doggett is stepping down as the Junior Cricket Coordinator. For 7 years Mark has coordinated all aspects of our junior cricket: arranging all the fixtures, ensuring balls have been ordered, attending league meetings to name just a few. As well as managing junior teams (sometimes 2 teams per season) Mark has been the link between the juniors and seniors. We wish him well as he embarks on his new passion ...”umpiring” and are thankful that he will remain actively involved in the club.

Saad Choudhary is stepping down as Club Captain. This is in order to focus on his passion of... “being treasurer of the club”. In his two-year tenure, Saad has really shown how the job can and should be done: managing overseas player recruitment, overseeing selection, and promoting the transition of juniors in to senior cricket are just a few of his many achievements.

Chris Evans BEM could also be potentially missed. Having been honoured and then taking up a whole page in the Wisden magazine you would have thought he might have achieved many of the ambitions he set himself when he was a younger man. However, playing for Surrey Seniors hasn’t been enough and now having been selected for the England team and already starting to travel around the world (last tour in October was 10 days in the West Indies with Surrey Seniors) his attendance at the club is under threat. We hope you get dropped!

People that we did miss this year included Rhianna Southby. Her selection for the Surrey Stars and the England Development group kept her away from competitive cricket at Ashford. We congratulate her on her achievements and in her case: we hope you don’t get dropped! Other players from the ladies set up were also taken away through county commitments as the ladies game transitions and restructures nationally. We congratulate the ladies for their resilience during what are difficult times.

However, time cannot stand still at ACC. Only by planning and being in proactive will the club continue to attain such a high standard. Already the club has negotiated the return of William Elliott as our overseas player for a second term. A note of thanks to all those who made William feel so welcome this summer, in particular his host Peter Cottrell. Having made significant contributions on the field in 2018, we look forward to Will repeating this form as well as making more of an impact off the field in 2019 through coaching. Also booked for 2019 is our **8-week indoor nets schedule, starting Sunday 10th February** for both juniors (from 11am – 1pm) and seniors (from 4pm – 6pm) at Matthew Arnold School Sports Centre, Kingston Road, Staines.

Finally, a quick thank you to Ian McAllan and Kirsty Hull who organised such a fantastic formal Annual Dinner. Having been delegated by Macca to arrange the dinner!!, Kirsty threw herself into the task with full gusto. An excellent night was had by all. Thanks also to Paul Frost who organised the informal bit of the evening through his various Windsor nightclub contacts.

But the social side of the club doesn’t stop there for 2018. We have planned an informal get-together planned for the evening of **Thursday 13th December**. I hope to see many of you for a pre-festive catch-up. And at the mention of Christmas, please don’t forget that you can help support the club through our **easyfundraising.org.uk initiative** – www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ashfordcc/ It cost you nothing, you access to 1000s of retailers, each of which gives a donation to Ashford CC when you shop with them online.

Kind regards,
Mick Tilt
On behalf of ACC committee