

Ashford Cricket Club pre-season newsletter April 2016

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While the roller-coaster ride that is the World T20 Finals in India nears its end it's time for the merry-go-round of a new season of club cricket at Short Lane to slip in to gear. But before we come to news on the forthcoming summer, there's time for a quick catch up on events since the end of the 2015 season.



Fantastic fundraising effort

Our 160th anniversary year concluded in December with a well-attended and successful awards dinner held at Burhill Golf Course. The support and generosity of members, their families and friends who attended the event helped push the total funds raised during the year to an impressive £6286.29. A creditable achievement for everyone who got behind the various activities run throughout the year (online auction, T20 finals day, family fun day etc). On behalf of the club and its members, I have presented cheques for £2095.43 each to the Motor Neurone Disease Association and Princess Alice Hospice, our chosen charities because of the support they offered ladies captain Becky Halls' family during her father's illness. I thank

you all for these opportunities and hope that we can continue to nurture and build a 'community within the community' ethos and promote this more widely.

Our girls can... and have – women enjoy indoor success

On the back of our ladies team promotion to the Women's Cricket Southern League, decided and announced by the league administrators late last year, the Ashford Belles have continued their winning form this winter. Before Christmas our ladies finished second in their pre-Christmas indoor league; and they have since gone on to win the New Year indoor tournament. Yet more success for this group, who go from strength to strength thanks to each individual's enthusiasm and commitment to the team's goal of continual improvement through practice, coaching and match performances. An example to all us players.



Indoor training – juniors' hard work rewarded

On the topic of training, some players have been practising hard at indoor sessions since the start of January. There are still two more chances to do some indoor training at The Matthew Arnold School Sports Centre, Kingston Road, Staines TW18 1PF: Sunday 3rd and 10th April at 4-6pm (£5 per person per session). Don't miss these opportunities to blow off the bowling and batting cobwebs.

Indoor training has not be the preserve of the club's men and women. Since January a committed group of coaches have given up two-hours every Sunday morning to run sessions for our junior age groups (U9s to U14s). Juniors who have attended this sessions have greatly developed their cricket skills and experience. These sessions have paid dividend for four of our juniors in particular - Joseph Potter (U10); Milind Bakshi (U12); Tanmay Desai and Suhi Tamilarasan (U14s) - who after a serials of trials have been selected for Hounslow Borough Cricket age group squads. Meanwhile, following in his brother's footsteps, Connor Cousens has been training with Surrey Cricket's U13s age group. And Rhianna Southby has once again spent the winter training with the England Women's Development Programme.

What's to come? Feel the Force – 2/3 April

Enough of what has gone on, what's to come? Well, immediately we need to come together this weekend (2/3 April) for the NatWest CricketForce drive to prepare our club for the new season. The tasks to tackle includes: move pitch covers from storage to playing fields; clear and prep practice nets; repairs and maintenance to 3rd/4th XI



scorebox; repairs and maintenance to sight-screens; general tidy up. What's required now is for members and friends of the club to give up a brief period of their time to contribute to achieving these goals. Many hands will make light work.

If you can spare even just an hour on Saturday or Sunday to join the work party, you'll make a difference. Working parties will gather at the club at around 10am on Saturday and Sunday. No specific experience is required to take part, just a positive attitude to get stuck in. CricketForce t-shirts will be provided to helpers but it's best to wear appropriate outdoor work clothes and bring work gloves too – spare paintbrushes or rollers would also be useful.

After a bit of grafting on Sunday morning, there will be the chance to relax in the bar and watch England's men go for the T20 World Cup too. I hope to see many of you at the club at some point on Saturday or Sunday. If you have any questions, please contact [Chris Evans](mailto:Chris.Evans@ashfordcc.co.uk) (07801715905).

Signing-on evening – Friday 8th April

Less than a week later it's the signing-on evening at the club from 6.15pm. As well as an opportunity to renew your membership, this is the first evening of a new season of Friday night coaching sessions for our juniors section. And I'm pleased to report that this year sees the return of the U17s age group, which will also train on Friday evenings. In addition to the juniors' training, there will be food on offer from Short Lane's new resident cater David Hanks, who will be providing our cricket teas.

If you've received this letter via e-mail from the club website www.ashfordcc.co.uk, then in the next few days you will receive an e-mail prompting payment of yours or your child's/children's 2016 membership online [via the GoCardLess direct debit payment portal on the website](#).

Those of you who have received a hard copy of this letter and membership form, I urge you to register with the club website to take advantage of this facility, and keep abreast of club news, events and match results. This will only take you a couple of minutes to set up and will ease the administrative burden on the club immeasurably. However, at the signing-on evening a team will be on hand to help guide you through paying subs on the website or to process membership payments in cash/cheque. Hard copy fixture cards will also be available to collect.

A note to parents: juniors will not be permitted to take part in training before parents register up-to-date contact details in the club at the start of the evening.



