



# ASHFORD CRICKET CLUB

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Dear Member,

As we approach a new season I thought, on behalf of the cricket committee, it would be appropriate to report to members recent notable achievements associated with our club and to give an update regarding our aspirations and how we, as a group, intend to achieve further improvements over the next 12 months.

As many members are aware the club recognises the importance of investing in a structure that over time will provide for players and “other club people” who are intrinsically committed to this club. These in turn should hopefully provide a conveyor belt of players and administrators with such strong links to the club that the association lasts for generations. However in order for such a mighty oak to grow there needs to be solid foundations. The commitment of the first team captain, Trevor Lanworth, is to be commended. He has consistently given homegrown talent a chance to play at the highest level and the club thanks him and offers its continued support as he encourages and works towards “his vision”.

There has been an increase in junior membership; this in itself is an achievement. Mark Doggett, the Junior Representative on the Committee, arranged for the club to host both the Year 5 Spelthorne Kwik Cricket competition attended by 7 schools and the Year 3-4 Spelthorne and Runnymede Kwik Cricket tournament. Individual members continue to arrange for ACC flyers to be circulated in virtually all the schools in Spelthorne. The club is currently investigating forming an official link with Echelford Primary school. This, along with the link formed with Thomas Knyvett College, shows that the club is well represented in the local community. Recently the club attended the “Stanwell Local Conversation”, an event which gave local clubs the chance to showcase what they offer to the local community. There are new initiatives to encourage participation within the game and these will increase as cricket continues to battle with other sports for the attention of youngsters. To that end the club has signed up to and embraced the Spelthorne Schools Junior Achievement Challenge. Spelthorne youngsters (aged 9 -13) have to complete various sections to gain the award. One of the activities is “to try out a new sport”. In January, Committee members attended a presentation at Lords on the ECB’s new “All Stars Cricket” initiative. This initiative is aimed at giving 5-8 year olds exciting “taster” sessions with the vision that if those taking part, and their parents, can be enthused they will want to be involved with their local cricket club. Ashford CC has agreed to be one of the host sites for the scheme, which will run for 8-weeks from Sunday 21 May. If you want to know more or be involved contact our All Stars Cricket Activator Jim Berressem or visit <https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars>.

The club again would like to congratulate those juniors who have both represented the club and those that have gone on and attended trials for different county, borough and national teams. This author notes and thanks those volunteers who show such dedication to the development of our youngsters.



In order to assist with the transition from junior to senior cricket the club will be entering the Surrey Trust Sunday League (STL) this year, an exciting 40-over competition played in coloured clothing using pink balls! The team's required composition - 11 players of which 7 are Under 21s, and of these 5 must be Under 18 - is weighted firmly towards junior members of the club as a way to integrate them into the men's game. The team will require an umpire, scorer and manager to support them as well as anyone willing to drive the team to away fixtures. If you have any questions or want to be involved please speak to Trevor Langworth (Men's 1st team and STL captain) or Saad Choudhary (Treasurer and Club Captain).

There is therefore a lot of excellent work going on around the club and this year we will again get an official chance to celebrate the standards we have already attained. Ashford CC is already Clubmark Accredited. Clubmark is the ECB "kite mark" for cricket clubs. Holding the Clubmark Accreditation demonstrates that Ashford is a well-managed club which provides the right environment for its members. Clubmark accreditation also demonstrates that your club is recognised as a safe, rewarding and fulfilling place for participants of all ages, as well as assuring parents, guardians and carers that they are choosing the right option for their young people.

Ashford was one of the first three clubs in Surrey to achieve Clubmark way back in 2003 and the accreditation is valid for three years. 2017 signals the time for Ashford to re-accredit so there is a little more work to be done this year than normal with an Evidence File to produce and a Site Visit from an accreditor to host later in the season. Ashford is well prepared for this and with the ECB finally going "on-line" with the Evidence File, the workload should be significantly reduced. Your cooperation is appreciated as we prepare all the evidence for our inspection visit. For details of all the Ashford's Clubmark evidence, Codes of Conduct, Policies, etc. see [Ashford Cricket Club Clubmark](#).

As part of the Clubmark process, each club has to develop and be seen to be working with a Development Plan. This plan is updated each year and the Committee monitors progress against various objectives set each September. Ashford's Development Plan can be viewed at [Ashford Cricket Club Development Plan](#). Any comments, positive or negative, about this Development Plan should be fed back to your Committee.