Teams, captains and training

Fixtures for adult teams commence on the weekend of 16/17 April. Club captain Trevor Langworth takes the reigns of the Saturday 1st XI, which following relegation last year will look to bounce back in Division 3 of the Travelbag Surrey Championship. Captains for the men's teams otherwise remain unchanged: Ben Simper leads his 2nd XI in Division 3; Paul Cousens is looking forward to build on the 3rd XI's promotion to Division 2; Qaisar Sheikh will steer his side ahead in 4th XI Division 1; and Andrew Tippell aims to maintain the resurgence of Sunday cricket in a revised Thameside league. Becky Halls will again lead the Ladies team as they face a new challenge in the Women's Cricket Southern League.



Training for the **Men's teams will be on Tuesdays from 6.30pm (starting 12th April), Ladies Thursdays from 6.30pm and Juniors (U9s-U17s) Fridays from 6.15pm**. Selection for the Men's and Ladies teams will be done on Tuesday evenings. Availability sheets are up on the Club notice board for all games and **it's players' responsibility to mark the availability sheets or advise a captain – contact details on the club website and in the fixture card.**

The Club is committed to offering juniors opportunities to develop their skills and experience in the longer format cricket at weekends in Saturday's 4th and 3rd XIs and the Sunday team. If younger players

(aged 13 or older) are interested in progressing and want to pay adult cricket, please put your name down for selection. If there are members available and wanting to play, the Club will do its best to ensure all members play at the weekend. And if you want to look the part while representing Ashford, club playing and training kit is available through the club shop hosted by Kalibazar; orders can be made through the [club website](#). There is an extensive range of kit and gift vouchers to purchase – gifts for you and your loved ones?

Changes to committee

At the last AGM in November several committee members stood down from their roles, including long-serving chairman and treasurer Chris White and Paul Frost. As a result there are several new faces on committee. These include Saad Choudhary ([treasurer](#)); Andrew Tippell ([secretary](#)); Yolandi Maynier (Ladies

rep); and Craig Turner and Mick Tilt (as additional committee members). The new group has already had some success by securing grant funding to support an overhaul of the club's electronic scoreboard, which we hope will be completed prior to the start of the league season. Other issues on its agenda include securing grant funding to modernise the club's net facilities, recruitment and promotion in the local community, and a review of potential changes to coaching provision at the club.

However, there are still vacancies for those members interested in joining this group to contribute to the ongoing activities of the club and its future direction. For example, we're still looking for a membership secretary so for the moment membership enquiries and queries should be directed to the new chairman [Jim Berressem](#). But if you are interested in getting involved, we would love to hear from you.



Time to pull a pint: bar rota – why and when

The cricket club is responsible for supplying persons to cover the bar for two nights of each week during the summer from April 1st to September 30th. Cover is required on Mondays and Tuesdays evenings. The Short Lane site is open every evening during the week so that members and those guests who rent the on-site facilities (cricket pitches, astro pitch, function/meeting rooms) can make use of the clubhouse and bar. The club fulfils its bar rota commitment to limit the staffing costs at the Short Lane site, which in turn reduces the rent the cricket club is

charged for usage of the site and helps keep your membership subscription as low as possible. It also provides the Short Lane bar steward, Shane Smith, with what he might call 'his weekend off'. Please don't think you can't help out because you lack any experience of working behind a bar. For first-timers there is someone on hand to help and support you. If you can help out, or want to know about what is involved, please contact [Craig Turner](#) 07950020537 or [Chris Evans](#) 07801 715905.

200 Club

This is a great way of supporting the club financially and possibly winning some money at the same time. Tickets are £12 each and can be paid by cash, cheque or, preferably, by bank standing order. Half of the total collected goes on prizes and the other half is donated back to the Club. Draws for prizes of £100, £50 and £25 are held every other month during the year with annual bonus prizes of £500 and £250 drawn in November. [Click on this link to download a standing order form for completion](#). First draws of 2016/17 will be conducted at the signing-on evening on Friday 8th April and there will be 200 club forms available for those who want to join the scheme. Be in it to win it – much better odds than the lottery!

Devon tour – 70th edition

This year is the club's 70th annual tour to Devon from Sunday 29th May to Friday 3rd June. The trip offers tourists the chance for some cricket-related R&R during the half-term holiday. Tour headquarters for the week will be The Saint George and Dragon, Clyst St. George, Exeter EX3 0QJ – providing bed & breakfast accommodation. The cricket itinerary for the week includes a game on every afternoon from Sunday to Thursday. Members, their families and friends are welcome to join the tour party for the week or for just a few days – whatever works best for you. We are particularly keen to encourage more younger adult members who may be interested in joining the tour for the first time to enquire. If you are interested in coming on tour, please contact [Paul Frost](#) (07590 439130, e-mail paulfrost79@sky.com).



And finally...

The observant among you, who also regularly check the club website, will have notice much of the news covered here has been recently reported on the club website. We will continue to publish more and more information on the website. So please remember to check and register at <http://www.ashfordcc.co.uk> so that we can keep you up to date on news and events going on at Short Lane. The Club also has a closed group on Facebook and a Twitter account @AshfordCricket which will allow you to keep tabs on events on and off the field – so if you use either of these social media, join or follow us.

That just leaves me to wish you all an enjoyable summer spent at Short Lane. Good luck everyone.

Jim Berressem, Chairman