As mentioned ensuring that the club is a safe place for youngsters is taken very seriously by the club. Captains will be speaking to team members at the beginning of the season about standards of behaviour expected in changing rooms when any team member is classed as a junior. If all players adopt and comply with a "no use of mobile phone in the changing rooms" policy very quickly using a mobile becomes totally unacceptable. Your support is appreciated.

On a similar point the club committee has a duty to uphold the reputation and standards of the club. To this end the club asks all members to adhere to the new Social Media Policy which will be introduced via team captains. Without going into too much detail social media is scrutinised by many people and the manner that we communicate with each other can sometimes be taken as a reflection on the acceptable standards set within the club. As a general rule any form of social media with the club's name in its title should contain factual information and not personal opinion.

The club is pleased to announce that it will again host the Surrey T20 Cup Finals day on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. This is testament to the facilities and those that care for them. Congratulations to all involved but there is much preparation to be done before the big day to ensure it is a success. If you can help out and want to be involved, we would love to hear from you.

Please also note that The Ashford Cricket Club fantasy league will have some new and exciting features this season. It will commence on the first Saturday of the Surrey Championship (May 6th), so look out for further communications from Jamie Tilt during April.

Please note that a number of committee members are currently working on a project to overhaul and replace the existing nets facility. This will require major funding in the form of grants and the club will also need, through fundraising events, sponsorship and donations, to generate its own funds to demonstrate a commitment to the project. For this project to succeed the club and its members must make a major fundraising effort this year, so please sign up to existing fundraising initiatives - the 200 Club and the Fantasy League - and support our fundraising events throughout the year.

Can you help at all? The new nets project when completed will provide an excellent new facility for players. If you (or you know of anyone) would like to contribute as a sponsor/donor please speak to a member of the nets sub-committee. Jim, Chris Evans, Chris Lunn, Jamie, Keith Manning, Saad or Alison would be glad to hear from you and would be able to assist.

Can you help at all? Players and members are cordially invited to volunteer and complete a bar shift at the club on either a Monday or Tuesday evening. It's not too taxing. Full training and support is given and it contributes to keeping the subscriptions down for all players. Anyone who is willing to assist please contact Mick Tilt.

Can you help at all? Please see the website for details of the NatWest CricketForce weekend. It is planned for Saturday 1st April and Sunday 2nd April. This is an annual event where final preparations are made for the beginning of the playing season. It would be fantastic to see some new faces this year. Work will start at 10:00am on both days. CricketForce T-shirts for all those who attend, but please do come in clothes/shoes that you don't mind getting dirty.

If you haven't already taken advantage of our indoor training sessions, you've got two more Sundays to turn your arm over at Matthew Arnold School Sports Hall. One-hour junior sessions run from 11am (U9s - U11s) and 12pm (U12s – U14s). Coaching for older juniors (U15s – U17s) is run alongside the Senior training sessions from 4pm to 6pm.

Please remember annual membership subscriptions are due on April 1st 2017. On or around this date you should receive an e-mail directing you to pay subs online through the club website. Alternatively, you can give your subs payment in cash or cheque to Jim Berressem or Saad Choudhary at one of our pre-season functions.

Forthcoming events include a new pre-season social Function: a Q&A with Chairman and club officers on Thursday 6th April at 8pm. Please join us for a drink and a chat. Your opinions are always communicated to club officers. This would be a good opportunity for members to contribute to how the club moves forward. The following day - Friday 7th April - is the pre-season signing-on evening for the Juniors section with coaching out on the field, weather permitting. A further social function has also been added to the club's calendar. The Ladies Quiz night is scheduled for Friday 5th May. Your support is always greatly appreciated.

Details of this seasons cricket tour to Devon have also been announced. Tour headquarters will be the Padbrook Park Hotel and Golf club near Cullompton. Dates are from Sunday 28th May to Friday 2nd June. Prices have been set at £45 pp per night. There will be a 5% discount for anyone paying before the end of April and a 10% discount for those aged under 25. Please see the website for further information and the contact details of the tour manager, Paul Frost.

Finally it goes without saying that we wish all captains and players good fortune as the new season quickly approaches.

Regards,  
Mick Tilt (Secretary)